



26th
Annual



AUGUST
18-20, 2023



Discover pure jazz gold!

- The Nimmons Tribute • Matthew Stevens Trio
• Catherine Russell • Brian Barlow Big Band &
Laila Biali honour Joni Mitchell • Barbra Lica
• OKAN • Heavyweights Brass Band
• Avataar • Mike Murley Quartet • John Finley
• Worst Pop Band Ever • Aline's étoile magique
and many more on 3 free stages!

Jazz Hot Spots | Wine & Beer Garden
Free Shuttle Bus | Craft vendors

markhamjazzfestival.com



WELCOME to the 26th Annual TD Markham Jazz Festival!

Message from the Artistic Director

Dear Jazz Enthusiasts

It is with immense joy and gratitude that I address you as the incoming Artistic Director of the TD Markham Jazz Festival. As I take the reins from the remarkable Sarah Kim Turnbull, I feel honoured to contribute to the legacy of this fantastic event, which holds a special place in my heart.

My journey with the Markham Jazz Festival began back in 2001 when I had the privilege of participating in and winning first prize in the "Jazz Stars of the Future" competition. The experience was a defining moment in my musical career, and it fills me with nostalgia and excitement to see how far this festival has come since then. The nurturing environment and warm reception I received from the festival's audience and organizers left an indelible mark on my artistic growth.

Now, as I step into the role of Artistic Director, I am committed to curating an unforgettable experience for all of you. My vision for this year's festival is to celebrate the rich tapestry of jazz music, showcasing a diverse range of talents from both seasoned performers and promising emerging artists. Jazz is an ever-evolving art form, and I aim to honour its traditions while pushing the boundaries to explore new expressions and styles.

I look forward to seeing you at the festival this year, and I hope this music brings you as much joy as it brings me!

Ernesto



Ernesto Cervini
Artistic Director,
TD Markham Jazz Festival

Proud to sponsor the
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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

August 2023



Frank Scarpitti
Mayor

August 2023

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR FRANK SCARPITTI

On behalf of Members of Council and the City of Markham, I am pleased to extend a warm and sincere welcome to everyone participating in the 26th Annual TD Markham Jazz Festival.

TD Markham Jazz Festival is one of the most cherished community jazz festivals in Canada that attracts diverse, eclectic and talented performers. For more than a quarter century, the festival has contributed to the community's cultural life, and has grown into a must-see stop on the summer circuit of major jazz festivals in Ontario.

This summer, the annual tradition continues on. The festival we will be building on the success of last year by continuing to showcase more than 150 of Canada's finest musicians, all presented free to the public. The artistic lineup will feature Grammy Award and JUNO winners and nominees, representing many styles of jazz and jazz-related live music, all performed on three outdoor stages along Main Street Unionville.

Congratulations to all the board and committee members at TD Markham Jazz Festival on your outstanding efforts and for successfully organizing this beloved festival. The vibrancy of our community is enhanced when we promote creative and artistic expressions. I extend my sincere appreciation to all the sponsors, jazz artists, performers, and volunteers for being an important part of this festival.

As the Mayor of Markham, I am very pleased to show my support and I wish everyone an enjoyable and exciting festival.

Sincerely,

Frank Scarpitti
Frank Scarpitti
Mayor



The Corporation of the City of Markham, Anthony Roman Centre, 101 Town Centre Boulevard, Markham, Ontario L3R 9W3
Tel: 905.475.4872 Fax: 905.475.7775 MayorScarpitti@markham.ca www.markham.ca

Mayor Scarpitti and Members
of Markham Council
congratulate the
TD Markham Jazz Festival
on an outstanding music program
for the whole community to enjoy.



