

jazz at the bechtler returns special guest maria howell

Jazz at the Bechtler Returns Special Guest Maria Howell is an exciting event that marks the revival of jazz performances at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte, North Carolina. This event not only celebrates the rich history of jazz but also brings together a community of music lovers for an unforgettable evening. With its unique blend of art and culture, the Bechtler Museum serves as an ideal venue for such performances, and the return of jazz is a much-anticipated event on the cultural calendar.

Overview of Jazz at the Bechtler

The Bechtler Museum of Modern Art, known for its impressive collection of mid-20th-century modern art, also plays a pivotal role in promoting the arts through various programs and events. Among these, the Jazz at the Bechtler series stands out as a significant celebration of jazz music. This program, which features local and national jazz musicians, creates an intimate atmosphere where audiences can experience live performances in a unique setting.

The Importance of Jazz Music

Jazz music has been a powerful form of expression and creativity since its inception in the early 20th century. Here are a few reasons why jazz is important:

1. **Cultural Significance:** Jazz originated in African American communities and has evolved to reflect a wide range of cultural influences.
2. **Creative Freedom:** Jazz is defined by its improvisational nature, allowing musicians to express themselves freely and experiment with different sounds.
3. **Influence on Other Genres:** Many contemporary music styles, including rock, hip-hop, and R&B, have roots in jazz, showcasing its lasting influence on the music industry.
4. **Community Building:** Jazz brings people together, fostering a sense of community and shared experience, whether through live performances or informal jam sessions.

Maria Howell: A Musical Force

This year's special guest, Maria Howell, is a remarkable talent whose contributions to the music scene are widely recognized. Known for her powerful vocals and captivating stage presence, Howell has made significant strides in both jazz and gospel music.

Background and Career

Maria Howell hails from Charlotte, North Carolina, and her career spans decades. Some notable highlights include:

- Early Beginnings: Howell began singing at a young age, influenced by the rich musical traditions of her family and community.
- Broadway and Film: She gained national attention for her role in the Broadway production of "The Color Purple" and has appeared in films like "The Hunger Games."
- Solo Career: Howell has released several albums, showcasing her versatility across genres while remaining rooted in jazz and gospel traditions.

Musical Style and Influences

Maria Howell's music is characterized by:

- Soulful Vocals: Her voice carries a deep emotional resonance, capable of conveying a wide range of feelings—from joy to sorrow.
- Eclectic Influences: Howell draws inspiration from various artists, including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, and contemporary pop singers, creating a unique sound that appeals to diverse audiences.
- Engaging Performances: Known for her dynamic stage presence, Howell captivates audiences with her storytelling abilities and interactive performances.

What to Expect at the Event

Attending Jazz at the Bechtler with Maria Howell promises a memorable experience filled with exceptional music, art, and community spirit. Here's what attendees can look forward to:

Performance Schedule

- Opening Act: The evening will begin with a local jazz ensemble, setting the tone for the night.
- Maria Howell's Set: Howell will take the stage to perform a selection of classic jazz standards, as well as original compositions.
- Collaboration with Local Musicians: Expect surprise collaborations, as Howell often invites local musicians to join her on stage, creating a sense of camaraderie and

spontaneity.

Venue Atmosphere

The Bechtler Museum offers a stunning backdrop for the event:

- Artistic Surroundings: The museum's modern architecture and impressive art collection create an inspiring atmosphere for jazz performances.
- Intimate Setting: With a limited seating capacity, attendees can enjoy an up-close experience that fosters a connection between the artist and the audience.
- Refreshments: Local vendors may provide beverages and light snacks, enhancing the overall experience.

Community Engagement

Jazz at the Bechtler is not just about the music; it's also about community:

- Networking Opportunities: Attendees can meet other jazz enthusiasts, musicians, and local artists, creating a vibrant community atmosphere.
- Educational Elements: Some events may include discussions or Q&A sessions with the artists, providing insights into their creative processes and the history of jazz.
- Support for Local Artists: By attending, patrons contribute to the local arts scene, helping to sustain and promote jazz culture in the Charlotte area.

How to Prepare for the Event

If you're planning to attend Jazz at the Bechtler with Maria Howell, here are some tips to enhance your experience:

1. Purchase Tickets Early: Given the popularity of the event, it's advisable to secure your tickets in advance.
2. Arrive Early: Arriving early will allow you to explore the museum's exhibits and find a good seat for the performance.
3. Dress Comfortably: While there is no strict dress code, wearing comfortable attire will help you enjoy the evening to the fullest.
4. Engage with the Music: To fully appreciate the performance, be open to experiencing the music. Allow yourself to be moved by the rhythms and melodies.

5. Support Local Art: Consider purchasing merchandise or supporting the museum to help sustain future events.

Conclusion

Jazz at the Bechtler Returns Special Guest Maria Howell is more than just a concert; it is a celebration of culture, community, and the enduring legacy of jazz music. With Howell's exceptional talent and the museum's artistic ambiance, attendees are sure to be treated to a night of unforgettable music and inspiration. Whether you are a lifelong jazz aficionado or new to the genre, this event promises to be a highlight of the cultural calendar in Charlotte. Don't miss the chance to experience the magic of jazz in such a distinguished setting.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Jazz at the Bechtler'?

'Jazz at the Bechtler' is a popular jazz concert series held at the Bechtler Museum of Modern Art in Charlotte, North Carolina, showcasing talented musicians and celebrating the rich history of jazz.

Who is Maria Howell?

Maria Howell is a renowned American singer and actress, known for her powerful voice and contributions to the jazz genre, as well as her appearances in film and television.

When is the special event featuring Maria Howell?

The special event featuring Maria Howell is scheduled for [insert specific date], as part of the 'Jazz at the Bechtler' concert series.

What can attendees expect from Maria Howell's performance?

Attendees can expect a captivating performance filled with soulful jazz music, showcasing Maria Howell's vocal prowess and unique interpretations of classic jazz standards.

How can I purchase tickets for 'Jazz at the Bechtler' with Maria Howell?

Tickets for 'Jazz at the Bechtler' can be purchased through the Bechtler Museum's official website or at the museum's box office, depending on availability.

Are there any COVID-19 safety measures in place for the event?

Yes, the Bechtler Museum is likely to implement safety measures such as social distancing, mask requirements, and capacity limits to ensure the safety of all attendees.

Will there be other artists performing alongside Maria Howell?

Yes, the concert may feature other talented musicians who will perform alongside Maria Howell, creating a collaborative and dynamic jazz experience.

Is there an age restriction for attending 'Jazz at the Bechtler'?

Generally, 'Jazz at the Bechtler' events are suitable for all ages, but it is recommended to check specific event details for any age restrictions.

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