

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM PRESENTS 16TH ANNUAL JUNIOR JAZZ FESTIVAL
February Festival Introduces Youngsters to Jazz Music

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Please Touch Museum, the Children’s Museum of Philadelphia, continues its final year on 21st Street in February by celebrating the 16th Annual Junior Jazz Festival, the only area event to introduce young children to the wonderful world of jazz through live music, dance and theater performances. This is the 16th and final Junior Jazz to take place at the 21st Street museum, which will close this fall when Please Touch moves to Memorial Hall in Fairmount Park.

The museum’s Atrium will adopt a groovy jazz club atmosphere for a month’s worth of concerts and special activities that focus on musical expression and the history of jazz. Children can dress up and pretend to perform on the jazz club stage, make music with instruments including the giant drums and ukulele, and create their own musical scores by placing stickers of musical notes onto composition paper.

Kids will also be able to learn a bit of jazz history taking in a Please Touch Playhouse performance of “Scat Cat’s Junior Jazz Jamboree.” This interactive show tells the ‘tail’ of an everyday alley cat who happens upon “Max Roach,” who teaches her the history of jazz. Max also introduces her to some of the well known artists who made it popular “Stingray Charles, Bunny Goodman, and Piggy Lee.” This Please Touch Playhouse original production will be performed Mondays through Fridays in February at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. and is free with museum admission.

Performance Schedule

All performances take place at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and are free with museum admission.

Saturday and Sunday, February 2 and 2

Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble

One of Philadelphia’s more innovative and progressive jazz groups, Warren Oree and The Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble has been a favorite fixture of Junior Jazz for more than a decade, introducing young children to jazz with fun, interactive performances. Formed in 1979, the band has performed throughout the world and has recorded eight CDs of uniquely styled jazz originals and standard compositions. Since 1990, Oree has been lecturing and presenting workshops on jazz, music composition, and other aspects of music and its business at libraries, public and private schools, and universities.

Saturday and Sunday, February 9 and 10

Erin Flynn

With a nod to jazz great Charlie “The Bird” Parker, and inspired by the James Barrie quote, “If you can’t teach me to fly, teach me to sing,” Chicago-based singer-songwriter Erin Flynn and her jazz combo will explore dreams of flying through jazz favorites and original music. In this jazzy exploration of flight, kids of all ages are invited to sing, dance, or fly like birds and butterflies. Featuring vocals, guitar, piano, percussion, and horn, the Flying Jazz Quartet connects to audiences in a special way, leaving them with musical memories and heartfelt songs to carry close as they grow.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 16, 17 and 18

Luis “Louie” Miranda

Louie Miranda, a regular favorite at Please Touch Museum, is an amazing guitarist who performs Latin jazz in highly interactive family-oriented concerts that blend sophisticated rhythms with inspiring lyrics to create music that teaches as it entertains.

Saturday and Sunday, February 23–24

Tony Miceli and his Super Jazz Jam Session

Vibraphone virtuoso Tony Miceli, a newcomer to the Junior Jazz Festival, is one of Philadelphia's most renowned jazz musicians, having performed and recorded with Gerald Veasley, Olivier Hutman, and John Swana. He is currently involved with groups such as The Philly 5, Monkadelphia, Mallet Madness and Meg Clifton and the Cliftones. He performs virtually everywhere in town, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Chris' Jazz Cafe, and he mentors a number of young jazz musicians.

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Please Touch Museum® is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open seven days a week from 9 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Admission is \$10.95 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-963-0667, visit our web site at www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.