Music on Main

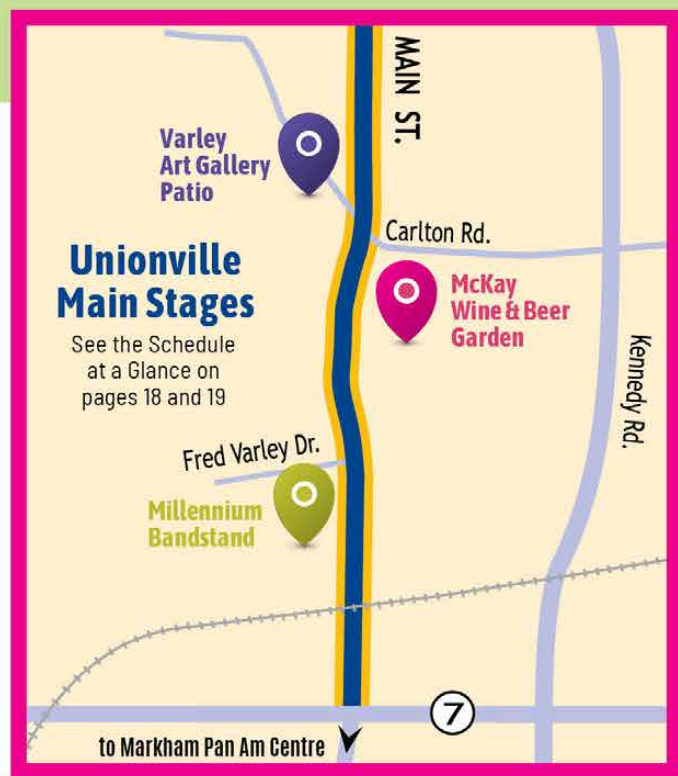
UNIONVILLE

The Heavyweights Brass Band

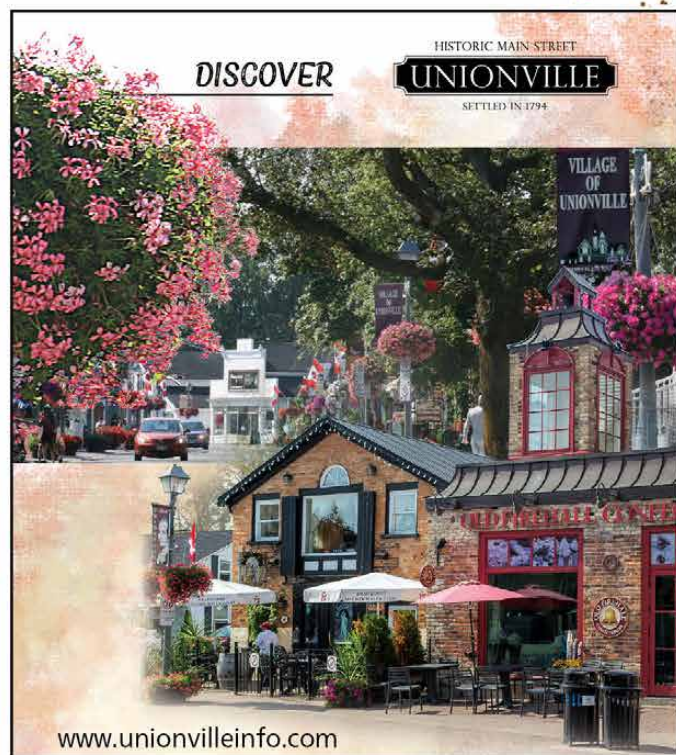
From 12:30

The Heavyweights Brass Band hits hard with its seasoned blend of groove, energy, virtuosity and originality. For over a decade, this Toronto-based, New Orleans-inspired brass institution has brought audiences to their feet and club-goers to the dance floor with an inspiring blend of original music and unexpected covers. Their music has been featured on film, commercials, radio and television. With extensive touring experience, they have shared the stage with Trombone Shorty, the Roots and The Soul Rebels, among others.

www.heavyweightsbrassband.com



FRIDAY Aug 18 6:00 pm – 11:00 pm
SATURDAY Aug 19 12:00 pm – 11:00 pm
SUNDAY Aug 20 12:00 pm – 7:00 pm



www.unionvilleinfo.com

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FRIDAY August 18

MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

Matthew Stevens Trio

7:30 pm

A leading guitarist of his generation, Grammy-winning Matthew Stevens is joined at this year's TDMJF by Jon Maharaj and Adam Arruda. The Canadian-born Stevens has a "singular style that dissolves the lines between jazz, rock and ambient music." (Mojo). His work is described as "music [that] advances the ideals of modern jazz." (WGBO). His songs and playing are featured on over 70 recordings, and his performances have been lauded in Billboard, The Guardian, Guitar Player Magazine, Jazz Times, Mojo, NPR and the New York Times among others.

www.mattstevensmusic.com



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KYLEMORE™
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Catherine Russell

