

About the artists of
Dave Koz & Friends Summer Horns 2025: The Ultimate Summer Party

About Dave Koz

Dave Koz, who received a 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, was born and raised in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley. He initially saw the saxophone as a way to gain entry into his big brother's band. What began as a ploy became a lifelong obsession. After graduating from UCLA with a degree in mass communications, Koz decided to become a professional musician. Within weeks of that decision, he was recruited as a touring member of singer Bobby Caldwell's ("What You Won't Do For Love") band. It was during this time that Koz befriended keyboardist Jeff Lorber, who invited Koz to play on one of his tours. That stint was followed by a 14-month tour with pop singer Richard Marx.

Signed to Capitol Records by Bruce Lundvall in 1987, Koz released his self-titled solo debut album in the fall of 1990. This was the first installment in a large body of best-selling work, which includes the Gold-certified *Lucky Man* (1993), *Off the Beaten Path* (1996) and the holiday-themed albums *December Makes Me Feel This Way* (1997) and *Dave Koz & Friends: A Smooth Jazz Christmas* (2001). His Gold-certified fifth album, *The Dance* (1999), spawned no less than five Top 5 contemporary jazz hits. *Saxophonic* (2003) produced another four Top 5 singles and garnered two GRAMMY® nominations in two consecutive years.

In 2007, Koz released two chart-topping collections of standards. *At the Movies*, his lush, romantic celebration of timeless melodies from cinema, spent 12 weeks atop *Billboard's* Top Contemporary Jazz chart. Produced by the legendary Phil Ramone, it was nominated for a GRAMMY® in the Best Pop Instrumental Album category. *Memories of a Winter's Night*, a festive collection of holiday standards, hit No. 1 on *Billboard's* Top Contemporary Jazz chart in December 2007. *Dave Koz at the Movies Double Feature CD + DVD* followed in early 2008, which featured the *At the Movies* CD with two previously unreleased bonus audio tracks, a new DVD and a track-by-track commentary. Along the way, his numerous television appearances led to stints as band member on "The Arsenio Hall Show," as band leader on "Emeril Live" and as host of PBS's "Frequency."

Capitol Records released *Dave Koz: Greatest Hits*, his first-ever retrospective album, in the fall of 2008 and it debuted at No. 1 on both *Billboard's* Top Contemporary Jazz Albums chart and iTunes' Jazz Album chart. The collection featured many of Koz's smash singles, including "Castle of Dreams," "Can't Let You Go" (featuring Luther Vandross), "Together Again," "Honey-Dipped" and "All I See Is You," plus four brand new songs. The lead single, "Life in the Fast Lane," which Koz co-wrote with writer/producer Darren Rahn, spent seven weeks at No. 1 on the R&R Monitored Smooth Jazz chart. It was followed by the Top 5 single, "Bada Bing."

Hello Tomorrow, Dave's first album for Concord Records, debuted at No. 1 on both *Billboard's* Top Contemporary Jazz Albums chart and iTunes' Jazz Albums chart, and was named Best Smooth Jazz Album of 2010 by iTunes. The CD was nominated for a GRAMMY® Award for Best Pop Instrumental Album. Hailed as "an event record" by *The New York Times*, its lead single, "Put the Top Down," spent 18 weeks at No. 1 on the Mediabase Smooth A/C chart—the longest stint at No. 1 of any of Koz's chart-topping hits. *Ultimate Christmas*, featuring 18 perennial holiday classics performed by Koz, bowed in 2011 on Capitol/EMI. *Live at the Blue Note Tokyo*, Koz's first live CD, was released by Concord Records in 2012 and received a GRAMMY® nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album.

