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Nikki Nice was elected Ward 7 Councilwoman in a November 6, 2018 runoff election becoming the fourth woman and second woman of color to serve at City Hall since the City incorporated in 1890. A 4th generation Oklahoman, Councilwoman Nice was born, reared, educated, and spiritually nurtured in Ward 7. Her early education was completed in the Millwood Public Schools District. She is a graduate of Northeast High School and received a Bachelor’s of Arts in Broadcasting from historic Langston University. She has studied abroad in The Gambia and Dakar, Senegal West Africa. Councilwoman Nice is a well-known Television and Television personality with nearly 15 years of on-air experience in the Oklahoma City market. Councilwoman Nice lives in Northeast Oklahoma City and is the proud daughter of Roberta. She is a pet lover, music lover and a lover of people and is committed to moving Ward 7 and Oklahoma City Forward Together.

Dr. Wayne Goins

an author of music literature, including the most comprehensive study of Charlie Christian, A Biography of Charlie Christian. He has written several other books suited for college study of jazz music. His award-winning book, Blues All Day Long: The Story of Jimmy Rogers Story was published by University of Illinois Press in 2014. He is Director of Jazz Studies of Kansas State University and previously taught guitar music at Moorehouse College, Emory University and Kennesaw State University. Dr. Goins founded Little Apple Records, his own record label and released West Coast Swing, Standard Far, Smokin’ at The Oak Bar, Bluesin With the B3, Home…Cookin!, Chronicles of Carmella released in 2011. Goins writes for Jazz Ambassador and Jazz Inside Magazines. Goins was the headliner for the 2016 and 2017 Charlie Christian festivals and performed at the festival with Guitarist Russell Malone prior to those appearances. He frequently leads workshops on guitar music and has collaborated with others who have written about guitar music or Charlie Christian.
Chip Henderson makes his debut this year in Oklahoma City at the Charlie Christian Festival. Since the mid-1990's he has been performing in a variety of settings ranging from traditional jazz combos, big bands, Broadway shows, and chamber orchestras in Memphis and Nashville as well as across Tennessee. In 2018 he performed as part of Charlie Christian's induction into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame.

He earned both a Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the University of Memphis where he studied with Gerard Harris and former Count Basie guitarist and author Charlton Johnson. In 2016 Alfred Publishing released Chip's book of transcriptions that focused on Christian's improvisational style titled Charlie Christian: Selected Solos From The Father of Modern Jazz Guitar. Since the release of the book, Chip has given seminars in the U.S., Canada, and South America on Christian's soloing style.

Chip currently teaches jazz guitar for the Jazz Studies program at Middle Tennessee State University (Murfreesboro, TN) and the Fine Arts/Humanities department at Columbia State Community College (Franklin, TN). He is also a freelance writer/arranger for Alfred Publishing and Hal Leonard Publishing's Jazz Guitar division.

Grady Nichols is a well known saxophonist has played the Charlie Christian Music festival more than a half dozen times during the past 10 years. A favorite among music lovers in Oklahoma, he returns to satisfy their musical urgings for smooth, cool jazz and to raise, again, their longing for the most “Amazing Grace,” played by a saxophonist.

From the time he picked up his first saxophone in the sixth grade when he fell in love with the instrument and studied with legend, Joe Davis, in Siloam Springs, Arkansas, until today, Grady has traveled, recorded and played to audiences all over the United States. He has opened for The O’Jays and Bill Champlin to Herb Alpert. His recordings include Between You and Me and Sophistication. The easy going style of Nichols engages the audience and moves them to pure admiration and excitement. Grady has performed on many jazz cruise lines and was a regular on television’s Hour of Power.
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Jeffrey Smith

