



**The Betsy Hotel Celebrates Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM) April 1- April 30, 2024**  
**With 47 Music and Poetry Events Culminating on April 30- International JAZZDAY**

**EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

**Miami Beach, Florida** — (April 1, 2024) **The Betsy Hotel's (thebetsyhotel.com) commitment to jazz continues in April 2024 to coincide with Jazz Appreciation Month, as part of The Betsy's 12th Annual Overture to Overtown Jazz Series.** The Betsy's robust lineup inside the Hotel will be augmented by curating and co-presenting events in Overtown, Little Haiti, and Lummus Park, culminating in a double-bill performance on International Jazz Day (April 30) honoring global jazz. Programming is made possible with support from community partners including the Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, City of Miami Beach, Ocean Drive Association, FIU- Wolfsonian Humanities Lab, Perez Family Foundation CreARTE, SEOPW CRA, and others.

**(ABOUT) Jazz Appreciation Month-JAM and OTO.** JAM was created by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History to celebrate the extraordinary heritage and history of American jazz, which also includes celebration of UNESCO's International Jazz Day on April 30<sup>th</sup>. **This is The Betsy's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual (OTO) Series, and in April 2024 will include 50 events.**

**(ABOUT) The Betsy's Annual Overture to Overtown Jazz Series (OTO)** celebrates the connections between South Florida jazz and the National historic jazz circuit which brought musicians who played in NYC's Harlem to The Harlem of the South (AKA Overtown) as they made their way from club to club – across the USA. In Overtown, stars like Count Basie, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Lena Horne, Louis Armstrong, and Josephine Baker not only performed but also spent the night because of segregation laws in Miami and Miami Beach. Unable to stay the night after a gig, they went “over town” and stayed in hotels that were owned and operated by Black proprietors. The talents of many cultural ‘greats’ of color fostered world-class entertainment venues like the Lyric Theater, and Knight Beat Club. Distinguished African American intellectuals also stayed there, including W.E.B. Dubois and Zora Neale Hurston. Martin Luther King and Malcolm X frequented the area and so did Muhammed Ali. By the 1950s, Overtown was the center of nightlife on the mainland for Miami's Black, Latino, and white populations alike, yet its historic fabric was ultimately decimated by nearly half a century of urban renewal planning and disinvestment. Today, Overtown is overcoming, and is ‘gradually reclaiming its place as a center for Black life and culture in Miami.’ *(Miami Herald, 2021)*

**Participating venues** The Betsy Hotel (Primary venue, 40+ events - April 1-30), Lummus Park in Miami Beach (4 events - Sunday evenings @ 5 PM), Hampton Art Lovers in Overtown (April 19), Iris Photo Collective in Little Haiti (April 12 and April 19).

**Community partners:** The Betsy-South Beach, The Betsy Community Fund at The Miami Foundation, Plutzik Goldwasser Family Foundation, Ocean Drive Association, City of Miami Beach, Greater Miami Convention and Visitors Bureau, Wolfsonian Humanities Lab @ FIU, Miami Beach Urban Studios @ FIU, Iris Photo Collective, Southeast Overtown CRA, Hampton Art Lovers, Miami Dade County Public Schools, Miami Beach Classical Music Festival, Diaspora Vibe Cultural Arts Incubator.

**(ABOUT THE PRODUCERS)**

**Jazz singer Carole Ann Taylor** performed gigs in her early career with the ‘same’ greats that frequented historic stages on Little Broadway, in Miami's Overtown! This is her 4<sup>th</sup> year as co-producer of The Betsy's annual Overture to Overtown Series with Deborah Briggs, The Betsy's VP Arts. *In 2020, Taylor co-produced the Zen and the Art of Overtown Series with The Betsy that featured jazz performers and thought leaders reflecting on the importance of Overtown in the history of American jazz.*

**Deborah PLUTZIK BRIGGS**

Deborah is the force behind The Betsy's global emergence as a luxury hotel with expansive programming that explores the links between music, literature, interdisciplinary arts and social justice. She is the curator of Live Jazz at the Betsy and The Betsy Writers Room (hosting over 1000 visiting artists to date), as well as the hotel's principal community engagement officer. Deborah has had a 40 year career in community arts. Her family owns and operates The Betsy Hotel.

**(ABOUT THE PERFORMERS)** – See full performance list – with dates and presenters - on following page.

**(ABOUT #JAZZATTHEBETSY)** The Betsy's Jazz program is the longest continually running series in the region, featuring live performances 9 times a week with a performance space in The Piano Bar adjacent to LT Steak and Seafood. Featured performers define the diversity of jazz broadly, from traditional to fusion to multicultural and experimental – with a special focus on virtuoso jazz piano. *In April (during National Jazz Appreciation Month) The Betsy features solo jazz piano nightly, visiting jazz vocalists on Saturday evenings, and curates larger jazz groups at outdoor concert events in Lummus Park on Sunday afternoons at 5 PM.*

**ABOUT THE BETSY HOTEL - The Betsy-South Beach (thebetsyhotel.com)** is an award winning luxury boutique hotel located in the Art Deco District on Ocean Drive in Miami Beach, that celebrates arts and culture. <https://bit.ly/3C95W1Y>. The Betsy hosts jazz nine+ times weekly and offers programs in visual arts, literature, and community arts– all presented in the context of a curated stay in an unrivaled ambience designed by Carmelina Santoro and Diamante Pedersoli contained in historic buildings designed by the Art Deco's greatest architects: L. Murray Dixon and Henry Hohauser. Owned and operated by the Plutzik Goldwasser Family, all public spaces are filled with globally diverse works of art curated by co-owner Lesley Goldwasser.