Koz and his friends Gerald Albright, Richard Elliot and Mindi Abair turned to producer Paul Brown (Al Jarreau, George Benson, Boney James) to help them realize the vision for 2013's first outing of *Summer Horns* (Concord Records), which paid tribute to the high-octane, richly arranged horn sections that fueled so many hits in the '60s and '70s. The album also features trumpeter/flugelhornist Rick Braun, trombonist Brian Culbertson, vocalists Michael McDonald, Jeffrey Osborne and Jonathan Butler, plus arrangements by Greg Adams (Tower of Power) and Tom Scott (Michael Jackson, Steely Dan). Topping it off is a sax-only rendition of "Take Five" with Gordon Goodwin offering his arrangement to the quartet and a new original composition, "Summer Horns." The album was honored with a GRAMMY® nomination for Best Pop Instrumental Album and an NAACP Image Awards nomination for Outstanding Jazz Album.

Koz's 2014 holiday recording, *The 25th of December* (Concord Records), was his eighth album to top *Billboard's* Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart. Produced by Rickey Minor, it featured collaborations with India.Arie, Eric Benet, Jonathan Butler, Gloria Estefan, Fantasia, Kenny G, Heather Headley, Richard Marx, Johnny Mathis, Trombone Shorty, BeBe Winans and Stevie Wonder. The first single, an all-star rendition of The Beatles' "All You Need Is Love," beautifully captured the spirit of the season and was a Top 5 hit on *Billboard's* Smooth Jazz Songs chart. *Collaborations: 25th Anniversary Collection* debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart in August 2015 while the lead single, "(Your Love Keeps Lifting Me) Higher and Higher" with Kenny Lattimore and Rick Braun, entered the Top 5 at Smooth A/C and Jazz Radio.

Twenty-two years after releasing his first Christmas-themed set, Koz took a very different stylistic approach on his 2019 holiday album, *Gifts of the Season* (Just Koz Entertainment, Inc.). The collection brought a buoyant, soul/funk/pop feel to Christmas classics across different eras. The album also included one Koz original—"A Prayer for Peace"—and "It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Christmas" featuring Jonathan Butler, a groovin', African chant-spiced version of the 1950's holiday song.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Koz recorded two albums. 2020's *A New Day*, released exactly 30 years and one day after his self-titled debut album, was his 20th album overall and first full set of original material in 10 years. It reached the No. 1 position on numerous jazz charts, including iTunes and Amazon. With an unprecedented four back-to-back No. 1 hits on *Billboard's* Smooth Jazz Airplay chart—"Side By Side" ft. David Sanborn, "Dr. Norm" ft. Paul Jackson, Jr., "The Closer We Get" and "Summertime in NYC"—the album proved to be a smash hit at radio. Other special guests on the album included Brian McKnight, Antwaun Stanley of Vulfpeck, Meshell Ndegeocello, Bob James, Marc Antoine, Rick Braun, Jeff Lorber and Chris "Big Dog" Davis. Koz broke new ground with his June 2021 release, *The Golden Hour*. Recorded live in the studio with a large jazz ensemble, the album marked his first full-length collaboration with guitarist/producer/internet sensation Cory Wong.

With venues shuttered around the world due to the pandemic, Koz was unable to mount the 23rd Annual Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour. Instead, he brought the festivities into fans' homes via a special livestream event. The virtual concert proved so popular that he followed it with a Valentine's Day Eve livestream. Thousands of fans viewed the virtual events. When live entertainment returned, Koz took to the road in 2021 with the Dave Koz & Friends Summer Horns tour and the Dave Koz & Friends Christmas tour. In 2022, Koz celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dave Koz and Friends Christmas tour with the release of his eighth and most intimate holiday album to date, *Christmas Ballads*, and a new all-star, 25-date tour. Dave Koz & Friends returned to the road in 2023 with Summer Horns and Christmas tours. In 2024, Koz will perform as Special Guest at "Opening Night at the Bowl: Henry Mancini 100th Celebration" in June and launch the 27th Annual Dave Koz & Friends Christmas tour in November.

The Dave Koz & Friends at Sea Cruise returned in 2022 with two sold-out, back-to-back voyages to Amsterdam and the British Isles. 2023's three sold-out, back-to-back cruises visited Spain, Morocco and Portugal while 2024's two sold-out, back-to-back cruises explored Greece, Malta and Sicily. Cabins are

on sale now for Dave Koz & Friends' two 2025 back-to-back cruises to Iceland, Norway and The Netherlands. Koz recently announced a new cruise brand – SOMMA – which will offer the ultimate in luxury, relaxation and entertainment. Its sold-out inaugural cruise will sail the Italian coast in September 2024.

