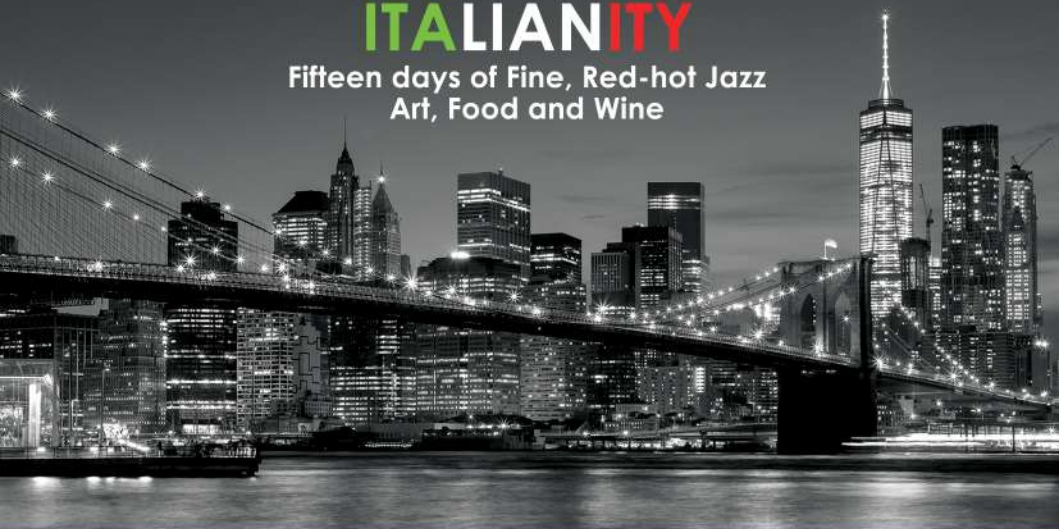




PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session New York '26

ITALIANITY

Fifteen days of Fine, Red-hot Jazz
Art, Food and Wine



MANHATTAN NEW YORK

May 24 > June 7, 2026



EVENT PRESENTATION

The Peperoncino Jazz Festival is a traveling music festival that for 25 years has culturally characterized the summer season in Calabria, a beautiful region situated in the south of Italy.

Year after year, the festival's approach has been to present the best Italian and international jazz musicians performing in enormously beautiful locations, such as castles, archaeological parks, church cloisters, palace courtyards, and historical centers of the most amazing villages in the region.

The festival engages the spectators' five senses by pairing the incredible music with the tasting of the best wines and typical Calabrian food.

Since the first edition of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival, the main objectives have been the cultural growth of the territory and promoting the awareness of the historic-artistic heritage.

Equally important to the festival has been to showcase the natural beauty of the Calabrian region and cultivate tourism in the area.

Since its inception 25 years ago, the festival has created an important network of institutional partners and private sponsors and has now crossed not only national borders, but continental borders, landing in the jazz capital of the world, New York City.

We strongly believe, and time will confirm this, that this international event will give great visibility to our beloved region of Calabria, that we call "la Grande Bellezza" (the Great Beauty).

Our aim is to raise awareness of the great developmental potential of Calabrian tourism, with its natural beauty, exceptional music and art, and its legendary culinary culture.

We are overwhelmed and overjoyed about the fifth edition of this festival in New York.

We now give our heartfelt thanks to the institutions and the numerous people that have believed in us and helped make our dream come true.

A special thank-you, on behalf of the entire association that I am honored to represent, goes to our great friend John Patitucci, who signed on "with four hands" with Sergio Gimigliano, to help with the artistic direction of the event.

To the latter goes, finally, my personal sincere and heartfelt "Thank-you" for being the wonderful person he is; for having known how to steal my heart 26 years ago; to always believe in his own dreams, to want to share them with me and to show his capacity in achieving them with huge determination.

Francesca Panebianco

PJF founder, Journalist and Events Press Agent

Walt Disney said: "If you can dream it, you can do it!"

During one of my several trips to New York to explore the possibility of creating the New York session of what I consider to be my first child: the Peperoncino Jazz Festival, I read a slogan on a wall in the Village, "The real Dream is the Dreamer". With this in mind, the vision that characterizes my work is a constant look toward the future.

Of the past, present and future, the latter is the one that I prefer because it allows for the greatest freedom of choices and most positive and impactful possibilities.

It is, therefore, with great pride and immense emotion that I invite you to the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >< New York Session" fifth edition, an intense fifteen days dedicated to Jazz and Made in Italy from May 24th to June 7th in the heart of the "Big Apple".

The artistic direction of the event, which I am honored to share with my great friend, whom I consider a real brother, John Patitucci, is characterized by the spirit of all things Italian and unites the best American, Italian-American and Italian jazz musicians.

Sergio Gimigliano - PJF Artistic director and Founder, Producer

**John
Patitucci**
co-artistic director



**Sergio
Gimigliano**
artistic director

I am so grateful to Sergio Gimigliano for creating such a beautiful festival here in New York, celebrating the richness and beauty of Italian culture, food, wine and Jazz music.

