



Award winning international recording artist **Rob Maletick** is known for his tone, and professionalism while being a team player in any format he is hired for. Rob's credits include tours in Asia, and Europe including Iceland. 2020 saw the release of a new single from Rob produced by the legendary Preston Glass (Aretha Franklin, Whitney Houston, Earth Wind and Fire, Kenny G). That song, Beautiful Daze reached the top 10 in Europe and top 20 here in the US with over 150 radio and online outlets playing the track.



Willard Jenkins is an independent arts consultant, concerts and festivals artistic director/curator, producer, writer and editor under his Open Sky banner. Willard Jenkins' current activity includes festival, and concert series planning/development, artistic direction/curating, arts organization and artist consulting, music journalism/editing, teaching, and broadcast work. In 2015 Jenkins was appointed as the first Artistic Director of the annual [Washington] DC Jazz Festival. His major responsibilities at DCJF are to conceive, develop, and implement the artistic vision, programming, and artistic strategies of the organization.



Harry Schnipper is the owner of Blues Alley Jazz and the Executive Director of the Blues Alley Jazz Society in Washington, DC. For the past three decades he has pioneered both for- and non-profit programming that appeals to both artists and audiences alike. He boasts that he produces, promotes or presents at least one act, artist or event somewhere daily. He has successfully curated his nightly entertainment calendar with prolific artists and simultaneously advanced the approach of nurturing new talent.



In 2012, after years of performing mostly Brazilian and Latin influenced original music, guitarist **Michael Joseph Harris** began studying and playing the music of legendary guitarist Django Reinhardt which led to the creation of The Hot Club of Baltimore later that same year. After a surge of Django-inspired composing in 2013, Harris formed the band Ultrafaux in 2014 to perform his original songs in the style of Gypsy Jazz. In 2015, Harris founded and remained Artistic Director for the popular Charm City Django Jazz Fest, the only annual Jazz festival in Baltimore, Maryland. Michael was named one of the top musicians in Baltimore by Baltimore Style Magazine and he was featured in a full spread article in The

Baltimore Sun and Baltimore Magazine.



Vocalist **Hazel Mitchell-Bell** is one of Washington, D.C.'s first ladies of jazz. Following her highly praised 2018 recording, *Stronger Than Ever*, she released *Sack Full of Dreams* in May 2021. She appears on festival, concert and club stages, enjoying one sellout after another. Working closely with pianist and Music Director Vince Evans, she performs and records with orchestras, big bands and smaller ensembles, stoking the fires of the D.C. jazz scene.



Impresario, educator and promoter **Paula Phillips** is the owner of The Phillips Agency, a public relations firm representing non-profit organizations and businesses associated with arts and culture such as galleries, museums, performance venues and festivals. The agency also represents individual performing and recording artists and record labels.

The creation of Jazz Beyond Borders, a presenting organization and artist-booking agency, was a natural development after three decades of service to the arts. Venue hosts, event planners and educators need help connecting to world-class artist/educators and vice versa. The PR company established a sister agency to meet those needs.



Christian “Big New York” de Mesones has been playing bass guitar for over 40 years. He was only 18 years old when he graduated from the world famous Bass Institute of Technology (now the Musician’s Institute) in Hollywood, California where he had the opportunity to study and workshop with greats such as Abe Laboriel, Louis Johnson, Tim Bogert, Howard Alden, Steve Morse, Pat Metheny, and the late Tommy Tedesco and Ray Brown. By personal request from visiting guitar faculty member and legendary jazz guitarist Pat Martino, he performed an original composition for his graduation ceremony.

Christian has been part of several musical groups all over the country, including bands out of Hawaii, Hollywood, New York City, and Richmond, Virginia, and has performed a wide variety of musical styles. His first major professional achievement as a musician was playing the military club circuit in a hard rock cover band on the island of Oahu in 1981. During the mid-eighties in Brooklyn, de Mesones’ heavy metal band Twice Shy was a staple of the local New York Metal scene and shared the stage at the legendary L’Amour Rock Club with acts such as Manowar, Twisted Sister, Overkill, White Lion and Trixter. He was also a hired bassist for several other New York Clubs.



