

## Monterey 2025 Special Sets

### THURSDAY

7:00-8:15p

#### **We3**

Bonsai

Ours is the only festival where this dynamic Three-o appears. Jazz (and comedy) history is always made when Bob Draga, Jeff Barnhart, and Danny Coots take the stage, the limelight, and your hearts. Hot and soulful music mixed with irreverent humor makes for an unforgettable evening!

8:30-10:45p

#### **Sonny and Stuckey's Hot House**

DeAnza

THEN, come to the house where everything is INDEED hot as two well-established bands join forces in a once-in-a-lifetime musical experience!

### FRIDAY

1:00 pm

#### **Brian Holland and The Ragabonds**

Club Room

Redefining Ragtime for the 21st century, the rhythm section of the Sierra Stompers steps to the fore with scintillating syncopation!

1:30 pm

#### **Sweet&Hot Quintet +1**

Bonsai

Anne and Jeff Barnhart, with T.J. Müller and Josh Duffee, invite guests Clint Baker and Bobby Durham to join them in a set of spontaneous splendor!

3:00 pm

#### **Groovus with Dave Bennett**

Bonsai

Brian Holland, Steve Pikal, and Danny Coots, the three jolly gentlemen of jazz, mix it up with the incredible clarinet of Dave Bennett for an unforgettable romp!

3:00 pm

#### **After Midnight: "The King of Swing – Benny Goodman"**

Serra II

This remarkable sextet from Colorado celebrates the music and legacy of Benny Goodman. Clarinetist/Bandleader Roger Campbell leads this swinging ensemble!

3:00 pm

#### **Guitar-O-Rama**

Colton

With Katie Cavera, Paul Mehling, John Reynolds, and Dani Vargas picking and strumming their 24 collective strings, Swing RULES! With bassist Dexter Williams

3:00 pm

#### **Draga's Dragons**

Steinbeck 1

Sir Galahad would have no chance against fire breathing clarinetist Bob Draga, supported in this fiery set by the smokin' rhythm of Chris Calabrese, Bobby Durham, and Gareth Price. Guest Gary Ryan spices up the proceedings!

4:00 pm

#### **El Dorado Jazz Band**

DeAnza

The original EDJB performed in SoCal in the 1960's. Washboardist Hal Smith leads T.J. Müller, Andy Schumm, Brandon Au, Bill Dendle, and Mikaya Matsuda in a repertoire of classic New Orleans stomps, blues, marches, rags, and even a sprinkle of pop tunes from the 1950's!

- 4:30 pm      **Double Trio**      Bonsai  
 No, this does not mean six musicians! It's the name pianists Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderighi coined when they add bass and drums, in this case Steve Pikal and Danny Coots.
- 4:30 pm      **Youth Clinic**      Serra II  
 All are invited to take in (and learn from) a clinic led by Clint Baker and Jacob Dalager (faculty advisor to the Univ. of New Mexico's band "The Desert Stompers") involving the Stompers and anyone else who'd like to learn from Clint, Jacob, Chris Calabrese, Matt Tolentino, Natalie Scharf, and Josh Duffee. See the future of jazz greatness unfold!
- 4:30 pm      **Monterey Sax**      Colton  
 Local favorite Don Irving leads three other saxophonists in wonderfully unique arrangements of familiar and forgotten tunes. This quartet has a beautiful sound!
- 4:30 pm      **Marilyn Keller & Friends**      Steinbeck 1  
 We're so glad to have Marilyn return to us and we know you'll love her taking Dan Barrett, John Otto, Dave Stuckey, Bobby Durham and Riley Baker on a musical odyssey!
- 5:30 pm      **Crescent Katz with Frederick Hodges**      DeAnza  
 This Sacramento-based band has been prepping for an appearance in our flagship venue for years, and when they team up with forty-fingered Frederick, you'll see they MORE than deserve it!
- 5:30 pm      **Two Pianos, One Great show**      Club Room  
 Two of the most lyrical interpreters of jazz melodies team up to melt your heart. Yve Evans and Jason Wanner caress the keys in an hour of aural bliss.
- 5:30 pm      **Matt Tolentino - "Look Out for Matt"**      Everywhere  
 Newcomer multi-instrumentalist Matt Tolentino concentrates on his accordion here, strolling through the bar and dining room, taking requests and charming you silly!
- 6:00 pm      **Dan Barrett's Old Fashioned Jazz Band**      Bonsai  
 A truly organic unfolding of swinging sounds awaits you as six spectacular musicians convene for the first time: Dan Barrett leads willing accomplices Clint Baker, Nate Ketner, Paul Asaro, Dan Anderson, and Riley Baker.
- 6:00 pm      **Youth Spotlight Show: The Desert Stompers**      Serra II  
 Co-Consultant Jeff Barnhart coached this ensemble at the Evergreen Jazz Festival last July and was so impressed he suggested they appear here. THEY'RE here and you'll love what YOU hear! A very dedicated and delightful group of young virtuosi.
- 6:00 pm      **Dave Bennett "Swing Set"**      Steinbeck 1  
 Golden-toned clarinetist with facile fluidity and fecund phrases seeks supportive rhythm section, and finds it with Jeff Barnhart, Sam Rocha, and Hal Smith. A match made in heaven!