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***The Betsy Hotel's 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Jazz Appreciation Month/Overture to Overtown Jazz Series Line up– as of April 3, 2024***

SPONSOR/PARTNERS	DAY	DATE	TIME	PERFORMERS
The Betsy, PG Family	Monday	4/1	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan

The Betsy, PG Family	Tuesday	4/2	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja
The Betsy, PG Family	Wednesday	4/3	6 to 11 PM	Beau Cornelius
The Betsy, PG Family	Thursday	4/4	6 to 11 PM	Leonard Reina
The Betsy, PG Family	Friday	4/5	6 to 12 AM	Brian Murphy
The Betsy, PG Family	Saturday	4/6	11 AM to 4 PM	Felix Gomez
The Betsy, PG Family	Saturday	4/6	6 to 9 PM	Edgar Pantoja
GMCVB, The Betsy, GMCVB, CreARTE	Saturday	4/6	9 to 12 AM	The Harden Project
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/7	11 AM to 4 PM	Pato Romero
ODA, City of MB, GMCVB, The Betsy, CreARTE	In Lummus Park	4/7	5 to 6:30 PM	Eleasea Douglas and Sadiki Pierre/Acute Inflections DUO
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/7	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja
The Betsy, PG Family	Monday	4/8	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Monday	4/8	Two sets	Eleasea Douglas/Acute Inflections DUO
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Tuesday	4/9	6 to 11 PM	Tal Cohen with Vocalist Nicole Yarling
The Betsy, PG Family	Wednesday	4/10	6 to 11 PM	Beau Cornelius
The Betsy, PG Family	Thursday	4/11	6 to 11 PM	Leonard Reina
The Betsy, PG Family	Friday	4/12	6 to 12 AM	Brian Murphy
CreARTE, FIU Wolfsonian Humanities, The Betsy, GMCVB	In Little Haiti	4/12	7:00 PM	Envee, Kunya Rowley, (Vocalists) Butterly Vaughns (Poet)
The Betsy, PG Family	Saturday	4/13	11 AM to 4 PM	Pato Romero
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Saturday	4/13	6 to 9 PM	Pride Artist: Envee with Kevin Maddox
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Saturday	4/13	9 PM to 12 AM	Mike Eckroth Trio - with Greg Diamond (guitar) and Cesar Lope (Sax)
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/14	11 AM to 4 PM	Felix Gomez
ODA, City of MB, GMCVB, The Betsy, CreARTE	In Lummus Park	4/14	5 to 6:30 PM	Envee with Maddox Trio - Miami Beach Pride Event
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/14	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja
The Betsy, PG Family	Monday	4/15	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan
The Betsy, PG Family	Tuesday	4/16	6 to 11 PM	Tal Cohen
The Betsy, PG Family	Wednesday	4/17	6 to 11 PM	Beau Cornelius
City of Miami Beach, The Betsy	Thursday	4/18	6 to 11 PM	Brian Murphy
GMCVB, City of MB, FIU MBUS, The Betsy, PG Family	on Terrace	4/18	9:00 PM	Youth Jazz Vocalists from MDCPS presented by MBCMF
CreARTE, FIU Wolfsonian Humanities, The Betsy, GMCVB	In Little Haiti	4/19	7:00 PM	LeNard Rutledge (Vocalist) Geoffrey Philp, L. Lamar Wilson (Poets)
CreARTE, MDCPS, FIU-MBUS, The Betsy, GMCVB	Friday	4/19	6 to 12 AM	Intergenerational Jazz with Ellis Duo, youth and legacy vocalists
Overtown CRA, Hampton Art Lovers, The Betsy, FIU-WHL	in Overtown	4/19	6 to 9 PM	Carol Ann Taylor w/ Renee Cruz/Brandon Lewis – Butterfly (poet)
The Betsy, PG Family	Saturday	4/20	11 AM to 4 PM	Felix Gomez
GMCVB, The Betsy	Saturday	4/20	6 to 12 AM	Lenard Rutledge Duo
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/21	11 AM to 4 PM	Pato Romero
ODA, GMCVB, City of MB, CreARTE	In Lummus Park	4/21	5:00 PM	LeNard Rutledge (Vocalist) with Jim Gasior Trio
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/21	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja
The Betsy, PG Family	Monday	4/22	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan
The Betsy, PG Family	Tuesday	4/23	6 to 11 PM	Tal Cohen
The Betsy, PG Family	Wednesday	4/24	6 to 11 PM	Beau Cornelius
The Betsy, PG Family	Thursday	4/25	6 to 11 PM	Leonard Reina
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Friday	4/26	6 to 12 AM	Brian Murphy with Nicole Yarling
The Betsy, PG Family	Saturday	4/27	11 AM to 4 PM	Pato Romero
GMCVB, The Betsy, PG Family, CreARTE	Saturday	4/27	6 to 12 AM	Arlin Alvarez with Antulio Mora
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/28	11 AM to 4 PM	Felix Gomez
ODA, GMCVB, City of MB, FIU MBUS	In Lummus Park	4/28	5:00 PM	Melton Mustafa, Jr. Quartet - welcome by Butterfly Vaughns (Poet)
The Betsy, PG Family	Sunday	4/28	6 to 11 PM	Edgar Pantoja
The Betsy, PG Family	Monday	4/29	6 to 11 PM	David Attelan
The Betsy, PG Family	Tuesday	4/30	6 to 8 PM	Edgar Pantoja
GMCVB, Betsy, PGFamily, CreARTE, DVCAI, FIU WHL & MBUS	Tuesday	4/30	8 to 11 PM	Afrobeat All Stars with Gordon Meyers (leader), Tomas Diaz - Jazz percussionist, & Vocalist, Luigi Arredondo - Jazz Saxophonist, Ivan Palma - Drums, Jason Spencer -Bass