



*Dedicated to the Continuation and Preservation of Jazz, America's Indigenous Art Form*

*Presents . . .*

## An Evening with the Hot Club of Baltimore



Saturday, July 24, 2021—7 p.m.

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Welcome to Easton's historic Waterfowl Building!

We are so glad you are here for the very first LIVE event presented by Jazz Alive. Our mission is dedicated to the continuation and preservation of jazz, America's indigenous art form. Jazz Alive was created to bring this great music to audiences and students who have little to no

opportunity to hear and learn from the genre's great practitioners. Jazz Alive is committed to presenting concerts, school assemblies, master classes, and school residencies in underserved communities that may be off jazz touring routes, lack jazz presenters, or have little funding for jazz events.

We hope you enjoy this evening's performance and look forward to seeing you many times throughout the years!

Fred Hughes  
Founder and President  
Jazz Alive

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### Michael Joseph Harris



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 Charm City Django Jazz Fest, the only annual Jazz festival in Baltimore, Maryland. Through his role as festival director, Michael has formed relationships with some of the best players on the international scene while fostering a strong local following. As a result, Baltimore Style Magazine named Michael one of the city's top musicians and he was featured in a full-spread article in The Baltimore Sun newspaper. Michael keeps a busy touring schedule with both bands while building a local music community leading his weekly Monday Django Jazz Jam and teaching ongoing workshops on the style and technique of Django Reinhardt.

### Alexis Tantau

With extensive training as classical singer and having sung with various opera companies locally and abroad, it came as something of a surprise when the door to the world of jazz swung wide open for Miss Tantau less than two years ago. Planning to specialize in French art song and opera, she took several trips to study in France, including a year to



study Occitan, the endangered language of her ancestors. Over the years, she took her teachers' suggestions to sing Edith Piaf songs lightheartedly—until she began landing more gigs singing Piaf than Bizet! Her highly-sought renditions of famous French songs by the likes of Edith Piaf, Eartha Kitt, and Charles Trenet wonderfully compliment the WWII era vibe of the Hot Club.

### Kristoffer Balaica



*Kristoffer Belgica is a Texas native who primarily plays rhythm guitar for local gypsy jazz ensembles Hot Club of Baltimore, and the DC-based group Swing 5. He recently separated from the U.S. Air Force after seven years of service and now devotes his time learning from and contributing to the Baltimore jazz community.*

### Shawn Simon

Shawn was born in Dover, Delaware and started taking piano lessons at the age of 9. In the 5th grade, he learned the trumpet and continued to play all throughout high school. At 16 years old, he taught himself the electric bass, and a year later, took lessons on the double bass. He received his bachelors degree at East Carolina University in Jazz Performance where he studied jazz bass (both electric and double bass) under professor Carroll V. Dashiell, and took classical bass lessons from Leonid Finkelshteyen.



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