Sergio has blessed my family so much over the last decade.

He has connected me with my Calabrian relatives and, he himself, along with his family, have become part of our Patitucci family!

My passion for my Italian roots runs very deep and I believe that there are many Italian/American musicians who share my feelings.

My birthday is December 22nd and I am proud that I share it with Puccini, the great opera composer, and Botessini, who was known as the "Paganini" of the double bass in the 19th Century. I think it is very fitting that Sergio chose New York, as it is such a world center for Jazz music and a city with so many Italians. The history of Italians involved with Jazz music here in New York, throughout the United States and in Italy, is well documented.

In fact, one of my most longstanding mentors, Chick Corea, has his roots in Calabria and Sicily!

John Patitucci - Musician, Composer, 4 time "Grammy Award" winner

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Session New York '26

MANHATTAN NEW YORK

May 24 > June 7, 2026

PARTNERS



> **Giuseppe Pastorelli**
Consul General of Italy in New York



Consolato Generale d'Italia
New York

The Peperoncino Jazz Festival arrives in New York as a vibrant celebration of Italian culture, creativity and artistic exchange.

Blending the universal language of jazz with the passionate spirit of Calabria, the festival offers a unique cultural experience where music becomes a bridge between communities, traditions and generations.

Conceived and directed by Sergio Gimigliano, the initiative has grown into an internationally recognized platform promoting dialogue, talent and cultural connection. Through outstanding performances and shared experiences, the festival strengthens the longstanding bond between Italy and the United States, bringing the spirit of Italian excellence to the heart of New York.



> **Claudio Pagliara**
Italian Culture Institute Director



What does it mean, today, to bring jazz from Calabria to New York? For the Italian Cultural Institute in New York, it means telling a story of journeys, encounters and identities that have spanned the ocean for over a century. In a particularly significant year, celebrating 250 years of friendship between Italy and the United States, jazz becomes a universal language capable of further strengthening this historical and cultural bond. Jazz, a genre deeply rooted in American culture but enriched over time by the contributions of many Italian and Italian-American musicians, represents a natural bridge between the two sides of the Atlantic. Collaborating to bring Italy's sounds and talents to New York means portraying a contemporary, dynamic and creative country, capable of communicating with the world through the universal language of music. The fifth edition of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival also fits into this context, an organization that over the years has promoted the Calabrian region through a high-quality musical program, creating opportunities for encounters between artists, cultures and international audiences. The festival represents a virtuous example of how music can become a tool for cultural diplomacy, regional promotion and artistic exchange between Italy and the United States.

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Session New York '26

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PARTNERS



> Gianluca Gallo
Assessore alle Politiche agricole Regione Calabria



I have personally known, for at least fifteen years, Francesca Panebianco and Sergio Gimigliano, creators and organizers of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival, that represents, without doubt, one of the most prestigious event within the Italian music scene; as well as, naturally, one of the main events of the calabrian culture (as shown by its insertion in the most important names of the "historicized events of international importance" funded by the Regione Calabria).

For this reason, I feel that I can testify for the passion and professionalism that Francesca and Sergio instill in their activities and the important role of tourism promoters of our wonderful region, that they perform through this event.

Their vision, combined with their high ethical and aesthetical sense, has taken them to New York as ambassador of the Italianess, that all the world is extremely attracted to.



> Fulvia Michela Caligiuri
Commissario Straordinario A.R.S.A.C. Calabria



It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome the fifth edition of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival – New York Session, a well-established event that continues to strengthen the cultural bridge between Calabria and the United States, ideally uniting two distant lands through the universal language of music—music that is, in turn, deeply rooted in local traditions.

This festival represents not only an outstanding presence in the international jazz scene, but also a valuable opportunity to celebrate the roots, identity, and creativity of a region rich in history, flavors, and talent.

Bringing the vibrant heart of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival to New York—the world's jazz capital—means promoting a lively and inspiring artistic dialogue capable of transcending all boundaries.

Our heartfelt thanks go to the organizers, the artists, and all those who make this extraordinary experience of music, passion, and sharing possible. Wishing everyone a wonderful festival!

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session New York '26

MANHATTAN NEW YORK

May 24 > June 7, 2026

PARTNERS



It is an honor for me to extend greetings on behalf of the Pollino National Park to this prestigious initiative, which brings the cultural and scenic excellence of Southern Italy to the heart of New York City. The Peperoncino Jazz Festival, now in its fifth edition in the "Big Apple," offers a remarkable opportunity to showcase the richness and beauty of our territory through universal languages such as music, taste and imagery. The presence of the Park in iconic venues such as the Italian Cultural Institute, the Consulate, New York University or the Smoke Jazz Club, is a source of great pride and encouragement for us to continue on a path of international promotion that unites nature, culture, and identity. I sincerely thank the organizers for their attention to our environmental heritage and for including the Pollino National Park among the featured participants in this festival. On behalf of the entire Park community, I warmly greet all the guests, artists, and everyone who will take part in this edition of the festival. May it once again serve as a cultural bridge capable of uniting people, emotions, and territories.