In March 2024, Dave released the EP *Dave Koz Does Disney*, which featured modern renditions of beloved Disney songs from numerous eras – from *Pinocchio*'s “When You Wish Upon A Star” and *Mulan*'s “Reflection” to “Let It Go” from *Frozen* and “Dos Oruguitas” from *Encanto*, a song written by Lin-Manuel Miranda. He'll embark on the Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2024 on Black Friday. The outing features Jonathan Butler with special guests, Vincent Ingala, Adam Hawley and Rebecca Jade.

Koz, the recipient of the 2023 Starlight Children's Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award, has served as global ambassador for the foundation for 30 years. With help from his fans, he has raised over two million dollars for Starlight through the Dave Koz & Friends At Sea cruise silent auction.

He has collaborated with many artists over the years, including Burt Bacharach, Ray Charles, Natalie Cole, Celine Dion, Stevie Wonder, Barry Manilow, Valerie Simpson, Gloria Estefan, Luther Vandross, Shelby Lynne, Kenny Loggins, U2, Michael McDonald, Rod Stewart and The Foo Fighters. He also hosts two radio programs: *The Dave Koz Radio Show* and *The Dave Koz Lounge*, which appears on SiriusXM Watercolors and airs nationally every Sunday. Koz completed a four-year term on the GRAMMY® Foundation Artists Committee and has served as National Trustee for the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences (NARAS). In 2024, he received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from the Christian Bible Institute for his humanitarian efforts.

In over 30 years of constant touring, Koz has graced the stages of some of the most prestigious venues the world over, including Royal Albert Hall in London, Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Carnegie Hall in New York and various symphony orchestras across the country. Koz also headlines The Hollywood Bowl every other summer season as one of the legendary venue's “regulars.”

“Music has been such a blessing to me, and we need it more than ever today,” Koz says about his remarkable career.

About Marcus Anderson

The two-time Grammy and Stellar Award Nominated artist is an incredible act and one worth watching, saxophonist Marcus Anderson is the golden child shining among stars. With 15 studio albums on his list of accomplishments and 5 Billboard number 1's, the fusion jazz artist brings R&B, Pop, Rock and Funk to make music that puts listeners in another atmosphere. Charting number one in both categories of Billboard's Smooth Jazz and Sirius XM's Watercolors with numerous hits the Spartanburg, SC native is delivering major music in a humble way. His work with the late Prince and the New Power Generation led him to join stages with the likes of CeeLo Green, Bobby Caldwell, Eric Benet, Stevie Wonder, and Brian Culbertson just to name a few, where he had become a key contributor in these touring bands. Prince also featured Marcus on his last release *Hit N Run Phase 2*, playing on “Revelation” and “Look at Me Look at You”.

Anderson is an act that puts on a show for and with household names. Whether he is performing for dignitaries such as President Barack Obama, Jesse Jackson and Hillary Clinton or blazing the stage with Sheila E., Anthony Hamilton or Miguel in a collaborative effort, Anderson is always the man of the hour, delivering stellar musicianship every time. Stevie Wonder, CeeLo Green, Lailah Hathaway, Eric Benet,

Brian Culbertson, Jennifer Holiday are just a few out of the numerous world – renowned artists that Anderson has opened for and with whom he has shared the stage.

Both near and far, audiences of all musical tastes have made their way to hear Marcus Anderson and his band “The Creatives”. He and his band present a show in which no other instrumentalist has ever brought to the stage. High – spirited and welcoming, Anderson is a multi – instrumentalist who is not afraid of “giving it his all” He’s a fan – favorite at highly recognized festivals such as Essence Music Festival, Catalina Island Jazz Trax Festival, Seabreeze Jazz Fest, NAPA Valley Getaway, the Dave Koz Cruise and many more. He has also appeared with headliners on top – ranking shows like The Tonight Show, Arsenio Hall, Jimmy Kimmel Live! and Jimmy Fallon.

