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## *News*

### **Historic boutique hotel houses one of top Kansas City jazz clubs**

“Jazz was born in New Orleans, but grew up in Kansas City,” is an oft-used quote about Kansas City’s role as the cradle of jazz attributed to Congressman and former Kansas City Mayor Emanuel Cleaver by Bobby Watson, professor of jazz, UMKC Conservatory of Music. Kansas City Jazz is a style that transitioned from the original 2/4 jazz beat to 4/4. It was more improvisational than structured and allowed for extended solos.

Fans of “America’s music” started “goin’ to Kansas City” for its famous jazz in the 1920s. Back in the day they came to hear modern riffs on New Orleans jazz by legends like **Count Basie**, **Bennie Moten**, **Big Joe Turner** and **Charlie “Bird” Parker** in smoky clubs and speakeasies in the city’s downtown district. Today they come to hear the idiom articulated in old school and newer forms by current legends like smooth jazz pioneer **Max Groove**, **Joe Cartwright**, **Angela Hagenbach** and **Brian Ruskin** throughout the city, from classic downtown jazz joints like the **Blue Room** and **Mutual Musicians Foundation** to upscale Kansas City jazz clubs like **Chaz** on the posh Country Club Plaza.

Chaz on the Plaza, the historic Raphael hotel’s signature restaurant and lounge, is one of the popular places where jazz’s history continues to unfold. Stylings performed in Chaz range from bebop, blues and swing to Brazilian, fusion, gypsy, smooth and swing. One of the most vibrant music venues in Kansas City, Chaz showcases a diverse variety of regional composers and performers nightly and during Weekend Jazz Brunch. In addition to jazz, other music genres presented include blues, classical, rock and pop. The variety allows for travelers to experience a larger body of Kansas City sound—music that is real, being created and performed by local artists. Travelers will find the hotel’s blog-style entertainment calendar with performer bios helpful in planning their visit to Kansas City music venues. In addition to hearing about the music, travelers may learn more about it at the American Jazz Museum and through Kansas City Jazz Ambassadors, a not-for-profit dedicated to promoting jazz in Kansas City.

The Raphael is noted for distinctive [Kansas City hotel deals and specials](#) within its portfolio of destination-rich packages that may be booked online. A favorite for culture travelers is the Kansas City Heritage package. It includes tickets to six of the city’s unique cultural attractions, including the American Jazz Museum and Negro Leagues Baseball Museum.

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