

# Best Ever Jazz Festival Set For Oct 16-20

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*"The upcoming fourteenth annual Roswell Jazz Festival, this October 16-20, may very well be the most exciting one to date. It will feature more world-class musicians than ever, and will include both ticketed performances and free events, educational classes for students and adults, a blues show, jam session, a Sunday morning jazz worship service, and our special Sunday jazz piano showcase." —*  
**—Charles Gordon, Roswell Jazz Festival President**

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*Virtuoso jazz pianist Ted Rosenthal will be performing.*



*Top Bassist Richard Simon is this year's RJF Guest of Honor.*

## RJF Expands Educational Component

Thanks to the engagement of a new venue feature this year and the solid support of Roswell Independent School District, the festival will be able to expand the 'RJF School of Jazz' educational component. The RJF strongly believes that educating our youth about the American art form of jazz music, including teaching its colorful history and instruction on performing is a high priority. The festival board of directors has established an educational scholarship fund that will allow fortunate local talented musicians to receive an all-expense paid trip to Denton, TX to attend the prestigious North Texas State University summer jazz camp.

Past festivals have included an outreach concert performed at three Roswell schools and a Saturday morning 'RJF School of Jazz' mentoring session led by the professionals. In the coming 2019 festival, Roswell Independent School District is generously supporting our efforts to reach and teach the young by bussing in 1000 students from four schools to attend our "RJF School of Jazz" performances. This year's educational plans also include jazz listening, a drum circle workshop, a Latin jazz performance and Zumba and swing dance lessons.

## Four Ways To Support the Goals of the Roswell Jazz Festival

1. Make a tax deductible contribution to the festival on our website at [roswelljazz.org](http://roswelljazz.org)
2. The RJF donor sponsorship program is in now in full swing. If you would like to sponsor one of our great musicians, please contact the RJF board of directors at [jazzroswell@gmail.com](mailto:jazzroswell@gmail.com) or call 505 359-4876 for information.
3. Purchase an ad in our souvenir program. Information at 575 808-9336.
4. Simply purchase tickets and enjoy the festival.

## Come out and enjoy the following musicians...

**Piano:** Roger Dickerson; Michael Francis; Ted Rosenthal; Barron Ryan; Johnny Varro.

**Bass:** Richard Simon - 2019 Guest of Honor; Juan Lechuga. Erik Unsworth; Tom Wakeling;

**Drums:** Ricky Malichi; Butch Miles; Chuck Redd; Jesus Velazquez.

**Guitar:** Pepe Carmona; Rich Chorné; Rebecca Kilgore; Curt Warren.

**Trumpet / Cornet / Flugelhorn:** Christine Fawson; Charles Gordon; David Jellema; Randy Sandke.

**Trombone:** John Allred; Dan Barrett.

**Tuba:** Dr. Jim Shearer.

**Tenor Saxophone:** Harry Allen; Glenn Kostur; Ken Peplowski; Houston Person.

**Clarinet:** Danny Garcia ; David Jellema; Ken Peplowski, Allan Vaché.

**Vibraphone:** Chuck Redd.

**Vocalists:** Dan Barrett; Pepe Carmona; Rich Chorné; Christine Fawson; Rebecca Kilgore; Cathy Lyon; Cecilia Noel; Dr. Jim Shearer; Hillary Smith.

Eastern NM University - Portales Jazz Combo

Roswell High Jazz Combo

**Check the RJF Website [roswelljazz.org](http://roswelljazz.org) after September 1 for detailed scheduling information.**

## Festival Overview

### Wednesday Oct.16

RJF presents 'Blues Night' at Stellar Coffee, 7-10 p.m., 315 N. Main.

### Thursday Oct. 17

RJF presents free educational seminars at Roswell Civic Center, 11 a.m.- 2 p.m., 912 N. Main.

RJF presents world-class jazz at Roswell Civic Center, 6-10 p.m. 912 N.

### Friday October 18

RJF presents world-class jazz at Chaves County Courthouse lawn, 12-1:30 p.m., 400 N. Main.

RJF presents free educational seminars 2-4 p.m

RJF Presents Blues & Jazz on the Patio at Peppers Grill and Bar 5 - 6:45

RJF presents world-class jazz at Roswell Civic Center, 6-11 p.m. 912 N.

### Saturday Oct. 19

RJF presents free student workshops with ENMU - Portales jazz combo plus Latin jazz and High Energy Zumba at Roswell Civic Center, 9 - 10 am and 1 - 3 p.m., 912 N. Main.

