



ANNAPOLIS, MD (6-8-24)  
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## Annapolis Jazz & Roots Presents

### “Sounds of the Seventies”

Annapolis Jazz & Roots presents “Sounds of the Seventies” on Saturday, August 3 from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at Eastport United Methodist Church in Annapolis, Maryland. The fundraising event will highlight unforgettable music from a decade when political discord gave way to positive advances and reforms in social justice.

Listeners will recognize Herbie Hancock’s “Chameleon” and “Watermelon Man” (the 1973 version foreshadowed the genre known today as world music). The question raised in Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On” is still being asked and the tune covered across the U.S. along with “Lean on Me” by Bill Withers. Simon & Garfunkel’s enduring “Bridge Over Troubled Water” and Aretha Franklin’s hit “Respect” will be heard. Written by soul singer Otis Redding in the 60s, the latter tune became an anthem of the Women’s Movement in the seventies. Ravita Jazz will invite audience members to tap their toes, get up to dance and sing along as the spirit moves them. Refreshments (’70s style) will be on sale. We hear bell bottoms are back. Period clothing is encouraged!

Ravita Jazz is led by bassist, composer and educator Dr. Phil Ravita. Featuring prominent Mid-Atlantic musicians, the group will appear with special guest Joe Brotherton on trumpet. The band includes vocalist Deirdre Jennings, drummer Nick Costa and pianist Greg Small. They released the album *Oriana* in 2023, receiving airplay and favorable reviews across North America. The band appears widely and Dr. Ravita is honored to be a Maryland State Arts Council Touring Artist.

Some milestones of the Seventies were the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, the first Gay Pride Parade in NYC in the same year, ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment and the end to the Vietnam War. While societal problems continue to challenge the U.S.A., seeds were sown for continued advancement.

In that era, cultural contributions offered solace and inspiration to the fractured country. Films such as *Saturday Night Fever*, *Rocky* and *Star Wars* were wildly popular, providing shared experience and points of reference to people from many walks of life. The enduring TV comedy series *Saturday Night Live* was launched in 1975 giving viewers loads of laughs and stress relief as it does today.

Television also played a pivotal role in addressing the African American experience. The miniseries *Roots* aired on American television in 1977. Based on Alex Haley's 1976 novel *Roots: The Saga of an American Family*, the epic novel and subsequent series had a significant cultural impact.

The August 3 concert will raise funds for the third annual Annapolis Jazz & Roots Festival. Held at multiple sites in Eastport on weekends November 1-10 in 2024, the festival presents international and local performers in free and ticketed events. Presenting partners include Eastport- Annapolis Neck Library, Eastport United Methodist Church, Jazz Beyond Borders, Peerless Rens, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and Pip Moyer Recreation Center. The 2023 festival drew attendees from seven states (Maryland, Virginia, Delaware, Florida, New York, North Carolina and California) and the District of Columbia.

Eastport UM Church is the beautiful and welcoming venue for the August 3 event. It is located at 926 Bay Ridge Avenue, Annapolis, MD 21403. There is ample free parking in the rear lot of the church and the site is wheelchair accessible. The concert is suitable for adults and teens. Guests under 18 are admitted free. Admission is \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door. Tickets are available from [instantseats.com](https://instantseats.com). Select the venue: Annapolis Jazz & Roots. The short ticket link is <https://instnt.us/AJRF>

Those unable to attend can still support the festival by purchasing a ticket online or mailing a donation. Make checks payable to: Annapolis Community Foundation. Be sure to write "Annapolis Jazz & Roots" in the memo and send to: P.O. Box 4922, Annapolis, MD 21403. To learn about the history of the festival, visit: <https://www.annapolisjazzandrootsfestival.com> and join the Facebook Group: ANNAPOLIS JAZZ & ROOTS FESTIVAL.