



PBS SHOW OVERVIEW
“INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY FROM CUBA”
(Produced on April 30, 2017 – sched air-date 4/27/18)

Short Description:

More than 50 world-renowned artists come together for an extraordinary International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert from the Gran Teatro de La Habana in Havana, Cuba.

Medium Description:

More than 50 world-renowned artists come together for an extraordinary International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert from the Gran Teatro de La Habana in Havana, Cuba. International Jazz Day is the one day each year that jazz is celebrated worldwide, bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in all 196 UN and UNESCO member nations. The concert’s many historic moments include a first-time collaboration between bassist Esperanza Spalding and Cuban music legend Bobby Carcassés, and stellar emceeing from host Will Smith and music legend Quincy Jones. Other highlights include a swinging rendition of Gershwin’s “There’s a Boat Dat’s Leavin’ Soon for New York” by vocalist Kurt Elling and Chilean sax phenom Melissa Aldana, a haunting take on “Bésame Mucho” from Korean vocalist Youn Sun Nah and violinist Regina Carter, and an explosive original performance by more than a dozen of Cuba’s top veteran jazz musicians.

Long Description:

More than 50 world-renowned artists come together for an extraordinary International Jazz Day All-Star Global Concert from the Gran Teatro de La Habana in Havana, Cuba. International Jazz Day is the one day each year that jazz is celebrated worldwide, bringing together people of all ages, backgrounds and nationalities in 196 countries and on all seven continents.

The All-Star Global Concert highlights one of the largest ever assemblages of Cuban and American artists on a single stage. The program’s many historic moments include a first-time collaboration between bassist Esperanza Spalding and Cuban music legend Bobby Carcassés, and stellar emceeing from host Will Smith and music legend Quincy Jones.

The concert spans virtually every era and corner of recorded jazz, from a swinging rendition of Gershwin’s “There’s a Boat Dat’s Leavin’ Soon for New York” by vocalist Kurt Elling and Chilean sax phenom Melissa Aldana, to a haunting take on “Bésame Mucho” from Korean vocalist Youn Sun Nah and violinist Regina Carter, to an explosive original performance by more than a dozen of Cuba’s top veteran jazz musicians.

Herbie Hancock joins Marcus Miller, Kenny Garrett, Ambrose Akinmusire and Antonio Sanchez to perform his composition “4 AM.” Cameroonian bassist Richard Bona and Cuban pianist Roberto Fonseca get the house moving with “Bilongo,” accompanied by Japanese trumpeter Takuya Kuroda. And in true International Jazz Day tradition, the evening concludes with an ensemble performance of John Lennon’s iconic song “Imagine,” featuring an unmistakably Cuban inflection.

For more than a century, the truly American music of jazz has promoted peace, diversity, individual expression, dialogue among cultures, and respect for human dignity. International Jazz Day highlights the unifying attributes of this music through live performances, education programs and special events worldwide. International Jazz Day was first celebrated in 2012, and is recognized on the official calendars of both the United Nations and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO.) Each year on April 30, universities, libraries, schools, arts centers, organizations of all disciplines, artists, and jazz enthusiasts all over the world honor this revered musical art form that for a century has brought together people of different cultures, religions and nationalities.