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PRESS RELEASE

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Jazz Noir Set To Transform The Eileene L. Parsons Into An Evening Of Elegance And Jazz

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When the H. Lavity Stoutt Community College (HLSCC) revived its celebrated Performing Arts Series earlier this year with an electrifying performance by Latin jazz icon Tito Puente Jr., it signalled more than the return of a concert series. It marked the return of a cultural tradition that has connected Virgin Islands audiences with exceptional artistic experiences for more than two decades.

On Saturday, 24 October 2026, the series continues with its second production of the year, Jazz Noir: An Evening of Live Jazz, a carefully curated evening where music, atmosphere, and artistry come together in the intimate setting of the Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium.

Beginning at 7:00 p.m., Jazz Noir will feature performances by Glenn Bryan & Friends, Blue Essence, the HLSCC Jazz Ensemble, the HLSCC Stingrays, and a special tap and jazz collaboration featuring Che Pemberton. The evening will be hosted by Trefor Grant.

While audiences can expect an evening of exceptional live jazz, organisers say the event has been carefully designed as a complete cultural experience. "The vision behind Jazz Noir was to create something that felt different from the typical concert experience," said Riiah Durante, Performing Arts Coordinator at HLSCC. "There is something timeless about jazz. It invites people to slow down, listen, connect, and simply enjoy being present in the moment. We wanted to create an evening where the music, the atmosphere, and the audience all become part of the experience. This is not just about attending a performance. It is about stepping into a space where great musicianship, culture, conversation, and community can exist together for one night."

The event continues the College's renewed investment in arts and cultural programming following the successful relaunch of the Performing Arts Series in March.

For more than twenty years, the Series has served as one of Tortola's premier performing arts platforms, introducing audiences to distinguished local, regional, and international talent while providing opportunities for students and emerging artists to share the stage with established performers.

Durante noted that one of the most rewarding aspects of the Series' return has been the ability to showcase homegrown talent alongside established performers. "The Virgin Islands is filled with incredible musicians, creatives, and performers, and one of the goals of the Performing Arts Series is to provide a stage where that talent can be celebrated. Jazz Noir brings together artists from different backgrounds and generations, creating an evening that reflects both artistic excellence and the richness of our cultural community."

Patrons are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the evening by dressing in Jazz Noir Chic, adding to what organisers hope will be an immersive and memorable experience.

Tickets are available for $40 General Admission, while HLSCC students, faculty, and staff may attend for $25 with valid identification.

For patrons seeking an elevated experience, a limited VIP Cocktail Experience is available for $250 and includes admission for up to two guests, a private cocktail seating area, artist meet-and-greet opportunities, complimentary wine, and gourmet hors d'oeuvres.

Tickets may be purchased online at events.hlscc.edu.vg, at J&C Trading in Road Town, or at the HLSCC Campus Store in Paraquita Bay.

As the lights dim and the first notes fill the auditorium, organisers hope audiences will do more than simply attend another event. "We want people to come out, dress up, enjoy themselves, and experience something special," said Durante. "Whether you're a lifelong jazz lover or simply looking for a beautiful night out, Jazz Noir offers an opportunity to share in an evening of great music and meaningful connection."

Jazz Noir: An Evening of Live Jazz takes place on Saturday, 24 October 2026, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Eileene L. Parsons Auditorium. Dress for the occasion, arrive in style and let the music take over.

ABOUT THE HLSCC PERFORMING ARTS SERIES

For more than two decades, the HLSCC Performing Arts Series has brought distinguished performers, musicians, and cultural experiences to audiences throughout the Virgin Islands. Through performances, educational engagement, and community outreach, the Series supports the College's commitment to the arts while enriching the cultural life of the Territory. The revival of the Series reflects HLSCC's continued dedication to fostering creativity, excellence, and community engagement through the performing arts.

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1. Official Poster. **(Design credit: AI-Generated)**

Additional Documents or Media

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