- 6:30 pm **THE PASSING OF THE TORCH!** [DeAnza](#)  
 After countless international appearances, outgoing Musician of the Year Steve Pikal will doff his tiara to crown incoming (and wary) 2025 MotY the one-and-only Carl “Sonny” Leyland in a moving monarchal manner.
- 7:00 pm **Josh Duffee’s Graystone Monarchs: Celebrating the Roaring 20’s** [DeAnza](#)  
 Last year we featured this exciting ten-piece hot band on Thursday night, and you demanded more, so here they are: Schumm, J. Au, B. Au, Zimmerman, Tolentino, Scharf, Hodges, Müller, Eggers, Duffee. Dancing or listening, you’ll be transported!
- 7:00 pm **Boogie Bash!** [Club Room](#)  
 176 keys pounded by the fifty fingers of Paolo Alderighi, Caroline Dahl, Brian Holland, Carl “Sonny” Leyland, and Stephanie Trick will see bassist Steve Pikal and drummer Danny Coots trying to keep up!!
- 7:00 pm **Yve Evans Trio with Marilyn Keller** [Steinbeck 3](#)  
 Two incomparable divas who compliment, rather than compete with, one another? Only when the immaculate vocalists Yve Evans and Marilyn Keller share the stage.
- 7:30 pm **Jazzdagen Reunion** [Bonsai](#)  
 For decades banjo-playing travel maven Alida Meijers took musicians and fans on jazz cruises that visited over 100 countries. To celebrate the Jazzdagen legacy, alum Pieter Meijers and Bob Draga mix it up with Jeff Barnhart, Bobby Durham and Hal Smith
- 7:30-11:00p **DANCE PARTY!!** [Serra II](#)  
 Our first ever dance-centric programming features ensembles guaranteed to move your feet and hearts while exciting your ears! Beginning with *After Midnight* (7:30-8:30), moving on to *Sonny Leyland Trio* (8:45-9:45) and concluding with SoCal dance favorite *Dave Stuckey’s Hot House Gang* (10:00-11:00), this will be one JUMPIN’ night!
- 8:30 pm **Marilyn Keller and (Other) Friends** [DeAnza](#)  
 Vivacious and versatile vocalist is backed by the crème de la crème of instrumentalists Clint Baker, Dan Barrett, Dave Bennett, Paolo Alderighi, Steve Pikal and Gareth Price
- 8:30 pm **Sweet&Hot Quintet +1** [Club Room](#)  
 The Barnharts are joined by old (well, actually quite young) friends T.J. Müller, Matt Tolentino, Josh Duffee, and Jeff’s “brother-from-another-mother” Brian Holland for a one-flute, two-piano, three-to-go, four-star extravaganza! Five’ll get you 10 this set will score 100!
- 9:00 pm **From Morton to McKenna** [Bonsai](#)  
 Versatile tickler Chris Calabrese teams up with legendary drummer Hal Smith (who’s forgotten more than other classic jazz drummers will ever know) to provide several decades worth of pianistic pleasantries.
- 10:00 pm **Holland-Coots Jazz Quintet** [DeAnza](#)  
 The first of two sets for this favorite. Why so few? They’re all very busy in other ensembles as well! Round out your night with these five in-demand musicians!!