9:30 pm

Grammy-winning vocalist Catherine Russell was born into musical royalty. Her father, Luis Russell, legendary pianist/composer/bandleader, was Louis Armstrong's long-time musical director. Her mother, Carline Ray, vocalist/guitarist/bassist, performed with International Sweethearts of Rhythm, Mary Lou Williams, and Sy Oliver. Catherine has toured the world performing and recording with David Bowie, Cyndi Lauper, Paul Simon, Steely Dan, Jackson Browne, and Wynton Marsalis, among others. Will Friedwald, writing in the Wall Street Journal, calls her "one of the outstanding singers of our time."

www.catherinerussell.net



Presented by



2023

[markhamjazzfestival.com](https://www.markhamjazzfestival.com)

MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

The Fabulous Jive Bombers

1:00 pm

With a reputation for lively, toe-tapping jazz and a bluesy edge, this high-energy band explores the entire history of jazz and blues, with a focus on Swing, Boogie-Woogie, and vintage R&B. They are joined by guest vocalist Johnny Max. Jiving and swinging in and around Toronto for over 40 years, band members have performed throughout Canada and abroad. Mixed with humour and good-natured kidding, their shows are always loads of fun for everyone!



Presented by **Destination Markham**

MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

Elan Trotman

3:00 pm

Born and raised in Barbados, and educated at the world-renowned Berklee College of Music, Elan has become one of jazz's most thrilling and emotive performers. Elan was named Jazz Artist of the Year by the New England Urban Music Awards and The Barbados Music Awards. Blending Caribbean rhythms with skillful horn textures, his playing is full of surprises. He has performed and recorded with many world-class musicians including Roberta Flack, Sheila E, Marcus Miller, Earl Klugh, Peabo Bryson, and Michael McDonald among others.

www.elantrotman.com



Presented by **BARBADOS**

Bantu Salsa

5:00 pm

The Bantu Salsa collective was born in Montreal in 2019, melding artists from diverse backgrounds into a dynamic experience. Just Wan (Cameroon), initiator of the project, is songwriter, performer and bass player. His albums explore different musical universes with new rhythms and influences. Diely Mori Tounkara (Mali), brings the musical poetry of West Africa with the kora, a magnificent stringed instrument. Pianist Ricardo Angel Soriano (Mexico) provides the harmonic base. His speed, nuanced and soft, allows a perfect marriage of African melodies and salsa rhythms.

www.productionsmissmeure.com/bantusalsa



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MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
 Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

Brian Barlow & Laila Biali

7:00 pm

Multi-award-winning Canadian singer-songwriter, pianist and CBC Music radio host Laila Biali has headlined festivals and venues spanning five continents, from New York City's Carnegie Hall, to Beijing's National Centre for the Performing Arts. Brian Barlow is one of Canada's most recorded drummer/percussionists, performing on more than 500 albums. The A-list Brian Barlow Big Band has set the gold standard for big bands in Canada. Put them together, along with the **music of the legendary Joni Mitchell** and with original arrangements by Barlow, and you've got a magic mix.

www.lailabiali.com

 Presented by **MINKEN**
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MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
 Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

OKAN

9:00 pm

OKAN brings its sizzling fusion of Afro-Cuban roots with jazz, folk and global rhythms back to the TDMJF stage. With vocals in Spanish, English and Spanglish, OKAN is led by Cuban-born violinist and vocalist Elizabeth Rodriguez and percussionist/vocalist Magdelys Savigne, both Grammy and Latin Grammy nominees. They take the group's name from the word for "heart" in their region of Santeria, Cuba. OKAN's JUNO-winning sophomore release "Espiral" debuted in first place on Canada's !Earshot charts and was included on NPR's top 10 Alt Latino and CBC Music's Top 20 of 2020.

www.okanmusica.com

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(905) 513-8900 | minimarkham.com

SATURDAY August 19

VARLEY ART GALLERY PATIO

Pfaff BMW / Mini Markham Stage

Teri Parker's Free Spirits

12:00 pm

Free Spirits is an exciting new quintet, with a live show that's as exhilarating to the casual listener as it is to the most ardent jazz fan. Led by pianist Teri Parker, the group celebrates the music of Geri Allen and Mary Lou Williams. Parker developed the project for a multi-night residency at Toronto's Rex Jazz and Blue Bar in 2019, to an overwhelmingly positive response. With fresh arrangements from Parker, Free Spirits breathe new life into decades-old music while showcasing considerable improvisatory gifts.

