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## Burlington Discover Jazz Festival 2026 Announces Opening & Closing Night Performances at the Flynn: *The Beat Beneath Us* and the World Premiere of *A Nation Listens*

Tickets on Sale Now

**BURLINGTON, VT** — The Flynn announces the Opening Night and Closing Night performances of the 2026 Burlington Discover Jazz Festival (June 3–7), curated by MacArthur Fellow **Jason Moran**. These two ticketed events on the Flynn Main Stage anchor a five-day festival that will unfold across downtown Burlington, with the full slate of free public programming to be revealed on April 15. Burlington Discover Jazz Festival is **produced by the Flynn** and **presented by Vermont Tire with Nokian Tyres**.

The festival kicks off Wednesday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, with *The Beat Beneath Us*. This opening night program places Black bodies, rhythm, and movement at the center of the festival's artistic statement. The evening begins with **Ronald K. Brown/EVIDENCE**, A Dance Company, performing dances in tribute to Max Roach, the iconic drummer, composer, and activist whose work reshaped jazz and was deeply engaged with the civil rights movement. The second half features **Savion Glover, Jason Moran, and Chris Dave** coming together as equal partners in rhythm — tap, piano, and drums — creating a live, improvisational exchange where movement and music are inseparable.

"These opening and closing nights reflect exactly why we invited Jason Moran to curate this festival," said Jay Wahl, Executive Director of the Flynn. "They place artistry, history, and the body itself at the center of the experience — and they affirm the Flynn as a place where new work is created, not just presented. These are programs that matter here in Vermont and far beyond."

The festival concludes on Sunday, June 7 with *A Nation Listens*, a closing-night program led by saxophonists **Mark Turner** and **Chris Potter**, with guitarist **Julian Lage**. Turner opens the evening with *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man*, inspired by James Weldon Johnson's landmark 1912 novel. Potter and Lage then debut at the Flynn **a world premiere** reflecting on the legacy of abolitionist John Brown — a figure whose actions helped propel the nation toward civil war and whose story continues to haunt the American imagination. These performances close the festival with depth, urgency, and a clear-eyed look at the ghosts we continue to live with.

Moran added, "Jazz has always been about listening — to rhythm, to history, to one another. Opening with movement and closing with a new work felt essential to me. These programs invite

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audiences to experience jazz as something alive and human, deeply connected to who we are and where we've been."

The Burlington Discover Jazz Festival runs June 3–7, 2026, with ticketed Opening and Closing Night performances at the Flynn Mainstage and free performances across downtown Burlington, to be announced at a press conference on April 15.

**Tickets for Opening Night and Closing Night go on sale to members at 10am on February 18 in the form of a discounted package. Public sales begin at 10am on February 27. Individual tickets will be available at a later date. Get tickets ONLY at [Flynnvt.org](https://flynnvt.org)**

## **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.

## **Media contact:**

Kevin Sweeney, Director of Marketing, [ksweeney@flynnvt.org](mailto:ksweeney@flynnvt.org).

Justin Martin, Junapr, [justin@junapr.com](mailto:justin@junapr.com) (774) 275-9113