> Luigi Lirangi - Commissioner of the Pollino National Park



Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò at NYU is delighted to partner with many other artistic and cultural institutions to welcome the Peperoncino Jazz Festival fourth edition to New York City. Jazz has played a central role in our musical program, and we have always been impressed with the enthusiastic reaction of our audience to the performance of Italian artists, often featuring their American colleagues. Peperoncino will remind us of the fundamental role played by Italian-Americans and African-Americans in founding jazz music, and will also be an homage to the many contaminations of and fusions between jazz and diverse music traditions from different parts of the world. We look forward to celebrating an art form together that, unlike many others, has empowered minorities, immigrants, and outcasts before entering the mainstream music scene.

> Stefano Albertini - Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò NYU Director

PARTNERS



As President of the COMITES of New York, I can only express our full support for the initiative of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival, because it truly represents what it means to keep a strong connection with one's homeland while living abroad. I believe that culture and music are essential tools for strengthening Italian identity around the world and for creating an ongoing dialogue between Italy and the United States. It is a music born in America, yet over time it has become universal, capable of speaking to everyone and bringing different cultures together. For our Italian community in New York, this connection is even stronger, because in many ways it reflects the story of Italian immigration itself: people who left Italy and successfully integrated into American society without ever losing touch with their roots. The Festival succeeds precisely in this mission: using jazz as a cultural bridge between two worlds. Italy has tradition, history, and artistic heritage, but it is also creative, cultural innovation, and the ability to engage with international realities. I believe that today more than ever there is a need for culture, dialogue, and opportunities that bring people together. And jazz, with its universal language, continues to be an extraordinary meeting point between Italy and the United States.

> Barbara Pelachin Marciandi - President of Com.It.Es New York



As the founder and president of the Italian American Museum, I am delighted to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organizers of Italy's Peperoncino Jazz Festival.

The PJF exemplifies the dynamic spirit of Italian creativity. By transforming Calabria into a stage for world-class jazz, it celebrates our rich musical heritage while embracing innovation and diversity.

From the Ionian to the Tyrrhenian coasts, the festival's journey through over 30 towns and 3 national parks offers audiences an immersive experience that intertwines music, history, and the natural beauty of our homeland.

The festival's expansion beyond Italy, with performances at New York's iconic and prestigious venues, underscores its international appeal and the enduring bond between Italy and its diaspora.

Such initiatives resonate deeply with our mission at the I.A.M.: to celebrate the cultural contributions of Italians and Italian Americans.

> Joseph V. Scelsa - Founder and President of Italian American Museum, NY



Jazz, as a Black American art form, has always drawn strength from musical and cultural influences from around the world.

From its earliest development in cities across the United States to its global reach today, jazz has remained a living expression of cultural exchange and collaboration. Italian and Italian American musicians, composers, club owners and educators have played important roles in shaping the music across generations.

The National Jazz Museum in Harlem is proud to partner with the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >< New York Session" in celebrating this ongoing artistic exchange.

> Ryan Maloney - Director of National Jazz Museum in Harlem

PARTNERS



RIZZOLI
BOOKSTORE

From Francis Scott Fitzgerald to Jack Kerouac, from Julio Cortazar to Amiri Baraka the list of international writers and poets inspired or intrigued by jazz goes on. Since New York City's Rizzoli Bookstore has a long tradition of building bridges between arts genres, international scenes and creative people, we have turned our gorgeous space in NoMad into an experimental living room where live jazz and other music can be enjoyed with our "Rizzoli Music Aperitivo", curated by Mondo Jazz, the weekly Radio Free Brooklyn show dedicated to international jazz. We are very excited to partner with the Peperoncino Jazz Festival and build another bridge, between the Italian and the New York scenes and offer showcase the Calabria hospitality and wine traditions on the occasion of the exciting performance by the "PeRiz Jazz Quartet".

> **Livia Senic-Matuglia - Rizzoli Bookstore Manager**



INTERCONTINENTAL
NEW YORK BARCLAY

Jazz is engrained in the history of New York City and InterContinental New York Barclay, a storied institution nearing its 100th anniversary.

The Peperoncino Jazz Festival brings incredible talent together and The Barclay is happy to welcome the festival back to the city.

To this day, our restaurant The Parlour welcomes guests to enjoy music alongside great food and craft cocktails, every month we also present the best of New York jazz in our Club and Suite Sessions, and we look forward to continuing this with The Peperoncino Jazz Festival.

The festival allows us to showcase incredibly talented musicians within a historic building that opened in 1926 amidst the city's jazz age and has been fostering culture ever since.

> **Sofia L. Vandaele - General Manager The Barclay & Regional Director of Operations, NYC**



NYU | STEINHARDT

Italians truly have a deep connection with jazz music.

