



(Note to eds.: Media credentials and artist photos available upon request; contact Patrick Bannon at 425-453-3113, [patrick@bellevuedowntown.org](mailto:patrick@bellevuedowntown.org))

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## BELLEVUE JAZZ FESTIVAL TAKES CENTER STAGE: MAY 22-24

**Jazz stars align this weekend in Bellevue with Dianne Reeves *Strings Attached*, Mingus Big Band, Kurt Elling, Patricia Barber, Danilo Perez, Mose Allison Trio, SRJO, regional and student artists in three-day festival of free and ticketed performances**

(BELLEVUE, Wash.) – The 2009 Bellevue Jazz Festival presented by First Tech Credit Union is pulling out the stops in its second year with an impressive lineup of Grammy-winning artists and many of the region's top jazz musicians and promising young talent.

"The jam-packed schedule offers something for everyone," said Leslie Lloyd, festival director and president of the Bellevue Downtown Association. "From intimate jam sessions to headline performances, this year's Bellevue Jazz Festival offers a singular chance to enjoy and celebrate the power, range and artistry of live jazz."

The 2009 festival also **presents 20 free performances and jam sessions** by top regional artists at venues throughout Downtown Bellevue, including a High School Student Showcase on Friday and Saturday at Bellevue Arts Museum. The complete schedule, directions to the festival and ticket information are available at [bellevuejazz.com](http://bellevuejazz.com).

Preeminent vocalists **Dianne Reeves** (9 p.m., Meydenbauer Center Hall) and **Kurt Elling** (7 p.m., Theatre at Meydenbauer Center) lead off the festival Friday evening. Reeves, winner of four Grammys, will feature guitar masters **Russell Malone** and **Romero Lubambo** in her *Strings Attached* performance. Elling will perform with Laurence Hobgood (piano), Ulysses Owens, Jr. (drums), and Harish Raghavan (bass).

Saturday's bill features world-class Panamanian pianist **Danilo Perez** (Adam Cruz, drums, and Ben Street, bass) at 2 p.m. in the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center. The evening performances begin with the extraordinary vocalist/pianist **Patricia Barber** (7 p.m., Theatre at Meydenbauer Center with bassist Michael Arnpol, drummer Eric Montzka, and guitarist Neal Alger). Headlining in an avant-garde celebration of composer and bassist Charles Mingus is the 14-piece ensemble **Mingus Big Band**. The band's performance begins at 9 p.m. in the Meydenbauer Center Hall.

Mississippi-born and seminal singer/songwriter/pianist **Mose Allison** (with Phil Sparks, bass, and Milo Petersen, drums) will perform Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center. The festival's finale will present the 17-piece **Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra** (Clarence Acox and Michael Brockman, co-directors) playing Benny Carter's "Kansas City Suite." Opening for SRJO at 7 p.m. will be three six-member ensembles of high-school musicians selected for the **Bellevue Jazz Festival Rising Stars** player invitational.

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This year, the festival launched the Rising Stars program to enrich the educational experience of emerging jazz artists. A select group of 18 high school jazz students from Seattle and the Eastside have been rehearsing together with noted professional musicians in a workshop environment.

Bellevue Jazz Festival ticket packages and individual tickets are available via Brown Paper Tickets online and by phone through noon, Friday, May 22. Ticket sales during the festival will be available at Meydenbauer Center (11100 NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA 98004).

Bellevue's jazz festival history dates to 1978 when the City of Bellevue first hosted the Bellevue Jazz Festival at Bellevue Community College. The festival returned in 2008 under the direction of the Bellevue Downtown Association with a focus on entertaining audiences with premier world and regional talent and supporting the rich tradition of jazz education in the area. Branford Marsalis Quartet and Spanish Harlem Orchestra headlined the 2008 festival.

The 2009 Bellevue Jazz Festival is sponsored by First Tech Credit Union, City of Bellevue, Microsoft, 4Culture, KPLU 88.5, KBCS 91.3 FM, and Gravity Design, Inc. The festival is produced by the Bellevue Downtown Association, a non-profit membership organization charged with leading the evolution of Downtown Bellevue as the economic and cultural heart of the Eastside.

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