

## Texas Jazz Fest Revue

Texas is known for boot-scootin' country music. But the Lone Star State also boasts a small but devoted jazz scene. Across the state, jazz fests spotlight various styles, ranging from big band to fusion to Latin jazz. In addition to the Denton Arts & Jazz Festival (see the accompanying article), major annual festivals that keep fingers snapping include:

### **North Texas Jazz Festival**, Addison, Apr. 2-4, 2004

The city of Addison and the University of North Texas Division of Jazz Studies co-sponsor this jazzy blend of shows and workshops, held at the Hotel Inter-Continental Dallas, 15201 Dallas Pkwy. During the day, there are workshops and free public performances by jazz groups from America's top high schools and universities. Also free are narrated showings of vintage jazz performance films from the Hal Miller collection. Evening shows spotlight professional artists--including New York headliners, the John Pizzarelli Trio on Friday and the James Williams Sextet on Saturday. A Sunday brunch features Houston's Sebastian Whittaker and the Creators. Tickets for each night's performance and, separately, for the brunch are \$35 per person. Several top UNT jazz groups also perform during the festival. For more information call 1-800 ADDISON or 972/450-6281.

### **Houston International Jazz Festival**, Aug. 6-8, 2004

The beat goes on during the first weekend of August in the heart of Texas' largest city. Downtown's Jones Plaza (615 Louisiana St.) becomes a sizzling outdoor jazz village, and the Verizon Wireless Theater (520 Texas Ave.) hosts cool tunes indoors. Friday is Latin Jazz Nite--featuring (ACTS TO COME) outdoors and (ACT TO

COME) indoors. Saturday's acts include (ACTS TO COME) outdoors and (ACTS TO COME) indoors. There's also a late-night Jazz Festival After-Party at the Hyatt Regency Houston (1200 Louisiana St.). Admission: (INFO TO COME). Sunday features the invitation-only Mayor's Jazz Brunch. (NOTE: I INCLUDE THIS ONLY BECAUSE IT HELPS THE FESTIVAL DATES MAKE SENSE.)

For more information, contact Jazz Education, Inc. (713/839-7000; [www.jazzeducation.org](http://www.jazzeducation.org)).

### **Brownsville Latin Jazz Festival**, Oct. 15-17, 2004

What better place for Latin jazz than the Rio Grande Valley, rich in Hispanic traditions, old and new! This annual South Texas festival began in 1997 with a bang--it's first headliner was the King of Latin Jazz, Tito Puente. Regional and national acts cover the rhythmic sounds of salsa and merengue, mambo and samba, son and danzón, plus the fusion of flamenco and jazz. This year's gathering also features a popular salsa dance showcase and competition.

For details, contact the Brownsville Society for the Performing Arts (956/831-7818); [www.brosociety.org/Jazz](http://www.brosociety.org/Jazz)).

### **Texas Jazz Festival**, Corpus Christi, Oct. 15-17, 2004

Just up the Gulf Coast, mid-October also brings the state's oldest jazz fest. Designated by the Legislature as the "Official Jazz Festival of Texas," this musical extravaganza holds its 44th annual jazz-arama at Corpus Christi's Heritage Park (1581 N. Chaparral). Three nonstop outdoor stages spotlight music from a range of jazz traditions played by local, regional, and national artists. There's also a jazz mass on

Sunday. Closer to festival time, call for headliners. Contact the Texas Jazz Festival Society (361/883-4500; [www.texasjazz-fest.org](http://www.texasjazz-fest.org)).

--Randy Mallory

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