

**SFJAZZ Gala 2018 Honors Preservation Hall
with Lifetime Achievement Award**

**Thursday, February 1, 2018
SFJAZZ Center, San Francisco, CA**

*With Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Ellis Marsalis, Terence Blanchard,
Chucho Valdés, SFJAZZ Collective, Pedrito Martinez,
Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, Big Freedia, Daymé Arocena,
Saul Williams, Airto Moreira & More*

After Party with Galactic & The Original Pinettes Brass Band

(San Francisco, CA, November 20, 2017) – SFJAZZ will host the SFJAZZ Gala 2018 honoring **Preservation Hall** with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award on Thursday, February 1, 2018. The program will feature performances by Preservation Hall Jazz Band, Ellis Marsalis, Terence Blanchard, Chucho Valdés, SFJAZZ Collective, Pedrito Martinez, Christian Scott aTunde Adjuah, Big Freedia, Daymé Arocena, Saul Williams, Airto Moreira, and other special guests. All proceeds from the SFJAZZ Gala 2018 will support SFJAZZ’s artistic and education programs.

Former SFJAZZ Trustee Del Anderson Handy and 2009 SFJAZZ Education Beacon Award Winner John Handy will serve as Co-chairs.

On February 1, the SFJAZZ Center will fill with cultural and political leaders, celebrities, artists, and music enthusiasts to present Preservation Hall with the SFJAZZ Lifetime Achievement Award and celebrate this cornerstone of New Orleans music and culture.

VIP supporters will enjoy a lively cocktail hour and seated dinner with featured artists and honorees followed by the Gala Concert featuring some of the most exciting names in music – all culminating with the SFJAZZ Gala After Party. Gala-goers and After-partiers will experience an array of New Orleans’ finest cuisine and drinks throughout the evening with late night fare from SFJAZZ’s favorite neighborhood spots.

SFJAZZ will honor the rich history of this New Orleans institution and celebrate the aligned values shared by both organizations, including a steadfast dedication to music education and a devotion to the spirit of collaboration with artists of all genres and disciplines. Preservation Hall is one of few instances when a place devoted to creativity, a tangible human-made structure, becomes synonymous with the soul of the art form it houses. The uniquely American expression now known as jazz has its origins in New Orleans’ African-American community, and today, the living heart of this musical culture resides in the French Quarter within the hallowed walls of Preservation Hall, where it has been perpetuated for over five decades. The founders of the Hall, Sandra and Allan Jaffe, have a direct connection to the Bay Area and SFJAZZ has presented Preservation Hall Jazz Band numerous times on many different stages in San Francisco.

“Preservation Hall is a model of how a cultural institution can become an integrated part of a city’s identity – an idea that inspires us, and a goal that we continually work towards,” says SFJAZZ Founder and Executive Artistic Director Randall Kline. “Though the environs of Preservation Hall and the SFJAZZ Center are as physically different from each other as can be, we recognize that they have a rare quality in common: as places where the beauty of the moment can be felt and the soul of this music comes to life.”

“From day one, San Francisco has been the second home for Preservation Hall - from Frost Amphitheater to the Fillmore to annual shows in Marin, Napa, at Stern Grove and the Fairmont Hotel,” says Ben Jaffe, Creative Director, Preservation Hall and Bass/Tuba player, Preservation Hall Jazz Band. “It has been our home away from home for over 50 years. It will always be a great source of pride to now call SFJAZZ Center home and receive this Lifetime Achievement Award!”

Since its inception, Preservation Hall has hosted a revolving coterie of legendary musicians such as the Humphrey Brothers, trumpeter Punch Miller, pianist "Sweet" Emma Barrett and clarinetist George Lewis, quickly attracting attention around the city and soon, around the world. By 1963, it became clear to the Jaffe’s that the best way to insure the renewed visibility of the music to share the legacy of traditional New Orleans jazz beyond the walls of Preservation Hall, giving rise to the formation of the Preservation Hall Jazz Band – a rotating group of master musicians who bring the jubilant, bone-deep spirit of the French Quarter from clubs to concert halls. In many ways a precursor to our own SFJAZZ Collective, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band is a movable feast, spreading the message of jazz’s history, as well as its future, to new audiences and old.

Now in its 54th year, the Preservation Hall Jazz Band continues under the direction of Allan’s son Ben, who took the helm in 1993, ensuring the vitality of New Orleans music for decades to come. Faced with an existential threat to New Orleans music and culture after Hurricane Katrina, which closed the Hall for nearly three years, Ben has invigorated the Preservation Hall tradition with a new direction of evolving and expanding the scope of the Hall through the band’s innovative collaboration and outreach. As true ambassadors of their hometown sound, the band has collaborated with major artists spanning the musical spectrum, from Elvis Costello, Tom Waits, Dr. John and Pete Seeger to Arcade Fire, Beck, The Black Keys, and the Foo Fighters.

In 2013, after many decades of recording songs from the traditional New Orleans songbook, Jaffe and the band teamed up with My Morning Jacket frontman and producer Jim James on their first album of original compositions entitled "That's It." In April 2017, after a seminal trip to headline the 2015 Havana Jazz Festival, the band brought forth their ambitious sophomore full-length original album of Cuba-inspired songs on "So It Is", produced by TV On The Radio’s Dave Sitek and which continues to receive rave reviews across the spectrum of audiences new and old through live appearances at venues as varied as the Coachella Music and Arts Festival, Newport Folk Festival, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, and Madison Square Garden.

Preservation Hall Jazz Band will also perform an extended run of shows at the SFJAZZ Center from Friday, February 2 to Sunday, February 4, 2018.

SFJAZZ's work in education will be on display throughout the Gala. Recently, SFJAZZ announced expansion of in-school education programs and a commitment to reach every public middle school student in San Francisco and Oakland. More than 23,000 students in 70 schools will benefit from the expansion, which includes school day concerts, standards-based classroom learning residencies, and support of school music ensembles. Over the next three years, the SFJAZZ Education Department will develop and implement these programs with teachers, school administrators, parents, and students to bring jazz into Bay Area classrooms. SFJAZZ has become the world's leading cultural institution devoted to jazz and related forms of music, presenting over 400 performances each year at the SFJAZZ Center and throughout the San Francisco Bay Area. SFJAZZ welcomes over 200,000 fans and students every year and has several award-winning resident jazz ensembles—the world-renowned SFJAZZ Collective and the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars.

Tickets and Information

VIP Packages include an intimate seated dinner for 150 people with featured artists and an exclusive private pre-event honoring Preservation Hall.

Luminary tickets include a private cocktail hour featuring the SFJAZZ High School All-Stars Combo performing with featured celebrity artists. Gala tickets feature a New Orleans inspired reception.

A limited number of After Party tickets featuring simultaneous sets with Galactic and The Original Pinettes Brass Band are available at \$145.00 for SFJAZZ Members and \$170.00 for general public.

VIP Packages, Luminary, Gala, and After Party tickets are now available via Emily Everding, 415-283-0342, gala@sfjazz.org. For Further details on the SFJAZZ Gala 2018 including ticket and sponsorship information visit www.sfjazz.org/gala.

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