

Hello SPACE,

I am the leader for the Metropolitan Jazz Octet. We are thrilled to collaborate with the engaging jazz vocalist Dee Alexander, performing music from our latest album "It's Too Hot for Words" (Delmark Records) a reimagining of 10 classics from the great Billie Holiday.

We would like to inquire about booking a performance at S.P.A.C.E. for MJO and Dee.

Last year we appeared at the 41st annual Chicago Jazz Festival, and were voted Best Jazz Album in 2019 by the Chicago Tribune. We played to sold-out audiences at The Green Mill, Studio5 and just recently at Hey Nonny. We also received reviews from Jazz Times, Downbeat and Chicago Jazz Magazine.

People love Dee and are very interested to hear what she does with Billie Holiday's music. This project has yet to appear at S.P.A.C.E. , so we feel the timing might be right for an appearance.

I've included the requested information below, please let me know if you need anything else. If hope we make this happen. Thank you.

Best,

Jim Gailloreto  
(773) 330-4461

**Metropolitan Jazz Octet**  
[metropolitanjazzoctet@gmail.com](mailto:metropolitanjazzoctet@gmail.com)  
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[MJO Face Book](#)

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**Previous gigs:**

1. Studio5 sold-out (150) tickets (\$20-\$25) — July 2019
2. Hey Nonny sold-out (110) tickets (\$10-\$30) — February 2020
3. The Green Mill sold-out (150) tickets (\$15) — November 2019
4. The Chicago Jazz Festival (1000) tickets (free) — August 2019

*COVID cancelled dates...*

1. Winter's — April 2020
2. Hyde Park Jazz Festival — September 2020

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**YouTube Live Concert**

[Twenty Four Hour A Day](#)  
[Ain't Nobody's Business](#)  
[It's Too Hot For Words](#)

**Album Playlist**

["It's Too Hot For Words"](#)

**Reviews**

[CHICAGO TRIBUNE](#)  
[JAZZ TIMES](#)  
[CHICAGO JAZZ MAGAZINE](#)  
[DOWNBEAT](#)

## **Metropolitan Jazz Octet Bio**

The Metropolitan Jazz Octet (MJO) is the reawakening of a group founded in the 1950s by saxophonist/arranger and DePaul University professor Tom Hilliard (1930–2006). In 1959, the original group recorded “The Legend of Bix,” a tribute to the artistry of cornetist/composer Bix Beiderbecke. Near the end of Tom Hilliard’s life, he bequeathed his life’s work of music to his former student, Jim Gailloreto.

In 2014, Jim began to explore Tom’s legacy with a monthly reading of the MJO library. The musicians involved—two former fellow DePaul students among them—likened the experience to an archaeological jazz dig, with each session unearthing a new layer of the original group’s creativity, thinking and performance practice.

The Chicago Tribune writes: “It’s Too Hot for Words” (Delmark Records). Pair Chicagoan Alexander’s stylistically versatile vocals with...glistering arrangements for the Metropolitan Jazz Octet, and you have new ways of appreciating Alexander’s art. All the more because she takes on music associated with Billie Holiday, but not the most obvious songs (with the exception of “Strange Fruit,” delivered here on a nearly operatic scale). Alexander’s voice produces fascinating colors and textures throughout.

### **MJO Members**

John Kornegay – alto saxophone  
Jim Gailloreto – tenor saxophone  
Peter Brusen – baritone saxophone  
Doug Scharf – trumpet  
Russ Phillips – trombone  
Bob Sutter – piano  
Doug Bistrow – bass  
Bob Rummage – drums  
  
Dee Alexander – vocals