



The Jazz Loft
275 Christian Avenue
Stony Brook, NY 11790
631-751-1895
For immediate release
September 16, 2020

Take a Journey Through Jazz! **The Jazz Loft Comes to Life with LIVE** **Music via Interactive Tours** **TWO DATES: Sept. 26 & Oct. 9**

Stony Brook, NY-This fall the Jazz Loft, the East Coast's only venue dedicated to the preservation, education and performance of all things Jazz, will be presenting a series of socially distanced, interactive tours that will literally bring the museum to life, as visitors weave their way through Jazz history, all while enjoying live music. Ticketed live music venues have been shut down since March 19 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the Jazz Loft also functions as a museum, which is permitted to open with socially-distancing protocols. The tours are scheduled for Saturday, September 26 and Friday, October 9.

Visit <https://www.thejazzloft.org> for tickets.

The concept of the interactive tours is the brainchild of Jazz Loft founder Tom Manuel, who said that, "Recent events have made for challenging times-, but the Jazz Loft is embracing the lessons taught by Jazz and being creative, inspiring, and thinking outside the box."

In July and August the Jazz Loft performed several "Pop Up" concerts, traveling throughout the Stony Brook community, bringing live music, inspiration, joy and fun to people. The Jazz Loft has also embraced a fervent online presence presenting concert videos featuring a variety of ensembles as well as a Behind the Scenes series which showcases short features on important archives from the Loft's collection.

Visitors (groups of 6 allowed together) will purchase their admission online in advance via the Jazz Loft website. Time slots will be 10 minutes apart to allow for proper social distancing. Ticket holders will visit seven Jazz stops, for about four minutes each, then move on to the next. The entire live music, interactive experience will take about 30 minutes.

Upon arrival they will be greeted outdoors by Jazz Loft staff and be checked to meet COVID-19 precautions. Upon entrance guests will receive a map to the “What is JAZZ?” interactive tour which will bring them through seven stops telling the story and history of Jazz. Guests begin in the main lobby and are welcomed to America by a lone pianist who introduces them to the **BLUES**. Each stop is limited to a brief historical reflection and a singular tune leaving guests hungry for more.

As they continue to the Seaman Gallery, inspired by Jazz photography, guests meet a singer who introduces them to the influence of **GOSPEL** music in Jazz and they hear a melody reminiscent of a tent revival meeting in the deep south.

As the tour continues we stumble into the Milt Hinton Music Room and are ushered into the birthplace of Jazz, New Orleans as we hear the sounds of **EARLY JAZZ** presented by banjo/bass duo. Each time warp landing leaves no time for lingering and as the map leads from stop to stop patrons head upstairs to the Teddy Charles Room. Transported to the windy city of Chicago and the heyday of the **BIG BAND/SWING ERA** this stop is fueled by the syncopated vibrations of a clarinet/vibraphone trio reminiscent of Benny Goodman’s unit (the vibraphone, a 1939 Deagan model actually performed with Goodman and is flanked by photos to prove it!).

Six steps up the elevation climbs further to the wow-room and the journey continues as patrons are in the main performance space of the Jazz Loft, an intimate supper club environment complete with a three tier bandstand reconstructed from the Roseland Ballroom dance floor and the towering 1927 Irving Plaza Ballroom chandelier, fully restored. Bandstand aglow in the history and story of the city that never slept, New York is alive with the energy, pep, vim and verve of **BEBOP** heralded by a quintet who’s never ceasing and endless energy abounds.

Is there more? YES! Because the story of Jazz is still evolving as told by the singular Avant-garde trombonist in the Loft’s library who shouts and wails the sound of **THINGS TO COME** and of beyond the now. The tour may seem complete, but this journey of four minute stops, scheduled so that every group of guests has their own private walk through of the Jazz Loft will certainly leave much to be discussed.

Guests are welcomed to their own private high top table in the Basie Garden to enjoy some lingering sounds of **LATIN JAZZ** to debrief their experience. Single serve items are available for purchase in advance and will be awaiting their arrival at their specially designated table.

Visit <https://www.thejazzloft.org> for tickets.