Since the mid 19th Century, Italian immigrants in search of a new life arrived at the Port of New Orleans, bringing along their own musical traditions while absorbing new sounds that combined marches and ragtime with the blues that were brewing all around them. By 1917, a young Sicilian cornet player named Nick La Rocca, documented the first ever jazz recording with his group "The Original Dixieland Jazz Band", forever immortalizing them into the history of jazz.

Today we welcome again the Peperoncino Jazz Festival to New York City to celebrate Italy's great contributions to jazz along with the confirmation that jazz music is truly an international language for everyone to share.

Benvenuto a casa!

> **David Schroeder - NYU Steinhardt Music Professor of Jazz Studies**

PARTNERS



SMOKE
JAZZ CLUB

Smoke Jazz Club is delighted to be a presenting partner of the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival New York Session" fifth edition, joining in its celebration of musical excellence and international artistic exchange.

It is a great honor to present five nights with bassist and Festival Co-Artistic Director John Patitucci and his quartet featuring Joey Calderazzo, Adam Cruz, and special guest instrumentalists throughout the week, including Steve Wilson (Wednesday, 6/3), Chris Potter (Thursday and Friday, 6/4-6/5), and Michael Rodriguez (Saturday and Sunday, 6/6-6/7).

We're thrilled to celebrate the music, people, and shared spirit that connect New York and Italy.

> Paul Stache & Molly Johnson Co-Owners Smoke Jazz Club



HOT CLUB

At the Hot Club of New York we often share biographical context for the original shellac 78rpm records we hear every week.

This context often reminds us of Italy's strong ties to Jazz through artists like Frank Guarente, Eddie Lang, Joe Venuti, Vido Musso, Flip Phillips, and Remo Palmier, all of whom we regularly hear on classic jazz recordings.

The Hot Club is proud to host the Peperoncino Jazz Festival, celebrating Italy's contributions to jazz, and digging deeper into this fascinating aspect of the music.

> Matthew Rivera - The Hot Club of New York Director



Plowshares Coffee Roasters, located in the heart of Harlem, is honored to be a new partner with this year's "Peperoncino Jazz Festival - New York Session".

Harlem has long stood as one of New York City's great cultural crossroads, a neighborhood whose legacy is deeply tied to the history of jazz and to the immigrant communities that helped shape its identity. The Harlem Renaissance gave jazz a home for Black pride and dignity in the face of racial oppression, providing a powerful voice for joy, struggle, and survival while also a community for nurturing artists, clubs and audiences that transformed the music into a defining American art form.

Perhaps less known, but equally interesting is that Harlem was also an important neighborhood for Italian American immigrants in the late 19th and early 20th century. Harlem was home for over 100,000 Italian Americans who built businesses, churches and social networks there, contributing to the area's rich urban fabric. While African Americans created the core of the Harlem Renaissance, Italian immigrants in the area were active patrons of the scene, interacting with and enjoying jazz, thus building a bridge between the cultures. We are excited to continue to build bridges and community in our home in Harlem.

> Anthony and Vivian Kurutz - Co Owners of Plowshares Coffee Roasters

A stylized graphic featuring white outlines of three peppers and a saxophone against a red background with black diagonal streaks. The peppers are on the left, and the saxophone is on the right, partially overlapping the peppers. The background is a solid red color with several thick, black, diagonal, textured strokes that create a sense of movement and depth.

**PEPERONCINO
JAZZ FESTIVAL**

**CALABRIA ITALY
NEW YORK U.S.A.
SUMMER 2026**

artistic directors
**Sergio Gimigliano
& John Patitucci**

**PEPERONCINO
JAZZ FESTIVAL '26**
Session
New York

NEW YORK SESSION CONCERTS

May 24th > InterContinental Barclay

EMILIANO D'AURIA SEXTET *feat.* JOE DYSON

May 26th > Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò

NICOLE ZURAITIS *meets* ELIO COPPOLA TRIO

May 27th > Italian Cultural Institute

DAVIDE CERRETA QUINTET *feat.* STACY DILLARD

May 28th > Italian Cultural Institute

RACHEL Z & OMAR HAKIM TRIO

May 29th > National Jazz Museum

JERRY WELDON ITALUSA QUARTET *feat.* PHILIP HARPER

May 30th > The Hot Club of New York

SIMONA DANIELE & GREG RUGGIERO DUET

May 31st > The Plowshares Coffee Rosters

BENNY BENACK III ITALIAN QUARTET

May 31st > Rizzoli Bookstore

STEFANO BATTAGLIA BAND *feat.* DANIEL SKY

June 2nd > NYU Frederick Loewe Theater

MIKE MAINIERI *feat.* COMBO NUVO & STRINGS

June 3rd > 7th - The Smoke Jazz Club

JOHN PATITUCCI QUARTET *featuring* SPECIAL GUESTS

Chris Potter, Steve Wilson, Mike Rodriguez, Joey Calderazzo, Adam Cruz

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session '26 New York

Concerts Map



- 1** Smoke Jazz Club
- 2** Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò NYU
- 3** Italian Cultural Institute
- 4** National Jazz Museum Harlem
- 5** InterContinental Barclay
- 6** Rizzoli Bookstore
- 7** The Hot Club of New York
- 8** The Plowshares Coffee Roasters Harlem
- 9** The Frederick Loewe Theater NYU



