

Eight Days of World-Class Jazz Magic on Amelia Island!

This year's lineup features world-class talent, including **Monty Alexander**, the internationally acclaimed jazz pianist, and **Jane Monheit**, the Grammy-nominated vocalist known for her rich, expressive voice. **Tony Cruz & the Latin Jazz Legends** will ignite the stage with vibrant Latin rhythms, bringing irresistible energy to the festival.

Our own Artistic Director, celebrated drummer **Les DeMerle**, who also lends his voice to the music, will perform alongside captivating vocalist **Bonnie Eisele**, adding their signature style to the mix.

Experience top-tier jazz in the beautiful setting of Amelia Island. Mark your calendar, bring your friends, and enjoy the very best in live jazz.



The Dynamic Les DeMerle Band with Bonnie Eisele

World-renowned drummer, band leader and Amelia Island Jazz Festival Artistic

Director, Les DeMerle has toured and recorded with Harry James, Wayne Newton and The Manhattan Transfer. In the words of Downbeat magazine, DeMerle and powerhouse vocalist, Bonnie Eisele, are: "Upbeat from the downbeat, one of the most exciting acts on the jazz scene today".



Grace Kelly Headlined the 2024 Amelia Island Jazz Festival

The Amelia Island Jazz Festival, now in its 22nd year, introduces residents and visitors to the energy and variety of jazz, a uniquely American art form.

Each year, the festival features both celebrated jazz artists and rising talents, with performances at venues across Amelia Island, including Courtyard | Springhill Suites by Marriott, The Decantery, Mocama Beer Company, and the Fernandina Beach Recreation Center.

Education is at the core of our mission. Under the leadership of Artistic Director Les DeMerle, our programs—Jazz in Schools, Jazz for Kids, and Jazz for Seniors—bring live jazz into classrooms, community spaces, and senior centers, inspiring people of all ages to connect with the music.

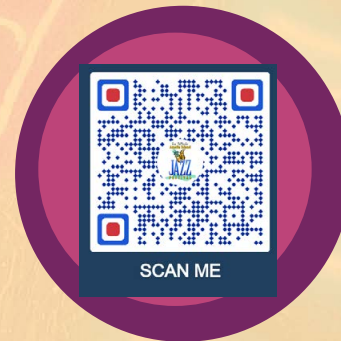
Our commitment to the future of jazz continues with the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship, awarded to outstanding high school musicians who show exceptional promise and plan to study jazz at the college level.

Join us to enjoy great music and help nurture the next generation of jazz performers. Visit our website for more information and tickets.

Buy Tickets Today!

Available online ...

AmeliaIslandJazzFestival.com



or at the Door (if not sold out)

Jazz Hotline: (904) 504-4772

PARK WEST GALLERY

Carol Quise in memory of Dan

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT | SPRINGHILL SUITES BY MARRIOTT

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Amelia Island Jazz Festival



Monty Alexander
World-Renowned Jazz Pianist
Saturday, October 4



Jane Monheit
Grammy Nominated Jazz Vocalist
Friday, October 3

Tony Cruz & the Latin Jazz Legends

Thursday, October 2

**September 28 to
October 5, 2025**



A not for profit 501(c)(3) corporation, the Les DeMerle Amelia Island Jazz Festival distributes proceeds toward a scholarship program to fund college educations for aspiring jazz musicians and works to provide a rich, diverse jazz offering to the Amelia Island area.

2025 AIJF Artwork by Park West Artist, Ziggy O'Leary

Brochure and Website Design - Studio CB Photography - CBAdvertising.com

2025 Schedule of Concerts & Events



University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble 2 at the Jazz at the Atlantic Rec Center

Sunday, September 28 • 12–2 pm

Jazz Party at the Rec – Free Community Concert

2500 Atlantic Avenue - Fernandina Beach, FL

Food truck - Beyond Horizons, featuring a special Jazz Fest Lunch

Presenting

21-piece UNF Jazz Ensemble 2 with special guests,
directed by **Dennis Marks**

Monday, September 29 • 7– 9 pm

Jazz Festival Sponsor Party

Courtyard | SpringHill Suites by Marriott
2700 Atlantic Avenue - Fernandina Beach



Enjoy an exclusive evening of music hosted by **Les DeMerle** – drums/vocals – and **Bonnie Eisele** – vocals – with special guest performers.

This invitation-only event is our way of saying THANK YOU to

our **Bronze Saxophone Sponsors** and above. It's a night of great jazz and celebration made possible by the generosity of our supporters.

Sponsors bring the Amelia Island Jazz Festival to life—helping us share world-class jazz and inspiring programs with our community.

Not yet a sponsor? Join us and be part of our jazz family. Your support keeps the music, joy, and spirit of jazz thriving on Amelia Island.

