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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MacArthur Fellow Jason Moran Curates Most Ambitious Burlington Discover Jazz Festival in the Event's 43-Year History

—Mavis Staples, Tank and the Bangas, and Preservation Hall Jazz Band headline **FREE** waterfront performances; world premiere from Chris Potter featuring Julian Lage closes five-day festival June 7—

BURLINGTON, VT (APRIL 15, 2026)—The Flynn has announced the full lineup for the 2026 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival presented by Vermont Tire with Nokian Tyres, June 3–7, marking the most ambitious edition of the festival in its 43-year history. Curated by pianist, composer, and MacArthur Fellow Jason Moran, this year's festival assembles a landmark roster across concert halls, outdoor stages, and public spaces throughout Burlington, pushing the boundaries of what a jazz festival can be.

Headlining the 2026 festival are **Mavis Staples, Tank and the Bangas**, and **Preservation Hall Jazz Band**, each performing at Waterfront Park as part of the festival's free outdoor programming. Additional waterfront performances include **Ruthie Foster** and **The Eddie Palmieri Experience**, a special tribute to music legend Eddie Palmieri featuring special guests Ray Vega, Conrad Herwig, and Arturo Ortiz.

The festival opens June 3 with The Beat Beneath Us, a collision of movement and music featuring **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE** and a collaborative performance from **Savion Glover, Jason Moran**, and **Chris Dave**.

The festival closes Sunday, June 7, with a **world premiere**: A Nation Listens, commissioned and presented by **Chris Potter** with special guest **Julian Lage**, and a special opening performance by **Mark Turner**.

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The festival also spotlights a series of genre-blurring performances that bring jazz into unexpected spaces. Standout events include:

- My Heart Sings: **Jason Moran plays Duke Ellington with the Vermont Youth Orchestra**, featuring South Burlington vocalist **Rachel Ambaye**.
- Coldblooded, On Ice, **Alicia Hall Moran's** performance at Leddy Park Arena brings together figure skaters and live jazz musicians in a one-of-a-kind experience.
- Skate Jam!, at A-Dog Skatepark, presented by **Jason Moran and The Bandwagon**: In partnership with **Talent Skatepark**, the event pairs live jazz with movement in the form of skateboarding.

Additional festival programming includes late-night shows at Big Joe's, taking place in Flynn Space this year, June 3–6, presented in partnership with **Jazz at Lincoln Center** and featuring the **Domo Branch Quartet**.

The festival also brings jazz into Burlington's schools and streets. This year, 44 school ensembles from 38 Vermont schools, **totaling 993 students**, will perform as part of the festival's school band programming, taking the stage on Church Street, putting young musicians on stage alongside the most legendary lineup in the festival's 43-year history.

Additional performances throughout downtown Burlington as part of the festival's All Around Town series, including a partnership with Burlington City Arts and Church Street Marketplace for free concerts at the Top of the Block on Church Street, will be announced soon.

Produced by the Flynn and presented by Vermont Tire with Nokian Tyres. Tickets and the full festival schedule are available at [FlynnVT.org](https://flynnvt.org).

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About the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival

Now in its 43rd year, the Burlington Discover Jazz Festival transforms June in Vermont into a celebration of jazz as a living, evolving American art form. Produced by the Flynn, the festival brings together local, national, and international artists across concert halls, streets, and public spaces — inviting audiences into shared experiences of discovery.

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