INTERNATIONAL JAZZ DAY

A Special Message From
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and
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Jazz is recognized as America’s greatest musical contribution to the world. This art form that originated in the great City of New Orleans now belongs to the citizens of every nation on earth.

For over a century JAZZ -- the universal language of passion and benevolence—has united people of disparate cultures, religions, and nationalities, fostered and strengthened communication and partnerships among heterogeneous groups, enhanced the peace-making process, and demonstrated just how much we all have in common.

Jazz stands for freedom, symbolizes democracy, and has soothed and uplifted the spirits and souls of millions of people residing in all corners of the globe, particularly the disenfranchised citizens who otherwise would have great difficulty expressing and channeling their feelings, emotions, and opinions. No musical art form is more powerful as a diplomatic tool than jazz.

International Jazz Day is a means to highlight, support, and leverage the unifying attributes of this music through worldwide celebratory events and activities on April 30th of each year.

On International Jazz Day, jazz is celebrated, studied, and performed around the world for 24 hours straight. Collaborations abound among jazz icons, scholars, composers, musicians, dancers, writers, and thinkers who embrace the beauty, spirit, and principles of jazz, freely sharing experiences and performances in our big cities and in our small towns, all across our seven continents.

From Algeria to Australia, Malaysia to Montenegro, Papua New Guinea to Poland and beyond, jazz was celebrated in more than 100 countries as part of International Jazz Day 2012. Conferences, concerts and community events were held in schools, clubs, town squares and village centers around the clock reaching more than one billion people. This is an astounding figure that we believe will be surpassed in 2013.

We are delighted to announce that Istanbul, Turkey will serve as our host city for the 2013 International Jazz Day celebration on April 30th. A meeting place of global cultures, Istanbul is an ideal location to highlight the extensive and comprehensive influence of jazz. An abundant series of official celebrations, concerts and educational programs will take place in Istanbul and in locations around the globe, expanding upon the tremendous success of last year’s inaugural International Jazz Day.

On behalf of UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, we invite you to join with us to help make International Jazz Day 2013 a memorable and historic event.