Jazz Brunch at Pecos Flavors Winery, 412 W. Second.

RJF presents live world-class jazz at Roswell Civic Center, 6-11 p.m., 912 N.

### Sunday Oct. 20

Worship in Jazz, First United Methodist Church, 10:30 a.m.-12 noon, 200 N. Pennsylvania.

RJF presents 'Piano Showcase,' Anderson Museum of Contemporary Art, 2-4 p.m., 409 E. College

**Pecos Valley Jazz and Arts Festival is a 501 c(3) d.b.a. Roswell Jazz Festival, 400 W. Third St., Roswell, NM 88201 505 359-4876.**

**Email:** [jazzroswell@gmail.com](mailto:jazzroswell@gmail.com)

**Website:** [roswelljazz.org](http://roswelljazz.org)

## **FROM THE ARCHIVES**

# **Hurricane Katrina, Dr. Roger Dickerson, Frank Schlatter and the Roswell Jazz Festival**

Everyone knows that people the world over associate Roswell, New Mexico with the UFO phenomenon and purported crash of a “flying saucer” back in 1947. But a growing number of musicians and fans worldwide are discovering the exciting, world-class event that takes place in Roswell during the third week each October. It is the Roswell Jazz Festival, a cultural event dedicated to celebrating America’s art form and educating youth. This year’s festival, schedule for October 16-20, marks the fourteenth annual event.

But, how did an unlikely New Mexico city like Roswell become a Mecca for some of America’s top jazz musicians and fans? A New Mexico jazz festival was spawned by a hurricane? The story is unique.

In early September 2005, a direct connection was created between Roswell and New Orleans, LA, the city known as the ‘birthplace of jazz,’ via the wrath of Hurricane Katrina and the friendship of two men with a vision. Retired Roswell educator Frank Schlatter and RRPulitzer Prize nominated symphonic composer and jazz pianist Dr. Roger Dickerson of New Orleans had kept in touch since serving together in he 33<sup>rd</sup> U.S. Army Band in Heidelberg, Germany. When Katrina hit New Orleans, Dickerson was forced to evacuate his home when floodwater reached a level of five feet inside, covered his grand piano and destroyed many of his precious musical manuscripts. Upon reaching safety in San Antonio, TX days later, Dickerson finally had access to a telephone bank allowing him an opportunity to check in with his many friends across the country. A phone call to Schlatter in Roswell would prove to be a fortuitous one for Roswell. Schlatter naturally invited Dickerson to come to Roswell and take refuge in his home while weathering the storm and the anticipated lengthy New Orleans cleanup. Dickerson accepted the invitation. No one realized back then what lay ahead. Dickerson's visit would sow the seeds for the birth of a new event in the city in the form of a world-class jazz festival that, with dedication and hard work, would gradually develop into a cultural treasure, become respected nation wide, and continue on for years. Michael Francis, Roswell festival artistic director, had been aware of Dr. Dickerson since the early 80s by way of a mutual friend who was studying piano with him in New Orleans. “I was thrilled when I heard Dr. Dickerson was in town,” said Francis. “I knew that this was going to be a very special blessing for Roswell. I was thrilled again when I learned I was being invited to perform some two-piano duets with him at Pecos Flavors Winery. These duets, along with several other successful events, drew enthusiastic, supportive audiences.” The charisma and spiritual energy that Dickerson brought to Roswell became contagious.

In October 2006, through the tireless efforts of an all-volunteer staff headed by Schlatter, who established the festival as a 501 c(3) non-profit organization, combined with the extremely generous financial support from local businesses and patrons, the first Roswell Jazz Festival became a reality. Many of America’s best jazz musicians were invited, including tenor saxophone legend Houston Person whom, ironically, had served in Heidelberg with Schlatter and Dickerson. Other guests at the first festival included pianist Rossano Sportiello from Milan, Italy, trumpeter Randy Sandke, tenor saxophonist Harry Allen, bassist Nicki Parrott from New York

City, vibraphonist / drummer Chuck Redd from Maryland, vocalist Rebecca Kilgore from Oregon, trombonist Dan Barrett, and guitarist Eddie Erickson from California. Many of these greats have become 'RJF family regulars' over the years and the number of performers at each festival has gradually also increased each year. Dr. Dickerson re-established his residency in New Orleans but has returned to Roswell each of the last thirteen years to perform in the festival.

### **Some new faces in the RJF festival family:**



*Christine Fawson, trumpet  
and vocal stylist.*



Cornetist / Clarinetist  
David Jellema.



Butch Miles, legendary  
drummer.