

# Jazz festival returns to HCC for 25th run



Grammy award winner Luis Perdomo will open the HCC Jazz Festival on Friday. (HOLYOKE COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

**HOLYOKE** — Hot off a win for Best Latin Jazz Album at the 66th annual Grammy Awards, pianist, composer and band leader Luis Perdomo will be the featured guest artist at the 25th anniversary Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival, opening Friday.

The festival starts Friday with an 8 p.m. concert featuring Perdomo, who will perform with the Amherst Jazz Orchestra on the stage of the Leslie

Phillips Theater in the HCC Fine & Performing Arts building.

The concert is free for students, faculty and staff, and \$10 for the general public

“Luis is a great musician, a great teacher and a great guy,” said festival organizer and HCC music professor Bob Ferrier. “I know him from the Jazz in July program at UMass, where we teach together. He just won a Grammy for the number

## IF YOU GO

**Event:** Holyoke Community College Jazz Festival

**Where:** HCC campus in Holyoke

**When:** Friday-Saturday, varying events and hours

**For more information, visit:**

[hcc.edu/about/news-events-and-media/events/jazz-festival-25](http://hcc.edu/about/news-events-and-media/events/jazz-festival-25)

one Latin Jazz Album, so that’s special. We’re very happy to have him here at HCC for our 25th anniversary festival.”

In addition to his work as a performer, Perdomo is a composer, bandleader and teacher. He began performing in his native Venezuela as a teenager and now makes his home in New York City. He is also an associate professor of music at Berklee in Boston.

A prolific sideman, he has appeared on more than 200 records, playing with the likes of artists such as David Sanchez and David Gilmore as well as recording seven albums as a bandleader. He was a member of Ravi Coltrane’s Quartet for 10 years and is a founding member of the Miguel Zenon Quartet.

This year, Perdomo and Zenon, a Puerto Rican saxophone player, received the Grammy award for Best Latin Jazz Album for their 2023 release, “El Arte del Bolero Vol. 2.”

The Amherst Jazz Orchestra, led by trombonist David Sporny, has been a mainstay of the HCC Jazz Festival since the first one in 1998. The HCC Jazz Festival has been held every except for 2020 and 2021, when it was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.