

News Release

Chasing Bird Reception/Panel

In conjunction with the
Fifth Annual Charlie Parker™ Celebration
June 20, 2018

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The
Nelson-Atkins
Museum
of Art

The Celebration of "Bird" in Kansas City Continues with Kansas City Jazz ALIVE at The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art

What: *Chasing Bird: The Impact of Kansas City Music Genius Charles "Yardbird" Parker*

When: August 16, 2018 | Reception - 6:00 pm | Panel – 7:15 pm

Where: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art | 45th and Oak Streets, Kansas City, MO

Reservations: www.charlieparkercelebration.com

The 5th Annual Kansas City Charlie Parker Celebration will again explore and recognize the legacy of one the most influential saxophonists and jazz icons to ever perform. The Celebration, a comprehensive Charlie Parker tribute, is recognized as the largest celebration of its kind in the world.

Parker was born in 1920 in Kansas City, Kan., and moved in 1927 to Kansas City, Mo. -- where jazz was flourishing, and the city was one of several ports instrumental in ushering in the musical improvisation style of Bebop, which Parker is identified with.

The 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration includes a mix of jazz venue showcase performances throughout the city as well as education, public programs and special events.

In collaboration with The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, the kick-off event for this year's celebration will include a reception and panel discussion entitled *Chasing Bird: The Impact of Kansas City Music Genius Charles "Yardbird" Parker*. **Jon McGraw**, President of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE notes ... "the generous support of the National Endowment of the Arts coupled with our respective desires to expand collaborations, makes way for strong synergy with the Nelson-Atkins. The panel will explore the myriad of jazz greats who were inspired by the musical genius and indelible impact of Charlie "Yardbird" Parker...why they, chased the bird." Panelists include **Dr. John Hasse** – Curator Emeritus of American Music at the Smithsonian (DC), **Lisa Hittle** – Saxophonist and Director of Jazz Studies at Friends University (KS), and **Tivon Pennicott** - New York-based Grammy award-winning saxophonist and 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration Artist In Residence. The panel will be moderated by David Basse – Jazz with David Basse on public radio.

"The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is pleased to celebrate Charlie Parker with Kansas City Jazz ALIVE on this momentous occasion," said **Julián Zugazagoitia**, Menefee D. and Mary Louise Blackwell CEO & Director of the Nelson-Atkins. "Combining efforts during our *Third Thursday's* festivities and welcoming provocative dialogue in an engaging panel is a fitting exemplar of our objective to unleash the power of community and to celebrate diverse cultures."

The reception and panel are free and open to the public. Seating for the panel is limited so reservations will be required. Visit www.charlieparkercelebration.com to reserve your seats today!

*Charles Parker™ is a trademark of the Estate of Charles C. Parker, Jr.

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MORE ABOUT PARKER...

Parker's early music lessons occurred in the KC public schools. He began playing alto sax at age 13 and worked occasionally with semi-professional groups before leaving school at age 15 and becoming a full-time musician. For the next four years he would perform primarily in KC with a variety of local blues and jazz groups. His craft was developed mostly through practical experience and listening to older jazz performers. He began traveling to other cities in the late 1930s. He joined Jay McShann's band, began touring, performed solo in many of McShann's recordings and soon prominence followed.

As part of the Charlie Parker Celebration, organizers have assembled a series of events that offer performance, education and of course, tributes. Visit www.charlieparkercelebration.com for more details and a complete listing of the 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration.

Chasing Bird: The Impact of Kansas City Music Genius Charles "Yardbird" Parker

Meet The Panel...



David Basse – Moderator (Kansas City, MO)

More than a vocalist, **David Basse's** voice on public radio (*Jazz with David Basse*) has come to represent the lexicon of jazz and blues in Kansas City. David Basse has recorded with Jay McShann & Phil Woods. As a teenager, he chose a career in Kansas City's legendary and illustrious living musical history. His work celebrated worldwide has given him a life rich in the arts.



