

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Nonprofit Jazz Forward Dayton Launches to Preserve and Grow the Region's Jazz Community

September 27th Celebration Marks the Beginning of a New Organization Dedicated to Education, Performance, and Community

DAYTON, Ohio — Dayton's jazz community is taking center stage with the official launch of **Jazz Forward Dayton**, a new nonprofit organization committed to ensuring jazz continues to thrive throughout the Miami Valley for generations to come.

The organization will celebrate its official launch with a **Grand Launch Celebration on Sunday, September 27, at 6:00 p.m.** at the **Roger Glass Center for the Arts**, featuring the **University of Dayton Jazz Ensemble** alongside internationally acclaimed New Orleans trumpeter, composer, and educator **Ashlin Parker**. A reception will follow the performance, giving community members the opportunity to meet the organization's leadership, musicians, and supporters.

Founded by Dayton vocalist, and radio host **Kelli Campbell**, Jazz Forward Dayton was created to address a growing need for more educational opportunities, live performances, and professional support for jazz musicians across the region.

"Dayton has extraordinary jazz talent and a rich musical heritage," Campbell said. "Jazz Forward Dayton exists to bring people together through music while creating opportunities for musicians to perform, learn, collaborate, and inspire the next generation."

For nearly a decade, Campbell has hosted one of the area's longest-running monthly jazz jam sessions, creating a welcoming environment where musicians from high school students to seasoned professionals share the stage. That successful community-building effort became the inspiration for a larger vision—a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the local jazz ecosystem.

Jazz Forward Dayton plans to serve musicians and audiences through:

- Educational workshops and masterclasses
- Performances featuring local, regional, and nationally recognized artists
- Community concerts and special events
- Mentorship and networking opportunities
- Collaborative partnerships with schools, universities, arts organizations, and community groups
- Programs designed to introduce young people to jazz

While the September launch celebrates the organization's beginning, it also serves as the first step in building a sustainable future for jazz throughout the Dayton region.

"Jazz is uniquely American, and Dayton has played an important role in its history," Campbell said. "We're inviting the entire community to help write the next chapter."

Community members are encouraged to attend the launch celebration, become members, volunteer, sponsor programs, and support the organization's mission of making jazz more accessible throughout the Miami Valley.

Event Information

Jazz Forward Dayton Grand Launch Celebration

Sunday, September 27

6:00 p.m.

Roger Glass Center for the Arts

Featuring the University of Dayton Jazz Ensemble with special guest Ashlin Parker

Reception immediately following the performance.

Tickets are available now at www.jazzforwarddayton.org.

Story Ideas for Media

Editors and reporters are invited to explore several local-interest angles, including:

- The launch of Dayton's newest nonprofit arts organization.
- How Jazz Forward Dayton is creating opportunities for musicians of all ages.
- Dayton's rich jazz history and its next generation of artists.
- The impact of community-based music education and mentorship.
- The partnership between Jazz Forward Dayton and the University of Dayton.
- The economic and cultural importance of live music in downtown Dayton.
- A profile of founder Kelli Campbell and her vision for strengthening the region's jazz community.

About Jazz Forward Dayton

Jazz Forward Dayton is a nonprofit organization dedicated to sustaining and advancing jazz by creating meaningful opportunities for musicians to learn, perform, and connect. Through concerts, educational programming, artist development, and community partnerships, Jazz Forward Dayton is building a vibrant, inclusive jazz community where collaboration, education, and performance create lifelong connections and keep the spirit of jazz alive for generations to come.

Media Contact

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