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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MIDDLESEX COUNTY JAZZ FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES 2024 LINE UP AND THE ADDITION OF CARTERET TO ITS FIVE-TOWN FREE JAZZ CONCERT SERIES SEPTEMBER 25TH THROUGH THE 29TH

Last year, music producing organizations in five Middlesex County towns, each with a distinct reputation for presenting live jazz, formed the Middlesex County Jazz Festival (MCJF). This year the Festival is proud to announce the addition of Carteret to the Festival.

The producing organizations include: the Borough of Carteret; Edison Township’s new Cultural Arts Commission; the Metuchen Arts Council and Friends of Metuchen Arts; the New Brunswick Jazz Project; and Woodbridge Arts.

An important mission of the MCJF is to promote music education. “By including performances by high school student jazz bands and ensembles just before name musicians in each town’s lineup, we hope to call attention to the excellent music programs in our schools and the need to sustain them,” said Lynne Mueller, Metuchen’s lead jazz producer. Michael Tublin from the New Brunswick Jazz Project added, “Including the students also allows us to pass along the appreciation and legacy of jazz to the next generation.”

THE LINE UP:

This year, with the support of Mayor Sam Joshi, and under the leadership of Tony Massaro chairman, the newly formed Edison Township Cultural Arts Commission (ETCAC) will take the lead in Edison’s contribution to the festival. With Lake Papaiani Park and the newly acquired Ferrante House and gardens as venues, ETCAC looks to offer an energetic concert schedule, drawing on regional and local talents, and showcasing a wide variety of genres; not the least of which is as an enthusiastic partner of the Middlesex County Jazz festival. Edison opens the MCJF on **Wednesday, September 25th** with the **JP Stevens High School Dance Troope**, the JP Stevens High School alumni group **Off The Hook**, the **Carrie Jackson Quartet**, and the **Akiko Tsuruga Quartet**.

On Thursday, September 26, Carteret will present the keyboardist **Nat Adderley Jr.** following the **Carteret High School Varsity Vocals and Jazz Ensemble** at the Carteret Performing Arts Center. “Carteret is thrilled to participate in the Middlesex County Jazz Festival, which helps to promote music and culture throughout the region,” Mayor Daniel J Reiman said. “The jazz festival will be one of several festivals we present each year, all of which include music, along with our weekly summer concerts in our parks and dozens of concerts we present annually in our state-of-the-art performing arts center.”

On Saturday, September 28th, New Brunswick and Metuchen bring an afternoon and evening jazz experience.

- Starting at 1:00 p.m., the New Brunswick Jazz Project, which has produced jazz in New Brunswick twice a week for the past 15 years, will host an afternoon of jazz on Livingston Avenue with a lineup that includes the **New Brunswick Jazz Project Brass, Winard Harper & Jeli Posse**, and featuring the **Buster Williams Quartet**.
- At the close of New Brunswick performances at 5:30 p.m., patrons can hop on the NJ Transit train for an evening of performances in Metuchen. Starting at 6:00 p.m., the Metuchen Arts Council and Friends of Metuchen Arts once again join forces to bring the MCJF to Metuchen. Performances including dance (TBA), the **Metuchen High School Jazz Ensemble with Metuchen High School Chamber Orchestra** joining them for a few jazz classics, the **Maribel Bildsten Septet**, and the **Russell Malone Quartet**. The performances will take place on the Metuchen Town Plaza located in the heart of downtown Metuchen.

On Sunday, September 29th Woodbridge Arts, which, famously, produces a summer-long free concert series that covers a wide variety of music in several indoor and outdoor Woodbridge venues, will host the closing performance of the MCJF, will host the closing performance of the MCJF. The afternoon of performances begins at 3:15 p.m. at Woodbridge’s Parker Press Park with the **Woodbridge High School Jazz Choir** followed by **Brandon Woody’s Upendo** and wrapping up the Middlesex County Jazz Festival week with **Stephane Wrembel’s Django New Orleans**.

All Middlesex County Jazz Festival concerts are free and accessible. For concert details and up-to-date weather and performance related announcements visit www.middlesexcountyjazzfestival.com.

Grant funding for this project has been provided by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners through a grant award from the Middlesex County Cultural and Arts Trust Fund.

FULL CONCERT SCHEDULE:

Edison - Wednesday, September 25th

at Edison's Lake Papaiani Park located off Route 27 at 100 Municipal Blvd Edison:

- 5:45-6:00 p.m. – **The JP Stevens High School Dance Troupe**
- 6:00-6:30 p.m. – **Off The Hook**
- 6:30-7:30 p.m. - **The Carrie Jackson Quartet**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/the-carrie-jackson-quartet/>
- 7:30-8:30 p.m. – **The Akiko Tsuruga Quartet**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/akiko-tsuruga-quartet/>

Carteret - Thursday, September 26th

at the Carteret Performing Arts Center, 46 Washington Street:

- 6:30-7:00 p.m. – **Carteret High School Jazz Band directed by Jack Bradley; Carteret High School Varsity Vocals**
- 7:00-9:00 p.m. – **Nat Adderley, Jr.**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/nat-adderley-jr/>

New Brunswick - Saturday, September 28th

at Livingston Avenue in front of the New Brunswick Performing Arts Center

- 1:00-1:45 p.m. – **New Brunswick Jazz Project Brass**
- 2:15-3:30 p.m. – **Winard Harper & Jeli Posse**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/winard-harper-jeli-posse/>
- 4:00-5:30 p.m. – **Buster Williams Quartet**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/buster-williams-quartet/>

Metuchen – Saturday, September 28th

on the Metuchen Town Plaza, corner of New & Pearl Streets in downtown Metuchen:

- 6:00-6:30 p.m. – Local dance group TBA
- 6:30-7:00 p.m. – **Metuchen High School Jazz Ensemble directed by John Messenger and joined by Metuchen High School Chamber Orchestra – Chris McEwan conductor**
- 7:00-8:00 p.m. – **Mariel Bildsten Septet**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/mariel-bildsten-septet/>
- 8:00-9:30 p.m. – **Russel Malone Quartet**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/russell-malone-quartet/>

Woodbridge – Sunday, September 29th,

at Parker Press Park, 400 Rahway Avenue in downtown Woodbridge:

- 3:15-3:45 p.m. – **Woodbridge High School Jazz Choir**
- 4:00-5:00 p.m. – **Brandon Woody's Upendo**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/brandon-woodys-upendo/>
- 5:15-6:30 p.m. – **Stephane Wrembel's Django New Orleans**
Bio/photo: <https://middlesexcountyjazzfestival.org/brandon-woodys-upendo/>

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