

# Clairdee's Jazz Express – A Family Matinee

Educational outreach program



Photo: Scott Chernis/SFJAZZ

## Contact

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## Artist's website

clairdee.com

"Clairdee's Jazz Express distinguishes itself through their standards of excellence. They know how to connect with audiences and keep them engaged."

– Ron Gallman  
Director of Youth Orchestra and Education Programs,  
San Francisco Symphony

"Clairdee's Jazz Express presented a lively and engaging concert for our diverse matinee audience – many of whom range in age between 2 and 10. The interactive component was clearly a highlight."

– Rebeca Mauleón  
Director of Education,  
SFJAZZ Center

"Clairdee's emotional investment is an inspiration."

– Susan Muscarella  
Founder and President,  
California Jazz Conservatory

"My mission is to engage, uplift and build community through music – creating narrative that inspires beyond the stage."  
– Clairdee

## Overview

- 50-minutes in length (including Q&A)
- voice, piano, bass, and drums

## About the Program

*Clairdee's Jazz Express* is a lively, highly interactive concert experience introducing the distinguishing characteristics of the uniquely American music form – jazz.

Highlighting improvisation and storytelling, the concert illustrates how all forms of jazz are an expression of feelings.

Informative and entertaining, this multi-talented group will have you singing, clapping, finger-snappin', and composing a new song!

## Objectives

- To provide an opportunity for families to experience and participate in a live music performance by world-class jazz musicians
- To introduce, encourage and cultivate an interest in jazz music
- To share the sheer joy and heightened emotions of music-making

## Featuring Clairdee's Touring Band

**Clairdee, vocals:** Recording artist and band leader, Clairdee tours worldwide and has performed with many jazz masters including Dick Hyman, Bucky Pizzarelli, Cyrus Chestnut, and Ken Peplowski. A 2018 Bay Area Jazz & Blues Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, she is a passionate educator and mentor: San Francisco Conservatory of Music; San Francisco Symphony; UC Berkeley's Jazz Dept; JazzSchool; non-profit Jazz in the Neighborhood.

**Ken French, piano:** An accomplished arranger and composer, Ken has performed with jazz greats Wynton Marsalis, Mary Stallings, and Ken Peplowski. He is music director for Clairdee.

**Ron Belcher, bass:** Ron has traveled around the globe bringing his rhythmically buoyant style to recordings and shows with artists Branford Marsalis, Regina Carter, Ledisi, and others.

**Jim Zimmerman, drums:** Jim's notable career includes performances and recordings with luminaries Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Dame Cleo Laine, and Vince Guaraldi.