



23 December 2020

Mariono Equizzi
Radio Ros Brera
Milan, Italy

Dear Mariono,

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. On behalf of UNESCO, the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz and the organizing team behind International Jazz Day, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your incredible efforts to celebrate International Jazz Day during this year of unprecedented challenges for our global community.

While every facet of life has seemingly been upended by the ongoing struggle against the COVID-19 pandemic, especially for artists and those whose work is not easily subject to social distancing, it is encouraging that so many of you around the world found creative and innovative ways to show your love for jazz and its positive message last April. From marathon solo livestreams to virtual concerts featuring hundreds of musicians, the outpouring of support, solidarity and especially music was unlike anything we had expected. With your help, we showed that jazz truly is a unifying and healing force, regardless of where you come from or what language you speak.

Mariono, as we prepare to end a tumultuous 2020, I am also writing with a message of friendship and support for the coming year. Please know that, regardless of how you choose to celebrate International Jazz Day in 2021, your program will be welcome on the official Jazz Day calendar. As always, we encourage our organizers to follow all local, regional and national public health advisories when planning their Jazz Day event.

Next year will mark the 10th Anniversary of this incredible celebration. Although we are still determining what the global program will look like, I am confident that our collective friendship and determination will produce a truly inspirational commemoration of all we have accomplished over the past decade. When you have time, please let our team know what you may be planning, and how we can be of assistance.

Please accept my best wishes for your continued health and safety.

Sincerely,

Herbie Hancock
UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador
for Intercultural Dialogue