## **SATURDAY**

- 11:30 am      **“How a Band Plays Together”**      DeAnza  
Polished, perceptive pedagogue Dave Stuckey leads an all-star ensemble in exploring how the magic happens. Educational, entertaining, enlightening. With T.J. Müller, Dan Barrett, John Otto, Chris Calabrese, Riley Baker, and Josh Duffee
- 11:30 am      **Young Bucks of the Clarinet**      Serra I  
What’s in an age? Benny Goodman was still playing like a teenager when he was in his 70’s! The young (and young at heart) clarinet conquistadors Dave Bennett, Natalie Scharf, Paul Cosentino, and Jacob Zimmerman are supported by Chris Dawson, Dexter Williams, and Gareth Price for this “licorice stick” lollapalooza!
- 12:00 pm      **Groovus**      Bonsai  
It behooves us to go listen to Groovus, who will move us and prove us ready to swing! Brian Holland tries to keep Steve Pikal and Danny Coots in line...hard job!
- 12:00 pm      **T.N.T. Jazz Band**      Serra II  
This fabulous band of young players is led by the venerable trombonist and educator Bob Williams. These burgeoning superstars are ready for your attention, ears, and approval!
- 12:00 pm      **Marilyn Keller Quartet**      Steinbeck 1  
An opportunity to savor Ms. Keller backed by a small ensemble is never to be missed! Marilyn leads Jason Wanner, Bobby Durham and Rick Canfield: Magic for your ears!
- 1:00 pm      **Hollywood and Broadway on Two Pianos**      Club Room  
Both Tinseltown and the Great White Way are honored with the perspicacious pianistics of Stephanie Trick and Paolo Alderghi. Prepare to hear well-arranged, surprising versions of timeless classics. For the cognoscenti and casual listener alike.
- 1:30 pm      **“Gee, it’s an Airstring”**      Colton  
With apologies to Bach, this set features the incredible talents of Matt Tolentino and Katie Cavera ably abetted by master bassist (and great singer!) Bobby Durham
- 1:30 pm      **Holland-Coots Jazz Quintet**      Steinbeck 1  
Serving up another tasty helping of hot treats, these chefs of swing are sure to satisfy!
- 2:30 pm      **Piano-Rama**      Club Room  
Harkening back to the halcyon days when a parade of pianists flexed their phalanges in the Steinbeck Forum, three of our most exciting pianists, Paul Asaro, Sonny Leyland, and Jason Wanner, convene in a once-in-a-lifetime summit! Not to be missed.
- 3:00 pm      **Matt Tolentino and His Tolentinis**      Colton  
This set finds first-timer Matt Tolentino—multiple-instrumentalist *par excellence*—leading veteran Monterey musicians Dave Bennett, Clint Baker, Steve Pikal and Hal Smith. Who KNOWS what will happen?? Whatever it is, it’s sure to fan-TAST-ic!!

- 4:00 pm **Crescent Katz Firehouse 5 + 2 Tribute** Serra I  
 This group of jolly gentlemen evoke the joy and insanity of one of the most revered West Coast Trad Jazz Bands. Two special guests are Jason Wanner and the fire siren!
- 4:00 pm **Piano Pile-On** Club Room  
 Returning by popular demand, Stephanie Trick, Paolo Alderighi, Jeff Barnhart, and Brian Holland mix it up and everyone's a winner! In TWO languages, no less!
- 4:30 pm **Jazzdagen Reunion** Bonsai  
 Sail away with the two most popular musicians in Jazzdagen history, Pieter Meijers and Bob Draga, whose clarinets and charisma will keep the rhythm section of Chris Calabrese, Steve Pikal, and Danny Coots—and YOUR feet—hoppin' and tappin'!
- 4:30 pm **Desert Stompers** Serra II  
 A second helping of hot jazz all the way from New Mexico awaits you. This group has as much fun making their music as you will listening to them. Come hear today's young jazz musicians and show them your appreciation!
- 4:30 pm **Mallets and Keys** Colton  
 When bandleader/percussionist Josh Duffee and pianist/vocalist Frederick Hodges played together last year in Josh's Graystone Monarchs, they both thought it'd be fun to play a duo set with Josh on the xylophone. We're sure you'll agree!
- 4:30 pm **Monterey Sax "Music Through the Centuries"** Steinbeck 1  
 Leader Don Irving mentioned that his sax quartet plays everything from early classical music to swingin' jazz, so how could we resist? They return after a great debut in 2024!
- 6:00-11:00p **DANCE PARTY II** Serra II  
 If you were at our dance party last night, you know to return! If this is your first time, get ready to dance the night away to the *Carl Sonny Leyland Trio* (6-7 pm); the *Sierra Stompers* (7:20-8:20 pm); *Dave Stuckey's Hot House Gang* (8:40-9:40); and *Dave Bennett's Rockabilly Piano*, with Bobby Durham and Gareth Price (10-11 pm). Plenty of seats as well for those who'd prefer to listen instead of Lindy.
- 6:00 pm **Paolo Alderighi "Tribute to the Elf"** Steinbeck 1  
 Nobody can channel the effortless, individual swing of the legendary Erroll Garner with such panache as our friend Paolo, aided by bassist Steve Pikal and drummer Danny Coots.
- 6:00 pm **Matt Tolentino - "Look Out for Matt"** Everywhere  
 You'll soon agree having Matt serenade you during your libation or gustation simply makes everything go down better!! He'll honor requests for a slightly exorbitant fee!
- 7:00 pm **After Midnight: "King of the Vibes - Lionel Hampton"** DeAnza  
 This swingin' sextet from Colorado shows how Hamp could make everyone swing harder, whether it be Benny Goodman or anyone lucky enough to have him join them!

