



# JAZZ & BLUES



F L O R I D A

FLORIDA'S ONLINE GUIDE TO LIVE JAZZ & BLUES



FEATURE: JAZZ ARTIST

# VERONICA SWIFT

PAT COHEN

MELTON MUSTAFA JR

ARTURO SANDOVAL

TEDESCHI TRUCKS BAND

FESTIVAL UPDATE

# Veronica Swift -

*Still relatively early in her professional career,* Veronica Swift has already developed an impressive repertoire. She recorded her first album, *Veronica's House of Jazz*, at age nine. In addition to performing with her parents – pianist Hod O'Brien and singer Stephanie Nakasian – Swift sang and played trumpet with Dave Adams' The Young Razzcals Jazz Project, including a performance at the Telluride Jazz Festival. Now 27, she has performed many times over past decade at Heidi's Jazz Club in Cocoa Beach FL, contributing to her artistic development and exposure.

Swift released her sophomore album, *It's Great to Be Alive*, when she was 11, and she continued performing at major venues such as Dizzy's Club Coca-Cola at Jazz at Lincoln Center in New York City. After high school, she earned her BM degree in Jazz Voice from the Frost School of Music at the University of Miami in 2016. While at UM, Swift placed second in the 2015 Thelonious Monk International Vocal Competition.

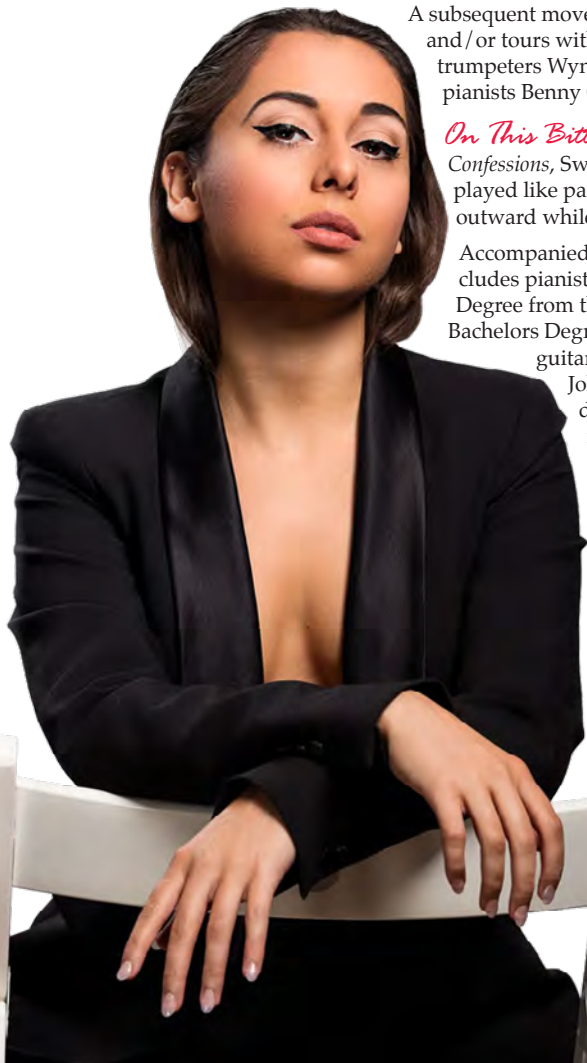
A subsequent move to New York City led to performances and/or tours with a host of jazz luminaries, including trumpeters Wynton Marsalis and Chris Botti, and pianists Benny Green and Michael Feinstein.

*On This Bitter Earth, her follow-up* to 2019's *Confessions*, Swift flips the script. Where *Confessions* played like pages from her personal diary, *Earth* looks outward while addressing today's social ills.

Accompanied by a team of kindred spirits that includes pianist Emmet Cohen (Cohen holds a Masters Degree from the Manhattan School of Music and a Bachelors Degree from UM's Frost School of Music), guitarist Armand Hirsch and flutist Aaron Johnson, bassist Yasushi Nakamura, and drummer Bryan Carter, Swift curates material that covers multiple genres.

"I want this album to have two separate approaches," she explains. "I wanted to start with women's place in society now and how it's changing. During the second half, I wanted to address other ailments in the world, whether it's racism or fake news. But I don't take any political stances. I'm very clear with my audience that as an artist I address certain issues as an outsider looking in."

Of "How Lovely to Be a Woman," a tune from the 1960 musical *Bye Bye Birdie*, Swift says, "I realize now how this song had a lot more ambiguity and cynicism involved," I tried to make an arrangement that maintained the childlike feel I had while listening to it but still insert some of that sarcasm in it."



