



LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC

16TH ANNUAL **CHARLES MINGUS** FESTIVAL & HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION FEB 16 - 19, 2024 CHARLESMINGUS.ORG

Charles Mingus Festival & High School Competition: February 16-19, 2024
The 16th annual event celebrates the musical genius of a jazz legend
Showcases dozens of talented high school students from across the US

NEW YORK, NY, December 22, 2023 — Top high school students from across the United States will celebrate the music of the great jazz bassist and composer Charles Mingus (1922-1979) as part of the 16th Annual Charles Mingus Festival & High School Competition taking place at The New School of Jazz in New York City. Details for the full weekend festival taking place February 16- 19, 2024, can be found at charlesmingus.org.)

The event is organized and presented annually by Let My Children Hear Music/The Charles Mingus Institute and by Dr. Keller Coker and The New School of Jazz, with support from Jazz Workshop, Inc.

In categories for both big bands and combos, twelve finalist ensembles will be featured in this year's festival. Entrants come from all over the country including California, Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Washington, and North Carolina.

On Saturday, February 17th, students will explore aspects of Mingus' music in instrumental clinics, workshops, lectures, and films at The New School of Jazz's Arnhold Hall at 55 West 13th Street. The day will conclude with Mingus jam sessions for high school student participants.

On Sunday, February 18th, the Mingus Competition is a full day of concert performances by combos and big bands in Tishman Auditorium at 63 Fifth Avenue. Sunday evening, outstanding soloists from the Competition will be invited to sit in with the Mingus Big Band at Drom.

"Charles Mingus music contains multitudes," said Festival founder and NEA Jazz Master Sue Mingus, who formed the first Mingus repertory group Mingus Dynasty in 1979 and oversaw the performance and publishing of Mingus music until her retirement. The genius of Mingus' compositions – which, along with his scores, correspondence, original manuscripts, and more, were acquired by the Library of Congress in 1993 – have given Mingus' music a life beyond his performances and recordings. The Mingus organizations are now managed by Sue's son, Roberto Ungaro, and the team of devoted musicians and creatives she mentored in her lifetime.

"The festival gives outstanding students around the country a chance to perform on their level and enriches their school programs," says co-founder Justin DiCioccio. "It's great for students to be challenged by this music and to form networks with other outstanding jazz musicians. For the serious student, these are going to be their peers for the rest of their lives."

For press inquiries: education@charlesmingus.org

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**FINALISTS OF THE CHARLES MINGUS
HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION**

BIG BAND CATEGORY

Newton South High School Jazz Ensemble, Newton, MA. Band Director: Lisa Linde
William H. Hall High School Concert Jazz Band, West Hartford, CT. Band Director:
James Antonucci
Enloe Jazz Ambassadors Big Band, Raleigh, NC. Band Director: Robert C. Hunter

BIG BAND CATEGORY - Specialized Schools and Programs

Jazz at Lincoln Center Youth Orchestra, New York, NY. Band Director: Tatum Greenblatt
Jazz House Big Band, Montclair, NJ. Band Director: Nathan Eklund

COMBO CATEGORY

Enloe Jazz Ambassadors Combo, Raleigh, NC. Band Director: Robert C. Hunter
The Rivers Select 1 Combo, Weston, MA. Band Director: Philippe Crettien
Rio Americano Combo 1, Sacramento, CA. Band Director: Josh Murray

COMBO CATEGORY - Specialized Schools and Program

Mary Lou Williams Combo, New York, NY. Band Director: Timothy Norton
Thelonious Monk Combo, New York, NY. Band Director: Willerm Delisfort
Jazz House Ambassadors, Montclair, NJ. Band Director: Mike Lee

SELF-DIRECTED COMBO CATEGORY

BC Quintet, Seattle, WA. Self-Directed

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ABOUT THE MINGUS BIG BAND

The Mingus Big Band celebrates the music of composer/bassist Charles Mingus who celebrated his Centennial year in 2022. Founded in 1991 under the artistic direction of Sue Mingus, and building off the Mingus Dynasty septet that she formed after Mingus' death in 1979, this 14-piece band features new arrangements of Mingus compositions in a larger band format that Mingus was not always able to organize in his lifetime. The dynamic structure encourages deep explorations and ever-evolving ideations of Mingus Music and provides a platform for individual artistic expression.

Drawing from a rotation of the best established and rising musicians, the Mingus Big Band is highly sought-after by festivals and prestigious venues around the world. The band has twelve recordings to its credit, six nominated for Grammys, and one win in 2011 with *Live at Jazz Standard*. A new album, *The Charles Mingus Centennial Sessions*, was released in October 2022 and nominated for a GRAMMY. The second volume will be released in 2024.

The band has become a New York institution for locals and tourists alike, with a weekly residency now in its fourth decade. From Thursday nights at Fez under Time Cafe, to Joe's Pub, Iridium, and landing finally at Mingus Mondays at Jazz Standard until its pandemic closure. Please join us at our new home DROM.

ABOUT "LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC"/ THE CHARLES MINGUS INSTITUTE:

LET MY CHILDREN HEAR MUSIC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization created in 1986 to promote the compositional legacy of musician and composer Charles Mingus through publishing, education, archival preservation, and performance.

Charles Mingus is recognized as a major 20th century composer, whose works have been acquired by the Library of Congress – a first for jazz, and a first for an African-American composer. Mingus left behind the largest legacy of composition in American music after Duke Ellington. The Mingus Bands remain devoted to this vast repertoire, and true to the artistic vision of 2023 A.B. Spellman NEA Jazz Master Sue Mingus, plays to great critical acclaim around the world. Several grants from the NEA and others have supported touring and archival activities including the arrangement and production of Charles Mingus' *Epitaph*.

For more information, please visit CharlesMingus.org

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ABOUT THE SCHOOL OF JAZZ AND CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

The School of Jazz and Contemporary Music is renowned across the globe as a center for progressive, ground-breaking artists. Considered the most innovative school of its kind, it offers students an artist-as-mentor approach to learning. The world's leading contemporary and jazz musicians, like Reggie Workman, Matt Wilson, Mary Halvorson, Linda May Han Oh, Jane Ira Bloom, and more, work with students one-on-one to hone their craft and create groundbreaking music.

This is a rare place where students can pursue what makes their artistic voice unique. We encourage students to explore their own talents and reach across disciplines to construct new rhythms, inventive compositions, and original means of expression. There are nearly 80 ensembles students can play in each semester.

Outside the classroom, New York City becomes a performance hall. Play in clubs, concert halls, and venues throughout New York and in festivals and exchange programs around the world. Students can start their professional performance career right away through our Gig Office; we have the largest music internship program in New York. There is opportunity to work with producers, editors, and recording artists of the highest caliber. Students will be immersed not only in the newest music but also in the nuances of the music industry.

Our curriculum allows students to infuse their music education with elements of design, literature, history, journalism and more. Students can take courses offered at the Mannes School of Music, Parsons School of Design, and Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts. In addition, we have created a number of project-based interdisciplinary classes, such as an exploration of sound-image relationships in early 20th-century multimedia art, offered by Parsons and Jazz. The results of this university-wide interconnectivity can be seen in the success of our alumni in a range of genres and categories of creative work, both in and outside of music.

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