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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

## **Springfield's Jazz Festival announces 2013 performance lineup**



Long before the Civil Rights Act, long before *Brown vs. The Board of Education*, and long before President Truman's integration of the armed forces, black and white jazz musicians were breaking social taboos in order to share and learn from each other. Experts, in fact, say the creation of jazz was due to a melting pot of sorts: the combination of European musical tradition and African musical tradition.

Organizers of Springfield's 4th Annual Jazz Festival hope both jazz aficionados and those who know little to nothing about the musical genre, will take this opportunity to listen and learn.

The local festival, taking place in downtown Springfield, Friday, Oct. 4, is free to the public and combines a variety of grooves jazz has to offer.

The lineup, performing on two stages, includes the university jazz studies ensemble, longtime weekly performers such as The Linda Sala Project and The Richard Bruton Quintet. It culminates with a concert by [Elaine Richardson \("Dr. E"\)](#) and University of North Texas professor, [renowned saxophonist Brad Leali](#).

Both Richardson and Leali will also perform and speak to more than 200 high school students at 9 a.m., Friday, Oct. 4, at the Youth Empowerment Summit! (YES!). The summit takes place at the Plaster Student Union Theater on the Missouri State University campus.

The YES! Conference was started 12 years ago by former Springfield NAACP President Larry Maddox as a way to emphasize the importance of rigorous classes and college preparation for African-American students, some of whom lagged behind their peers academically.

Jazz Festival Performance Lineup:

*Friday, Oct. 4*

*Park Central East Stage*

- [The Linda Sala Project](#)  
6-7 p.m.
- [The Brandon Mezzelo Triplet](#)  
7-8 p.m.
- [The Richard Bruton Quintet](#)  
8-9 p.m.

*Park Central Square Stage*

- [Missouri State University Jazz Studies Ensemble](#)  
6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Missouri State University Jazz Faculty Quintet  
7:30-8:30 p.m.
- [Elaine Richardson, Ph.D, \("Dr. E"\)](#) a scholar, performer and soul recording artist, 8:30-9 p.m.
- Featured artist [Brad Leali](#) with the Missouri Jazz Orchestra (MOJO).  
9 – 10 p.m.

About the Springfield Jazz Festival

Organizers of the jazz festival include: City of Springfield; NAACP, Springfield; Missouri State University; Springfield Regional Arts Council, Springfield Public Schools, and Urban Districts Alliance, with additional support from sponsors: Arvest Bank; Downtown Community Improvement District; Mercy Clinic – Head and Neck Surgery Drs. Brad Johnson and Dan Pinheiro; and The Network.

Download [artist info on Brad Leali and Elaine Richardson](#) (pdf).

For more information, visit [Springfieldjazzfestival.com](http://Springfieldjazzfestival.com) or contact Cora Scott at 417-864-1009 or [cscott@springfieldmo.gov](mailto:cscott@springfieldmo.gov) or Rusty Worley at 417-831-6200 or [rusty@itsalldowntown.com](mailto:rusty@itsalldowntown.com).