

# News Release

## ***Urban Core: Networking for Bird* In conjunction with the Fifth Annual Charlie Parker™ Celebration**

July 11, 2018

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## **The Celebration of "Bird" in Kansas City Continues with multi-partner collaboration to include Kansas City Jazz ALIVE, The Urban Core Group and BAC Musical Instruments/Horn Doctor**

**What:** *Urban Core: Networking for Bird*

**When:** August 22, 2018 | 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Where:** BAC Horn Doctor | 1219 Lydia, Kansas City, MO

**Tickets:** Urban Core Members, Free | Non-Members, \$20 | Visit [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com) for tickets

The 5th Annual Kansas City Charlie Parker Celebration will again explore and recognize the legacy of one of 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 Urban Core Group and BAC Musical Instruments/Horn Doctor, this year's celebration will include a new and exciting networking event entitled *Urban Core: Networking for Bird*. As the title suggests, this event is all about the networking. "Strategically aligned with the Urban Core's successful event model – great food, cash bar, hosted program, connected to a unique urban site, this event adds a couple of wonderful twists to the mix..." states **Steve Hargrave**, Treasurer of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE. The event will connect attendees to BAC Musical Instruments/ Horn Doctor and its impressive staff. BAC President and Master Craftsman **Mike Corrigan** notes, "we are thrilled to be a part of this year's Charlie Parker Celebration. Connecting in this way through the work of the Urban Core Group offers a win-win opportunity for us to provide micro tours for its members to experience the exciting work being done at one of the only remaining custom brass instrument manufacturers in America." Our Speakers Bureau Co-Chairs **Doug Rushing**, and **Jen Enderson** will give remarks on behalf of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE and the Charlie Parker Celebration. To round it all out, the event will include live jazz featuring Saxophonist **Todd Wilkinson** and Guitarist **Charles Gatschet**.

To RSVP and learn more about the fantastic event, visit [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com). Due to limited space, members and guests are encouraged to RSVP by August 8<sup>th</sup>.

\*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](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com) for more details and a complete listing of the 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration.

**Urban Core: Networking for Bird**

*August 22nd*

*Meet The Speakers, Artists & Host ...*



**Jennifer Enderson - KC Jazz ALIVE Speakers Bureau Co-Chair**

**Jennifer** is a Licensed Real Estate Broker with a successful Kansas City-based firm. Previous position include work with Dominion Enterprises, Trader Publishing Company, and St. Joseph News Press & Gazette. Jennifer lives in Downtown Kansas City, has two daughters, a grand baby, and a grand dog. Jen enjoys spending time with her family, traveling and enjoying the great Kansas City Music Scene.



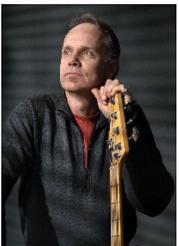
**Doug Rushing – KC Jazz ALIVE Speakers Bureau Co-Chair**

**Doug** discovered and fell in love with jazz in 1957 at a concert of the Duke Ellington Orchestra. He has been listening to jazz ever since. His is active in KC Jazz ALIVE and was recently elected to the board of the UMKC affiliated Friends of Jazz. He is professor emeritus at Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences.



**Todd Wilkinson – Saxophone**

**Todd Wilkinson** is the Instructor of Saxophone and Director of Jazz Studies at Ottawa University in Ottawa, Kansas. He is a native of Kansas City, a devoted husband and father of three, and a free-lance musician/composer living in Overland Park, Kansas. For more than thirty years, Wilkinson has dedicated himself to the promotion and development of music and young musicians. He has a passion for all styles of saxophone performance and is a respected member of the Kansas City musical community.



**Forest Stewart – Bass**

Forest is an individual with performance experience which includes symphony work, freelance work on both horn and bass, and as long-term bassist and musical director for Ida McBeth & Friends, a popular and noteworthy jazz and blues group in Kansas City. Forest has performed in New York, Las Vegas, Denver, the Twin Cities, and at festivals in Chicago, Des Moines, Los Angeles, Omaha, Wichita, Montreux, Geneva, and Den Hag, Holland.



**Mike Corrigan, HOST – President, BAC Music Instruments/ Horn Doctor**

**Mike Corrigan** officially founded B.A.C. Musical Instruments LLC in 2012. As one of the only remaining custom brass instrument manufacturers in America, his company, BAC Musical Instruments now offers a range of custom brass instruments and an imported student line. He was presented a key to the city of New Orleans by Mayor Mitch Landrieu in recognition of his efforts to rebuild the music scene following Hurricane Katrina.

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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](http://www.kcjazzalive.org) | [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com)



At **B.A.C Music, Kansas City**, our mission is to provide the high-quality instruments and to establish a reputation for providing some of the best service available within the Olathe, Kansas, and Greater Kansas City area. It is our mission to preserve a timeless industry of small-town music stores, while incorporating a fresh, modern approach. Visit <https://www.bacmusicshop.com>



**The Urban Core Group** is a Kansas City based grassroots effort, dedicated to learning more about how urban pioneers are preserving and enriching our Kansas City experience. Each month we gather to discover and learn how new projects and redevelopment efforts are revitalizing our urban core. The Urban Core Group has been a catalyst toward strengthening our communities and building value, pride and enthusiasm within our neighborhoods since 1995.

*This event is supported by these generous sponsors:*



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