

# DOWNBEAT 2023 INTERNATIONAL JAZZ VENUE GUIDE



## SHOWTIME!

DownBeat's 2023 Venue Guide is a tribute to the enduring spirit of jazz presenters everywhere. Through the most trying period of our lifetime, they worried, improvised and survived. Here are 106 clubs serving improvised music and doing it well.

Edited by Frank Alkyer

Pancho Sánchez at The Jazz Kitchen in Indianapolis/Photo by Mark Sheldon

jazz in Scottsdale. Jazzbird hosts a variety of regional and national artists every week on Friday nights (September through June). And Ravenscroft Hall is an intimate, 200-seat concert hall showcasing world-renowned performing artists in a remarkable acoustic space. Ravenscroft also hosts performances by local Valley Jazz Cooperative students. Recent performers include Kenny Barron, Billy Childs, Corey Christianson, Tierney Sutton and more.

[theravenscroft.com](http://theravenscroft.com)

## NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

### BACH DANCING & DYNAMITE SOCIETY

Half Moon Bay, CA

The Bach presents world-class jazz in an intimate setting. Like having a concert in one's living room, the club includes stunning views of the ocean. Musicians who have played at the Bach include Betty Carter, Bill Evans, Dexter Gordon and McCoy Tyner. It continues to book musicians like Joshua Redman and John Scofield and up-and-coming artists such as Samara Joy.

[bachddsoc.org](http://bachddsoc.org)

### Keys Jazz Bistro

San Francisco, CA

Simon Rowe, the noted jazz educator and pianist, has turned his attention to presenting jazz as a co-owner of Keys Jazz Bistro, a new entry on the scene that opened in November. The club and its booking philosophy look interesting, with early acts including Mary Stallings and Clairdee with the David Udolf Trio and an Hammond B-3 Organ Summit, Craig Handy with the Simon Rowe Trio and Kenny Washington. This one's being named on potential.

[keysjazzbistro.com](http://keysjazzbistro.com)

### Kuumbwa Jazz

Santa Cruz, CA

Kuumbwa Jazz has been celebrating creativity since 1975. From grassroots beginnings, Kuumbwa has grown to present more than 130 concerts annually, as well as year-round music education programs. Its listening-room environment is filled with welcoming character and sets the stage for artists and audiences in shared musical experiences. 2022 artists included Dianne Reeves, Christian McBride, Grace Kelly, Immanuel Wilkins, The Hot Sardines, Artemis, Sons of Kemet, Chris Potter, Marcia Ball and Billy Cobham

[kuumbwajazz.org](http://kuumbwajazz.org)

### LOBERO THEATRE

Santa Barbara, CA

Celebrating its 150th anniversary, the Lobero Theatre's Jazz at the Lobero series places the biggest names in jazz into one of the most beautiful small theaters in the nation. The 2023 edition, beginning in February, features Arturo Sandoval, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, a Charles Lloyd (the hometown hero) 85th Birthday Celebration and much more.

[lobero.org](http://lobero.org)

### YOSHI'S

Oakland, CA

The legendary East Bay music room celebrated 50 years of presenting music in 2022 — a true tip of the cap to its founders, Kaz Kajmura, Hugh "Hiro" Hori and Yoshie Akiba. With a

great Japanese menu and even better music, in January the club hosts the likes of Lalah Hathaway, Najee, Robert Cray, Fred Hersch and esperanza spalding and more.

[yoshis.com](http://yoshis.com)

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

### The Baked Potato

Studio City, CA

Since 1970, fusion bands and electric groups have called this funky bar home. With music six nights a week, find top-shelf session musicians playing for an appreciative crowd. January's programming includes the Scott Kinsey Group, the Luis Conte Band, Marvin "Smitty" Smith New Standards, Jeff Lorber Fusion and more.

[thebakedpotato.com](http://thebakedpotato.com)

### Catalina Bar & Grill

Los Angeles, CA

This sprawling performance space brings together great music and food in a warm, inviting environment. Legendary for hosting such greats as Dizzy Gillespie, Art Blakey, Chick Corea and many others, Catalina's early 2023 lineup includes Peter Cincotti, Roberta Gambarini, Karrin Allyson, Ben Vereen and more. Live music is featured six nights a week.

[catalinajazzclub.com](http://catalinajazzclub.com)

### Sam First

Los Angeles, CA

This intimate, modern cocktail bar is within walking distance of baggage claim at LAX and wraps its performance space with a record label and recording studio. Up-and-coming artists from the nearby Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz fill in the week, while big names take weekends. An early 2023 booking includes The George Colligan Trio featuring Anna Meyer. Recent shows have featured Gerald Clayton, the Remy Le Boeuf Quartet and more.

[samfirstbar.com](http://samfirstbar.com)

## COLORADO

### Dazzle Jazz

Denver, CO

Located in the nearly 150-year-old Baur Building, this venue takes pride in its menu and eclectic music fare. From gamelan to soul, this room places jazz in a global context with upcoming visits from Etienne Charles and Javon Jackson among other diverse options.

[dazzlejazz.com](http://dazzlejazz.com)

## OREGON

### The 1905

Portland, OR

This venue gets to the point in its branding: "Food. Booze. Jazz." The jazz portion features both local and touring bands, with a lot of straightahead acts playing tableside in the dining room.

[the1905.org](http://the1905.org)

## WASHINGTON

### Dimitriou's Jazz Alley

Seattle, WA

For more than 30 years, this magnet for big-name touring jazz acts, especially in the fusion and smooth-jazz veins, has served Seattle with a capacity of 350-plus and balcony seating. Hometown hero Kenny G did a December residency there culminating in a New Year's Eve show. Early 2023 bookings include Yellowjackets, Chris Botti, Fred Hersch and esperanza spalding and more.

[jazzalley.com](http://jazzalley.com)

### The Royal Room

Seattle, WA

Located in the Columbia City neighborhood, this funky, cool venue was the brainchild of musician Wayne Horvitz. The warm space hosts educational programs and evening sets by local jazz artists. Mondays feature a jazz jam hosted by trumpeter Thomas Marriott.

[theroyalroomseattle.com](http://theroyalroomseattle.com)



**Yardbird Suite**  
EDMONTON jazz SOCIETY

**Edmonton, Alberta's home for jazz since 1957**  
[yardbirdsuite.com](http://yardbirdsuite.com)