Gary Bernstein has over 30+ years of experience in all aspects of the entertainment industry. As President of Superadio Networks and Radio One’s Syndication One, he built the biggest concentration of African American content in the contemporary radio era including **Wendy Williams, Rickey Smiley, Yolanda Adams, BeBe Winans, TD Jakes, Russ Parr, Al Sharpton, Donnie McClurkin, Walt “Baby” Love, Roland Martin,** and the **Baka Boyz**, just to name a few. As the consummate deal maker, he even brokered the sale of Superadio to Access 1 Communications for over 40 million dollars.



Reginald Cyntje (born in Roseau, Dominica and raised on St. Thomas, USVI) is a trombonist, educator, producer, and composer. He was steeped in the rich cultural music known as Quelbe (the official music of the USVI). Quelbe was Reginald’s introduction to improvised music. With cultural heritage at the forefront and social justice as the message, he has “a deep-seated knowledge of Caribbean music and culture which has settled into his jazz trombone playing” (NPR Music).

To date, Cyntje has recorded six albums as a leader. *Healing* (2020), his latest album, "Lush with complex key changes and conversational attitude" (CapitalBop), combines artistic expression with an awareness of the environment. The healing process is an intimate contemplative endeavor. Recorded on September 18, 2020, at Divine Order Studios, the album features Allyn Johnson on piano and Reginald Cyntje on trombone/compositions.



Britt Waters is a passionate, relatable storyteller, with an opinion you won't want to miss whether on screen, in the community, or on social media. Britt has a decade of experience as a radio, television and sports host. She obtained her BA in broadcast journalism from the [University of Maryland](#) before getting her big break entertaining millions on the nationally syndicated [Russ Parr Morning Show](#). Britt Waters has been nonstop since as the current in-game host of the [NBA's Washington Wizards](#) and the [WNBA](#) champion, [Mystics](#). She is also the host of [SiriusXM's Pandora Now Thumb 20 Countdown Show](#). Britt contributes to national networks as a freelance entertainment reporter and racks up views as a digital journalist for [luxury car brands, Bentley and Aston Martin](#). In her free time, you can find Britt with her family, at a Starbucks, or breaking down pro-wrestling on her [IGTV](#) show, [My Wrestling Opinion](#).

Keep up with Britt: [BrittWaters.com](#)

Instagram/Twitter: [@itsBrittWaters](#) [Youtube.com/ItsBrittWaters](#)



Justin “Yaddiya” Johnson is a musical artist, activist, and founder of Long Live GoGo, an organization focused on using GoGo, a style of music that originated in Washington, D.C., as a tool for advocacy and education, as well as a means of protesting injustice. “Over the years, music education and GoGo culture have started to diminish due to the lack of resources provided by the city government and also the massive rate of gentrification.”

Justin’s fighting for investments in education and cultural sustainability in policymaking. By hosting massively popular GoGo music concerts on the National Mall and all around D.C., he’s making a case for the preservation of Black culture in Washington, a city whose residents are mostly people of color. Lately, he’s been using his platform to advocate for bold, structural democracy reforms— including D.C. statehood, which would give voting representation in Congress to the more than 700,000 residents of D.C. As a resident himself, Justin sees D.C.’s lack of statehood as the silencing of Black voices. His fight is to give those voices a say in the very democracy which surrounds them. “In 2019 and beyond, Long Live GoGo has continued to organize massive rallies to create an inclusive space for Black and Brown communities to have their voices heard.”



Muhsinah is an acclaimed indie music-maker and an ear-bending, standout singer, so it seems almost counter-intuitive to introduce her like she's a newcomer to everyone's ears. But she probably is for some. After all, such is the vastness of attention-deficit musical discovery on the Internets.

This Washington, D.C. native attended two prominent music schools (Duke Ellington School of the Arts and Howard University) before releasing her first EP, *day.break*, in 2007. She received a Grammy nomination for her collaboration with The Foreign Exchange for the song "Daykeeper" in 2009. She also blew her wonderful pipes on "Changes," off of Common's 2008 *Universal Mind Control*, as well as her two follow-up solo EPs.