John Edward Hasse – Lead Panelist (Washington, DC)

Curator Emeritus of American Music at the Smithsonian, **John Edward Hasse** founded the Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra and Jazz Appreciation Month – observed globally by schools and institutions of all levels as well as jazz venues, festivals and community jazz support groups. His books include *Beyond Category: The Life and Genius of Duke Ellington* and *Discover Jazz*. Mr. Hasse has lectured extensively in 25 countries.



Tivon Pennicott – Panelist/ Artist In Residence (New York, NY)

Tivon Pennicott is in his third year as Artist in Residence for the Charlie Parker Celebration. He is the recipient of 3 Grammy's, 2nd place winner of the prestigious Thelonious Monk Competition and enjoys notable collaborations with the likes of Gregory Porter, Esperanza Spalding, Al Foster, Roy Hargrove, Nellie McKay and many others. His maturity as a player extends far beyond his years, facilitating music that is refreshing, insightful, and deliciously exciting.



Lisa Hittle – Panelist (Wichita, KS)

Lisa Hittle is currently in her 30th year at Friends University where she is the Director of Jazz Programs. She is an alumna of the Stan Kenton Orchestra and an active jazz musician, adjudicator and clinician throughout the mid-west. Honors include the 2006 "Wichita Arts Educator of the Year" and recipient of the 2012 "Homer Osborne" award for outstanding contributions to jazz education.

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Meet The Artists...



Trumpeter/ composer /bandleader / educator **Clint Ashlock** grew up in the Kansas City area. An in-demand musician across various genres, Clint is a dedicated and tireless contributor to the scene. Alongside of his position as the Artistic Director and Conductor of the esteemed Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, he has performed with such luminaries as Aretha Franklin, the Temptations, Nicholas Payton and Natalie Cole, as well as being a mainstay on the local Kansas City performing circuit, most notably with his own groups (the quintet Forward, his “other” big band, New Jazz Order, and the singer/ songwriter/ bandleader Jessica Paige



Andrew Ouellette is a Kansas City pianist, composer, and educator. Originally from Hannibal, MO, Andrew holds a degree in music at UMKC under the tutelage of Bobby Watson. Andrew enjoys a busy gigging schedule, and has graced the stage with many artists of note such as Roy Hargrove, Tivon Pennicott, Lonnie McFadden, Lisa Henry, Marilyn Maye, Matt Kane, The Sons of Brasil, Hermon Mehari, and many others.



A former Arkansan, Andrew Stinson lives in Kansas City where he splits time between teaching and gigging. He holds degrees from the University of Central Arkansas and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. His talents have been featured in a variety of genre settings and he has performed with Bobby Watson, Angela Hagenbach, Matt Otto, Dan Thomas, Ted Ludwig, the People’s Liberation Big Band, among others.



Brian Steever is a drummer on a mission to inject joy into every musical situation. He completed studies in Columbia Missouri and UMKC. He enjoys performance opportunities in and out of the Kansas City area with the likes of Mike Metheny, Matt Otto, Bob Bowman, Jeff Harshbarger, Hermon Mehari and a host of national jazz luminaries.

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The Charlie Parker Celebration is presented by **Kansas City Jazz Alive**. The mission of KC Jazz Alive is to build awareness, serve as a listening body, provide a platform for integrating ideas, function as a voice, provide exposure to resources, and unite the Kansas City jazz community. As a catalyst organization - supporting artists, enthusiasts and venue owners, we strive to “raise the tide that lifts all jazz boats.” Visit www.kcjazzalive.org | www.charlieparkercelebration.com



The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art is recognized as one of America’s finest art museums. It strives to be a place *where the power of art engages the spirit of community* and opens its doors free of charge to people of all backgrounds. The Nelson-Atkins serves the community by providing access to its renowned collection of nearly 40,000 objects and is best known for its Asian art, European and American paintings, photography, and modern sculpture. Visit www.nelson-atkins.org.

This event is supported by these generous sponsors:



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