**ARTISTS
& VENUES**

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session '26 New York



**Emiliano
D'AURIA**

**May
24th
The
Barclay
Hotel**


INTERCONTINENTAL
NEW YORK BARCLAY

Concert 5:00 pm with intermission*

EMILIANO D'AURIA SEXTET

Emiliano D'Auria | piano

Philip Dizack | trumpet **Godwin Louis** | alto sax

Lucas Pino | tenor sax **Jacopo Ferrazza** | bass

Joe Dyson | drums

The first day of the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >< New York Sessions" in the heart of the Big Apple, will take place in a visually stunning and elegant setting, the exclusive Presidential Suite at the InterContinental New York Barclay Hotel.

It will feature a sextet led by Emiliano D'Auria, an Italian pianist and composer, based in New York, whose music is rooted in the dialogue between composition and improvisation. His work explores sound as a narrative space, where structure and freedom coexist and where the collective dimension of the ensemble plays a central role.

"Meanwhile" is the title of his new project in which his musical language draws inspiration from both Mediterranean culture and the Afro-American jazz tradition, not as a stylistic fusion, but as a meeting point between different human and musical sensibilities.

"Meanwhile" is also the second chapter of a broader project, which began with the album "The Baggage Room," where Emiliano musically narrated the experiences of European immigrants upon their arrival at Ellis Island. This new project focuses instead on what happens after their settlement in New York, telling the stories of those who found a new path while facing a new life.

Please RSVP to camelia.korchi@ihg.com

***Ticket \$ 65 includes complimentary refreshments and hors d'oeuvres**

111 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017 – (212) 755 5900 – icbarclay.com

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session New York '26



**Nicole
ZURAITIS**



Set: 6:00 pm - Rsvp

**May
26th**
Casa
Italiana
Zerilli
Marimò

NICOLE ZURAITIS *meets* **ELIO COPPOLA TRIO**

Nicole Zuraitis | voice
Idan Morim | guitar
Sam Weber | bass
Elio Coppola | drums

The second performance of the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >< New York Session" in the Big Apple will be hosted in a highly prestigious institutional location: the Casa Italiana Zerilli-Marimò (Department of Italian studies at New York University).

Here we will have the honor of having Nicole Zuraitis, a 2X Grammy Awards winning and 6X Grammy-nominated jazz singer-songwriter, pianist and arranger, New York-based bandleader and winner of the prestigious 2021 American Traditions Vocal Competition Gold Medal.

Nicole has collaborated with an extensive list of luminaries, including David Cook, Gilad Hekselman, Veronica Swift, Benny Benack, Cyrille Aimee, Antonio Sanchez, Dave Stryker, Omar Hakim, Rachel Z and Bernard Purdie.

Her sixth album "How Love Begins", co-produced with Christian McBride, won "Best Jazz Vocal Album" at the 2024 Grammy Awards and features all original music.

Nicole's newest concept album "The Devil I knew", produced by Larry Kein, drops 7.17 worldwide.

She also has Italian origins and for this special concert will be accompanied by the Elio Coppola Trio.

24 West 12th Street, New York, 10011 > www.casaitaliananyu.org

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session '26 New York



**DAVIDE
CERRETA**



**STACY
DILLARD**



**May
27th**
**Italian
Cultural
Institute**

Set 6:00 pm - Rsvp

DAVIDE CERRETA QUINTET feat. STACY DILLARD

Davide Cerreta | voice & piano

Stacy Dillard | sax **Daniel Sky** | trumpet

Stefano Battaglia | bass & **Michael Ode** | drums

Special Guest **Joie Bianco** | voice

On May 27, the Italian Cultural Institute of New York presents "Just in Time", a brand-new project by Davide Cerreta dedicated to the timeless tradition of the classic American songbook.

A singer, pianist, and Professor at Berklee College of Music, Cerreta has performed extensively across the East and West Coasts of the United States, South America, Central America, Europe, and the United Kingdom. With "Just in Time", he returns to the elegance and warmth of the great standards made famous by legendary artists such as Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, Ella Fitzgerald, and many others.

The evening will feature an outstanding ensemble of internationally acclaimed musicians: Stacy Dillard on tenor saxophone, Daniel Sky on trumpet, Stefano Battaglia on upright bass, and Michael Ode on drums, while Cerreta himself will perform both on piano and voice.

The concert will also feature a very special guest appearance by Joie Bianco, one of the most promising young voices on the New York and international jazz scene, proudly carrying her Italian heritage into a vibrant contemporary career.

Blending swing and timeless melodies, "Just in Time" promises an evening of sophistication, joy and heartfelt musical storytelling in celebration of the golden era of jazz.

