



177 State Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604

Tickets: 866-811-4111 or [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org) • Info: 203-333-3666

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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUSICIANS CONVERGE IN BRIDGEPORT FOR  
*JAZZAPALOOZA!*  
AN EVENING OF JAZZ TO BENEFIT PLAYHOUSE ON THE GREEN  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009 at 8PM.**

**Fairfield Jazz Guild, Michael Jovovich, Dr. Joe Utterback, The BeBop Men,  
and others to perform in one-night-only concert.**

BRIDGEPORT, CT - **Playhouse on the Green**, a not-for-profit theater company performing in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, announces a **special one-night-only concert: *JAZZAPALOOZA!***, which takes place **Friday, September 25 at 8PM**. *Jazzapalooza!* features live performances by the best jazz musicians in Fairfield County, including the **Fairfield Jazz Guild**, singer **Michael Jovovich**, pianist **Dr. Joe Utterback**, and drummer **Brian Coralian**. **The BeBop Men** - saxophonist **Tony LaVorgna** and guitarist **Richie Kaye**, also are scheduled to perform. All proceeds benefit Playhouse on the Green as it launches its 2009-2010 season of plays and musicals featuring community talent, as well as arts education programs.

Of *Jazzapalooza!*, Playhouse on the Green's Producing Artistic Director, Matt Schicker, says: "We are so grateful to Michael Jovovich, who organized this concert, and all the wonderful jazz folk who are donating their performances to help the Playhouse continue to bring live entertainment at an affordable cost to the Greater Bridgeport area. Music lovers should not miss this chance to hear these terrific musicians in our intimate venue."

**Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased 24/7 on-line at [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org) or by calling TheaterMania at (866) 811-4111 (phone hours 9-9 weekdays, 10-6 weekends).**

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Playhouse on the Green is located at 177 State Street between Main Street and Markle Court in downtown Bridgeport. Free, secure parking one block from the theater is available. For more information visit [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org) or call 203-333-3666.

### **Michael Jovovich**

A native of Philadelphia, Michael Jovovich has been a fixture on the theater and concert circuit for many years. In keeping with the American Songbook tradition, his musical tastes have been influenced by legends such as Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra, and Judy Garland, among others. He collaborated with Dr. Joe Utterback on his first CD, "Ladies and Gentlemen...Michael Jovovich", and recently teamed up with Dr. Joe again for "Beautiful Night", a collection of Christmas songs which will be available soon. Locally he has performed at the Downtown Cabaret Theatre, the Performance Studio, the Boston Post Road Stage Company, Playhouse on the Green, Westport Playhouse, and the Darien Arts Center with such luminaries as Paul Newman, Celeste Holm, Anthony Quinn, Isaac Stern, and Beverly Sills. He resides in Milford with his wife, Joanne, his three children, three cats, and one stubborn Bassett Hound named Lou. Michael works in the Emergency Department at Bridgeport Hospital and also is the tenor soloist at the First Congregational Church of Stratford. Visit [www.michaeljovovich.com](http://www.michaeljovovich.com) for more info.

### **Brian Coralian**

Over the past decade in Fairfield County, Brian Coralian has quietly built a reputation as a solid, tasteful, and versatile drummer. He has supported singers and instrumentalists in orchestral, gospel, blues, jazz, country, rock, and musical theater performances throughout the tri-state area. Internationally, Brian is best known as one half of the power-drumming duo keeping the pulse for IZZ, the progressive rock phenomenon. IZZ has sold thousands of CDs around the world and play festivals on both U.S. coasts annually. They currently are finishing up the recording of their latest CD, tentatively titled "Illuminata."

### **Tony LaVorgna**

Nationally-known jazz saxophonist Tony LaVorgna has been playing professionally for over 40 years. He is the House Saxophonist for the prestigious Tavern on the Green in New York, and has toured with the Tommy Dorsey and Jimmy Dorsey bands. He has collaborated on and recorded several CDs and has written a play based on his own comic book called "BeBop Man", which received a developmental reading at Playhouse on the Green as part of the "Page to Stage New Play Reading Series".

### **Richie Kaye**

Richie Kaye was seen on vaudeville stages in a past life. Composer of "King Kohoutek," the well-known rock opera about a Utopian sect of rubber farmers in Ohio who await the return of the comet first seen in 1973, his voice may be heard in dramatic, industrial and commercial voice-overs (scifi.com, USA Network, Invent, Engelhard Corp., etc.). Formerly lead banjo with the French Foreign Legion Emergency Attack Jazz Squad, Rich plays a DeCava archtop guitar, sings, and has more fun than any adult is supposed to have. Visit [www.myspace.com/richiekaye](http://www.myspace.com/richiekaye).

### **Dr. Joe Utterback**

Dr. Joe Utterback has been performing jazz for more than 40 years, since his first gig at the age of seventeen in Wichita, Kansas. His jazz journey has taken Joe throughout the United States and Europe, with long-term engagements in such jazz centers as St. Louis, Kansas City, and San Francisco. Much involved in the New York City music scene, Dr. Joe performs annually for the Tony Awards gala reception, in the lobby of The Empire State Building during the December holiday season, and a weekly gig. In addition to his numerous appearances in Fairfield County, the artist gives frequent solo concerts throughout the United States. Dr. Joe often presents improvisation workshops at regional and national conventions of such groups as the American Guild of Organists and the National Federation of Music Clubs. Also a composer, his works have been performed around the world. Joe's career in the recording industry dates from 1960s and in 1996, Connoisseur Society, Inc. released Joe's first solo jazz piano CD, *Gershwin: Porgy and Bess Jazz Suite*. Five additional Connoisseur CDs followed and in 2004, Joe recorded *Dr. Joe's JAZZ GOSPEL and Jazz Dreamz* under his own publishing label Jazzmuze, Inc. In

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June 2005, Connoisseur released Stardust, recorded right after 9/11. Joe is also actively involved in local studio work, recording with New York City cabaret singers. A Kansas native, Dr. Joe holds degrees in piano from Wichita State University, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Kansas. He teaches at Sacred Heart University; directs the Stratford Sister Cities Chorus; and serves as Director of Music and Organist at the First Congregational Church of Stratford, Connecticut.

#### **About Playhouse on the Green**

Playhouse on the Green is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit theater company in residence at a beautiful 228-seat jewel-box theater in the heart of downtown Bridgeport, Connecticut. Playhouse on the Green's mission is to enrich Bridgeport's cultural life by providing an eclectic variety of live stage entertainment and arts education programs at an affordable cost, as well as providing opportunities for area artists. Among these programs are its mainstage season of plays and musicals; "Playhouse Greenhouse" and "Project Broadway", its arts education programs for kids, teens, and adults; a music and comedy series; and the "Page to Stage New Play Reading Series", which brings the new work of Connecticut playwrights to the stage. Playhouse on the Green is generously funded by Fairfield County Community Foundation, People's United Community Foundation, Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District, City of Bridgeport Community Development Block Grant, and CT Arts Endowment Fund Grant, as well as sponsorships and donations from businesses and individuals in the Greater Bridgeport area and beyond. More information can be found at [www.playhouseonthegreen.org](http://www.playhouseonthegreen.org).

CHECK [WWW.PLAYHOUSEONTHEGREEN.ORG](http://WWW.PLAYHOUSEONTHEGREEN.ORG) FOR COMPLETE UPDATED INFORMATION.

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