The 2016 Amelia Island Jazz Festival concerts promise to explode with exciting swinging jazz, played with passion, expertise and soul by many of today’s leading jazz artists. This year’s headliners are Jazz Sax Legend, Houston Person and exciting Trumpet and Vocal sensation Bria Skonberg. In addition we are proud to present the exciting return of the hot Latin band, Trio Caliente.

“Come to the 2016 Amelia Island Jazz Festival and become part of an amazing jazz experience. Each year’s talent roster is the best line-up we can assemble and this year makes no exception! Be prepared for extraordinary jazz music which includes our headliners and many other guest surprises.”

-Les DeMerle, Artistic Director, Amelia Island Jazz Festival

The Festival’s educational programs culminate in the Amelia Island Jazz Festival Scholarship. This financial award goes to deserving high school musicians who demonstrate strong potential to perform jazz at the collegiate level.
The Dynamic Les DeMerle Band with Bonnie Eisele

Renowned drummer, band leader and Jazz Festival Artistic Director, Les has played with Harry James 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.”

Bria Skonberg

Skonberg focuses on innovating while honoring tradition; She has studied with Warren Vache, experimented with fuzz pedals and presented a gig fusing jazz and stand up comedy. Best known for her knowledge of classic jazz and pursuit of worldwide adventure, she is creating a style all her own rooted in swampy New Orleans grooves, featuring world percussion and contemporary soul influenced vocals.

Houston Person

Person studied at South Carolina State College where he was inducted into the school’s Hall of Fame in 1999. In the United States Air Force, he joined a service band stationed in West Germany, and played with Don Ellis, Eddie Harris, Cedar Walton, and Leo Wright. He first became known for a series of albums for Prestige Records in the 1960s. Contrary to popular belief, he was never married to the vocalist Etta Jones, but did spend many years as her musical partner, recording, performing and touring, and for much of his career this association was what he was best known for.

Les DeMerle & Bonnie Eisele

Sunday, October 2 • 2 pm - 4 pm
Jazz in the Park - Free Concert at Amelia Park
Park Street near the YMCA (between 14th and Citrona, Fernandina Beach, FL). Bring your lawn chairs and blankets.
BBQ available by Gilbert’s Underground Kitchen
Tickets: $30 per person (Cash Bar - Food Available)

Monday, October 3 • 7 pm - 10 pm
Jazz Festival Sponsor Party
Horizons Gourmet Restaurant
5472 First Coast Hwy. - Amelia Island, FL
A very special evening featuring the Les DeMerle Jazz All-Stars with Bonnie Eisele - vocals, Doug Matthews - piano, Ernie Ealum - bass, plus special guest Dr. Bill Prince.
By invitation only for Bronze Saxophone Sponsors and above

Go online and become a Saxophone Sponsor Today!

Wednesday, October 5 • 7 pm - 10 pm
Jump, Joe and Wal! Swing Night Concert & Dance
Sandy Bottoms Beach Bar & Grill
2910 Atlantic Avenue
Fernandina Beach, FL - Main Beach
Tickets: $30 per person (Cash Bar - Food Available)

Thursday, October 6 • 7 pm - 10 pm
Hot Latin Jazz - Concert & Dance
Sandy Bottoms Beach Bar & Grill
2910 Atlantic Avenue
Fernandina Beach, FL - Main Beach
Featuring: Trio Caliente - Flamenko, Pop, and Brazilian Jazz that has been enjoyed all around the world.
Tickets: $30 per person (Cash Bar - Food Available)

Friday, October 7 • 7 pm - 10 pm
Jazz Legend Houston Person in Concert
Venue: St. Michael Parish Hall
505 Broom Street - Fernandina Beach
Starring: Houston Person, a legendary tenor saxophonist who pays close attention to melody and has a deep sense of the blues.
10:30 pm - ‘til...
Late Night Jam at “Dizzy’s Den”
Arte Pizza
109 N. 3rd Street - Fernandina Beach
Bebop, Blues and Beyond
Hosted by Jazz Vocalist Lisa Kelly featuring 2016 AIF Scholarship winner Thomas Milovac Quintet plus special guests
General Admission $40 per person (Includes Late Night Jam)
Late Night Jam Session $20 per person (Snacks and Beverages available)

Saturday, October 8 • 7 pm - 10 pm
Jazz Trumpeter/Vocalist, Bria Skonberg in Concert
Venue: St. Michael Parish Hall
505 Broom Street - Fernandina Beach
Starring: Bria Skonberg, a specialist in classic American hot jazz; Bria expands the vocabulary and traditions of Louis Armstrong and Sidney Bechet with worldly rhythms and modern jazz variance.
10:30 pm - ‘til...
Late Night Jam at “Dizzy’s Den”
Arte Pizza
109 N. 3rd Street - Fernandina Beach
Bebop, Blues and Beyond
Hosted by Jazz Vocalist Lisa Kelly featuring 2016 AIF Scholarship winner Thomas Milovac Quintet plus special guests
General Admission $40 per person (Includes Late Night Jam)
Late Night Jam Session $20 per person (Snacks and Beverages available)

Sunday, October 9
Seating 1: 11 am - 12:30 pm • Seating 2: 1 - 2:30 pm
Dine to Swing Jazz Brunch at the Florida House Inn
22 South 3rd Street - Fernandina Beach, FL
Featuring: The Spare Rib Six Dixieland Band, J.B. Scott - tromper, Bill Prince - clarinet, Clarence Hines - trombone, Mike Levine - piano, Dennis Marks - bass, Les DeMerle - drums and Bonnie Eisele - vocals, plus special surprise guests
Tickets: $60 per person (Includes Special Jazz Festival Menu. Cash bar available)

Tickets:
VIP $65 per person (Includes Late Night Jam)
General Admission $40 per person (Includes Late Night Jam)
Late Night Jam Session $20 per person (Snacks and Beverages available)