

**Virginia Arts Festival and Seven Venues present the
Attucks Jazz Club
2017-2018 Performances**

**Featuring Top Jazz Artists in an Intimate Club Setting at Norfolk's Historic Attucks Theatre
Tickets just \$20**

Great players inspiring each other to new heights, in the neon-lit glow of an intimate club, close-up and in the company of friends and fellow fans: that's the way jazz was meant to be heard! Presented by the Virginia Arts Festival and Seven Venues, the Attucks Jazz Club transforms an intimate, upstairs space at the historic Attucks Theatre and brings the art form's best players to seven Saturday nights from September 2017 through April 2018. With comfortable table seating, every seat's a great spot to hear and see the action, and the Club bar is open before and during the show.

The series is curated by pianist and educator John Toomey, a legend among local jazz fans, whose namesake Trio performs with the featured artist in each Attucks Jazz Club show. When he's not making history himself, Toomey teaches Jazz History and Jazz Improvisation at Old Dominion University, where he also directs the Jazz Combo and Jazz Choir. Before settling down at ODU, Toomey toured with jazz trumpet legend Maynard Ferguson as well as vocalists Mark Murphy and Rene Marie. Regular players in the Trio include drummer Jae Sinnett, known to area jazz fans as both a player and the host of WHRV's *Sinnett in Session*, and bassist Jimmy Masters, who has enlivened the region's jazz scene for more than three decades.

The 2017-2018 Attucks Jazz Club lineup includes:

-Vocalist **Nicole Henry**, whose soulful sound has earned her Top Ten spots on the Billboard charts, a Soul Train Award, and rave reviews in *The New York Times*, *Jazz Times*, *Essence*, and more, September 23;

-Trumpeter **Bruce Harris**, a regular at such famed New York hot spots as Dizzy's Club Coca Cola and Smalls, October 21;

-Norfolk-born saxophonist **Charlie Young**, a spectacular soloist and member of the legendary Duke Ellington Orchestra, Smithsonian Jazz Masterworks Orchestra, and Count Basie Orchestra, November 18;

-Legendary L.A. cool saxophonist **Rickey Woodard**, a staple of the famed Concord record label as both a leader and sideman, January 20;

-Sizzling vocalist **Charenee Wade**, whose recently released album *Offering: The Music of Gil Scott-Heron and Brian Jackson*, has drawn critical acclaim, February 17;

-Swinging singer **Veronica Swift**, who at just 22 has broken hearts singing torch songs and other standards in top jazz venues, March 10;

-Guitarist **Peter Bernstein**, whose sought-after sound has graced gigs and recordings alongside such stars as Diana Krall, Sonny Rollins, Christian McBride, and many more, April 7.



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All performances begin at 8pm. The Attucks Theatre is located at 1010 Church St., Norfolk; lot parking is available behind the venue (\$5). For more information, performance times, and tickets, visit www.vafest.org.

Tickets for Attucks Jazz Club are just \$20 and may be purchased online at www.vafest.org, by phone at 757-282-2822 or by visiting the Virginia Arts Festival box office located at 440 Bank Street in Norfolk between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday; also available at Ticketmaster.com.

About the Presenters

Since 1997, the **Virginia Arts Festival** has transformed the cultural scene in southeastern Virginia, presenting great performers from around the world to local audiences and making this historic, recreation-rich region a cultural destination for visitors from across the United States and around the world. The Festival has presented numerous U.S. and regional premieres, and regularly commissions new works of music, dance, and theater from some of today's most influential composers, choreographers and playwrights. The Festival's arts education programs reach tens of thousands of area schoolchildren each year through student matinees, in-school performances, artists' residencies, master classes and demonstrations.

The City of Norfolk's **SevenVenues** serves to link Norfolk's residents, visitors and tourists to Norfolk's rich cultural arts and entertainment community. Besides providing entertainment services, the City of Norfolk's Department of Cultural Facilities, Arts and Entertainment is also responsible for the maintenance, repair, management and operation of the City's seven public assembly facilities which include: Scope Arena, Chrysler Hall, the Attucks Theatre, the Wells Theatre, Harrison Opera House, Harbor Park, and Open Air Events.