The 2017 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 Roseanna Vitro with a vocal tribute to Ella Fitzgerald and international jazz flautist Néstor Torres. In addition we are proud to present the return of the hot and exciting Latin band, Trio Caliente.

“Come to the 2017 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 Amelia Island Jazz Festival provides a rich, diverse cultural offering to the Amelia Island area by exposing thousands of people of all ages and backgrounds to the sounds, excitement and vitality of great jazz — a uniquely American art form.

Music is performed by jazz greats as well as fresh, up-and-coming young talent.

Performances are staged in several venues around Amelia Island: the Fernandina Beach Golf Club, the newly opened Sandbar & Kitchen, Horizons Gourmet Restaurant, the Amelia Island Wine Company, Sliders Beach Bar & Grill as well as Amelia Park.

The cornerstone of the Festival is its Educational Programs led by Les DeMerle, the Festival’s Artistic Director. These programs include Jazz in Schools, Jazz for Kids and Jazz for Seniors.

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.

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—Les DeMerle, Artistic Director, Amelia Island Jazz Festival

“I feel honored to be selected as the official artist for the Amelia Island Jazz Festival. Listening to jazz and blues during the painting process gives me the energy to create intense artwork.”

—Alfred “Alex” Gockel (2017 AIJF official artist)
2017 Schedule of Concerts & Events

Sunday, October 8 • 2 - 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 own chairs and blankets, BBQ available by Gilbert’s Underground Kitchen
Featuring: the exciting 21 piece University of North Florida Jazz Ensemble II directed by Dennis Marks

Monday, October 9 • 7 - 9 pm
Jazz Festival Sponsor Party
Horizons Gourmet Restaurant
5472 First Coast Hwy, Amelia Island, FL
A very special evening is hosted by Les DeMerle - drums and Bonnie Eisele - vocals, plus special guests.
By invitation only for Bronze Saxophone Sponsors and above.
Go online and become a Saxophone Sponsor Today!

Tuesday, October 10 • 5 - 7 pm
Wine Tasting & Jazz
The Amelia Island Wine Company
4924 First Coast Highway, Suite 1 – Amelia Island, FL 32034
Featuring: Multi-Instrumentalist! Bill Prince - Trumpet, Trombone, Clarinet & Flute and Doug Matthews - Piano
Hosted by AUF Artistic Director Les DeMerle - drums
Tickets: $30 per person

Wednesday, October 11 • 7 - 10 pm
Jump, Jive And Wail/Swing Night Concert & Dance
The Sandbar & Kitchen (formerly Sandy Bottoms)
2910 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Beach, FL - Main Beach
Tickets: $30 per person (Cash Bar - Food Available)

Thursday, October 12 • 7 - 10 pm
Hot Latin Jazz - Concert & Dance
The Sandbar & Kitchen (formerly Sandy Bottoms)
2910 Atlantic Ave, Fernandina Beach, FL - Main Beach
Featuring: Trio Caliente - Flamenco, Pop, and Brazilian Jazz that has been enjoyed all around the world.
Tickets: $30 per person (Cash Bar - Food Available)

Friday, October 13 • 7 - 10 pm
Roseanna Vitro – A Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald
Fernandina Beach Golf Club
2800 Bill Melton Road - Fernandina Beach
Starring: Roseanna Vitro, a soulful communicator, showcasing a thirst for swinging hard and possessing an ear for melodic invention. Tonight she dedicates her vocal talents to Ella Fitzgerald.
Also featuring ART OF THE TRIO with special guests: The Les DeMerle Trio - drums, Mike Levine - piano, Dennis Marks - bass plus special guest Bonnie Eisele vocals, Sam Rodriguez - percussion
10:30 pm - 'til...
Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy's Den"
Sliders Beach Bar & Grill (upstairs)
1996 S. Fletcher Ave. - Fernandina Beach
Vip $65 per person (Includes Late Nite Jam)
General Admission $45 per person (Includes Late Nite Jam)
Late Nite Jam Session $20 per person (Snacks and Beverages available)

Saturday, October 14 • 7 - 10 pm
Néstor Torres in Concert
Fernandina Beach Golf Club
2800 Bill Melton Road - Fernandina Beach
Starring: Grammy Award winning Néstor Torres’ rhythmic and melodicfull fuel sound remains apart in a class all by itself.
Also featuring ART OF THE TRIO with special guests: The Les DeMerle Trio - Les DeMerle - drums, Mike Levine - piano, Dennis Marks - bass with special guest Bonnie Eisele vocals, Sam Rodriguez - percussion
10:30 pm - 'til...
Late Nite Jam at "Dizzy’s Den"
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The Spare Rib Six

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".

The Dynamic Les DeMerle Band with Bonnie Eisele

Jazz musician. Néstor was inspired by people like Cal Tjader, Dave Brubeck, and Tito Puente. He began studying, flute at age 12. In 1981, he hooked up with a Latin act called Hansel and Raúl and moved to Miami, where he’s been based ever since.

Néstor Torres

Roseanna Vitro

Roseanna is a soulful communicator, showcasing a thirst for swinging hard and possessing an ear for melodic invention. Her strengths include rhythmic acuity and free-spirited spontaneity, often heard in her improvisations, using both scat syllables and lyrics. Ms. Vitro’s signature energy and grace can be heard on a host of albums.

Rosesanna Vitro's signature energy and grace can be heard on a host of...