

# Eric Concert and Symposium on the Future of Jazz Culture

Saturday, April 20, 2024 | 2:00 pm  
Edward M. Pickman Hall

In remembrance of WGBH's Eric Jackson, the "dean of Boston Jazz Radio."

**Event Director:**

Bill Banfield

**Moderator:**

Bob Blumenthal

**Panel:**

Chelsey Green

Peter Cassino

Samuel Cerra

Linda Jackson

Ron Reid

Zahili Zamora



Photo courtesy of GBH Educational Foundation

**Statement by Jon Abbott, Special Advisor and President Emeritus, WGBH:**

It's a great honor to be a part of a celebration of Eric Jackson's life and impact on generations of jazz fans. I had the privilege of working with Eric at WGBH for more than twenty years. I treasured the sound of his voice: gentle, inviting, and encouraging. He wasn't only a companion through the music, but a teacher. Eric never put it on you. Rather, he welcomed you into an experience with the music he loved and shared. His show was a sharing session. He was always generous and supportive of the artists he admired. I always recall how many musicians who came through GBH over those years reflected on how special Eric was.

When I arrived at GBH, I was already a fan. I'd grown up in NYC and had been a jazz host at college in New York. I'd been told about Eric and his legend in Boston. So, when I arrived at GBH, I made a bee line for Eric's studio and introduced myself. That first year, they were looking for someone to join Eric for the membership pledge drive in-studio for Eric in the Evening. Sticking around for the night shift wasn't something many staff were up for after a full day. But I jumped at the chance. Are you kidding? The chance to hang around with Eric and watch him, listen to him? After our mic breaks together, as he chose music, he sweetly entertained all my questions, talking about his upbringing, his father, his start in radio. He was curious about my love of the music, as I too had a father who was my encourager with the music.

Eric and I often shared time together through those years. I rarely have experienced someone in our field whose presence and warmth endeared him forever to so many. His laugh, his quiet appreciation, and his joy with the music will always be with me. What a remarkable man, and an extraordinary presence in our lives.

Jon Abbott  
April 2024

**Scan to learn more about our panelists**



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