www.teriparkermusic.com



Jacob Chung

2:00 pm

Canadian saxophonist/composer Jacob Chung is a dynamic young jazz musician whose commitment to swing is heard in his hometown Toronto and in New York City, where he currently studies at the Manhattan School of Music. He established himself as one of the most exciting players in Toronto with residencies at the Jazz Bistro, the Rex and Poetry Jazz Cafe. He has garnered several Canadian awards and accolades, and has performed with, among others, Robi Botos, Mike Murley, Jodi Proznick, and the Mingus Big Band.

www.jacobchungmusic.com



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Thursday, May 2 // 8pm

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Dominique Fils-Aimé
Sammy Jackson
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SATURDAY August 19

VARLEY ART GALLERY PATIO
Pfaff BMW / Mini Markham Stage

Mike Murley Quartet

4:00 pm

Saxophonist and composer Mike Murley is one of Canada's most celebrated jazz artists, appearing on 14 JUNO-winning albums – seven of them his own. Recordings with legendary Canadian artists such as the late Ed Bickert, Rob McConnell, and Guido Basso showcase Murley's talents in the mainstream jazz idiom. He has collaborated with younger generations too, from pianist David Braid, saxophonist Tara Davidson and guitarist David Occhipinti to vocalist/pianist Hannah Barstow, and multi-JUNO-winning electric jazz group Metalwood.
www.mikemurley.com



Anthony Fung

6:00 pm

Drummer, composer, producer and bandleader Anthony Fung was born in Richmond Hill, Ontario. He has been playing the drums since the age of ten. An alumnus of the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz Performance, Anthony has studied and performed with Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter, Chris Potter, Danilo Perez, Bill Childs and many others. His 2018 album Flashpoint received a "Best Albums of 2019 & 2020" four-star review in Downbeat magazine.
www.anthonfungmusic.com
















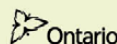






2023

25TH ANNIVERSARY markhamjazzfestival.com

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE



MAIN STAGES			
	VARLEY ART GALLERY PATIO Pfaff BMW / Mini Markham Stage	MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage	MCKAY WINE & BEER GARDEN Unionville BIA Stage
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FRIDAY AUGUST 18		<i>Emcee Jaymz Bee</i>	WINE & BEER supplied by   
8:00		Matthew Stevens Trio 7:30 pm 	
9:00			
10:00		Catherine Russell 9:30 pm 	
SATURDAY AUGUST 19	<i>Emcee Sahir Jamal</i>	<i>Emcee Jaymz Bee</i>	<i>Emcee Tammy Mang</i>
NOON			
1:00	The Heavyweights Brass Band Main Street	Teri Parker's Free Spirits 12:00 pm	Shannon Chapman 12:30 pm
2:00		Jacob Chung 2:00 pm	
3:00			Alex Bird 2:30 pm
4:00	 HOT SPOT	Mike Murley Quartet 4:00 pm	
5:00		Bantu Salsa 5:00 pm 	Rebecca Hennessy's Makeshift Island 4:30 pm
6:00		Anthony Fung 6:00 pm	
7:00	Check JAZZ HOT SPOTS on pages 28, 29 and 30	Brian Barlow & Laila Biali 7:00 pm 	John Finley 6:30 pm
8:00			
9:00		OKAN 9:00 pm 	
10:00			
SUNDAY AUGUST 20	<i>Emcee Sahir Jamal</i>	<i>Emcee Jaymz Bee</i>	<i>Emcee Tammy Mang</i>
NOON			
1:00	The Heavyweights Brass Band Main Street	Aline's étoile magique 12:00 pm	Melissa Lauren 12:30 pm
2:00		Barbra Lica 1:00 pm 	
3:00		Peter Hum 2:00 pm	Worst Pop Band Ever 2:30 pm
4:00	 HOT SPOT	Avataar 3:00 pm 	
5:00		Thermo 4:00 pm	Chris Antonik 4:30 pm
6:00		The Nimmons Tribute 5:00 pm 	

MCKAY WINE & BEER GARDEN
 Unionville BIA Stage

Shannon Chapman

12:30 pm

Shannon Chapman is a singer, instrumentalist, and producer raised in Manitoba and currently based in Toronto. Shannon's brand of neo-soul balances personal, introspective topics with fun, feel-good jams. Lush harmony, slinky woodwinds and head-bobbing grooves support her soaring vocal melodies. Fiercely independent, she is sole creator writing and producing her music. In spring 2020, she released her EP "Ebb and Flow" and began rollout of her second project, "Playing Games," in 2022.

