



**For Immediate Release
March 14, 2023**

The Music of Sun Ra Returns to the Vancouver International Jazz Festival

(Vancouver, BC) – The [Vancouver International Jazz Festival](https://www.vancouverjazzfestival.com/) is thrilled to announce the return of Sun Ra Arkestra, performing live as part of Granville Island Jazz on June 24 at Performance Works, located at 1218 Cartwright Street.

Presale tickets for Festival donors are available at www.coastaljazz.ca on March 14 at 10:00 am PDT. Tickets will be available to the general public on March 16 at 10:00 am PDT.

It's been decades since the music of Sun Ra first appeared at the Vancouver Jazz Festival, and two years since Sun Ra Arkestra performed online during the mid-pandemic Festival showcase in 2021. An enormous influence on generations of avant-jazz players - as well as artists ranging from Sonic Youth to Solange - the visionary Afrofuturism pioneer Sun Ra released over a hundred albums between the mid-1950s and his departure for Saturn in 1993. But the Sun Ra Arkestra continues to beam Ra's cosmic messages around our humble planet. Fans can expect a lively show drawing on big band swing, outer-space jazz, dancing, singing, chanting and Afro-pagentry.

The 38th edition of the Vancouver International Jazz Festival will offer 140 shows, including more than 50 free performances from June 23 to July 2, 2023. The Festival kicks off with a free Downtown Jazz concert series outside the Vancouver Art Gallery and ʔxwʔənəq Xwtl'e7énk Square and includes marquee shows at Queen Elizabeth Theatre and Vancouver Playhouse, plus club shows at various downtown venues, and culminates on Canada Day weekend at Granville Island venues including Performance Works, Ocean Artworks and The Revue Stage.

Event: Sun Ra Arkestra
Location: Performance Works
1218 Cartwright St.
Date: Saturday, June 24, at 7:00 pm
Tickets: Tickets on sale to the general public [here](https://www.coastaljazz.ca) as of March 16
Price: \$45 plus service fees



Sun Ra Arkestra

Known for melding Ellingtonian big band swing, transcendent free jazz, dancing, chanting, and lavishly-outfitted Afro-pageantry, the 13-piece Arkestra will touch down to make sure Ra's "Afrofuturist ideas and concepts are still hurtling through space at light speed" (*Rolling Stone*).

The Sun Ra Arkestra features Noel Scott *alto and tenor saxes*, Vincent Chancey *French horn*, Elson Nascimento *percussion/surdo*, Tyler Mitchell *bass*, Wayne Smith *drums*, Cecil Brooks *trumpet*, James Stewart *tenor sax*, Tara Middleton *vocals*, D. Hotep *guitar*, Dave Davies *trombone*, Farid Barron *piano*, Beavin Lawrence *baritone sax*, Kevin Batchelor *trumpet*.

Access all Festival artist photos [here](#).

For more information on the 2023 **Vancouver International Jazz Festival** events and performances, please visit us on the following channels and follow #VanJazzFest:

Website: www.coastaljazz.ca

Twitter: www.twitter.com/coastaljazz

Instagram: www.instagram.com/coastaljazz

Facebook: www.facebook.com/coastaljazz

About Coastal Jazz & Blues Society:

Founded in 1985 and incorporated in 1986, the [Coastal Jazz & Blues Society](http://www.coastaljazz.ca) is a community-based, not-for-profit, charitable arts organization that has worked diligently to establish Vancouver as a centre for creating and exchanging sounds and ideas between local, national, and international music communities. The Society's mission is not only to increase the appreciation of music but to strengthen the arts community by developing special projects, artistic exchanges, partnerships, educational initiatives, community programs, and collaborations that further the art form. Ranked as British Columbia's largest not-for-profit music presenter, The Coastal Jazz & Blues Society produces the annual Vancouver International Jazz Festival and year-round concerts and has a long-standing commitment to music education with the Sounds of Youth performance stage, workshops, children's music programs, and more. The Society is proud to be a significant part of Vancouver's and B.C.'s economic engine and tourism industry, attracting over half a million people to its annual festival and generating over \$30 million in economic activity. www.coastaljazz.ca

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