# This Bitter Earth

Of the Crystals' 1962 number "He Hit Me (And It Felt Like a Kiss)," Swift says, "It's uncomfortable to sing; it's uncomfortable to listen. But the original version by the Crystals is so the opposite; it's so indicative of the 1960s victim woman who stays with the man who physically assaults her. I've never heard a version of this song that had gone the other way in terms of making it a somber piece. I wanted to give listeners another option in listening to this song. So, I stripped away all the other instruments and chord progressions and just made it me and guitar."

*Another pick from the theater.* "You've Got to Be Carefully Taught" comes from 1949's *South Pacific*, and illustrates how racism and xenophobia are learned behaviors, often projected onto children during their early development. "I was always perplexed at how such deep and dark subject matter was sung so upbeat," Swift

recalls. "I think it was written intentionally to not sit well with the audience. I wanted to come up with an arrangement that's very antsy and mad. So, I put a little bit of that rock beat on the chorus and sing angrily. To me, it sounds like what the song was meant to be."

The album switches gears with Swift's cunning version of Dave Frishberg's socially conscious song "The Sports Page." She uses the song's topical lyrics to invoke the prevalence of fake news during the last administration. "It's amazing how a song written in the late 1960s is still relevant," Swift says, "and its brilliance is that it doesn't target a specific demographic."

With *This Bitter Earth*, Swift's ascendancy as a 21st century jazz torchbearer continues. More at [veronicaswift.com](http://veronicaswift.com).

JUNE 10  
THE MOON  
TALLAHASSEE

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June 10  
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# Tedeschi Trucks Band

JUNE 11 - 12  
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JACKSONVILLE

In 2008, married musicians guitarist Derek Trucks (born in Jacksonville, FL in 1979 and nephew of of Butch

Trucks – co-founder of the Allman Brothers Band and elder brother of Duane Trucks of Widespread Panic and Hard Working Americans) and singer / guitarist Susan Tedeschi decided it was time to set aside their successful solo careers and commit to a new band melding their vision and talent. Two years later, the couple debuted Tedeschi Trucks Band. While the popular music landscape was filled with technological theatrics and auto-tune, Tedeschi and Trucks hit the road with a sound that defied conventional genre boundaries and labels. During their five-year rise, the group toured incessantly, increasingly often with the likes of Eric Clapton, Bob Dylan and Santana. On the road for upwards of 200 days a year, the TTB family embraces improvisation over convention, and set lists are rarely repeated. Trucks' masterful guitar skills and Tedeschi's soaring vocals and bluesy guitar shine but don't overpower the breadth of talent. Their most recent release, 2019's *Signs* will be followed on July 16 by *Layla Revisited (Live at LOCKN')*, a two-CD, three-LP live recording, with Tedeschi Trucks Band joined by special guests Trey Anastasio and Doyle Bramhall II for a top-to-bottom performance of the classic Derek and the Dominos album *Layla and Other Assorted Love Songs*, live at the 2019 LOCKN' Festival. Now 12 members strong, and with a nearly a decade of steady touring in the U.S. and abroad, Tedeschi Trucks Band carries a distinguished reputation earned from both audiences and critics as one of the premier live bands in the world. More at [tedeschitrucksband.com](http://tedeschitrucksband.com).



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JUNE 5-6  
NORTH BEACH BANDSHELL  
MIAMI BEACH

## Arturo Sandoval

A protégé of legendary jazz master Dizzy Gillespie, 2015 South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame inductee Arturo Sandoval was born in 1949, just two years after Gillespie became the first musician to bring Latin influences into American jazz. Born in Cuba, Sandoval began studying classical trumpet at age 12, soon discovered jazz, and has since evolved into one of the world's foremost guardians of jazz trumpet and flugelhorn, as well as a renowned classical artist, pianist and composer. Sandoval has been awarded 10 Grammys, six *Billboard* Awards and an Emmy, and he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2013. A founding member of the Grammy-winning group Irakere, whose explosive mixture of jazz, classical, rock and traditional Cuban music shook the entertainment world, Sandoval left Irakere in 1981 to go his own way. He is also a renowned classical musician, performing regularly with the leading symphony orchestras worldwide. His "Concerto for Trumpet & Orchestra" can be heard on *Arturo Sandoval: The Classical Album*. Sandoval's versatility can be heard on recordings with Dizzy Gillespie, Woody Herman, Tony Bennett, Stan Getz, Johnny Mathis, Frank Sinatra, Rod Stewart, Alicia Keys, The Boston Pops and many others. His compositions can be heard in numerous movies, he has received multiple commissions from the Kennedy Center. His latest CD, *Eternamente Manzanero* features the music of revered Mexican romantic pianist/singer/songwriter, Armando Manzanero. Performing Senor Manzanero's music with co-headliner Jorge Calandrelli, the album is a fresh, modern take on bolero music. More at [arturosandoval.com](http://arturosandoval.com).



