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Hyde Park Jazz Festival expands roster, venues

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Ragtime piano virtuoso Reginald Robinson, avant-garde flutist Nicole Mitchell and tenor saxophone icon Fred Anderson will headline an expanded version of the Hyde Park Jazz Festival.

The second annual event will start at noon Sept. 27 and run until 2 a.m., with performances unfolding in multiple settings, indoors and out, across the neighborhood.

Last year's debut event attracted overflow crowds (more than 5,000 attended), prompting festival planners to expand this year's roster to 29 artists from 15. In addition, several new venues have been added.

"We're trying to spread out the festival, with more artists in more venues, so it doesn't get overcrowded," says Carolyn Albritton, music producer of the event since its inception. "We have the schedule set up so that someone is starting a new set, somewhere, every 30 minutes."

Like last year, all the shows will be free, and free shuttle buses will take listeners to performance destinations (though many are within walking distance of one another).

The event is produced by the Hyde Park Cultural Alliance, the University of Chicago and the Hyde Park Jazz Society.

The new venues are Little Black Pearl, at 1060 E. 47th St.; Experimental Station, 6100 S. Blackstone Ave.; Rockefeller Memorial Chapel, 5850 S. Woodlawn Ave.; and International House, 1414 E. 59th St.

Several of last year's venues again will present festival events: DuSable Museum of African American History, 740 E. 56th Pl.; Oriental Institute, 1155 E. 58th St.; Quadrangle Club, 1155 E. 57th St.; Hyde Park Art Center, 5020 S. Cornell Ave.; Checkerboard Lounge, 5201 S. Harper Ct.; Robie House, 5757 S. Woodlawn Ave.; Smart Museum of Art, 5550 S. Greenwood Ave.; and the Midway Plaisance, on 59th Street, between Ellis and Woodlawn Avenues.

Following is the complete schedule:

Noon: Jazz Institute Jazz Links Ensemble (DuSable Museum).

1 p.m.: Reginald Robinson (DuSable Museum); M.A.D.D. Rhythms (Midway Plaisance); Bethany Pickens (Little Black Pearl).

2 p.m.: Henry Johnson (DuSable Museum); Nicole Mitchell (Smart Museum).

2:30 p.m.: Zach Brock (Quadrangle Club); Ron Haynes (Little Black Pearl).

3 p.m.: Fred Anderson (Hyde Park Art Center); Chicago Jazz Orchestra (Midway Plaisance).

3:30 p.m.: Robert Irving, III (Smart Museum).

4 p.m.: Ari Brown (Quadrangle Club); Two for Brazil and Grazyna Auguscik (Robie House).

4:30 p.m.: Corey Wilkes and Kahil El'Zabar (Hyde Park Art Center).

5 p.m.: Charlie Johnson (Midway Plaisance); Maggie Brown (Experimental Station).

6 p.m.: U. of C. High School Lab Band (Oriental Institute).

6:30 p.m.: Khari B (Experimental Station); Greg Spero (Checkerboard Lounge).

7 p.m.: Dee Alexander (Rockefeller Memorial Chapel); Peter Lerner (Oriental Institute); Edwin Sanchez (Midway Plaisance); John Wright (International House).

8 p.m.: Joan Collaso and Larry Hanks (Checkerboard Lounge).

8:30 p.m.: Orbert Davis (International House).

9 p.m.: Sax in the City (Midway Plaisance).

9:30 p.m.: Willie Pickens (Checkerboard Lounge).

10 p.m.: The Greatest Guitars, with Henry Johnson, Curtis Robinson and Buddy Fambro (International House).

Midnight: Midnight Slam Jam (International House).

For more information, visit hydeparkjazzfestival.org

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