- 7:00 pm **Blue Street (with special guests Clint Baker and Marilyn Keller)** Serra I  
 This set sees the venerable West Coast favorite invite two long-time friends Clint Baker and Marilyn Keller to join in the fun! These unique line-ups make jazz history!
- 7:00 pm **Draga's Dragons** Club Room  
 A club is Bob Draga's favorite venue to play (after all he owned and played in one for years back in Florida) so you know you'll hear him at his best in this hour with Chris Dawson, Bobby Durham, and Riley Baker.
- 7:00 pm **El Dorado Jazz Band** Steinbeck 3  
 Drummer Hal Smith switches to washboard to lead another set of stompin' tunes emulating the style and effervescence of this popular CA Trad band of the 1960's. Join him, T.J. Müller, Andy Schumm, Brandon Au Jeff Barnhart, Bill Dendle, and Mikiya Matsuda in a romping good time!
- 7:30 pm **BANJORAMA** Bonsai  
 This annual fretted fracas is once again adjudicated by The Honorable Greg Sabin, with participants John Reynolds and Gary Ryan doing whatever the hell they want, as Chris Calabrese, Steve Pikal and Patrick Skiffington try to keep the peace!
- 7:30 pm **Stephanie Trick "Taking it in Stride"** Steinbeck 1  
 This swingin' set led by Ms. Trick will show you why she is considered one of the best in the world at the difficult Stride style of jazz piano! Danny Coots joins in.
- 8:30 pm **CLARINETS!!** DeAnza  
 Legends of the licorice stick Pieter Meijers, Bob Draga, Dave Bennett, and Clint Baker supported by ace rhythm section Paolo Alderighi, Bobby Durham and Josh Duffee. No other description needed to convince you this is a MUST-see!
- 8:30 pm **The Ragabonds FULL Ragtime Band** Club Room  
 Jazz Bash gave birth in 2024 to the Ragabond Quartet, which now expands to a full band devoted to rags and ragtime era songs! Joining Ragabonds Brian Holland, Katie Cavera, Paul Hagglund, and Gareth Price will be cornetist T.J. Müller, clarinetist Matt Tolentino and trombonist/pianist Jeff Barnhart. Since there are two pianos, look out!!
- 8:30 pm **Danny Tobias and The Chosen Four** Steinbeck 3  
 East Coast trumpeter Tobias serves up some savory sounds, inviting Andy Schumm, Paul Asaro, Dan Anderson, and Hal Smith to help make the feast!
- 10:00 pm **San Lyon & Le Jazz Hot** DeAnza  
 Our "two bands on one stage" tradition continues with a delicious twist! These two string-based quartets create an incredibly sophisticated sound. Sultry swing, beautiful ballads, vibrant vocals, classy clarinet, guitar gymnastics, and more will serenade your soul.

