



## Spotlight: Charlie Parker – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual

### Centennial Celebration with Musical Performances, Tributes & Education

**When:** Tuesday, August 7 - Saturday, August 29, 2020.

**Where:** American Jazz Museum, KC Jazz clubs and special venues.

**KANSAS CITY, MO** – *Spotlight 2020: Charlie Parker* returns this year with a special milestone -- celebrating Kansas City native Charlie “Bird” Parker’s 100<sup>th</sup> birthday (8/29) and honoring Parker’s legacy and impact to jazz worldwide.

Now in the 7<sup>th</sup> year, the annual celebration includes: an education event, jazz (musical) tributes, a student jazz jam session, special jazz performances, and the 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine Jazz District historical tour.

Besides tributes to Parker, the event serves as an opportunity to promote the music of local Kansas City jazz artists who will perform at select events/venues. *Spotlight 2020: Charlie Parker* is recognized as the largest celebration of its kind in the world. Select events are open to the public. Tickets or reservation are required for other events. **All activities and events will occur with social distancing and wearing of face masks as required by city ordinances.**

KC Jazz ALIVE, the presenting organization, again has partnered with Kansas City area jazz clubs and leading jazz organizations for the '20 events and performances. Below are this year’s events:

#### **Jazz Storytelling – Celebrating the Life of Charlie Parker**

Friday August 7 | 10-11 am | American Jazz Museum (outdoors)

This children’s event dedicated to celebrating Charlie Parker’s birthday month will be outside behind the American Jazz Museum. Children are encouraged to bring party favors, including birthday hats and noise makers. The first 100 kids will receive an inflatable saxophone as a gift.

#### **Charles Perkins & Gerald Spaits (Live-streaming)**

Tuesday August 11 | Noon-1:30 pm | Polsky Theater-JCCC

The annual celebration of Charlie Parker’s birthday from Johnson County Community College will be live-streamed this year. Alto saxophonist Charles Perkins and bassist Gerald Spaits will be playing tunes that Parker wrote.

#### **ARC Student Jazz Jam Session**

Saturday August 15 | 3-5 pm | 424 Lounge, Leavenworth, KS

The Jazz Jam Session program realizes the integration of Kansas artists into a music fieldwork educational setting in an actual working community jazz venue. Also, the program features a 12-month annual residency and professional development collaborations that feature partnerships among the artists, schools, arts organizations, and arts programs of non-arts organizations to provide a learning environment. Several compositions written by Parker will be performed.

#### **Bird (Student) Boot Camp**

Saturday August 22 | 9 am-4pm | American Jazz Museum, GEM Theater

Parker’s artistic innovations would ultimately lead him to worldwide musical acclaim. This undisputed and universal acknowledgement as an innovator and musical genius continues to the present. Bird Boot Camp is an applied jazz education experience that immerses participants into the theory and practice of jazz music on several levels.

**MORE**

Page 2 of 3

#### **Bird Boot Camp Sax Salute to Charlie Parker**

Saturday August 22 | 4pm | Charlie Parker Memorial Sculpture, North Side of American Jazz Museum

Following Bird Boot Camp students will hit the streets of the Jazz District for a sax salute to Parker. KC jazz musicians will also join in the salute. The public is invited. Masks are required where six-foot social distancing is not an option.

### **Brunch with Millie Edwards & Dan Sturdevant**

Sunday August 23 | 10am-2pm | The Phoenix

### **Mark Slimm's RSS Trio Live & Streaming**

Sunday August 23 | 8-10pm | Black Dolphin

Masks must be worn at all times at tables and within the building. Mask can be lifted briefly to drink, but immediately replaced. \$5 entry fee. An occupancy limit of 40 patrons.

### **Jazz Meet Up featuring Bram Wijnands & Guests**

Monday August 24 | 5:30pm | KC Bier Co, 79<sup>th</sup> & Wornall

Jazz fans across Kansas City will gather in the Waldo neighborhood for two outdoor live performances – 5:30-7 and 8-9:30 (clean up-7-7:30). Doors open at 4:30 for 1st show; 7:30 for 2nd show. Tables can be purchased: 2 person @ \$14;; 4 @ \$24; and 6 @ \$30 (refund in the event of rain). Masks are required when not seated at your table.

### **Spoken Word Tribute**

Friday August 28 | 5-7pm | Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center

Poetry event hosted by Glenn North, Director/Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center. This event will be virtual and is supported by UNESCO Creative City Kansas City – City of Music.

### **Ken Lovern's OJT Live & Streaming**

Wednesday August 26 | 8-10pm | Black Dolphin

### **Charlie Parker Sunrise Ceremony**

Saturday August 29 | 6:15-7:30am | Charlie Parker Memorial Sculpture, North Side of American Jazz Museum

Guests will assemble at 6:15 with sunrise occurring at 6:45 am. African drumming will be performed to bring up the sun on Parker's 100th birthday. Music will be led by the Traditional Music Society, Bird. Ellington, Fleming (<http://www.traditionalmusicsociety.org>). Event conducted by UNESCO Creative City Kansas City – City of Music.

