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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Grammy-Nominated Pianist Monty Alexander and Trumpeter Dominick Farinacci to Celebrate International Jazz Day with Live-Streamed Concert

Internationally acclaimed trumpeter, Dominick Farinacci, and Jamaican-born piano legend, Monty Alexander, will debut a new duo concert for International Jazz Day 2021.

“(Monty is) an outrageously good time.” – The Wall Street Journal

“(Dominick) is 360 degrees!” – Quincy Jones

Cleveland, OH - [Songbook Watch Party](#) announced today a new live-stream concert presented on [International Jazz Day](#), Friday, April 30, 2021. This concert will be broadcast from the Gill and Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts, and is co-presented by [Tri-C Jazz Fest Cleveland](#) and international artist-led music collective [23Arts LIVE](#). Showtimes are 2:30 pm EST & 7:30 pm EST to accommodate U.S. and international audiences, with additional viewing times throughout the weekend. The show will also include a post-concert talk with Monty and Dominick, hosted by Director of Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, Terri Pontremoli.

“The mission of International Jazz Day seeks to unite people and cultures across the globe through jazz music,” Farinacci says, who was named the very first Global Ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln Center by Wynton Marsalis. “I’m incredibly pleased to once again share the stage with Monty, and with our international presenting partner, we look forward to having folks from all around the world joining us.”

During this one-time-only concert, Monty and Dominick will peel back the spectacle of a traditional performance to reveal how artists collaborate, communicate, and make music together. “To learn from him on the bandstand is learning from a true master of a special generation of artists,” says Farinacci. “With this intimate duo concert, I wanted to share this facet of Monty’s genius with the audience.”

“It’s one world of music for me,” Alexander says. “I try to remove all the lines. Even though I do this thing and that thing and the other thing, at the end of the day it’s Monty Alexander. I still seem to make people happy.

Having first performed in Cleveland at The Theatrical Grill in the 1970s, this concert marks one of Alexander’s few appearances in Cleveland.

Dominick has been on various tours with Monty throughout America and Europe. “To learn from him on the bandstand is learning from a true master of a special generation of artists,” says Farinacci. “With this intimate duo concert, I wanted to share this facet of Monty’s genius with the audience.”

Monty's appearance on Songbook Watch Party on May 17, 2020, was the most-watched episode topping out at over 12,000 viewers on one day.

The event will also feature a brief opening performance by students of the Tri-C JazzFest Academy, a pre-college program that Dominick serves as Artistic Director for at the Gill and Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts. "Education has always been at the root of Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland, and International Jazz Day highlights jazz education all around the world. We're thrilled to provide these dedicated young artists the opportunity to hear, meet and play for Monty."

The live-streamed performance is directed by [Emmett Murphy](#) and will be presented on Friday, April 30, 2021, at 2:30 pm (EST), with a re-broadcast to follow at 7:30 pm (EST), and Saturday and Sunday at 2:30pm (EST) and 7:30pm (EST). The concert will be available for on-demand viewing through May 5, 2021. Tickets and viewing information can be found at [SongbookWatchParty.com](#).

The concert will be performed without a live audience, employing socially distanced staging, personal protective gear, and safety protocols to protect the staff, crew, and musicians.

Viewers can choose from various streaming options, including a Single Streaming Pass and an All-Access Streaming Pass that offers more experiences, including a virtual meet-and-greet.

About Dominick Farinacci

<https://www.dominickfarinacci.com>

Trumpeter and Mack Avenue recording artist Dominick Farinacci graduated from The Juilliard School in 2005, launching his career in Japan with a prolific run of eight albums, later releasing four more globally. He has been featured on **ABC's Good Morning America**, gave a **TED Talk** in 2014 at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts and has served as Ambassador to Jazz at Lincoln Center in Qatar, working to further integrate music into communities around the world in culturally collaborative ways.

His latest album, **Short Stories**, was produced by four-time Grammy Award-winning producer Tommy LiPuma, and features Jacob Collier, Christian McBride and Steve Gadd among others. Dominick has been successful in bringing music into new communities through Arts and Wellness and Education. He created **Modern Warrior LIVE** with U.S. Army Veteran Jaymes Poling, a theatrical touring production that heightens awareness around PTSD and the potential for growth through traumatic experiences. MWL has recently been showcased at Amazon Headquarters and at the National Council for Behavioral Health.

