

AAJC INITIATIVE AND MEMBER EVENTS JEN2026



Wednesday, January 7

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

AAJC Initiative: AAJC New Orleans All Star Youth Jazz Orchestra & Outreach Program co-presented with The Jazz Education Network
Location: Sophie B. Wright Charter School, New Orleans

6:30 PM – 7:20 PM CST

AAJC Initiative: AAJC New Orleans All Star Youth Jazz Orchestra & Outreach Program
Location: Strand 13



Thursday, January 8

9:00 AM – 9:50 AM CST

Breaking Free from Chronology: A Thematic Approach to Teaching Jazz History
Presenter: Natalie Boeyink (Lead)
Location: Foster 2

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM CST

Exploring the New Vocal Jazz Performance Pedagogy Text: Sing Vocal Jazz, Teach Vocal Jazz
Presenter: Lenora Z. Helm Hammonds
Location: Bolden 4

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM CST

AAJC Initiative: Griots Corner—Memoirs of the Griot and their Influences on Jazz: Past, Present and Future
Conversation with 2026 Donald Meade
Recipient: Mark Ruffin
Location: Bolden 4

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CST

AAJC Initiative: AAJC Meeting
Location: Bolden 5

4:00 PM – 4:50 PM CST

Who is Berklee: Exploring Jazz and Beyond
Presenter: Sean Skeete (Lead) , Tia Fuller
Lenora Z. Helm Hammonds, Dr. Trineice Robinson-Martin
Location: Bolden 4

4:00 PM – 4:50 PM CST

The Sistering: Advancing the tradition of collaboration in Jazz
Presenters: Lois Deloatch (Lead), Nnenna Freelon, Lenora Zenzalai Helm, Kate McGarry
Location: Foster 1

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM CST

Exhibitor Welcome! (Exhibit Hall Open)
AAJC Booth 520
Location: Exhibit Hall
Location: Foster 1

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Friday, January 9

10:00 AM – 5:00 PM CST
Exhibit Hall Open
AAJC Booth 520

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST

Dedicated Exhibitor Hour: Meet the AAJC VIP Artists
AAJC Booth 520
Artists: Dr. Trineice Robinson-Martin, Dr. Reginald Lewis

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM CST

A Conversation with the 2026 Award Recipients

AAJC/D. Meade Legacy Society Griot Recipient: Mark Ruffin
Location: Bolden 4

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM CST

John Clayton's Favorite Way To Rehearse A Big Band
Presenter: John Clayton (Lead)
Location: Imperial 5

1:00 PM – 1:50 PM CST

AAJC Initiative: AAJC/HBCU JEN Conference
Spotlight Performance
Location: Inspirations/Celestin Ballroom

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CST

Dedicated Exhibitor Hour: Meet the Artists
o AAJC Booth 520
Artists: Dr. Lenora Helms Hammond, TBD

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM CST

AAJC Initiative: AAJC Mentor Meet-Up—
Networking and Social
Location: Bolden 5

5:00 PM – 5:50 PM CST

Howard University SAASy
Presenter: Reginal Bowens (Lead)
Location: New Voices/Empire A

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM CST

Performance/JJF: Chicago Jazz Philharmonic
Youth Combo
Director: Roosevelt Griffin
Location: Strand 12A

6:00 PM – 7:30 PM CST

Reception: Founders Donor Reception
Location: LeJENDs/Storyville

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM CST

Reception: Anchor Music Vocal Reception
o Location: Bolden 2



Saturday, January 10

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM CST

Dedicated Exhibitor Hour: Meet the Artists
AAJC Booth 520
Artists: TBD

11:00 AM – 11:50 AM CST

Pedagogy at Berklee: Our Body and Soul—
How We Do What We Do
Panelist: Sean Skeete
o Location: Bolden 4

12:00 PM – 12:50 PM CST

Teaching Beyond the Notes: History,
Sociology, and the Soul of the Music as an
Imperative Element of Jazz Education
Presenters: Justin Binek, Lenora Helms
Hammonds (Lead)
Location: Bolden 1

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM CST

Vocal New Music Reading Session
Location: New Voices/Empire A

2:00 PM – 3:00 PM CST

The Next Generation Jazz Band of New Orleans
Location: Strand 10

3:00 PM – 4:00 PM CST

Dedicated Exhibitor Hour: Meet the Artists
AAJC Booth 520
Artists: TBD

5:00 PM – 5:50 PM CST

Peabody Graduate Jazz Ensemble
Director: Sean Jones
Location: LeJENDs/Storyville

1:00 PM – 1:50 PM

Jazz Appreciation Month at 25
Presenter: John Edward E. Hasse, PhD (Lead)
Location: Foster 1

