

NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

WELCOME TO THE 2024 SUBWAY SWING

ACTIVITIES & SCHEDULE

UPSTAIRS / SIGN GALLERY

30 minute lessons

6:00, 6:45, and 8:00:

Swing dance lessons with Odysseus Bailer
and Candice Michelle Franklin

UPSTAIRS / TICKET TO RIDE

45 minute sets

5:45: Danny Lipsitz and the
Brass Tacks

7:00: Danny Lipsitz and the
Brass Tacks

8:20: Eyal Vilner Band

UPSTAIRS / ON THE STREETS

45 minute set

7:15: Eyal Vilner Band



DOWNSTAIRS / PLATFORM

45 minute sets

6:00: Gretta and the Getaway

6:45: Phirocious Swing
Orchestra

7:30: Gretta and the Getaway

8:20: Phirocious Swing
Orchestra



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Featured Musicians:



Eyal Vilner is one of the leading voices in the New York and global swing scene. Born in Tel Aviv, saxophonist, clarinetist, flutist, composer and bandleader Eyal moved to New York in 2007 and started his big band the following year. The Eyal Vilner Big Band has been performing widely in New York City's landmarks such as Lincoln Center, the Guggenheim, Birdland, Dizzy's Club, Smalls, Minton's Playhouse, Harlem Jazzmobile and Central Park SummerStage. Internationally, Eyal has performed at the Red Sea Jazz Festival, Tel Aviv Museum, Jerusalem Theater; Ghent Festival, Belgium; Teatro Alameda, Spain; Théâtre Plaza, Montreal, as well as Paris Jazz Roots, the historical La Bellevilloise, Le Duc des Lombards, and Caveau de la Huchette in Paris, to name a few.

Eyal's interest in the exchange between sound and movement within the jazz idiom inspired his musical journey and yielded collaborations with acclaimed dancers and choreographers. Among these projects are theater productions, dance festivals and competitions such as the International Lindy Hop Championships, The Xperience, Midsummer Night's Swing, and the celebrated SW!NG OUT show at the Joyce Theater (co-creator and musical director). This show, which the New York Times has called "Groundbreaking," has toured throughout the US, in venues such as the Jacob's Pillow and the LA Music Center.

Eyal's band performs his original compositions as well as his new arrangements of jazz classics. Their music, which derives from the tradition of jazz, swing and the blues, strives to bring a unique voice to this beautiful art form. The big band's first seven albums: Introducing the Eyal Vilner Big Band, Almost Sunrise, Hanukkah, Swing Out!, Live in Washington Square Park!, The Jam!, and Swingin' Uptown received rave reviews and made it to the Top Jazz Radio Charts of the US and Canada.



Danny Lipsitz is one of the most sought-after bandleaders, musicians, and entertainers in New York City. Danny leads his swing, jump blues, klezmer, and early rock 'n' roll band, The Brass Tacks, in captivating, feel-good music for people from all walks of life.

A veteran of the swing dance scene, Danny has led The Brass Tacks at swing dances, jazz clubs, performing arts centers, and private events around the world. In 2024, they brought a 14-piece orchestra to headline ballroom dance night at "Summer For The City" at Lincoln Center, with an attendance of over 1,400 people.

Danny has an endless resume including work as a sideman to the most iconic rock 'n' roll, swing music, and jazz icons. He has performed, arranged, and recorded with artists like Julian Lennon, Bernie Williams, Harry Nilsson, Ronnie Spector, Paul Shaffer, Micky Dolenz, Tim Heidecker, Mark Hudson, Denny Laine, Brian Ray, Joey Molland, Carmine Appice, Earl Slick, The Louis Armstrong Eternity Band, Billy Vera, Alphonso Horne, Maria Muldaur, Ginkgoa, The Avalon Jazz Band, The Hot Sardines, Brian Newman, Murray Hill, Lucky Chops Brass Band, The Losers Lounge, The Gordon Webster Swing Band, Chris Norton, and many, many more.



Gretta Cavatassi is a New York City based jazz vocalist inspired by the roar of the swing era and timeless melodies from the Great American Songbook. She draws inspiration from the great vocalists that filled the dance halls of the Savoy Ballroom, like Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. Her compelling swing outfit, Gretta and the Getaway has charmed audiences and invigorated dance floors across New York.

Her passion for the music as well as traditional jazz dancing have given her live performances a strong sense of rhythm, swing, and connection between audiences and dancers alike. She's honed her skills performing with internationally touring bandleader Gordon Webster and big band leader Danny Jonokuchi. Gretta's unique vocal sound has been turning heads at her performances up and down the East Coast.



Myriam Phiro is an internationally-recognized French-Canadian performer, band leader and cabaret chanteuse who has performed on stages and in theaters worldwide. Lead singer/founder of "Jolie Môme", "Nuage Rhythm" "MARIPOSA" & "The Phirocious Swing Orchestra", she is currently promoting "PHIRO chante PIAF", her latest Edith Piaf tribute CD.

Her recent performances include sold-out concerts at world-famous Birdland, Joe's Pub, the Rainbow Room, Feinstein's/54 Below, the Iridium Jazz club, BB King's, & Metropolitan Room in NYC as well as at Montreal's International Jazz Festival & Montreux Jazz Festival. Her performing endeavors brought her to collaborate and share the stage with renowned artists such as Harry Connick Jr, Janis Siegel, Nicki Parrott, Marilyn Maye, Frank Vignola and Vince Giordano. Ms Phiro's performances feature a fresh take on jazz and French standards as well as the famous tunes of the Great American Songbook, all topped up with a delightful international flavor and a certain "joie de vivre".

Her debut full-length Jazz album "Voyages" received a nomination for a MAC Award in the "Best album" category. She was also a recipient of the "Hot House Jazz Awards" nomination in the "Best New Jazz Artist" category.

Dance Instructors:



Odysseus Bailer is a seasoned Lindy hopper and Blues dancer, Instructor, DJ and Cultural Lecturer. He has taught a dance events and special workshops from all around the world. He has been a staple in NYC dance teaching and DJing at local events. He has also taught at summer for the city at Lincoln Center for many years.

Besides from teaching dance, Odysseus has been one of the many voices in the scene advocating to go beyond just teaching dance steps but to further the understanding and knowledge about the Black American Culture.



Candice Michelle Franklin, born and bred in live jazz music and jazz dance, is a New York-based professional dancer, choreographer, and producer as well as Artistic Director for the live music and dance production group, JAZZ AIN'T DEAD®. She received her conservatory training at the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center and has continued her dance studies with the Ballroom Dance Teachers College of New Mexico. She is currently a certification candidate in Katherine Dunham technique.

Miss Franklin's choreography has been presented by such presenters as Jazzmobile, Harlem Arts Festival and Joyce SoHo and has been performed in a host of New York venues including Dizzy's Jazz at Lincoln Center, Lincoln Center Summer for the City, Jacob Javitz Convention Center, The Syracuse OnCenter, MTV/Viacom, Symphony Space, Brooklyn Academy of Music's BAM Cafe, and numerous others

Currently, Miss Franklin is a member of Lindy Hop's Next Generation Project through Herrang Dance Camp, Sweden, serves as choreographer for recording artist, ART AURÉ, tours as a Master Teacher/Adjudicator for Joffrey Ballet School and teaches throughout the US and abroad.