

INAUGURAL FESTIVAL · WILLIAMSTOWN, MA

Williamstown Jazz Festival

SEPTEMBER 11 – 13, 2026 · THREE DAYS · THREE VENUES

Hosted by Todd Barkan, NEA Jazz Master

FRIDAY September 11

OPENING NIGHT

5:00 PM **Brandee Younger Trio**
'62 Center for Theatre & Dance

7:00 PM **Connie Han Trio**
'62 Center for Theatre & Dance

SATURDAY September 12

CENTER STAGE

11:00 AM **Jazz Film Festival — Rhythm & Reels**
Images Cinema · runs until 3:00 PM

6:00 PM **Steve Turre's All-Star Band**
'62 Center for Theatre & Dance · with James Carter, ELEW, Corcoran Holt, Herlin Riley

8:00 PM **The Cookers**
'62 Center for Theatre & Dance

SUNDAY September 13

FINALE

11:00 AM **Regional Jazz Artists**
Clark Art Institute · Berkshires Youth Ensemble, MCLA Jazz Ensemble, Richard Stanmeyer & Company

2:00 PM **The History of Jazz in the Berkshires**
Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall · John Gennari book talk with Todd Barkan

4:00 PM **Wanda Houston Quartet**
Chapin Hall, Williams College

6:00 PM **Triangle Offense — Kris Allen Trio**
Chapin Hall, Williams College

8:00 PM **Arturo Sandoval & Octet**
Chapin Hall, Williams College · closing night headliner

FESTIVAL PASSES

FULL FESTIVAL

\$310

VIP \$400

FRIDAY

\$85

VIP \$150

SATURDAY

\$100

VIP \$175

SUNDAY

\$125

VIP \$200

Meet the *Musicians*

Arturo Sandoval

Sun · 8:00 PM Chapin Hall

& the Arturo Sandoval Octet · Closing Night Headliner

A protégé of Dizzy Gillespie, Sandoval is among the world's most acclaimed guardians of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn — also a renowned classical artist, pianist, and composer, seen by millions at the Oscars, Grammys, and Billboard Awards.

Brandee Younger Trio

Fri · 5:00 PM '62 Center

Friday Opener

Revolutionizing the harp's role in modern music. In 2022, the first Black woman nominated for a Grammy® for Best Instrumental Composition. Has worked with Common, Lauryn Hill, John Legend, Pharoah Sanders, and Christian McBride.

Connie Han Trio

Fri · 7:00 PM '62 Center

Friday

Hailed by Variety as one of contemporary jazz's most talented and inventive musicians, and Downbeat's "Jazz Warrior-Goddess." She interprets the jazz piano pantheon with her own fiery, contemporary style.

Steve Turre's All-Star Band

Sat · 6:00 PM '62 Center

with James Carter, Eric 'ELEW' Lewis, Corcoran Holt, and Herlin Riley

One of the world's preeminent jazz innovators — trombonist and seashellist, member of the Saturday Night Live Band since 1984. A consistent winner of both Readers' and Critics' polls in JazzTimes, Downbeat, and Jazziz.

The Cookers

Sat · 8:00 PM '62 Center

Eddie Henderson · Azar Lawrence · George Cables · Billy Hart · Cecil McBee · Donald Harrison · David Weiss

An aggressive mid-'60s spirit channeled through a potent collection of expansive post-bop originals — marked by killer instincts and pyrotechnic playing from some of the heaviest hitters on the scene today.

Wanda Houston Quartet

Sun · 4:00 PM Chapin Hall

Sunday Afternoon

Lead vocalist for Heth, Bradley & Houston, the Wanda Houston Band, and Big & Bigger. Also lends her talent to the Convergence Project, Mothership Trio, the VT Jazz Center Big Band, and the NOLA-inspired Rejuvenators.

Kris Allen — Triangle Offense

Sun · 6:00 PM Chapin Hall

Jonathan Barber, drums · Kris Allen, saxophone · Matt Dwonszyk, bass

A band built for spacious symbiosis, unforced chemistry, and good humor. Each member is a world-renowned performer and bandleader, with deep roots in Hartford, Connecticut's fertile scene.

Regional Jazz Artists

Sun · 11:00 AM Clark Art

Berkshires Jazz Youth Ensemble · MCLA Jazz Ensemble · Richard Stanmeyer & Company · Free Showcase

The next generation of Berkshire jazz — the festival's commitment to education and regional talent, featuring youth ensembles, MCLA's jazz program, and Berklee alum Richard Stanmeyer.

John Gennari

Sun · 2:00 PM Brooks-Rogers

Book talk in conversation with Todd Barkan

Lenox native and Professor of English at the University of Vermont, discussing his latest, *The Jazz Barn: Music Inn, the Berkshires, and the Place of Jazz in American Life* (2025). Author of the award-winning *Blowin' Hot and Cool*.

VENUES

'62 Center for Theatre & Dance · Chapin Hall, Williams College · Clark Art Institute · Brooks-Rogers Recital Hall · Images Cinema — all in Williamstown, MA