www.shannonchapman.ca

Alex Bird & The Jazz Mavericks

2:30 pm

Over the last three years, Alex Bird & The Jazz Mavericks have become one of the top acts in Canadian jazz. Songwriting and piano partner Ewan Farncombe, with singer and songwriter Bird, have been creating timeless and heartfelt originals for a modern audience. Last year brought JUNO nominations as well as reviews from around the world. Assessing a 2022 duo album release, "Songwriter," Downbeat magazine called it "an elegant, romantic, and well-executed gem of a record."

www.alexbird.net

MCKAY WINE & BEER GARDEN
 Unionville BIA Stage

**Rebecca Hennessy's
Makeshift Island**

4:30 pm

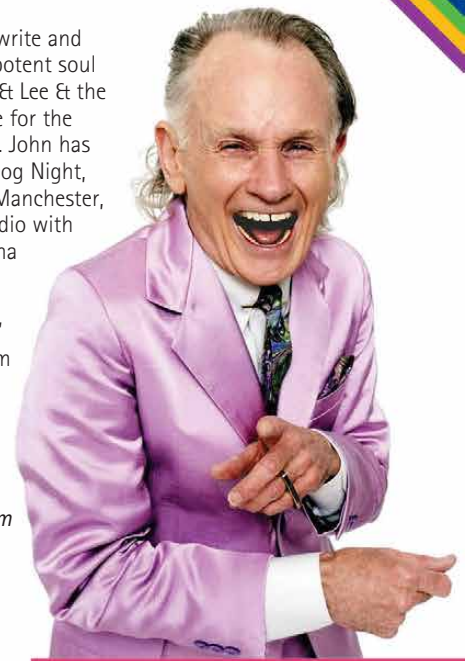
An award-winning trumpeter, singer, composer and bandleader, Rebecca Hennessy has performed and recorded around the world, including with Adele, Kevin Breit, Ron Sexsmith, Andy Kim, Broken Social Scene and Feist. Hennessy leads Massey Hall's Women's Blues Revue, earned the Toronto Arts Foundation Emerging Jazz Artist Award in 2018, and was nominated for the Montreal Jazz Festival Grand Prix de Jazz in 2016. Rebecca received a Toronto Arts Council grant to write new music featuring the poetry of acclaimed indigenous author, Thomas King.

www.rebecca-hennessy.com


John Finley

6:30 pm

John Finley lives to sing, write and perform. Performing his potent soul style, John and band Jon & Lee & the Checkmates opened twice for the Rolling Stones in Toronto. John has penned songs for Three Dog Night, Ivan Neville and Melissa Manchester, and has performed in studio with Michael MacDonald, Donna Summer and many others. His 2020 recording, "John Finley, Soul Singer," received rave reviews from Kurt Elling, Paul Shafer and the late Ronnie Hawkins. His soulful style is testament to his musical life.

www.johnfinleymusic.com


MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

Barbra Lica

1:00 pm

Barbra Lica is a JUNO-nominated singer-songwriter-producer based in Toronto. A seasoned act on club and festival circuits, Barbra has performed everywhere from New York City's legendary Birdland to the Tokyo International Jazz Festival. She has opened for the likes of Christian McBride, Pat Metheny and Terence Blanchard. Her recent album, "You're Fine," marked the introduction of folk and Americana elements and has amassed over 5.6 million streams on Spotify. Her current self-produced EP, "Imposter Syndrome," combines elements of folk, R&B, indie pop, and jazz. www.barbralicamusic.com



Presented by  **MARRIOTT**
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Avataar

3:00 pm

Avataar is a JUNO-winning, Toronto-based world-jazz group featuring some of Canada's finest jazz, world, funk, and pop musicians. Personnel includes bandleader Sundar Viswanathan (saxophones, flute, vocals), Felicity Williams (vocals), Michael Occhipinti (guitar), Justin Gray (bass), Ravi Naimpally (tablas) and Max Senit (drums and percussion). "Petal," Avataar's debut CD, received critical acclaim from Downbeat, JAZZIZ, and allaboutjazz among others. Their sophomore album, Worldview, won a 2022 JUNO award for Best Jazz Album (group). www.sundarmusic.com/avataar-music



Presented by  **Long & McQuade**
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff Porsche Centre Markham Stage