### **18<sup>th</sup> & Vine Jazz Walking Tour**

Saturday August 29 | 9:30-11:30am | Begins at American Jazz Museum, 18<sup>th</sup> & Vine Jazz District

Tickets are now available for the walking tour of one of Kansas City's most historic neighborhoods and to learn about Parker's old stomping grounds. Parker spent many meaningful hours in and around the area known as 18th and Vine. Tour guides Chuck Haddix, author of Bird – The Life and Music of Charlie Parker, and Jacob Wagner, a UMKC associate professor in Architecture, Urban Planning and Design, will lead the tour of the Jazz District to learn more about the historical context in which Charlie Parker developed as a young musician. (see more on page 3)

**Note:** to minimize the number of people gathered in one space, we have split the tour into two different start times. The 1st tour will run from 9:30–10:30am and the 2nd tour will be 10:30-11:30am. Each tour is limited to 26 people. Following the walking tour, you are invited to tour American Jazz Museum's latest exhibition, "Saxophone Supreme: The Life & Music of Charlie Parker."

For tickets visit: <https://spotlightcharlieparker.org/event-schedule>

### **"Bird Not Out of Nowhere" Documentary Screening by KCPT**

Saturday August 29 | 7-8pm | Available via Streaming

**MORE**

*Page 3 of 3*

### **Lonnie McFadden Performs**

Saturday August 29 | 7-10pm | Ambassador Hotel Parking Garage, 11<sup>th</sup> & Grand

The American Reserve brings you some of the top KC musicians accompanied by soulful cuisine and handcrafted cocktails. Because of limited seating and social distancing, reservations are required (<https://reservekc.com/reservations>). Choose "outdoor seating" when making reservations.

---

## **Background – Spotlight 2020: Charlie Parker**

### **About Charlie "Yardbird" Parker**

Parker was born in 1920 in Kansas City, Kan., and in 1927 moved to Kansas City, Mo., where jazz was flourishing. KCMO was one of several spots instrumental in ushering in the musical improvisation style of Bebop, for which Parker is identified. Parker's early music lessons occurred in the KC public schools. He began playing alto sax at age 13 and worked occasionally with semi-professional groups before leaving school at age 15 and becoming a full-time musician.

For the next four years he would perform primarily in KC with a variety of local blues and jazz groups. His craft was developed mostly through practical experience and listening to older jazz performers. He began traveling to other cities in the late 1930s. He joined Jay McShann's band, began touring, and performed solo in many of McShann's recordings and soon prominence followed. For more information about the **7<sup>th</sup> Annual Spotlight: Charlie Parker**, visit: [www.spotlightcharlieparker.org](http://www.spotlightcharlieparker.org)

*\*Charles Parker™ is a trademark of the Estate of Charles C. Parker, Jr.*

### **Saxophone Supreme: The Life & Music of Charlie Parker**

A partnership between the American Jazz Museum and UMKC Libraries, the exhibit Saxophone Supreme celebrates the Centennial of Charlie “Bird” Parker, one of the most influential musicians and composers of all time. Born and raised in the Kansas City area, alto saxophonist, Parker pioneered Bebop a revolution in jazz. Throughout his career, Parker continued to innovate and explore new musical vistas. He influenced ensuing generations of musicians across a broad range of styles. His genius also inspired writers, artists, dancers and filmmakers.

This centennial exhibition features groundbreaking research, album covers, sheet music, photos, memorabilia and rare audio selections drawn from the collections of the American Jazz Museum, LaBudde Special Collections/Marr Sound Archives at UMKC, Norman Saks and Brian Johnston. Chuck Haddix, the Curator of the Sound Archives and Geri Sanders, Director of Collections for the American Jazz Museum, co-curated the exhibit. Haddix is the author of *Bird: The Life and Music of Charlie Parker*. Sean McCue, Graphic Designer for UMKC Libraries, designed the panels for the exhibit. **Saxophone Supreme is free and open to the public** in the Changing Gallery of the American Jazz Museum at 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine, 10am–5pm, Tuesday-Saturday; and 10am-4pm, Sunday.

### **KC Jazz ALIVE**

The mission of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE is to build AWARENESS, serve as a LISTENING body, provide a platform for integrating IDEAS, function as a VOICE, provide EXPOSURE to resources, and unite the Kansas City jazz community. As a catalyst organization supporting artists, enthusiasts and venue owners, we strive to “raise the tide that lifts all jazz boats.” Kansas City Jazz ALIVE works to make KC the premier destination for jazz and live music where musicians find it a haven for performance; where visitors and residents can expect quality live performances; and where venues can experience economic success.

<https://kcjazzalive.org/>

### **Partners**

The American Jazz Museum, Folly Theater, 424 Lounge, Bruce R. Watkins Cultural Heritage Center, Gem Theater, Johnson County Community College, KC Bier Co, Green Lady Lounge, Black Dolphin, Reserve Restaurant & Lounge at the Ambassador Hotel, KCPT, KKFI, KCUR, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Burnett Music Foundation, City of Kansas City, MO, Kansas City Museum, UNESCO,

Center for Neighborhoods, Missouri Arts Council, Buttonwood Financial Group, Midnight Blue Jazz, Soli Printing, Meyer Music, Jamey Abersold books, Theater League, Buttonwood Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Francis Family Foundation, KC Jazz Ambassadors, Live Jazz KC, Jazz Near You, Jampol

**END**