



CNY Jazz: History Timeline

- 1995** Musician and educator Larry Luttinger proposed the creation of a regional jazz performing arts organization to serve the extended Central New York community-at-large. He knew that these kinds of organizations had been created and flourished in larger markets across the country over a period of almost 30 years in cities such as San Francisco, Chicago, Cleveland, New York, Columbus, Washington D.C., and others. Outside those large markets, opportunities to perform jazz in a similar way did not exist.
- 1996** The CNY Jazz Orchestra is formed, making it possible for Syracuse, NY to claim a national caliber, regional, not-for-profit jazz orchestra, one of a few cities that can claim of this accomplishment.
- 1998** The Central New York Jazz Arts Foundation, Inc. is incorporated as an independent 501(c)(3) organization and begins programming public and scholastic events.
- 2001** CNYJAF presents the inaugural Jazz in the Square summer concert series, stepping into a gap left when Syracuse JazzFest abandoned the city for the suburbs.
- 2001** CNYJAF begins its Jazz in the City neighborhood concert series, bring free music and entertainment to underserved Syracuse neighborhoods, including Eastwood, Near West Side, South Side, and Little Italy.
- 2005** Jazz Central Arts & Education Center begins its first full season. Unique to Central New York, Jazz Central is a 4,100 square feet space that houses CNY Jazz's offices, a box office, music library, and a 63- to 99-seat theater. Jazz Central has since become a regional cultural hub. A practice and performance space, it also hosts theater, comedy, film, folk, and private events throughout the year.
- 2006** Jerry Santy is CNYJAF's first "Jazz Educator of the Year."
- 2007** Larry Luttinger receives an Award of Excellence from the Syracuse Updowntowners.
- 2008** CNYJO releases its CD and DVD "Then, Now, & Again." AllAboutJazz.com names it a Top 10 album of 2008.
- 2009** The Blue Rain ECOfest (now Stage of Nations Blue Rain ECOfest) is created to serve the region's sustainability outreach needs.



- 2009** Jazz in the Square is re-branded the Northeast Jazz and Wine Festival, taking advantage of significant sponsorship opportunities provided by wine distributors looking for popular public relations vehicles. NEJWF is the only jazz and wine festival east of the Rockies!

- 2009** As part of a strategic plan, the CNYJAF re-brands itself as CNY Jazz Central. It's new logo clearly states the three prongs of its mission: educate, present, perform the art form of American jazz. 2011 Jazz Central acquires a green roof, part of a city-wide effort to reduce rain run-off. Before the green roof, Jazz Central's basement would flood during heavy rain storms.