makes his fourth appearance at the Charlie Christian Festival. He made his first appearance at the festival in Lawton, OK 2014. The singer and guitarist converted Lawton crowds into followers who keep up with his musical engagements. In 2018, he introduced his band to Oklahoma City and they were a hit!
The Texan who was born in Shreveport, LA began playing music at the tender age of seven. His musical influences include George Benson, Wes Montgomery, Lionel Richie, Frankie Beverly, Prince, Michael Jackson and the Jackson Five. The talented guitarist composed, recorded and performed his own original music as a soloist who played saxophone, piano and guitar. He opened for Lakeside, The Bar-Kays, Midnight Starr, Cameo and many other well known talents.
Jeffrey has expanded his format to include several talented instrumentalists and vocalists that make up his band. His recordings include “Smooth Grooves,” Watercolors”, and “Rhythm of Life” – Parts I and II.

Walter Taylor III

an Oklahoma City native, began playing the drums at age 11. He has traveled extensively following music wherever it takes him. He toured nationally with Uptown Syndicate, a soul and funk band in the 1970’s but held on to his Oklahoma roots, making Oklahoma City his base. As a founding member of the “hot” After Five Trio in the 1990’s Taylor found himself on the road again and in the recording studio laying down tracks for the wildly successful, “Expressions,” album that consisted of an original collection of songs of rhythmically romantic ballads, jazz fusion and funky get-down rhythm and blues. Forming the TaylorMade Jazz concept, he advocates for blues and funk under this umbrella to establish Blu Fonk, to create and mold sounds to fit the occasion. Walter can be found wherever good music is played, often in the midst of the fun! He is musical director of the Charlie Christian International Music Festival.
John Ford

was born and raised in Oklahoma City and started playing drums at an early age. By the age of 16, he was sitting in with various bands. He left Oklahoma City at age 17 and joined his first band, the Funke Bunch. After traveling with others and, later, forming his own band, John returned home. By 1976, he was touring again with some of the big names in music including Denise LaSalle, SOS Band, and the Chilites. He joined the group Destinee in 1980 while in Dallas. Ford learned a lot about developing his own style and format while on the road. Armed with all he needed, he returned to Oklahoma City and landed a contract with Oklahoma Casinos to do the Motown Revue for almost 10 years. His most recent show, The Stax Music Revue, was developed at the request of Black Liberated Arts Center, Inc. John looks forward to continuing his musical successes.

Robert Banks

has a unique style and sound of his own. He is one of the hottest bass players around. Coupled with one of the hottest bands in the city, “Positive Productions,” their performance is molded to perfection. Banks has played the Charlie Christian Festival in Oklahoma City to crowd-pleasing audiences. Banks was born in Hayti, MO and later moved to Wichita, KS where he slowly perfected his gift in playing the 7-string bass. His accomplishments include opening for Wayman Tisdale, Najee, Kirk Franklin and other great artists.
The Oklahoma City/County Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving and sharing the historical heritage of Oklahoma City.
Thank You

Sincere Appreciation to
All volunteers who helped with all the
Charlie Christian Supreme Experience!

Thanks to each audience member
who participated in the
Charlie Christian
Supreme Experience.

Charlie Christian Festival
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Special thanks to the Oklahoma Historical Society
for their generosity!

Join Black Liberated Arts Center (BLAC), Inc. in a year of celebrations for our 50th Anniversary! Watch for upcoming events beginning June 1, 2019 through May 31, 2020.
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Charlie Christian played amplified guitar with Benny Goodman’s quartet. He was the greatest guitar player that ever was.
—Chuck Berry

2019

Charlie Christian Experience

May 30
Jam Session
Oklahoma History Center
7:00 p.m.
TaylorMade Jazz
Chip Henderson, special guest

May 31
Battle of the Bands
The Bryant Center
7:00 p.m.
Robert Banks Band
John Ford & 411 Band

June 1
Charlie Christian Supreme
The Montellano Event Center
6:00 p.m.
Grady Nichols Band
Jeffrey Smith Band
Dr. Wayne Goins Band
Chip Henderson, special guest

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