About Jeff Bradshaw

Jeff Bradshaw, a North Philadelphian native, Jeff Bradshaw's upbringing was deeply rooted in faith, with music being an integral part of his life, inspired by his father and renowned musician and vocalist who also played trombone. Exposed to this horn-driven culture at a young age, Bradshaw originally chose the baritone horn and sousaphone as instruments of study. However, fate was calling Jeff in a different direction.

During his high school band experience, Bradshaw observed that students tended to gravitate towards the flashier instruments, such as drums, trumpets, and sax, while the trombones were frequently overlooked. However, Bradshaw's intuition led him to investigate the trombones, resulting in the discovery of his distinctive voice. This pivotal moment marked the beginning of a long-term endeavor to highlight the trombone's versatility as a powerful, emotive, and sophisticated instrument when wielded by a virtuoso.

As a visionary soul-jazz and hip-hop/funk innovator and trombone virtuoso, Jeff Bradshaw has been instrumental in driving the Neo-soul movement that originated in Philadelphia. With a prolific career marked by collaborations with numerous artists, including Michael Jackson, Earth Wind & Fire, Jay Z, Mary J Blige, Erykah Badu, The Roots, Kirk Franklin, Tyler Perry, Floetry, Dave Chappelle, Common, Patti Labelle, Jill Scott, and many others, Bradshaw has earned recognition as a key influencer in this eclectic scene. His five critically acclaimed solo albums have successfully merged R&B, Smooth Jazz, and Gospel, drawing high energy and mass attention throughout the world. Bradshaw's captivating sound and performances have revolutionized the way people view the trombone, cementing his status as a prominent figure in the Neo Soul, Smooth Jazz, R&B, and Hip-Hop scene.

In late summer 2023, Jeff Bradshaw released his fifth album entitled Twenty. The album is a culmination of his 20-year career as a recording artist who's toured with so many, Jeff is currently on tour with the legendary Patti Labelle throughout the first quarter of 2025. Be on the lookout for his 6th Album to be released in 2025.

About Leo P

Leo Pellegrino, popularly known as Leo P, is an American saxophone player from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His chops on the baritone sax and unique dance moves alongside his ever-changing hair color and matching outfits have taken him from the subways of NYC to featured status at Royal Albert Hall and international prominence. Leo moved to New York in 2010 to attend the Manhattan School of Music. His unique performance style created friction with his professors. Some loved him and believed

in his alternative style while others claimed he would never be able to produce a good sound while moving around so much. Nevertheless, his fashion and personality lead to him being on the cover of the yearly calendar that everyone in the school received a copy of during his senior year.

Leo began playing in the subways in 2014 and found that was a great way to get fans and support. Soon after graduating Leo was in viral videos that have millions of views with both Lucky Chops and Too Many Zooz. Leo also did some tv work during that time appearing on an MTV show with Lucky Chops and with Beyonce and Too Many Zooz on the CMAs. Too Many Zooz also collaborated with Beyonce on the album “Lemonade”. Eventually Leo left Lucky Chops and focused on Too Many Zooz. Since that time the band had their song Warriors featured in an international commercial for the Google Pixel 2 (alongside a visual including a TMZ performance) and has been named Song of the Week by the BBC. In 2017 Leo was chosen to perform as a featured artist at the BBC Proms Tribute to Charles Mingus at Royal Albert Hall. According to SeenandheardInternational.com “possibly the true highlight of the evening were the outstanding solos of fuchsia-haired New York-based saxophonist Leo Pellegrino, choreographed to a tee in zebra-striped shoes, in Moanin’. His sheer physical agility while playing his instrument virtuosically was simply unlike anything I have experienced before. Unsurprisingly, he brought the house down.”

Since then, Leo has been touring the world with “Too Many Zooz”, most recently opening up for the band “Primus”. Too Many Zooz recently released a new Album called "Retail Therapy". Leo also continues to perform with other projects including “2saxy” with Grace Kelly and “Thundersmack” with Michael Wilbur. He released his first solo album under Shanachie records in 2022 called “Comin’ up Aces” and he was also prominently featured on the soundtrack to the movie “Babylon”.

