

Jazz Fundraiser—Nov. 2, 2024 About the Musicians





Chris DeVito piano

Chris DeVito is a jazz pianist born in New York City into a family of avid jazz fans and musicians and has been playing regularly since age 3.

He has been performing for many years both as leader and sideman at various jazz venues, restaurants, churches, and private events throughout the greater New York City metropolitan area with many of the area's finest jazz artists. For additional information, please visit https://www.ChrisDeVitoJazz.com.



Sarah James vocals

Born in Brooklyn, NY and raised in the NY metro area, Ms. James came from a family with musical influences from her grandfather, who came from County Cork, Ireland, and played traditional Irish music on accordion and parents who were big jazz fans. Sarah is performing locally in the NYC area solo, with her big band and with Her Trio, which features many of the area's best and brightest. For additional information, please visit https://www.sarahjames.com



Greg Grispart woodwinds

One of the area's most sought-after multi-instrumentalists, Greg regularly performs different genres of music with notable bands and orchestras throughout the greater New Jersey / New York City area.

He has a degree in classical clarinet performance and education from Rutgers and a master's degree in jazz saxophone performance from Rowan.



John Lenis bass

Bassist John Lenis has been active on the New York jazz scene for the past 20 years, performing and recording as a long-time member of ensembles led by such accomplished artists as Nobuki Takamen, Hyeseon Hong, Noshir Mody, and Julia Barry. In addition to appearances at many of the area's renowned clubs and festivals, John has toured the US, Canada, the UK, and extensively in Japan. Most recently he performs with various groups lead by guitarist Sean Harkness, Joe Rizzolo, or Roy Futaba, in addition to writing for and leading his own projects.



Gavin Davies drums

Gavin Davies has been an active drummer in the New Jersey music scene for the past 30 years. He holds a degree in Studio Music and Jazz from the University of Miami in Coral Gables, FL, and later earned his NJ teaching certificate from New Jersey City University. He subsequently taught music in the NJ public schools for 25 years.