Join the High Note Club Friday or Saturday

-VIP Seating
-Hot Hors d'Oeuvres
-2 Drink Tickets

\$150 per person

-Official Festival Poster

-Meet and greet the artists at the Courtyard | SpringHill Suites

Available online only

ameliaislandjazzfestival.com

Tuesday, September 30 • 5–6:30 pm & 7–8:30 pm

Jazz & Wine Tasting

The Decantery
117 Centre Street - Fernandina Beach

Starring:

The Jazztet

Paul Tafoya - trumpet
Ajax McDonell - saxophone
Doug Matthews - piano
Bonnie Eisele - vocals

Hosted by AIJF Artistic Director **Les DeMerle** - drums/vocals & The Decantery



Tickets: **\$45** per person



The AIJF Jazztet

Wednesday, October 1 • 7–10 pm

Jump, Jive And Wail/Swing Night Concert & Dance

Courtyard | SpringHill Suites
2700 Atlantic Avenue - Amelia Island

Featuring: **The Dynamic Les DeMerle Little Big Band**
with **Bonnie Eisele** - vocals



The Dynamic Les DeMerle Little Big Band

Tickets: **\$45** per person
Cash Bar

Jim Malmgren - trumpet
Clarence Hines - trombone
Don Zentz - saxophone
Ajax McDonell - saxophone
Doug Matthews - piano
Ricky Ravelo - bass
Les DeMerle - drums/vocals

Thursday, October 2 • 7–10 pm

Hot Latin Jazz – Concert & Dance

Courtyard | SpringHill Suites
2700 Atlantic Avenue - Amelia Island

Featuring:

Tony Cruz & the Latin Jazz Legends

Unleash your inner mambo at this sizzling Latin Jazz Concert and Dance! Tony Cruz and the Latin Jazz Legends will set the stage on fire with irresistible rhythms.

Tickets: **\$45** per person
Cash Bar



Tony Cruz & The Latin Jazz Legends

Friday, October 3 • 7 pm

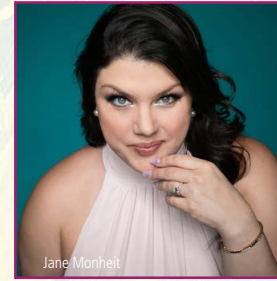
Jane Monheit in Concert

Courtyard | SpringHill Suites
2700 Atlantic Avenue - Amelia Island

Join us for a special evening as internationally acclaimed jazz vocalist Jane Monheit takes the stage at the Amelia Island Jazz Festival. Known for her lush, expressive voice and heartfelt interpretations of jazz standards and the Great American Songbook, Jane has captivated audiences worldwide.

Opening for Jane Monheit is

The Les DeMerle Jazz Quartet – **Les DeMerle** - drums/vocals
Pablo Duque - saxophone, **Doug Matthews** - piano
Dennis Marks - bass, **Bonnie Eisele** - vocals plus special guests



Jane Monheit

10 pm 'til 12 am

Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy's Den"

Mocama Beer Company
629 S. 8th Street - Fernandina Beach

Bebop, Blues & Beyond...
hosted by 2025 AIJF Scholar,
Aiden Dubberly - drums

VIP \$95 per person
(Fri. or Sat. Concert & Late Nite Jam)
General Admission \$75 per person
(Fri. or Sat. Concert & Late Nite Jam)
Late Nite Jam Session \$25 per person
(Snacks and Beverages available)

Saturday, October 4 • 7 pm

Monty Alexander in Concert

Courtyard | SpringHill Suites
2700 Atlantic Avenue - Amelia Island

Experience an extraordinary night with world-renowned pianist **Monty Alexander** at the Amelia Island Jazz Festival. Celebrated for blending American jazz with Jamaican rhythms, Monty's vibrant, soulful style shines alongside bassist **Luke Sellick** and drummer **Jason Brown** in a dynamic trio performance.

Also featuring

The Les DeMerle Jazz Quintet

Longineu Parsons - trumpet, **Bill Prince** - saxophones
Doug Matthews - piano, **Dennis Marks** - bass
Bonnie Eisele - vocals

Les DeMerle - drums/vocals, plus special guests

10 pm 'til 12 am

Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy's Den"

Mocama Beer Company
629 S. 8th Street - Fernandina Beach



Monty Alexander



Bebop, Blues & Beyond...
hosted by 2025 AIJF Scholar,
Aiden Dubberly - drums

Meet our 2025 AIJF Scholar & the Host of the Late Nite Jams



Jacksonville-based drummer, vibraphonist, and composer **Aiden Dubberly** discovered his passion for jazz early, inspired by legends like Buddy Rich and Gene Krupa. By 15, he was shaping his own musical voice through solo work and performances with

his trio and school ensembles. Aiden is honored to receive the 2025 Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship and looks forward to sharing his growing creativity with the world.



The Spare Rib Six

Don't miss the grand finale!

Savor a special menu while the musicians unwind after eight days of jazz—anything can happen! Get ready for a lively, jazz-filled feast that's pure fun from start to finish!

Sunday, October 5 • 10:30 am & 1 pm

N'awlins Jazz Brunch

Courtyard by Marriott - 2700 Atlantic Avenue - Amelia Island

Featuring: **The Spare Rib Six** - **Longineu Parsons** - trumpet, **Dr. Bill Prince** - clarinet, **Bill Hazlett** - trombone, **Doug Matthews** - piano, **Dennis Marks** - bass, **Les DeMerle** - drums/vocals, and **Bonnie Eisele** - vocals, plus special guests

Tickets: **\$75** per person
Includes Special Jazz Festival Menu. Cash bar available

Concert events are open seating. VIP tickets guarantee seating within the front row sections.
Friday & Saturday ticket levels include access to that evening's Jam Session.
Schedule subject to change

VIP Jazz Passes available online
access to all General Admission events (except the Sponsor Party - Sept. 29)
\$360 ea (\$400 Value)