THE MOJO JAZZETTE
MYSTIC ORDER OF THE JAZZ OBSESSED 25th anniversary
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KEEP YOUR MOJO WORKIN'...JOIN US ON FOURTH MONDAYS MONTHLY!!

ASTRAL PROJECT MAKES ITS MOJO DEBUT OCT. 26TH

Come check out ASTRAL PROJECT this Monday night at "Carmen's Club!"Leading Astral Project is **Tony Dagradi** performing on both tenor and soprano saxophones. With his stunning technique and singular tone, he brings emotional urgency to each solo. For over three decades he has made his home in New Orleans, performing on tenor and soprano sax with many of the Crescent City's most celebrated artists, including Ellis Marsalis, Allen Toussaint, James Booker, The Meters, Dr. John, James Black, Johnny Adams and Gatemouth Brown.. Since 1990 Dagradi has been a Professor of Saxophone and Jazz Studies at Loyola University in NewOrleans where he maintains a large saxophone studio, teaches classes in improvisation, and directs various ensembles.

Steve Masakowski has long been regarded as one of the most awe-inspiring guitarists and composers in contemporary music. He plays unique seven-string guitars of his own design that are hand-made by New Orleans luthier Sal Giardina. Steve is a major voice whose extraordinary musicality has been welcomed in concert with such jazz greats as Woody Shaw, Carl Fontana, Dave Liebman, Jimmy Smith, Sam Rivers and, most recently, Dianne Reeves, Bennie Wallace and Rick Margitza. He was honored with the National Endowment For The Arts fellowship, several grants from The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation and one from the Louisiana Division of The Arts.

James Singleton is a conduit of pure energy who, to a large degree, defines the sound of Astral Project. His solid rhythmic concept and harmonic sense are the foundation of this innovative group's improvisational strength. James has performed in concert with such modern jazz musicians as John Abercrombie, John Scofield, Art Baron, Ellis Marsalis, Earl Turbinton and Eddie Harris. He has appeared with swing and traditional greats Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Lionel Hampton, Arnette Cobb and Banu Gibson. James produced the Astral Project album "Elevado".

In his very personal approach to percussion, master drummer **John Vidacovich** combines elements of New Orleans' traditional rhythms with free techniques and mainstream sensibilities. He is at once a brilliant soloist and a highly sensitive accompanist with the ability to detect and quickly enhance even the most subtle change of direction. His acclaimed performances have brought him international recognition as the quintessential modern New Orleans drummer. His unique style and conviction has led to performances with jazz masters Joe Henderson, Donald Byrd, Kenny Baron, Eddie Harris, Nat Adderley, Joe Williams, Ray Anderson and Bennie Wallace, plus work with such Southern legends as Professor Longhair, James Booker and Mose Allison. Tickets are selling fast for this incredible band's MOJO debut...get your ticket today at MOJOJAZZ.ORG.

JJ tickets are selling fast ...
GET YOURS TODAY @ mojojazz.org!

Old-school flavor returns to MOJO's October 28th Jazz Jambalaya with $11.95 chicken and smoked sausage jambalaya / side salad combo at The Insider Food Hall's Delta Pizza stand.

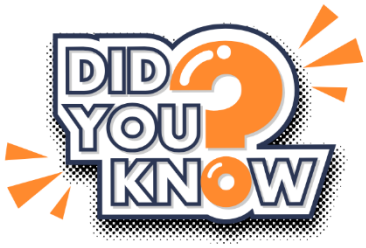
Onstage, Astral Project is the real McCoy—stellar musicians delivering a top-shelf performance.

Need website assistance? Member tickets or Log-ins? Visit our new Concierge Corner help desk. Plus, a huge shout-out to Sumpter McGowin, officially MOJO's 200th member for 2026!

Memberships will be available to renew on January 1, 2027. General membership meeting will be during the February 22. 2027 Jazz Jambalaya.

"Slow down, 'cause where you're going is gonna be there when you get there! And nothing happens until you get there, baby... Str8 ahead!!"
- Carmen Brown

MOJO 25TH ANNIVERSARY JAZZ JAMFEST RECAP



October holds several major milestones in jazz history, including the birthdates of legendary innovators and the launch of iconic avant-garde movements.

Landmark Jazz Events in October

- October 1–4, 1964: Trumpeter and composer Bill Dixon organized the October Revolution in Jazz at the Cellar Café in New York City. This landmark four-day avant-garde festival featured performances by innovators like Cecil Taylor and Steve Lacy, and directly led to the creation of the Jazz Composers Guild.

Prominent October Jazz Birthdays

Jelly Roll Morton: Born October 20, 1890 – Pioneer pianist, composer, and bandleader from New Orleans.

Thelonious Monk: Born October 10, 1910 – High priest of bebop and visionary composer/pianist known for his unique harmonic style.

Art Blakey: Born October 11, 1918 – Legendary hard bop drummer and leader of the Jazz Messengers.

Dizzy Gillespie: Born October 21, 1917 – Virtuoso trumpet player, composer, and key architect of bebop alongside Charlie Parker.

Esperanza Spalding: Born October 18, 1984 – Modern Grammy-winning jazz bassist, cellist, and singer.

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