686 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021 > (212) 879-4242 > www.iicnewyork.esteri.it

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Session '26
New York



**Rachel
Z**



**Omar
HAKIM**



Set 6:00 pm - Rsvp

**May
28th**
Italian
Cultural
Institute

"Peperoncino Jazz Festival >> New York Award"

RACHEL Z & OMAR HAKIM TRIO *feat. JONATHAN TOSCANO*

Rachel Z | piano
Jonathan Toscano | bass & **Omar Hakim** | drums

The "PJF >> NYS" Fifth Edition presents legendary Jazz Artists Rachel Z and Omar Hakim for a Live performance held at the highly prestigious Italian Cultural Institute, a place dedicated to the enhancement and promotion of Italian culture in the USA. Rachel Z (real name Rachel Carmen Nicolazzo with Calabrian roots) is a keyboardist with a long history of award-winning performances in the worlds of jazz and rock. She co-wrote the Grammy-winning song 'Tokyo Blue' with saxophonist Najee. In addition to her 13 albums as bandleader and her work in internationally acclaimed bands such as Steps Ahead, the Omar Hakim Experience, and OZmosys, she has played and toured with artists like Wayne Shorter (on the Grammy-winning album High Life), Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, Terri Lyne Carrington, Al Di Meola etc.. Rachel came to worldwide prominence in the rock world in the Peter Gabriel concert films Growing Up Live and Still Growing Up Live. Rachel will be accompanied by her "partner in crime" in Music and Life, Omar Hakim, one of the most successful drummers and session men of the past forty years. He has collaborated with artists such as Miles Davis, David Bowie, Sting, Dire Straits, Madonna, etc, and has left his imprint on hundreds recordings including several under his own name. With them, in this intimate and institutional Italian setting where the audience will witness live jazz and conversation up close and personal, their very good friend and great bassist Jonathan Toscano, even him with Italian roots.

686 Park Ave, New York, NY 10021 > (212) 879-4242 > www.iicnewyork.esteri.it

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL New York Session '26



**Jerry
WELDON**



**Philip
HARPER**



**May
29th
National
Jazz
Museum
in Harlem**

Set 7:00 pm - Ticket: \$ 20

JERRY WELDON "ITALUSA" QUARTET feat. PHILIP HARPER and PAT BIANCHI

Jerry Weldon | tenor sax

Philip Harper | trumpet

Pat Bianchi | bass **T.b.a.** | drums

The "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >> New York Session" will be hosted for the first time at the prestigious "National Jazz Museum in Harlem", whose primary mission is to preserve, promote and present jazz, inspiring knowledge, appreciation and celebration of this musical genre locally, nationally and internationally.

Its offerings are all about showcasing the diverse voices of jazz, welcoming artists and audiences from every background, and creating a space where all perspectives can be celebrated. In this specific case, the collaboration between the Jazz Museum and the Jazz Festival NYS is designed to build a cultural bridge between Italy and America. That's why we've assembled a special band made up of Italian, Italian- American, and American musicians. Protagonist of the evening will be the saxophonist Jerry Weldon (italian origin), who played at Lionel Hampton's side for years and had collaborated with George Benson, Roy Haynes, Jimmy Cobb, Harry Connick Jr. and many others, with him on stage the great Philip Harper, New York based trumpeter, member of the Art Blakey's Jazz Messengers between the years 1986 and 1988 and collaborator of artists such as Betty Carter, Cedar Walton, "Little" Jimmy Scott, Bill Cosby and many many more. On the organ a real Master of this instrument, M^o Pat Bianchi. With a career that includes touring with Steely Dan, performing alongside jazz icons Pat Martino and Lou Donaldson, and leading his own acclaimed trio, Pat's artistry is unmatched!

58 West 129th Street, New York, NY 10027 - 212.348.8300 - www.jmih.org

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session New York '26



**Simona
DANIELE**



**Greg
RUGGIERO**

HOTCLUB

**May
30th**
The
Hot Club
of
New York

Set: 4 to 6 pm - Voluntary Contribution

SIMONA DANIELE & GREG RUGGIERO

"There will never be another you"

A tribute to Harry Warren

Simona Daniele | voice

Greg Ruggiero | guitar

"He wrote the songs everyone knows. Almost no one knows who he was".

Harry Warren was one of the most prolific composers in American music history, a three-time Academy Award winner and the author of some of the most beloved jazz standards ever written.

He was born Salvatore Antonio Guaragna, the son of Calabrian immigrants, and changed his name to conceal his Italian origins.

At Last, There Will Never Be Another You, I Only Have Eyes for You, The More I See You. The songs are unforgettable, the man behind them has been forgotten.

Calabrian-born vocalist Simona Daniele and guitarist Greg Ruggiero, himself of Southern Italian descent, bring this hidden story to life in an intimate duo concert celebrating the roots that connect the Italian South to the heart of the Great American Songbook.

The evening opens with a listening session curated by host Matt Riviera, followed by the duo in concert.

Presented as part of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival New York Session, the New York edition of the Italian-Calabrian jazz festival, at Hot Club of New York.

