

Dimitri Vassilakis presents “Jazz Democracy” for International Jazz Day 2018. United Nations New York at the Trusteeship Council Chamber Hall, Monday April 30<sup>th</sup> 2018, 6:30-8:30pm.  
Supported by the Permanent Mission Of Greece at the UN.

### Concept in brief:

A unique talk/presentation/performance to showcase how jazz, this great American art form has become global and has embraced the broad democratic values that were first established in ancient Greece.  
Also how jazz as a universal language can teach us again how to develop dialogue in equal terms and communicate in a more humane, democratic and creative way.

### Presentation:

The presentation at the United Nations in New York focuses on concept elements in a jazz performance that can be utilized and embraced when we approach work environment, social, cultural or political issues.

It also showcases how jazz has always accepted and integrated minority groups, an issue especially relevant to the present day and age of global economic and refugee crisis.

On the other end it comments on education, connection with dance, visual arts plus new technologies in art and society and the ongoing dialogue with artificial intelligence.

This global event coincides with International Jazz Day celebrations by UNESCO, Thelonious Monk Institute and April jazz appreciation month established by the Smithsonian Institute.

It is presented as a talk/performance, with an international jazz ensemble of famous jazz legends and personalities from the arts, humanities and science.

### Speakers:

- Ambassador Maria Theofili Permanent Mission of Greece at the UN.
- Stavros Lambrinidis: European Union’s Special Representative for Human Rights and ex-minister of Greek Foreign Affairs.
- Dimitri Vassilakis internationally acclaimed award winning Greek saxophonist composer and educator.
- Dave Liebman: a jazz giant saxophonist composer and educator, Miles Davis collaborator. Founder and artistic director of IASJ International Association Of Schools Of Jazz.
- Spike Wilner: Smalls and Mezzrow owner of these 2 historic NY jazz clubs and acclaimed jazz pianist.
- Jeff «Tain» Watts: celebrated top drummer worldwide.
- Gil Weinberg: head of robotics and AI at Georgia Tech Music department. Collaborator of Dimitri Vassilakis for jazz mapping project.

- Alan Bates: Director of historic jazz label Candid Records (appears on video).
- Jeanne Bresciani: director of Isadora Duncan International Institute New York IDII.
- Lydia Venieri: Greek visual artist.
- Aidan Levy and Bill Milkowski jazz critics, journalists, authors, Downbeat, Jazz Times.

Mr. James Demetro director of the Greek Film Festival is the event moderator.

#### Jazz Democracy International Ensemble:

David Liebman, Essiet Essiet, Jeff «Tain» Watts, Sylvia Cuenca, Benito Gonzales, Craig Bailey, Dimitri Vassilakis, Nestor Vassilakis.

#### Introductory forum:

- Ambassador Maria Theofili presents an introductory talk representing the Permanent Mission of Greece at the UN.
- Stavros Lambrinidis about the connection of jazz with equal rights and democracy,
- Dimitri Vassilakis introduces the concept elements of jazz democracy,
- Dave Liebman about education and jazz as language,
- Jeff “Tain” Watts about the legacy and character of the music,
- Spike Wilner about his every night mini jazz democracy jam sessions at Smalls and Mezzrow jazz clubs at New York’ s Greenwich village,
- Aidan Levy about Sonny Rollins Freedom Suite,
- Bill Milkowski about jazz ambassadors from early to recent times,
- Gil Weinberg about artificial intelligence, robotics and jazz improvisation,
- Alan Bates about the early Candid years with the Newport Rebels and the jazz record industry of today including stories from his many decades of recording and producing jazz giants,
- Jeanne Bresciani about Isadora Duncan and Delphic games,
- Lydia Venieri presents a visual design behind the live performance to touch upon form and creativity.

\* A special message from jazz legend Sonny Rollins is presented.

#### Live music section:

The program consists of improvisations, based on well-known forms of the jazz language to showcase the jazz democracy principles in performance, ending with a big jam session.

Aegean Samba, Blue Orleans, Pasiphae’ s Dance, Nestor’ s Blues.  
(originals by Dimitri Vassilakis, “Nestor’ s Blues” by Nestor Vassilakis)

“Jazz Democracy NPO” is a non-profit organization dedicated to organize open discussions, forums, performances, educational activities and workshops to deliver and spread the jazz and democracy spirit through the global community.



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Hellenic-American Chamber of Commerce



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