The Nimmons Tribute

5:00 pm

The Nimmons Tribute features some of the finest musicians in Canada, who have joined in a joyous celebration of Canadian jazz legend, clarinetist, composer, bandleader and educator Phil Nimmons. Led by Sean Nimmons-Paterson, the band includes Phil's colleagues, former students, friends and family – Kevin Turcotte, Tara Davidson, Mike Murley, William Carn, Alex Dean, Heather Bambrick, Sean Nimmons, Jon Maharaj and Ethan Ardelli. Each joined because of their deep appreciation of Phil and his contributions to their careers and jazz in Canada. www.nimmonstribute.ca



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VARLEY ART GALLERY PATIO
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Aline's étoile magique

12:00 pm

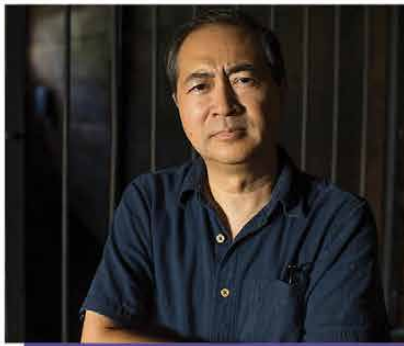
Aline Homzy is an award-winning violinist and composer based in Toronto. Her influences stem from collaborators such as David Occhipinti, Munir Hossn, Michael Davidson, Andre Downing and Allison Au. Aline has played her original music at the Daegu Festival, South Korea, Stockholm Jazz Festival, TD Toronto Jazz Festival and the Edinburgh Jazz Festival. In 2022, Aline was a finalist in the Toronto Emerging Jazz Artists Awards. She received a Distinguished Fellowship from the prestigious artist residency, Hambidge Centre for the Arts. www.alinehomzy.com



Peter Hum

2:00 pm

Born and raised in Ottawa, Peter has been a mainstay of the jazz community of Canada's capital for three decades. He has released three albums of modern mainstream jazz, including Ordinary Heroes, which received a four-star review in Downbeat magazine. Peter has performed across Canada and is a recipient of multiple grants in support of his recordings and touring. Largely self-taught, Peter counts himself very fortunate to have performed with Canadian jazz legends such as Sonny Greenwich, Phil Nimmons, Pat Labarbera and Reg Schwager. www.peterhum.com



MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND
Pfaff BMW / Mini Markham Stage

THERMO

4:00 pm

THERMO is a new jazz project co-led by jazz piano player Mike Manny and jazz guitarist Nathan Hiltz. The group was formed during the pandemic using the internet platform Syncspace. This allowed the group to develop and perform music by Freddie Hubbard, Art Blakey and Oscar Peterson while 600km apart. Their new album features a set of swinging standards, hidden gems from the Blue Note era, plus two original songs. www.nathanhiltz.com www.mikemanny.com



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TarTeam.com
905.475.2100



MCKAY WINE & BEER GARDEN
Unionville BIA Stage

Melissa Lauren

12:30 pm

"Jazz is my first love," Melissa notes, not that a single genre could define her diverse singing style and career. Beginning as a teenager, she performed throughout North America with the Toronto All-Star Big Band, all while developing herself as a songwriter as well as performer. With three highly acclaimed albums to her credit, Melissa has performed at the Folk Alliance International, the Halifax International Jazz Festival, the New Skool Rules Festival in the Netherlands, plus concerts in Eastern Europe. www.melissalaurenmusic.ca



Worst Pop Band Ever

2:30 pm

With influences ranging from Miles Davis to The Carpenters to J Dilla, the WPBE combine their love of improvisation with modern pop influences and a mish-mash of electro-acoustic sounds, receiving critical acclaim. They have been featured in films for the NFB and the CBC, played festivals across Canada and abroad, while individual members have worked with numerous JUNO and Grammy-nominated artists from Blue Rodeo to Holly Cole. www.wpbe.bandcamp.com



MCKAY WINE & BEER GARDEN
Unionville BIA Stage

Chris Antonik

4:30 pm

Born and raised in Markham, three-time Maple Blues Award-nominated, blues-rock guitarist, singer/songwriter Chris Antonik has been wowing audiences with his incendiary blues-rock guitar playing and innovative songwriting, transcending limitations and expectations of the genre. Chris has toured Canada, the U.S. and U.K. extensively. His guitar style has been compared to BB King, Eric Clapton and Carlos Santana. In 2023, Chris was nominated for three U.S.-based Independent Blues Music Awards, including Best Blues Rock Album, Best Blues Rock Artist, and Best Blues Rock Song. www.chrisantonik.bandcamp.com



