

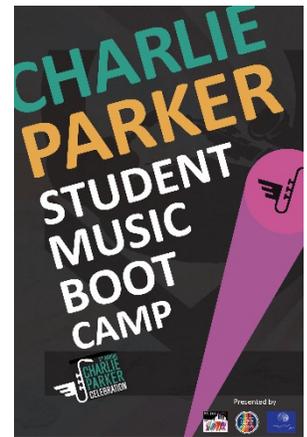
# News Release

## **Charlie Parker Student Music Boot Camp** In conjunction with the **Fifth Annual Charlie Parker™ Celebration**

August 7, 2018

### **CONTACT:**

Greg Carroll | KC Jazz ALIVE & Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC  
816.588.4804 | gregcarroll5200@gmail.com



## **The Celebration of "Bird" in Kansas City Continues partnerships to include Kansas City Jazz ALIVE, Kansas City Jazz Academy and Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC**

**What:** *Charlie Parker Student Music Boot Camp*

**When:** August 18, 2018 | 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

**Where:** GEM Theater | 1616 E 18<sup>th</sup> Street, Kansas City, MO

**Student Registration:** [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com) | Tuition Scholarships Available

The 5th Annual Kansas City Charlie Parker Celebration will again explore and recognize the legacy of one of the most influential saxophonists and jazz icons to ever perform. The Celebration, a comprehensive Charlie Parker tribute, is recognized as the largest celebration of its kind in the world.

Parker was born in 1920 in Kansas City, Kan., and moved in 1927 to Kansas City, Mo. -- where jazz was flourishing, and the city was one of several ports instrumental in ushering in the musical improvisation style of Bebop, which Parker is identified with.

The 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration includes a mix of jazz venue showcase performances throughout the city as well as education, public programs and special events.

In partnership with the Jazz Academy and Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC this year's celebration will include a return of the popular *Charlie Parker Student Music Boot Camp*.

**Greg Carroll**, President of Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC and Vice-President of Kansas City Jazz ALIVE notes ... "The event is a full-day, full immersion workshop dedicated to learning jazz styles, improvisation, the music and incredible genius of Charlie Parker. Our inaugural boot camp in 2014 was met with such great fanfare and this year we are honored to work together to bring its return. With generous support from the Missouri Arts Council, the National Endowment of the Arts, and NTDF, our goal this year, is to attract more than 100 students representing middle school and high schools within the 5-county region."

"The Kansas City Jazz Academy is excited to be part of this wonderful collaboration with Kansas City Jazz ALIVE and Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC in honoring Charlie Parker in this meaningful manner – through the power of teaching," says Kansas City Jazz Academy Director **Clarence Smith**. The boot camp has a modest tuition rate of \$45 (Early Bird rate of \$35) and because of a few generous donors, will offer an impressive number of scholarships to students with demonstrated financial need. The *Charlie Parker Student Music Boot Camp* is open to instrumental music students enrolled in the middle school through high school levels. Student spaces are limited so early registration is highly advised. Visit [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com) to learn more about the camp highlights, meet the all-star faculty, and reserve your space today!

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

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## MORE ABOUT CHARLIE PARKER...

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, performed solo in many of McShann's recordings and soon prominence followed.

As part of the Charlie Parker Celebration, organizers have assembled a series of events that offer performance, education and of course, tributes. Visit [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com) for more details and a complete listing of the 2018 Charlie Parker Celebration.

### *Charlie Parker Student Music Boot Camp*

#### *Meet Our Teaching Faculty...*



#### **Greg Carroll – Camp Co-Director, Vibes**

**Greg Carroll** is the President & Founder of *Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC* – a global jazz & executive consultancy providing creative, scholarly and strategic services. Previous positions include: CEO of the American Jazz Museum; Director of Education, International Association for Jazz Education, and; Director of Jazz Studies, University of Colorado – Boulder. He is active globally as an award-winning clinician, guest artist, scholar, and has more than 22 recording projects to his credit including his own celebrated project entitled, *Shavewo*. Past honors include listing among the 100 most Influential African Americans in Kansas City; the Presser Scholar for the University of Northern Colorado School of Music; and Colorado Jazz Educator of the Year. His high school and college groups have earned a total of eleven Down Beat Student Music Awards for best and outstanding performances in the jazz category. He is a founding member of the Board of Directors for Kansas City Jazz ALIVE and holds degrees from the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Colorado @ Boulder.



