



“International Jazz Day 10th Anniversary Celebration” Two-Hour PBS Special

Program features historic performances by dozens of world-renowned artists from more than 30 countries

The *International Jazz Day 10th Anniversary Celebration*, a new, two-hour retrospective that highlights performances by an extraordinary array of music icons over the past decade of International Jazz Day celebrations, will premiere Friday, April 30 on PBS stations nationwide. Produced by the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and presented nationally by WTTW Chicago, the special takes a poignant look back at unforgettable moments from Jazz Day concerts at the United Nations, Istanbul, Osaka, Paris, Washington, D.C., Havana, St. Petersburg, New Orleans, and Melbourne.

The *International Jazz Day 10th Anniversary Celebration* **will air at 9/8c on April 30 (check local PBS listings)**. The special is made possible by major support from Toyota, with United Airlines serving as official partner airline.

International Jazz Day (April 30) is the one day each year on which jazz is celebrated worldwide, bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in more than 190 countries on all seven continents. Since its inception in 2011, the centerpiece of International Jazz Day has been the All-Star Global Concert. This one-of-a-kind musical event combines exquisite performances by the world’s greatest jazz masters and music icons with inspiring tributes to the unifying power of jazz, the truly American music that has become a global art form.

This uplifting two-hour retrospective highlights a decade’s worth of collaborations between artists representing over 30 nations. Highlights include a searing take on “I Put A Spell On You” by Herbie Hancock and Scottish pop icon Annie Lennox at the 2015 concert in Paris; Wynton Marsalis, Christian McBride and Danilo Pérez swinging through an unforgettable rendition of “St. James Infirmary Blues” at the United Nations in New York; and a remarkable duet performance of “Midnight Sun” led by Stevie Wonder and Esperanza Spalding.

From Istanbul to Paris to Havana, each International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert explores the multicultural roots of jazz by showcasing a diverse company of voices from across the musical spectrum. With “Bilongo,” from International Jazz Day 2017, Cameroonian bassist/vocalist Richard Bona delivers his idiosyncratic blend of African and Cuban musical traditions; while vocalist Dianne Reeves and Turkish clarinetist Hüsni Şenlendirici blur the line between East and West with “Tango,” from the 2013 concert. “Afrika,” from 2012, features GRAMMY Award-winning Beninese vocalist Angélique Kidjo melding musical traditions from across the eponymous continent. More recently, at the 2019 concert in Melbourne, Australia, American songstress Lizz Wright brings things back home with her impassioned delivery of the gospel classic “Singing In My Soul.”

The program also remembers fondly some of the late friends of International Jazz Day, including jazz legend Al Jarreau deftly interpreting Paul Desmond’s “Take 5” alongside pianist Chick Corea during a scene from International Jazz Day 2016. Hugh Masekela invokes the struggle for freedom in his native South Africa with a star-studded reading of “Bring Him Back Home (Nelson Mandela),” accompanied by jazz luminaries including Marcus Miller, Terri Lyne Carrington and Lee Ritenour. In one of the evening’s most touching moments, Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin enraptures the audience with her personal version of “A Song For You.”

The *International Jazz Day 10th Anniversary Celebration* retrospective forms part of the official worldwide festivities planned for International Jazz Day in 2021, which include activities planned by partners in all 50 U.S. states and more than 190 countries. For a complete list of registered programming around the world, visit jazzday.com/events.