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Sun. Aug. 13 3:00 – 5:00 pm **Patrick Hewan Trio**



on the patio

48 Main St. N.
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lazcuisine.com

Thurs. Aug. 17 6:00 – 9:00 pm **Jeremy Sean Hector**



Jeremy Sean Hector

around Markham



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Unionville
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jakesonmainunionville.com

Sat. Aug. 19 2:00 – 5:00 pm **Matt Sorley Trio**
Sat. Aug. 19 6:00 – 9:00 pm **John Pagnotta**
Sun. Aug. 20 2:00 – 5:00 pm **Paul Pacanowski Trio**



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unionvillearms.com

Sun. Aug. 20 4:00 – 7:00 pm **Mike Cohen**



53 Main St.
Markham Village
905-294-3181
duchessonline.com

Sun. Aug. 20 3:00 – 6:00 pm **Steve Farrugia Quartet**

Listen and enjoy!

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Sun. Aug. 13 • 3:00 – 5:00 pm • **Patrick Hewan Trio**

LAZ on the patio

170 Enterprise Blvd., Markham • 437-777-3496 dracomarkham.com
Thurs. Aug. 17 • 6:00 – 9:00 pm • **Jeremy Sean Hector**

Jakes on Main

202 Main St. N., Unionville 05-470-6955 jakesonmainunionville.com
Sat. Aug. 19 • 2:00 – 5:00 pm • **Matt Sorley Trio**
Sat. Aug. 19 • 6:00 – 9:00 pm • **John Pagnotta**
Sun. Aug. 20 • 2:00 – 5:00 pm • **Paul Pacanowski Trio**

Unionville Arms

189 Main St. N., Unionville • 905-470-8831 unionvillearms.com
Sun. Aug. 20 • 4:00 – 7:00 pm • **Mike Cohen**

The Duchess of Markham

53 Main St., Markham Village • 905-294-3181 duchessonline.com
Sun. Aug. 20 • 3:00 – 6:00 pm • **Steve Farrugia Quartet**



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MILLENNIUM BANDSTAND

"The TD Markham Jazz Festival continues to be my favourite jazz festival in Ontario, and I'm thrilled to be back as emcee for the 14th year."



Artist, bandleader, writer, director and broadcaster Jaymz Bee celebrates his 21st year producing and hosting "Jazz in the City" and also hosts "Jazz Gone Wild" for JAZZ.FM91 radio. Jaymz has been featured on most Canadian TV networks, has fronted several bands, produces albums for Vesuvius Music and continues to work as a private international tour guide.

Bee created a colouring book with illustrator Charles Hackbarth (available at the Festival), which describes

his encounters with celebrities. The book is also available on Amazon. Jaymz Bee's first film, "Wild Music," has picked up 27 awards at international film festivals and his second film, "Beat Speak," is finished and being submitted to festivals from London to Tokyo. The third, "Artists Et Aliens," will be completed this fall. He is based in Toronto and continues to produce and emcee special events with wild, joyous abandon.

Jaymz Bee



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ROTARY CLUB AWARD 2022

Message from the Markham-Unionville Rotary Club



George "Mitch" Mitchell

The Mitch Mitchell Award is presented to an up-and-coming young jazz performer by the Markham-Unionville Rotary Club each year at the Markham Jazz Festival. Mitch co-founded the MJF and was past president of the Markham-Unionville Club. He was an accomplished musician who had a wonderful love of life and music – especially jazz.

This year, a cash prize and memorial plaque in honour of Mitch go to Aidan Wong. Aidan, a gifted saxophone player, graduated this spring from Unionville High School, where he was an invaluable addition to multiple music programs. Aidan participated in the UHS Jazz Band, the Showtime pit-orchestra class and his own jazz quartet on the side.



UHS music teacher Niloufar Barazesh has watched Aidan become a natural leader who loves jazz, writes and improvises, always arrives prepared and helps his peers with respect and compassion. "I know for certain Aidan will continue to participate in jazz ensembles and excel in his career as a music teacher." Aidan has been accepted to the Queen's University Music Concurrent Education program.

Congratulations, Aidan! The Festival team wishes you every success in your journey!

26th anniversary T-shirts



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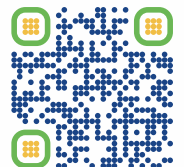
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