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## *Sacred Jazz Symposium* *Connects the Music and the Spirit*

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Oakland-From John Coltrane's "A Love Supreme" and the sacred concerts of Duke Ellington, on down to Mahalia Jackson and Gene Ammons-Jazz music is, essentially, the soul of black folks.

On **June 9th** during **The Sankofa Cultural Institute's "Sacred Jazz Symposium,"** jazz enthusiasts and friends are invited to come learn about the connection of that soul to the legacy of Jazz music.

"The symposium will focus on the spiritual nature of the community and the spiritual nature of Black folk in America, which is part of the essence of Jazz music," explains **Duane Deterville, founder of Sankofa Cultural Institute.**

Using performances, poetry and public dialogue "The Sacred Jazz Symposium: Exploring Spirituality in the Music," which takes place at **The Black New World, located at 836 Pine St., Oakland, CA,** will explore the links between Afrikan Spirituality and Jazz music. We'll hear and discuss how Christianity, Islam and Vodun have influenced the sound from Bebop to Spirituals to modern day hip hop.

Musical performers for the day-long event include **EW Wainwright's African Roots of Jazz, The Rudi Mwongozi Trio** and avant guard players **ESP featuring India Cooke.**

The poets and panelists for the event are some of the brightest minds working today. They include **Archbishop Franzo King DD,** from the John Coltrane Church, **Karilton Hester,** head of Jazz Studies at UC Santa Cruz, music historian and activist **Marcel Diallo** and Muslim Jazz poet **Marvin X.**

For the true Jazz lovers, there'll be a pre-symposium wine tasting and listening party with some of California's finest Black vintners and rare tracks from some of Jazz's most influential figures.

The Sacred Jazz Symposium will be held in West Oakland's historic Village Bottoms. The neighborhood is the center of a growing Black cultural district located around historic 7th St., once the heart of Black arts and entertainment in Oakland.

"We're putting it right back into this historically black community, literally a few blocks from where these black people first came into Oakland" says Deterville.

He emphasizes that all are welcome to join us for this day of celebration and education. "I want to see everybody from the church going elders to the Yoshi's hip set to the Hip Hop generation."

Jazz is spiritual music. Soul music. Come get saved.

**The Sankofa Cultural Institute Presents:  
The Sacred Jazz Symposium: Exploring Spirituality in the Music  
Saturday June 9th  
2-8:30pm  
\$20 (w/VIP Reception), \$10 Donation (No one turned away for lack of funds)  
The Black New World and Pleasure Club  
836 Pine St., Oakland, CA**

### **Full Schedule**

2:00 – 3:00-Wine tasting reception and listening party  
3:00 – 4:00-Libation by a local spiritual leader.  
Performances by EW Wainwright's African Roots of Jazz.  
4:20 – 6:00-Panel discussion and Q&A  
Featuring: Will Alexander, poet and literature professor.  
Karlton Hester, Head of Jazz Studies at UC Santa Cruz.  
Marcel Diallo-Community Activist, historian and poet  
Archbishop Franzo King-cofounder of John Coltrane Church  
Julian Carroll-The Moderator, Jazz Poet  
6:00 – 6:30-Intermission  
6:30 – 7:30-Poetry and Jazz Featuring the Rudi Mwongozi Trio.  
Featured poets: Boadiba, Phavia Kujichagulia, Nubia I, Marvin X, and Reginald Lockett.  
7:45 – 8:30 Performance  
ESP featuring India Cooke



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## **The Sankofa Jazz Symposium Series**

Sacred Jazz: Exploring Spirituality in the Music is the third symposium in an ongoing series. The first was Jazz: The Black Aesthetic, followed by Bird, Bop, Black Art and Beyond: The Significance of Charlie Parker and Black Artists in the 1950's.

The Black experience in America has always been central to the development of the Jazz aesthetic. However, through selective interpretations and historical inaccuracies, mainstream periodicals, scholarly texts and academia have sought to separate Black people from their central place in the development of Jazz music.

"The Symposium series is focused on bringing back some autonomy to the definition of what Jazz is to the black community and centering it on the Black experience as the primary component for understanding it," explains Duane Deterville, founder of the Sankofa Cultural Institute.

The Jazz Symposium Series is part of an ongoing cultural documentation project. We are documenting the voice of the black community so that later generations will have an accurate view of our history.

## **The Sankofa Cultural Institute**

The Sankofa Cultural Institute was created to foster cultural exchange and education within the African Diaspora. The 501 3c California nonprofit was founded in 1997 by Duane and Adeeba Deterville.

Our programs have included classes in Portuguese, Yoruba and French languages and we've hosted world renowned artists Nike Davies Okundaye from Nigeria and Antonio "Vovo" Carlos dos Santos from Brazil.

The Sankofa Cultural Institute maintains that Afrikan people are the primary agents of our own historiography. We are the authorities on our own story.

## **St. John Coltrane Church**

"The primary mission of the St. John Will-I-Am Coltrane African Orthodox Church is to bring souls to Christ; to know sound as the preexisting wisdom of God, and to understand the divine nature of our patron saint in terms of his ascension as a high soul into one-ness with God through sound."

-Archbishop Franzo Wayne King D.D

Church founders Archbishop Franzo King and Reverend Mother Marina King began their work in 1971 under the name of "One Mind Temple Evolutionary Transitional Body of Christ." The inspiration came in 1965 after the young couple saw John Coltrane perform live in San Francisco. Being raised in the Pentecostal Church, Franzo King knew the presence of the Lord when it came through the power of the Holy Ghost.

Seeing John Coltrane and hearing his sound that night brought out the familiar feeling he'd known since childhood: the presence of God. The church is located in San Francisco CA and holds weekly open services and musical performances.

## **The Black New World**

The Black New World Social Aid & Pleasure Club is a full service performance venue, meeting space, dance club and lounge. Located in historically black West Oakland, the Black New World is a stable, home-grown institution intent on promoting the culture, well-being and retention of the Lower Bottom's predominantly Black population.

The Black New World also acts as a mutual aid society, a vehicle through which members pool their resources and invest in real estate and businesses that further the mission of creating and sustaining a Black New World amidst rapid changes in the society at large.

Located in the emerging Village Bottoms Cultural District, The Black New World is one of a network of businesses including coffee shops, art galleries and grocers dedicated to the revitalization of this culturally rich neighborhood.