20 W. 20th St., Ste. 307, New York, NY 10011 > contact@hotclubny.org

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Session New York '26



**Benny
BENACK III**



**May
31st**
**Plowshares
Coffee
Roasters
Harlem**

Set: 2:00 pm - Free Admission

BENNY BENACK III ITALIAN QUARTET

Benny Benack III | voice & trumpet
Andrea Dominici | piano
Carlos Baretto | bass
Elio Coppola | drums

The seventh performance of the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival > < New York Session" will take place at Plowshares Coffee Roasters, a renowned NYC roasting and retail coffee company and community hub located in West Harlem where people gather to enjoy specialty coffee, connect, share poetry and ideas, play chess and enjoy jazz performances each Sunday on the cafe's century-old Kurtzman piano, Gretsch drum kit and Polytone guitar amplifier.

Protagonist of the event will be the Benny Benack Italian Quartet.

Benny is an American artist but his roots are Italian and is a long time Peperoncino Jazz Festival's true friend.

Emmy-nominated, Benny, not only is a fiery trumpet player with a stirring command of the postbop trumpet vernacular but also a singer with a sly, mature, naturally expressive delivery in the post-Sinatra mold, performing standards and his own astute songs with a thrilling sense of showmanship.

This dual-threat ability was recognized by the 2025 Downbeat Critics Poll where he appeared as not only the #1 Rising Star Male Vocalist, but a top Rising Star Trumpeter as well.

He will be joined by pianist Andrea Domenici, powerful double bass player Carlos Baretto and drummer Elio Coppola.

1351 Amsterdam Ave. New York, NY 10027 - akurutz@plowsharescoffee.com

PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL Session New York '26



**Stefano
BATTAGLIA**

**May
31st**
**Rizzoli
Bookstore**

RIZZOLI
BOOKSTORE

Set 5:00 pm - Ticket \$ 30

STEFANO BATTAGLIA BAND

Daniel Sky | trumpet

Daniele Germani | sax

Emanuele Filippi | piano

Stefano Battaglia | bass & **Avery Logan** | drums

The eighth day of the PJF >< NYS will feature another world premiere, the Stefano Battaglia Band, a powerhouse ensemble bridging the Italian and New York jazz scenes. The leader, with his quintet, is presenting his new album "One Mile Away", just released last February.

"One Mile Away" is a project that explores different sonic worlds, moving through sudden shifts in rhythm and scenery, free-form atmospheres, compositional risks, and more classic pieces with an innate melodic sensibility.

The record alternates quintet compositions with works written for solo double bass, where avant-garde techniques play a central role.

It is a fresh and dynamic work, where narration and action follow one another at a fast pace, breathing in the air of the Big Apple - where the artist has been living for some time - combined with a compositional freshness that permeates every track.

The concert takes place in the iconic Rizzoli Bookstore on Broadway, an elegant, literary setting for an unforgettable afternoon of world-class jazz. Don't miss this cross-continental meeting of musical minds. This concert is a co-production of the Peperoncino Jazz Festival and Mondo Jazz, Radio Free Brooklyn's radio show.

Seating is limited. \$30 tickets - available at the door
and on Eventbrite.com at <https://11nq.com/5la6h5k>

The ticket includes complimentary wine courtesy of Field Blend Selections

1133 Broadway, New York, NY 10010 - (212) 759-2424 - rizzolibookstore.com

**PEPERONCINO
JAZZ FESTIVAL**
Session '26
New York

Peperoncino Jazz Festival

*presents an original production conceived by its Artistic Director Sergio Gimigliano
and Dave Schroeder, NYU Steinhardt Jazz Studies, Professor*

MIKE MAINIERI
meets
Combo Nuvo & Strings





PEPERONCINO JAZZ FESTIVAL '26 Session New York

Tuesday June 2nd, 2026, 8:00 pm
The NYU Frederick Loewe Theater
35 West 4th St. New York City

Free Admission with online ticket at: <https://tickets.nyu.edu/nyujazz2026>

MIKE MAINIERI *meets* Combo Nuvo & Strings *featuring*

Mike Mainieri - vibraphone

Dave Schroeder - harmonica, clarinet, sax, flute, Mongolian ever buree

Billy Drewes - soprano saxophone, clarinet, alto flute, percussion

Brad Shepik - guitar | **Rich Shemaria** - piano, composer/orchestrator

Jerry DeVore - acoustic bass | **Jeremy Warren** - drums

plus a 10-piece string section conducted by **Sam Russo**

The Peperoncino Jazz Festival is proud to present this special event that has been three years in the making.

Mike Mainieri's connection to the PJF began in 2024 with his featured performance at the Michael Brecker Tribute Concert at The Town Hall.

This year we are honoring Mike's Italian roots by present his vibraphone playing and compositions to create an evening of beautifully arranged and orchestrated music in collaboration with Combo Nuvo and Strings.

Now 88, Mainieri's teenage career began by performing alongside Billie Holiday, Coleman Hawkins and Buddy Rich.