Dominick has been a leading advocate in music and educational development and is the Artistic Director of the **Tri-C JazzFest Academy**, a pre-college jazz program housed at the Gill and Tommy LiPuma Center for Creative Arts at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland, Ohio.

About Monty Alexander

<https://www.montyalexander.com/>

Born in Kingston, Jamaica, Grammy-nominated pianist Monty Alexander is most widely known as an upper echelon master of the swinging piano trio. Monty has headlined the Montreux Jazz Festival 23 times since 1976. Featured on *Unforgettable*, Natalie Cole's 7-Grammy Award-winning album, he has recorded more than 75 albums over his career. Cited as the fifth greatest jazz pianist ever in *The Fifty Greatest Jazz Piano Players of All Time* (Hal Leonard Publishing), the Jamaican government designated Alexander Commander in the Order of Distinction in 2000, and in 2018 The University of The West Indies bestowed him with an honorary doctorate degree (DLitt) in recognition of his merits.

Alexander also performs frequently with Harlem- Kingston Express, a double trio in which he coalesces his love for hard-swinging jazz with musical flavors that reflect his Jamaican heritage, shifting between an acoustic trio and master Jamaican practitioners of electric bass and drums. He debuted the project at Jazz at Lincoln Center in 2009, and documented it both on the Grammy-nominated 2011 CD, *Harlem-Kingston Express: LIVE*, and its 2014 Soultrain Award nominated followup, *Harlem Kingston Express 2: The River Rolls On* (Motéma).

Alexander's Jamaican roots also include witnessing the legendary singer-pianist Nat Cole in concert in 1953 at Kingston's Carib Theater, an experience he regards as transformational, as was his participation in the 1991 CD *Unforgettable*, Natalie Cole's 7-Grammy Award-winning album homage to her father. Other signposts include his performance of George Gershwin's "Rhapsody in Blue" with a full orchestra under the direction of Bobby McFerrin at the Verbier Festival in Switzerland, playing piano on the soundtrack of *Bird* (1988), Clint Eastwood's Charlie Parker biopic, and on Quincy Jones' *For Love Of Ivy* (1968) film score.

About Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland

<https://www.tri-c.edu/jazzfest/>

Tri-C JazzFest Cleveland is an educational festival with year-round programming that culminates in a three-day summer music festival that takes place at Playhouse Square, located at 1501 Euclid Ave. in Cleveland, Ohio. Nearly 500 artists perform indoors and outdoors playing jazz and other genres. Indoor concerts are ticketed and feature world-class musicians in Playhouse Square's historic theaters. All outdoor entertainment is free. Founded in 1980 by Dr. Thom Horning and Reginald Buckner, Tri-C JazzFest stays true to its mission to foster the history and nurture the future of jazz, provide educational opportunities for students of all ages and in all walks of life, and to bring world-class jazz to Cleveland.

DownBeat Magazine describes the festival as offering "the type of diverse, top-tier talent typically found at a much larger festival, along with some adventurous programming that was spiced with compelling international flavors."

The Tri-C JazzFest educational component connects students of all ages with local and international jazz artists. The inclusion of students and teachers ensures the future of the art form in Northeast Ohio. Outreach programming provides free cultural access to Cleveland's underserved population.

About 23Arts LIVE

<https://www.23arts.org/>

23Arts LIVE is an international artist-led music collective, which looks to foster dialogue, innovation and collaboration. It is a resource for new ideas, delivered to audiences directly in their homes in our new virtual environment. Co-produced with the founders of The New Generation Festival in Florence, Italy (<https://www.newgenerationfestival.org/>), 23Arts LIVE is a project of the 23Arts Initiative, a program originally conceived to bring world-class performing arts to the community of Tannersville, NY by developing artist residencies, community outreach, and education opportunities with internationally recognized artists. Founders of the 23Arts Initiative Piers and Lucy Playfair are committed to being at the forefront of jazz innovation and have worked with hundreds of world-class young artists from across the world.

For more information on Dominick Farinacci or Songbook Watch Party, please visit SongbookWatchParty.com Dominick Farinacci can be found on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

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