#### **Clarence Smith – Camp Co-Director, Drums**

**Clarence Smith** is a professional percussionist and the coordinator/instructor of music at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley. As an educator with specific expertise in jazz, Smith is a frequent guest director of honors jazz ensembles and is in demand as a jazz/percussion clinician and adjudicator. He is founder and director of the annual three-day 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine Jazz Festival for middle school and high school students. Smith was artistic director of Kansas City Youth Jazz; founder and director of Metropolitan Jazz Workshop-Kansas City and was recently selected to lead the American Jazz Museum's Kansas City Jazz Academy. He was named "High School Jazz Educator of the Year" by Downbeat Magazine and was the recipient of the first Ahmad Alaadeen Award for Excellence in Jazz Education. As a drummer for groups that perform in genres including jazz and R&B, Smith is an active participant in the Kansas City music scene. He holds a BME from Central Methodist University and a master's degree in arts education from Lesley University, Boston

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**Joel Gordon - Saxes**

**Joel Gordon** holds a Bachelor of Science in Music and Master of Arts in Education from Truman State University. Currently, Joel is the Director of Bands at Platte City Middle School. As well, Joel maintains an active private studio.



**David Aaberg - Trumpet**

**David Aaberg** is Director of the Jazz-Commercial Music program at the UCM. He performs regularly on trumpet in the Kansas City Jazz Orchestra, the Louis Neal Big Band, the Boulevard Big Band, the Jim Lower Jazz Orchestra, and numerous other groups.



**Trevor Turla - Trombone**

**Trevor Turla** is a graduate of the UMKC Conservatory Of music and dance. While there he received a degree in jazz studies from world renowned saxophonist Bobby Watson. He is playing weekly in Kansas City and nationally with the Grand Marquis and the KC Latin Jazz All Stars.



**Roger Wilder - Piano**

**Roger Wilder** was born and raised in Rochester, NY. He holds a BMA from the University of Miami and has performed in back up groups for Stanley Turrentine, Randy Brecker, Adam Nussbaum, and Chris Potter. Teaching positions include Miami-Dade Community College and UMKC. In Kansas City Roger enjoys recording and performing with a host of artists including Angela Hagenbach, Sons of Brasil, Dan Thomas, and the Westport Art Ensemble.



**Sam Copeland - Bass**

Bassist **Sam Copeland** serves as orchestra director at Blue Valley Public Schools. He is director of the Taneycomo Festival Jazz Orchestra. In addition, Sam maintains an active freelance career. He holds degrees from MU and UMKC.



**Laura Warren Barge - Voice**

**Laura Warren Barge** received her Bachelor of Science in Vocal Performance from Berklee College of Music in Boston, MA. She is the administrator for Corbin Theatre Company and runs her own studio where she teaches privately and directs two youth bands.

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The Charlie Parker Celebration is presented by **Kansas City Jazz Alive**. The mission of KC 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.”

Visit [www.kcjazzalive.org](http://www.kcjazzalive.org) | [www.charlieparkercelebration.com](http://www.charlieparkercelebration.com)



**Midnight Blue Jazz, LLC** is a transformative corporation providing seamless fusion of services for multiple sectors within the global jazz, education, non-profit, and corporate communities. Our mission is to celebrate jazz - its authenticity and genius, by delivering high quality products through creative, scholarly, and strategic services to enduring global jazz, education, non-profit, and corporate communities.

Visit [www.midnightbluejazzkc.com](http://www.midnightbluejazzkc.com) | Facebook - @midnightbluejazzkc



The **Kansas City Jazz Academy** offers an engaging curriculum where middle school and high school level students learn jazz language directly through hands-on work with top educators. Performance-based educational experiences include Big Band, Combos, and Improvisation Classes. Designed for students in grades 7-12 with at least one year of experience.

The Academy resides at the American Jazz Museum in Kansas City, MO.

Visit <https://americanjazzmuseum.org/kcjazzacademy>

***This event is supported by these generous sponsors:***



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