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The Kennedy Center's New *Hip Hop & Series* Launches with the *Hip Hop & Jazz Festival* March 27–April 19, 2024

Featuring

Robert Glasper—Black Radio: A Duke x Dilla Celebration

The Rakim & DJ Jazzy Jeff & Ravi Coltrane Project

Igmar Thomas's Revive Big Band

A Duke X Dilla Afterparty featuring Karriem Riggins

Hip Hop Listening Sessions: *We Got the Jazz* –

Jazz and Hip Hop Edition

(WASHINGTON)—The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts announces *Hip Hop &*, a new annual season focus highlighting hip hop's intersections with other genres, forms, and disciplines. Each year, *Hip Hop &* will explore the evolutionary and multitude of ways that hip hop impacts culture.

The inaugural festival, *Hip Hop & Jazz*, celebrates the dynamic relationship between hip hop and jazz over the course of several exciting programs. The festival kicks off on March 27 with a special jazz and hip hop edition of the Kennedy Center's popular **Hip Hop Listening Sessions**. March 29, the acclaimed **Igmar Thomas's Revive Big Band** takes over the Club at Studio K for two performances. Five-time Grammy Award®-winning pianist, composer, producer, and founding Kennedy Center Hip Hop Culture Council member **Robert Glasper**; two-time Grammy Award®-winning composer, conductor, arranger, musical director, and bassist **Derrick Hodge**; and the **Black Radio Orchestra** celebrate the 125th and 50th birthdays, respectively, of music icons Duke Ellington and J Dilla with a special one-night-only event in the Concert Hall on March 30, **Black Radio: A Duke x Dilla Celebration**, followed by a not-to-be-missed afterparty in the Club at Studio K hosted by Emmy Award-winning drummer, producer, and DJ **Karriem Riggins**.

Then, on April 19 in the Concert Hall, three legendary musicians—**Rakim**; two-time Grammy Award® winner **DJ Jazzy Jeff**; and Grammy®-nominated saxophonist, bandleader, and composer **Ravi Coltrane**—come together for a must-see event: **The Rakim & DJ Jazzy Jeff & Ravi Coltrane Project**, produced by Jill Newman Productions.

“We are so excited to launch our *Hip Hop & Jazz Festival* celebrating the deeply interconnected and symbiotic relationship between Hip Hop and Jazz. As two of America’s greatest art forms and vital genres within the Black Music Continuum, they have transformed global culture,” says **Simone Eccleston**, Director of Hip Hop Culture & Contemporary Music. “We are elated to have incredible musical vanguards such as Rakim, DJ Jazzy Jeff, Ravi Coltrane, Robert Glasper, Derrick Hodge and Igmar Thomas’s Revive Big Band, performing as part of this year’s festival uplifting the artistic contributions of icons such as Duke Ellington, J Dilla and John Coltrane. It is also extremely humbling to dedicate it to our dear friend Meghan Stabile, a creative genius whose legacy lives on through all of us.”

Tickets for the *Hip Hop & Jazz Festival* events are available via the Kennedy Center [website](#) or by calling (202) 467-4600.

The *Hip Hop & Jazz Festival* is dedicated to visionary concert producer, music impresario, and Founder & CEO of Revive Music Group, Meghan Stabile.

EVENT LISTINGS:

Hip Hop Listening Sessions: We’ve Got The Jazz—Jazz and Hip Hop Edition

Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

Club at Studio K

A very special Hip Hop Listening Session focused on the intersection between Hip Hop & Jazz. Whether it’s classic hip hop songs with iconic jazz samples, jazz compositions, covers, collaborations, or concept projects, we will be exploring the myriad of ways that jazz and hip hop intersect. This Hip Hop Listening Session features panelists DJ, rapper, producer, and professor **DJ Raydar Ellis**; multidisciplinary creative and founder of B-FLY Entertainment **Paige Hernandez**; acclaimed trumpeter, composer, bandleader, music director and founder of the Revive Big Band **Igmar Thomas** and more to be announced. It will be moderated by artist, producer, and Guggenheim Fellow **Kokayi** with sounds by radio personality, DJ, and member of 9th Wonder’s True School Corp **DJ Face**. It will also be complemented by a live performance set of **Paige Hernandez** and B-FLY Entertainment’s iconic *Liner Notes* highlighting the jazz and hip hop continuum through jazz standards, hip hop samples, and liner notes from your favorite artists.

Igmar Thomas's Revive Big Band

Friday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.