He has work with such artists as Jim Hall, Art Farmer, Elvin Jones, Sonny Stitt, Billy Joel, David Sanborn, Bobby McFerrin, Paul Simon, Diana Krall and Paul McCartney, as well as forming his groundbreaking fusion group Steps Ahead with Michael Brecker, Don Grolnick, Eddie Gomez and Steve Gadd.

Combo Nuvo has traveled the globe, performing at New York city clubs as well as with the national symphonies of Mongolia, Abu Dhabi, Italy, Costa Rica and Peru. Created and directed by Dave Schroeder and Rich Shemaria, their group has included such jazz icons as Lenny Pickett, Tom Scott, Lenny White, Paul McCandless and Blue Lou Marini.

JAZZ CLUB

SMOKE

SUPPER CLUB

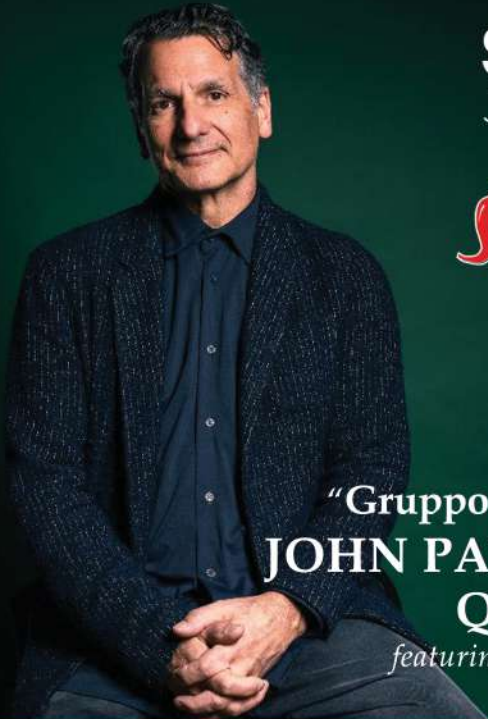
SMOKE
JAZZ CLUB

presents

PEPERONCINO
JAZZ FESTIVAL
Session New York '26



The Smoke Jazz Club >< 2751 Broadway, New York, NY 10025



SMOKE
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PEPERONCINO
JAZZ FESTIVAL
Session
New York '26

"Gruppo per la Pace"
JOHN PATITUCCI
QUARTET

featuring Special Guests
personnel

Joey CALDERAZZO - piano
John PATITUCCI - double bass
Adam CRUZ - drums

Special Guest

Steve WILSON - alto sax (Wed. June 3rd)

Chris POTTER - tenor sax (Thu. June 4th & Fri. June 5th)

Mike RODRIGUEZ - trumpet (Sat. June 6th & Sun. June 7th)

June 3rd > 7th, 2026

Set: 6 pm - 8 pm + (10 pm just on friday and saturday)

This year for the 5th edition of the "Peperoncino Jazz Festival >< New York Session", we thought it would be important to reinforce the priority of Jazz for Peace in these troubling times in the world. Jazz music has always had the ability to unite and uplift people of every nation! The John Patitucci "Gruppo per la Pace" will feature a core trio of Joey Calderazzo, Adam Cruz and John Patitucci, every night. In addition, for the first night only, we will have the incredible Alto Saxophonist, Steve Wilson, featured. For the next two nights, the amazing Chris Potter on Tenor and Soprano Saxophones. Finally, for the last 2 nights, the trio will be joined by the phenomenal Mike Rodriguez on Trumpet. I want to express my gratitude to my dear Brother, Sergio Gimigliano, for his commitment to jazz, in Calabria, Italy and also here in New York. Thanks also to Paul Stache and his staff at Smoke Jazz Club for embarking on this new collaboration with the Peperoncino Jazz Festival.

Sincerely, with Love and Gratitude,

> John Patitucci

Associazione Culturale Picanto, in partnership with
A.R.S.A.C. Calabria, Consorzio Vini DOP Terre di Cosenza,
and Cantine Statti 1784
presents

Enoica

Calabria Wine Festival

A selection of the finest Calabrian's wine labels
in tour to New York City for the 25° edition of the
Peperoncino Jazz Festival





*I dedicate this event to my family,
to my parents Stefania and Mimì Gimigliano
and to Zio Frank Bastone, my New York hero,
for always believing in me and in my dreams.*

Buona Vita!

Sergio

T E A M

organization

Associazione Culturale Picanto

artistic directors

Sergio Gimigliano | John Patitucci

press agent

Francesca Panebianco

coordination

Maddalena Panebianco

original production coordinator

Dave Schroeder

food & wine coordinator

Davide Marano

catering

Re Italo Ltd | D. Coluccio & Sons

staff

Alessandro, Lorenzo & Chiara Gimigliano

special thanks to:

**Sachi Patitucci | Gianni Valenti | Jeremiah Briley | Martina Zito
Malina Mannarino | Emanuele Capoano | Claudia Carbone | Kostja Kostic
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