## SUNDAY

- 9:00 am      **Crescent Katz: The “Hangover Breakfast”**      DeAnza  
Only THIS band was crazy enough to take us up on our offer! Whether “hangover breakfast” will include “hair of the dog” is up to them AND you! Who knows? They might show up in their pajamas (IF they wear them, that is)
- 9:30 am      **Yve Evans Trio w/ Marilyn Keller: Special Gospel Set**      Bonsai  
When we first presented this set in 2023, the response was overwhelming! Nowhere will you ever find two more heavenly voices filled with so much love and soul. Come be elevated as well as entertained.
- 9:30 am      **T.N.T. Jazz Band**      Colton  
Bob Williams and his band of talented students have to return to Sacto after this set, so come hear them one more time and see what they absorbed over the intervening 20+ hours since their first set! They are sure to impress!
- 9:30 am      **Bye Bye Boys Blues Band: Gospel Set**      Steinbeck 1  
This alliterative aggregation loves to belt out hot yet reverent versions of your favorite Gospel hits!! Come wash your sins away!
- 10:30 am      **Blue Street: Gospel Hour**      Serra I  
We’ve always felt that this band’s gospel show could be a “Gospel Hour” on the radio, especially when Preacher Ruffner warms up to his sermon! What a treat!
- 10:30 am      **Sweet&Hot Quintet**      Club Room  
The core quartet of the Barnharts, T.J. Müller, and Josh Duffee love welcoming guests. For their final set they’ve invited European star reed player Pieter Meijers to join in!
- 11:00 am      **Dave Bennett: “Swing Set, Part Deux”**      Bonsai  
Does he sound or look more like Benny Goodman than anyone else we know, or both? With stellar support from Chris Dawson, Bobby Durham and Danny Coots, Dave will soar like never before!
- 11:00 am      **Syncopating Sea Monkeys**      Serra II  
These enthusiastic young musicians always entertain and clearly have fun doing it! Last year’s ensemble boasted 18 people, so come fill the hall as they fill the stage!
- 11:00 am      **After Midnight: “King of the Crooners – Nat King Cole”**      Steinbeck 1  
For their first appearance with us, this band never fails to surprise! Their versatility shines here with ace guitarist/lead vocalist Mike McCullough channeling Nat King Cole!
- 12:00 pm      **El Dorado Jazz Band: A Century (and-more-than-a-half!) of Music**      DeAnza  
One final chance to thrill to this hot band’s ability to channel a 1960’s icon of Trad Jazz that covered a repertoire of music from the 1890’s-1950’s! This reincarnation takes it even farther, on this set playing music from 1856 to 2024!!! 168 years of hot jazz!

- 12:00 pm **Paolo Alderighi and Stephanie Trick: Classic Jazz on Two Pianos!** [Club Room](#)  
 How can these virtuosi sound like four people on two pianos (or sometimes just one)? Is it Paolo's arranging skill? Stephanie's "chops"? The only way you'll find out is to come hear them and make your own decision. Whatever you choose, you'll be right!!
- 12:30 pm **Jazzdagen Reunion** [Bonsai](#)  
 One final chance to revel in the sounds and savor the revelry created by clarinetists Pieter Meijers and Bob Draga with the perfect backing of Calabrese, Baker, and Coots
- 12:30 pm **Sierra Stompers with Marilyn Keller** [Serra II](#)  
 Back home in WA, Marilyn sings with a two-beat trad jazz band sporting tuba and banjo so she'll be right at home with the repertoire and style of this ensemble! This'll be HOT!
- 1:30 pm **Josh Duffee's Graystone Monarchs "Happy Birthday, Bix"** [DeAnza](#)  
 Cornetist Leon "Bix" Beiderbecke was born on March 10, 1903, but we'll all be gone tomorrow, so the Monarchs celebrate this legendary pioneer a day early. With Bix and Josh both being natives of Davenport, IA, there aren't words enough to express how exciting *and* moving this set will be!
- 1:30 pm **"Friends with Pleasure"** [Club Room](#)  
 In a celebration of matrimonial bliss, married pianists Paolo Alderighi and Stephanie Trick invite married musicians vocalist/pianist Dawn Lambeth and multi-instrumentalist Marc Caparone to join them for an hour of tuneful melodies.
- 2:00 pm **Dave Bennett "Rockabilly Piano"** [Serra II](#)  
 More Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison, Hank Williams, and others by Dave Bennett, Steve Pikal, and Gareth Price
- 3:15 pm **FESTIVAL FINALE** [DeAnza](#)  
 In our continuing quest to "go big so *you* won't go home," we've combined the Sierra Stompers and Dave Stuckey's Hot House Gang to pay tribute to trumpeter Bob Scobey and banjoist/vocalist Clancy Hayes, who spent their post-Yerba Buena days together creating a unique blend of West Coast stomping Jazz and Swing. Enjoy!!