

7th **KAVKAZ**
JAZZ
FESTIVAL

in partnership with University of Louisville
presents

Educational Program
for Music School Students

UNIVERSITY OF
LOUISVILLE
SCHOOL OF MUSIC



May 29 – June 12, 2016 / **Conservatory Hall**, Tbilisi, Georgia



About the program

Dates: May 29 - June 12, 2016

Participants: Students of Conservatoire, Music School of Tbilisi. Participation is **free of charge** based on application process. The Jazz Department of Conservatoire and the visiting specialists from UofL will choose a maximum of 20 participants. A few places will be given to talented students from rural areas of Georgia and IDP's. (Also students are expected from Armenia and Azerbaijan.)

During and in addition to the 2-week program, the visiting specialists will provide public master classes for anyone who is interested in jazz music

Short description: Invited specialists will teach jazz saxophone and jazz guitar as well as conduct ensembles. The specialists will work with faculty development and with undergraduate students. **2-week program** offers two courses in which the specialists can contribute their professional knowledge and experience. We believe the specialists can teach parts of these courses and also offer short seminars to students and professors.

Partners:

- Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia
- Georgian National Tourism Administration
- Tbilisi City Hall
- Turkish Cultural Centre in Tbilisi
- University of Louisville, KY, USA
- Conservatory Hall, Tbilisi, Georgia



“Kavkaz Jazz is Caucasian soul of American Jazz...”

G. KIKONISHVILI - journalist, blogger

About the Festival

The Kavkaz Jazz Festival was founded in 2010, under the auspices of USA Embassies in Tbilisi, Yerevan and Baku. For the first time in many years, we were able to gather musicians from all over the South Caucasus. It was an amazing and unforgettable event, which inspired us to hold this festival annually.

Kavkaz Jazz is a non-profit project supported by Tbilisi City Hall and Ministry of Culture and Monument Protection of Georgia since 2011. It gives the unique opportunity and long-term outlook for musicians to promote their professional skills and establish new contacts.

Our main goal continues to be to give novices and experienced musicians from various countries the chance to share international experience and develop cultural dialogue.

Our initiative helps to develop new cultural joint projects both locally and regionally. Georgia hosts a “round table” series which has the participation of leading experts and musical critics from the South Caucasus.

Kavkaz Jazz Festival is now 7 years old and we always expect many new and exciting musicians and participants.

OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 6 YEARS:

- 6 festivals;
- 80 invited musicians from 10 countries;
- 2 documentaries;
- Concerts' audio recordings archived by radio “Muza”;
- Created cultural bridge between Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, which was followed by several co-productions.



NGO Art Bridge

NGO Art Bridge was established in 2012. The mission of Art Bridge is the promotion of culture, the support of young artists and their future professional development by educational events, to establish a creative platform that helps to develop friendly neighbor relations between artists of different countries. Goals: Exchange of experience between artists; realization of their creative potential; support of creative activities; support of young active artists; friendship and strengthening mutual understanding between youth of various countries; master classes, training, workshops and seminars under the direction of professionals;

Art Bridge's partners were Ministry of Culture and Monuments Protection of Georgia, Tbilisi City Hall, U.S. Embassies in Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan, Turkish cultural center - Yunus Emre, Goethe Institute, Tbilisi State Conservatoire, Austrian embassy and others.

Projects:

- ~ Kavkaz Jazz – annual International Music festival since 2010
- ~ Different exchange concerts between South Caucasus countries, since 2009
- ~ Tigran Hamasyan & Yerevan State Chamber Choir charitable concerts in Tbilisi 2015
- ~ Musical tourism between Georgia and Armenia

Helen Mechitova is the Founder and Director of NGO Art Bridge.

A musician herself, she worked in the cultural field as an art manager since 2006. She graduated from Tbilisi State Conservatoire and Theatre and Cinema University and has participated in different educational programs, workshops.

- ~ Academy of Cultural Policy 2013, Warsaw, Poland
- ~ Cultural congress 2013, Lublin, Poland
- ~ Artslink Fellow, 2015, USA [CEC Artslink Awardees](#)

About Specialists

Michael A. Tracy

Professor, Jazz Saxophone; Coordinator of Jazz Studies



A veritable “Ambassador of Jazz,” **Professor Michael Tracy** is one of America’s foremost jazz educators, with more than thirty-five years of performing and teaching experience. In classrooms, studios, and concert halls, he has developed a variety of innovative approaches to jazz education, enabling him to work with students of any proficiency level. Tracy has taught and performed throughout the United States, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Brazil, Canada, China, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Poland, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, and Wales.

Craig Wagner

Lecturer, Jazz Guitar



Craig Wagner is recognized as one of the most versatile young guitarists on the scene today. He has been a featured performer at the Chet Atkin's Society Guitar Festival in Nashville since 1995, a festival which has showcased such jazz luminaries as Martin Taylor, Fareed Haque, Jack Wilkins and even Max Roach. Craig has also played at The Great American Guitar Show in New York, sharing the stage with guitarists such as Jimmy Bruno, Howard Alden, Jack Wilkins, Paul Bollenback, Ron Affif, Russell Malone, Gene Bertoncini and bassist Michael Moore.