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# Pat Cohen

JUNE 19  
ARTS GARAGE  
DELRAY BEACH

All Pat Cohen ever wanted to do, from the time she was a little girl, was to entertain people, and her family encouraged her to sing and dance for houseguests. A truncated college experience led her to a job working as an Atlantic City croupier while still dreaming of a singing career. Over the next 20 years, she eventually got to where she was gigging on the side multiple nights a week. They called her "Mother Blues," but it wasn't until she moved to New Orleans that her career took off. She booked herself as a performer for festivals and events, and quickly became a regular at blues joints on Bourbon Street. By the late 1990s, her new character "The Queen of Bourbon Street" was becoming one of the hottest acts in the French Quarter. But 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina had other ideas. Then the Music Maker Relief Foundation stepped in to help Cohen, and also brought her all over the U.S. and to Europe and Australia as part of its Blues Revue tours. To in some way repay that kindness, Cohen started singing at Charlotte, NC-area nursing homes a few years ago. She was eager to share her affection for artists like Nina Simone, Etta James and Nat King Cole with an audience that loves them just as much. When Covid struck, Cohen switched to playing outdoor sets for seniors stuck in their rooms. Cohen's performance is part of the 2021 Juneteenth Celebration. More at [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).



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Denise LaSalle Lifetime Recording Of Excellence Award	THORNETTA DAVIS
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Albert King Lifetime Award "The Lucy Award"	GREG WRIGHT
Millie Jackson "Classy & Sassy" Award	LACEE
Little Milton Lifetime Bluesman Award	MAJOR HANDY
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**AUGUST 13 • BROOKSVILLE**  
Spirit of Woodstock

**SEPTEMBER 3 • SEBASTIAN**  
Earl's Labor Day Weekend Party

**SEPTEMBER 23-25 • NEW SMYRNA BEACH**  
New Smyrna Beach Jazz Fest

**SEPTEMBER 29 • JACKSONVILLE**  
Jacksonville Jazz Fest

**OCTOBER 4 • AMELIA ISLAND**  
Amelia Island Jazz Fest

**OCTOBER 7 • BARBADOS**  
Barbados Jazz Excursion

**OCTOBER 8 • CLERMONT**  
BBQ & Blues Fest

**OCTOBER 14 • CLEARWATER**  
Clearwater Jazz Holiday

**OCTOBER 15 • BROOKSVILLE**  
Camping with the Blues

**NOVEMBER 6 • GAINESVILLE**  
Downtown Fest & Art Show

**NOVEMBER 12 • CASSELBERRY**  
Craft Beer & Blues Fest

**DECEMBER 3 • BRADENTON**  
Bradenton Blues Fest

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FESTIVAL LIST!**

INFORMATION WAS CORRECT AT TIME OF POSTING

Send updates to  
[Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com](mailto:Charlie@JazzBluesFlorida.com)

# Melton Mustafa Jr.

JUNE 18  
ALI CULTURAL  
ARTS CENTER  
POMPANO BEACH

Two-time Grammy-nominated educator – and son of renowned trumpeter and South Florida Jazz Hall of Fame member Melton S.

Mustafa – Melton Mustafa Jr. currently serves as a Professional Music Educator at Parkway School of the Arts and as Adjunct Professor at Florida Memorial University. Born in Atlanta, GA and raised in Miami, Mustafa started playing music in high school, and received a Bachelor of Science in Music Education from Florida A&M University. There he served as leader of the saxophone section and head of the Dance Routine committee for the Legendary Marching 100. While at FAMU, he performed with the FAMU Strikers at the Apollo Theatre and traveled the world with the Marching 100. Mustafa received a Master's in Education from FIU and is working on his Doctoral Degree in Leadership. He has conducted the "Star Spangled Banner" for the Junior Olympics, directed a show for the Super Bowl, and has served as Musical Director and even Choreographer for numerous television and music video projects. He first led the Melton Mustafa big band several years ago, when his father became ill and there were shows that had to go on. "I'm a band director, so I've directed many bands over the years. But the honor of conducting my dad's band was on a whole other level," Mustafa recalls. "I've always made sure that I stay with the idea of my dad's original arrangements." He

now leads the Melton Mustafa Orchestra which highlights the annual Melton Mustafa Jazz Festival in Miami, now in its 24th year. The Melton Mustafa Quintet will present a virtual concert as part of a program in honor of Juneteenth, presented by Pompano Beach Arts. Find him on [Facebook](#).



 A photograph of Nate Najjar, a man with a beard and a blue suit, playing a guitar.
 

# NATE NAJAR

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4:00PM ALEX WILSON BAND

6:00PM DAVE WELD & THE IMPERIAL FLAMES

8:00PM THE BELAIRS

## SUNDAY, JUNE 27 - BLUES CHALLENGE

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TOO SICK CHARLIE • THE DELTA JETS

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