

SFJAZZ Founder and Executive Artistic Director Randall Kline to Step Down in November 2023

Kline Founded SFJAZZ in 1983

(San Francisco, CA, March 16, 2022) - SFJAZZ announces that Founder and Executive Artistic Director Randall Kline will step down in November 2023.

Kline founded the organization in 1983 and 2023 will mark the 40th Anniversary of the SFJAZZ organization and the 10th Birthday of the SFJAZZ Center.

“While leaving SFJAZZ is a difficult decision — this place, in many ways, has been my baby — I cannot think of a better time to make this change as 2023 will mark the 40th Anniversary of SFJAZZ and the 10th Birthday of the SFJAZZ Center,” says Kline. “Most importantly, SFJAZZ is in a position of strength, with a great board, management team, and staff. It has been an extraordinary journey and I’m proud to have been a part of it.”

When SFJAZZ was founded in 1983 (as Jazz in the City), Kline’s goal was simple: to produce a two-day festival that featured Bay Area musicians representing the full scope of music that jazz encompasses. By the mid-1990s, the organization became SFJAZZ and its San Francisco Jazz Festival was widely recognized as one of the top jazz festivals in the nation and the world. In the 30 years leading to the opening of the award-winning SFJAZZ Center, in 2013, SFJAZZ built a foundation that allowed it to create and realize a bold vision for what a cultural center and institution for jazz could be and must be.

To prepare for this leadership transition, SFJAZZ will be undertaking a thorough strategic planning process over the next few months to address succession as well as other key areas for growth. Over the summer, after the process is completed, SFJAZZ will begin a formal search for Kline’s successor.

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