



## “NEA GRANT REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN”: \$25,000 IN 30 DAYS FOR 30 YEARS OF JAZZ.

### **DONATE TODAY. JUST 5 DAYS REMAIN!**

Your Contribution To This Special “30-Day NEA Replacement Campaign”  
Is Greatly Appreciated. Thank You.

Dear “We Always Swing”® Jazz Series Concertgoer, Enthusiast & Supporter:

On May 2 the “We Always Swing”® Jazz Series learned our **APPROVED \$25,000 National Endowment for the Arts “Grants For Arts Projects” request – was summarily “withdrawn by the agency”** due to the Administration’s altered “funding priorities.” Our submission, with its February 2024 deadline, was a key financial piece of our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, included as part of the **current FY25 budget, which ENDS IN 5 DAYS ON JUNE 30**. Imagine how excited we were upon receiving TWO NEA emails, one in November 2024 and the other in January 2025, both **CONFIRMING** the much-needed support for the recently completed **BOBBY WATSON/ COLUMBIA JAZZ ORCHESTRA CONCERT** that, on April 30, attracted more than 500 people to the Missouri Theatre.



Set in motion more than a year in advance to take place on the annual UNESCO-sponsored **International Jazz Day**, the concert featured the home-grown 18-piece **COLUMBIA JAZZ ORCHESTRA** performing the music, featuring and under the direction of **BOBBY WATSON**, the highly respected, well-known veteran saxophonist.

As the Jazz Series is wont to do – thinking “big,” creatively and imaginatively – the project as outlined in the NEA application encompassed far more than just a major concert. Given the event’s timing and significance, the **Jazz Series hired professional film and audio crews** to capture the entire concert and augment the endeavor via musician and other interviews. **Now in post-production, the concert film is set to be released in late 2025 or early 2026 with an accompanying full-length publicly screened documentary.**

The Jazz Series, in anticipation of receiving \$25,000 from the NEA, and having no reason to think otherwise, proceeded with the project beginning in January. The Jazz Series has now covered the vast majority of the revised \$60,385, budget, **forcing the organization to**

**UNEXPECTEDLY withdraw funds** from the “We Always Swing”® Jazz Foundation Fund.

**The condensed fundraising “30-DAY NEA GRANT REPLACEMENT CAMPAIGN” timeline concludes IN JUST 5 DAYS.** We are asking everyone who appreciates what the Jazz Series has added to the community’s cultural landscape since 1995 to consider making AN ADDITIONAL DONATION AT THIS TIME. If you haven’t contributed in a year or more, then there truly is no better time for your generosity to have immediate impact. Similarly, if you have been meaning to, but have yet to donate to the Jazz Series previously, again, this would be a great time to do so.



**A loss of this magnitude greatly impacts the Jazz Series.** Throughout the Jazz Series' three-decade run, the organization has never shied away from presenting the best artists in the world; it has never shied away from producing larger-scale programs such as the Watson-CoJo Collaboration. There's "A Night of Jazz & Baseball" (2001), the multi-media Capt. Black commissioned tribute to Thomas Hart Benton (2016) and celebrations such as "A Chunk of Monk" (2012) and the "Mingus & Kerouac" program on the occasion of the two legendary figures' centennial (2022). World premieres have taken place under Jazz Series auspices.

"Losing" \$25,000, particularly after being informed on TWO occasions that we *would* receive it, sent a financial shock wave through the Jazz Series. For the Jazz Series to remain an integrity-driven project, we must continue to successfully negotiate the pesky fine line and delicate balance that exists between art and commerce. Simply put, at this time we need your assistance to maintain such an approach.

While the staff and board of directors serve as Jazz Series stewards, it is *you* – the participants – on whatever level you choose, who play a significant role in building and strengthening the Jazz Series. It is the collective *you* who has kept the Jazz Series humming along for three decades and counting.

- The Jazz Series Staff & Board of Directors

### **DONATE ONLINE NOW!**

- Call To Donate: 573/449-3009
  - Donate In-Person:  
21 N. Tenth St., Columbia, MO 65201.
- Please make checks payable to: "We Always Swing,"® Inc.
- For Information On Planned Giving & Donating Stocks Please Call 573/449-3009.  
*Jazz Series Hours: Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.*

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***Thank You For Your Ongoing Support!  
We Would Not Be Here Without You.***