Club at Studio K

Founded by **Igmar Thomas**, the former Music Director and bandleader for Ms. Lauryn Hill and Nas, The Revive Big Band is not just a band, it's a movement. Rooted in Black American music and combining jazz, hip hop, funk, soul, blues, and gospel, this multi-generational ensemble is made up of some of the most accomplished musicians alive today. Collectively, the band's members have 27 Grammy® nominations and 13 Grammy® wins; have been praised in nearly every major media outlet including the *New York Times*, *NPR*, *Okayplayer*, *Downbeat*, *Billboard*, and others; and have performed all over the world and collaborated with some of the most well-known artists out there today: Common, J. Cole, D'Angelo, Quincy Jones, Herbie Hancock, Sting, Esperanza Spalding, Dizzy Gillespie, Talib Kweli, Gregory Porter, Bilal, Robert Glasper, and Pharoahe Monch. Since making its debut in 2010, the Big Band has performed at the Kennedy Center, Central Park SummerStage, Harlem Stage, BRIC, the Apollo Theater, Highline Ballroom, Blue Note Jazz Club, Winter JazzFest, Art of Cool Festival, and Ginny's Supper Club. With a repertoire that features original compositions and inventive orchestrations of jazz standards and contemporary classics by artists ranging from Oliver Nelson, Wayne Shorter, and Freddie Hubbard to A Tribe Called Quest, J Dilla, Gang Starr, and Bilal, the Revive Big Band returns to the Kennedy Center for another exciting presentation.

Robert Glasper

Black Radio: A Duke X Dilla Celebration with Special Guests and the Black Radio Orchestra, led and conducted by Derrick Hodge

Saturday, March 30 at 8 p.m.

Concert Hall

In honor of their 125th and 50th birthdays, five-time Grammy Award®-winning pianist, composer, producer, and founding Kennedy Center Hip Hop Culture Council Member **Robert Glasper** celebrates the iconic musical legacies of Duke Ellington and J Dilla through his genre shattering brand—Black Radio. This special one-night only concert will feature special guests alongside the Black Radio Orchestra led by two-time Grammy Award®-winning composer, conductor, arranger, musical director, and bassist **Derrick Hodge**.

A Duke x Dilla Afterparty

Featuring Karriem Riggins

Saturday, March 30 at 10 p.m.

Club at Studio K

World-renowned musician, producer, DJ and drummer **Karriem Riggins** comes to the Club at Studio K for the official afterparty to the 2024 *Hip Hop & Festival* and Robert Glasper's Black Radio: A Duke x Dilla Celebration. Part dance party, part jam session the Duke x Dilla Afterparty is a kaleidoscope of music encompassing soul, funk, hip hop, and jazz in addition to classic joints, deep cuts, and original beats that will keep heads nodding and people dancing. A

celebrated jazz musician, producer, DJ, and Emmy Award winner from Detroit, Michigan, Karriem Riggins has played some of the world's greatest cities. With a career spanning over two decades, he has made a significant impact on the music industry with his versatile style and innovative approach to production. He has worked with some of the biggest names in the industry, including Diana Krall, Common, Erykah Badu, Paul McCartney, Robert Glasper, Talib Kweli, Steve Lacy, Detroit's own Dwele, and the late great J Dilla. Whether in the studio or on the stage, Riggins continues to push the boundaries of music and inspire a new generation of musicians and artists around the world.

The Rakim & DJ Jazzy Jeff & Ravi Coltrane Project

Produced by Jill Newman Productions

Friday, April 19 at 8 p.m.

Concert Hall

An exciting collaboration between three brilliant and legendary musicians, The Rakim & DJ Jazzy Jeff & Ravi Coltrane Project is a must-see event for music and culture lovers worldwide. Conceived and produced by Jill Newman Productions and hosted as the closing event for the Kennedy Center's inaugural *Hip Hop & Jazz Festival*, the "God MC" **Rakim** (who grew up with a love for John Coltrane's music); the always magnificent and two-time Grammy Award®-winning **DJ Jazzy Jeff**; and critically acclaimed Grammy®-nominated saxophonist, bandleader, and composer **Ravi Coltrane** meld their incredible music, history, and influences together for one epic evening of music backed by a live band. The evening will also feature a special opening set by DJ Jazzy Jeff.

About Meghan Stabile

A creative visionary and musical impresario, **Meghan Stabile** was the Founder and CEO of Revive Music Group and a tour de force in the contemporary jazz scene. A multitasking and highly respected event producer, promoter, record executive, and impassioned advocate for artists, Stabile produced groundbreaking concerts and live music experiences that made jazz relevant to a new generation of music lovers and sparked a movement for today's progressive and genre-defying musicians. Her genius served as a blueprint for numerous producers and creatives and birthed countless verticals under the Revive Music umbrella including the *Revivalist*, an online publication in association with Okayplayer, the Revive Big Band, founded and led by Igmar Thomas, and an imprint with Blue Note Records resulting in the release of Otis Brown III's *The Thought of You* (2014), *REVIVE Music Presents: Supreme Sonacy* (Vol. 1) in 2015, and Marcus Strickland's *Nihil Novi* (2016) and *People of the Sun* (2018).

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