

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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**Dionne Warwick**

**&**

**Burt Bacharach**

**Induction into the**

**American Jazz Walk of Fame**

**Induction @ 6:00 pm & Concert @ 7:00 pm**

**Saturday, July 8, 2023**

**Kansas City, MO-** On July 8, the **Jazz District Renaissance Corporation** will celebrate its ninth year of honoring jazz artists by immortalizing their names in 30-inch bronze medallions embedded in the sidewalks on 18th Street. The induction ceremony, open to the public and free of charge, will take place on 18th Street between the Blue Room and the Jazz Museum where medallions will be revealed at 6:00 PM.

## **THE INDUCTEES**

**Dionne Warwick's** career, which currently celebrates over 50 years, has established her as an international music icon and concert act. The legendary voice of six-time GRAMMY Award winning **Dionne Warwick** has become a cornerstone of American music and culture. Ms. Warwick will be here to receive the recognition and accept a replica of the medallion.

**Burt Bacharach**, born in Kansas City and raised in NYC, will be inducted posthumously. Known for song writing and creating tunes with gorgeous melodies, Bacharach, six-time GRAMMY Award winner, wrote popular Broadway musicals, movie theme songs and scores. His collaboration with Hal David, to write a slew of hits for Dionne Warwick, accumulated more than 30 hit singles and close to 20 best-selling albums, during their first decade. A representative will participate in the ceremony and receive a replica of the medallion.

Following the induction ceremony, **Warren and Jenny Erdman**, this year's co-chairs, will welcome the audience in the Gem Theater and open the **concert featuring:**

**Will Downing**

**&**

**Avery Sunshine**

With a career that spans over 32 years and 22 albums, **Will Downing** is one of the most versatile and loved voices of our time. Known as The Prince of Sophisticated Soul, his repertoire consists of signature interpretations of R&B classics like "I Go Crazy", "Wishing On A Star" and "I Try",

with original hits "A Million Ways", "Sorry I" and the show-stopping duet with Rachelle Ferrell, "Nothing Has Ever Felt Like This". His distinctive baritone voice has resonated in the hearts of women world-wide and carved a unique niche in the music marketplace.

**Avery\*Sunshine** makes the kind of music that undeniably satisfies the soul leaving her audience full and invigorated. Born Denise White in Chester, Pennsylvania, with her roots grounded in the church, the singer, pianist, and composer has created a signature sound that mixes soul, jazz, R&B, and gospel.

Avery's sound is uplifting, vibrant, and exactly as her namesake suggests, full of sunshine. She brings people together through her riveting performances, candid and often humorous stage banter, and optimistic anthems about love and life. Avery's newest album, *Four Songs & A Boot Leg*, showcases her captivating and euphonious voice. The lead single "Lucky" has climbed the charts making it to the Billboard Top 30 Adult R&B National Airplay.

Tickets for the concert will be on sale at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) on June 8, 2023 for \$70.00.

**Congressman Emanuel Cleaver, II**, representing Missouri's Fifth Congressional District, and former Mayor of Kansas City said, "The greatest jazz musicians have come from Kansas City, have played in Kansas City, or were inspired by musicians with Kansas City roots. The American Jazz Walk of Fame honors those talented musicians and celebrates this great Kansas City tradition. We invite you to participate in honoring this tradition in the historic 18th & Vine Jazz district where it all began."

The event is made possible by the generous support of The Missouri Division of Tourism, Neighborhood Tourist Development Fund, the city of Kansas City, the American Jazz Museum, and other sponsors.

The Jazz District Renaissance Corporation, whose mission is to revitalize the Historic 18th & Vine District through the expansion of programs that stimulate activity and tourism in the area, is the host of the American Jazz Walk of Fame. Since 2014, the Jazz District Renaissance Corporation (JDRC), has installed 37 bronze medallions, bearing the names of jazz artists, in the sidewalks of 18th street in the historic Jazz District.

In 2020, we considered ways to pivot and be of service to our community and help musicians manage while all the stages and performance venues were shuttered. We live streamed 51 hours of free musical enjoyment for months, providing needed employment relief for musicians during the pandemic and highlighted internationally the "Kansas City Sound".

Visit [www.americanjazzwalkoffame.org](http://www.americanjazzwalkoffame.org) for more information.

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