

STATE of WISCONSIN



OFFICE of the GOVERNOR

Proclamation

WHEREAS; jazz is an original American art form that was created by Black musicians in New Orleans, Louisiana, in the early 20th century and has been hailed as one of America's greatest cultural exports; and

WHEREAS; jazz has produced some of the country's leading creative artists and embodies the noblest aspirations of the country's character, including individual discipline, perseverance, and innovation; and

WHEREAS; jazz serves as an expression of freedom for people in the United States and beyond and has become an international language that brings people together and bridges differences across all backgrounds; and

WHEREAS; throughout U.S. history, jazz has inspired dancers, choreographers, poets, novelists, filmmakers, classical composers, and musicians and has helped unite cultures in a global environment, contributing to the facilitation of arts education and appreciation across communities; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin has historically been home to a thriving jazz scene, with the Bronzeville District of Milwaukee at its heart, and notable jazz icons from Wisconsin include Bunny Berigan, Woody Herman, Al Jarreau, and Les Paul; and

WHEREAS; Wisconsin's jazz heritage should be celebrated and included in musical education and appreciation everywhere; and

WHEREAS; this month, the state of Wisconsin joins communities, musicians, schools, artists, historians, and jazz enthusiasts around the world in recognizing the outstanding work of the state's jazz artists and educators and in celebrating jazz as an art form that strives to promote peace, diversity, and freedom of expression;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tony Evers, Governor of the State of Wisconsin,

do hereby proclaim April 2026 as

JAZZ APPRECIATION MONTH

throughout the State of Wisconsin, and I commend this observance to all our state's residents.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 25th day of March 2026.

TONY EVERS
GOVERNOR

By the Governor:

SARAH GODLEWSKI
Secretary of State