About Evan Taylor

Evan Taylor is a trumpet player from the small town of Ludington, Michigan. Early on, Taylor gained musical skills from playing weekly at his church. In 2014, he began studying at Michigan State University under Guggenheim-Fellow & Award-Winning trumpeter Etienne Charles. In the fall of 2018, Taylor began his master’s at the University of Utah under Grammy-nominated trumpeter & arranger, Kris Johnson. Graduating with his master’s degree in Jazz in Spring of 2020, Taylor outset to begin a career in music in Miami, FL where he is currently endorsed by Victory Musical Instruments.

As an educator, Taylor taught weekly with the non-profit Crescendo Detroit, a youth program designed to help young students of all skill levels grow quickly. In 2021, Taylor became the Jazz Trumpet Professor at Broward College, where he taught private lessons, music hall lectures, and coached ensembles. Since, he returned also to help engage with the Ludington High School band program.

Taylor’s arranging skills led him to an Assistant Instructorship at Indiana University. He was employed in 2022 at the African American Arts Institute under supervisor James Strong. They organize and direct the IU Soul Revue; an ensemble founded in 1971 to preserve and perform black popular music.

Taylor has created music for wind ensembles, jazz orchestras, and other live performances. Recording remotely from his home studio, he has worked and collaborated with named artists around the world. Having done several commissioned recordings for Warner/Chappell Music, his abilities have extended to: Jazz, R&B, Salsa, Gospel, Hip-Hop and Popular Music. Taylor has cooperated with industry producers to

develop music for HGTV, BET, and other television programs. He has also been counted on with several corporate entertainment groups around the country.

About Marcel Anderson

Marcel Anderson is a Contemporary & Neo Soul Jazz Artist with a Soulful and smooth melodic sound that's very electrifying. Marcel's voice is very soothing and moves his listeners to desire more. A native of Spartanburg, South Carolina, Marcel's musical roots began at an early age. He was raised among a powerhouse of musicians and singers, which is where he discovered one of the many passions God placed in him, which was singing. His singing began to develop after his mother, who knew he could sing, told the choir director about his musical gift. When he was eight years old, Marcel, who was a shy kid when it came to singing in front of people, was given his first solo, "Give Us This Day" at the first rehearsal he attended. Ever since, he has been singing non-stop and encouraging and inspiring others through his melodious vocals. Born with twin Marcus Anderson, and an older set of twins, Alphaeus and Aaron Anderson, a group was formed called The Anderson Twins, which sang locally throughout all of Spartanburg and surrounding areas.

Marcel later formed an R&B group called Three Part Harmony, which performed on many stages and competitions, winning at least a dozen awards. It was during this time in his life that Marcel started writing his own music and developed a passion for sharing his gift. Marcel writes and sings music from his soul and every time he hits the stage, you can hear it in his voice. Marcel has also won contemporary artist and best urban soul artist for the top Independent Awards Shows. With three studio albums on his list of accomplishments, Neo-soul artist and bestselling author Marcel Anderson brings soul, jazz, and inspirational gospel to make music that puts listeners in another atmosphere.

Marcel Anderson has shared the stage with his twin Brother Jazz Saxophonist Marcus Anderson, Kenny Lattimore, Phil Denny, Adam Hawley, Jonathan Butler, Chris Walker, Dave Koz, Kirk Whalum, Regina Bell to name a few. Marcel Anderson brings soul, R&B, jazz, and inspirational sounds that puts listeners in another musical atmosphere. Marcel will capture his audience with his soulful sounds and songs from Bob Caldwell, Anthony Hamilton, John Legend, Stevie Wonder, Bill Withers, Frankie Beverly and Maze and many more soul singers. "Marcel's latest single, 'Better Days,' topped the jazz charts and earned major recognition throughout the music industry. He's performed at renowned venues such as the St. James Live, Spaghetti in LA and the Catalina Jazz Festival, Maj-ace to name a few.