

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Steve Brecker, Media Relations  
(757)-784-5530 mobile

## ***Charlottesville Jazz Society Announces***

### **First Annual**



***June 4-7, 2026***

*4-Day Festival Features Area and International Artists*

*May 5, 2026/Charlottesville, VA* – The **Charlottesville Jazz Society** and **WTJU** are proud to present the first ever Charlottesville Jazz Festival, June 4-7, 2026. In conjunction with the **50th anniversary of Charlottesville’s Downtown Mall**, JazzFest 2026 will offer audiences a chance to enjoy **nationally and internationally acclaimed artists** and many of **Charlottesville’s finest musicians** over four days of **club, concert, and featured performances**.

**Charlottesville native – and international sensation – vocalist, Veronica Swift**, headlines the Festival at the Paramount Theater, Saturday June 6<sup>th</sup>. An All-Star collective of many of the region’s finest jazz artists, led by renowned trumpeter **John D’earth**, open for Swift that evening.

JazzFest aims to be inclusive and accessible, with events such as Ting Pavilion’s free Fridays After Five big band concert featuring the celebrated **U.S. Navy Band Commodores jazz ensemble** and Richmond’s **R4nd4zzo (“Randazzo”)**, delivering big band sound with a modern edge.

“We are both thrilled and honored that the ‘Commodores’ chose a performance at the inaugural JazzFest in Charlottesville amidst extraordinary demand for appearances during **America 250** celebrations nationwide,” says Steve Brecker, a member of the JazzFest organizing team.

**The Front Porch and The Guild at Vault Virginia** will host special events with outstanding artists and the festival will feature a two-night/multi-venue **Club Circuit** with no cover charges.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:  
Steve Brecker, Media Relations  
(757)-784-5530 mobile

**Youth inspiration and education** is a key component of JazzFest, with area educators presenting both a multi-high school band and a middle school band for a **Young Lions of Jazz Matinee** at the Paramount June 6. The Matinee also features a special performance with elementary school musicians and a performance by students in the UVA jazz music program. The Matinee includes an **interactive jazz history event** with musician, professor, and historian, Dr. Jeff Decker.

Charlottesville Jazz Society President, Gary Funston, notes, “First and foremost, this is a celebration of the immense pool of jazz talent that we are fortunate to foster here – and that people come from far and wide to enjoy. In fact, we’re reaching out to people from our immediate neighbors and area rural communities to audiences throughout the mid-Atlantic region.”

JazzFest 2026 has received **support** from: **C-VILLE Weekly, Dave Matthews Band/Bama Works** grant program/Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, City of Charlottesville “**Vibrant Community Fund,**” **The Caplin Foundation, John and Kate Byrne, Annette Osso and David Michelson,** and from supporters of the Charlottesville Jazz Society.

**Festival tickets are available here.** For more information, visit [www.cvillejazz.org](http://www.cvillejazz.org).

JazzFest invites all to join the [CJS mailing list](#) and [become a member](#) of the Charlottesville Jazz Society. Listen to WTJU, 91.1 FM or [wtju.net](http://wtju.net) for the latest updates.

---

As a new, non-profit venture, JazzFest 2026 asks: Love jazz? Help fuel the fire with your [donation!](#) Or be part of the magic as a [volunteer!](#)

# # #