



For Immediate Release

Coltrane Day 2015 Celebrates the 50th Anniversary of John Coltrane's Opus Work with Festival of Live Music, Music Workshops, Community Jams. Saxophonist Ravi Coltrane Headlines Evening Performance.

Who: **The Coltrane Home in Dix Hills**, in partnership with: The Huntington Arts Council, Town of Huntington

What: All-day music festival benefiting The Coltrane Home in Dix Hills

Where: Heckscher Park, 164 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743

When: Sunday, July 5th, 2015 11am-5:00pm (evening performance and discussion at 7:30pm)

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Huntington, NY - - On Sunday, July 5th, **The Coltrane Home of Dix Hills** in conjunction with the Town of Huntington and The Huntington Arts Council will be staging an all-day, free, family-friendly festival of live music and music workshops. From 11am until 5:00pm, Heckscher Park in Huntington Village will host workshops, master-classes, community jams and live performances celebrating the 50th anniversary of jazz titan John Coltrane's seminal recording 'A Love Supreme', composed in the Dix Hills home which was recently saved from sale and demolition.

The event's goal is to raise awareness about John and Alice Coltrane -- two music giants who lived in the Home -- and their legacies, and build community support to help restore the Home. It will also unveil the new music education program -- the Legacy Education Project - designed, in Alice Coltrane's own words, to "inspire people of all ages and backgrounds to participate in the making of music".

Ron Stein, President of the organization, hopes that this event can be a boon to the region's awareness and furthering the organization's goals. "Coltrane Day marks the 50th anniversary of the release of this amazing musical composition. Nothing brings people together like music, and we can't think of a better way to celebrate this monumental work than by inviting music lovers and musicians of all ages and backgrounds to come together, listen, play and just have fun." The day culminates in an evening performance by saxophonist Ravi Coltrane (the Ravi Coltrane Quartet), a major force in jazz, and son of John and Alice. Ravi spent his earliest years in the Home.

Fifty years ago, Coltrane's opus work, and considered by many music enthusiasts and jazz critics to be among the most influential pieces of music of the 20th century, was composed at the Dix Hills home of John and Alice Coltrane. The Coltranes moved into the Home in 1964. (After John's passing in 1967, Alice sold the Home in 1973 and moved to Los Angeles.) The Home was slated for demolition until jazz enthusiast and Dix Hills resident Steven Fulgoni helped publicize the significance of the property. In 2004 an outpouring of support from around the world, including letters from Carlos Santana, Herbie Hancock, Bill Cosby and many others persuaded the Town of Huntington to purchase the property and convert the site into a park. The Home was placed in the hands of "The Friends of the Coltrane Home in Dix Hills."

According to Stein, saving and restoring the Home is the right thing to do. "John Coltrane is revered as a music god across all music genres, generations and around the globe. It's as if Beethoven had composed his Ninth Symphony right here on Long Island. People around the world will recognize Dix Hills, Huntington and Long Island as the Home of John Coltrane. This place is a Long Island gem."

In 2011, the National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the Home as one of the "Eleven-most Endangered Properties" in the United States, a designation only given to properties deemed to have critical cultural importance. Since that time, the "Friends" have made many improvements to stabilize and repair the Home, but much more needs to be done, however.

The dual mission. The Coltrane Home has a dual mission: a) restore the Dix Hills Home and create a state-of-the-art museum and inspirational learning center at the site, and b) develop the Legacy Education Project to help encourage young people to engage in the creative music making process, and improve communication and life skills. The theme of the program is "Music for Life".

The Day's Events. Workshops are being offered for a wide range of age groups. Music improvisation and percussion classes will cover all age ranges and abilities, led by Shenole Latimer, trombonist Terry Greene II, and well-known percussionists and educators Jerry Ligon and Napoleon Revels-Bey. Additional workshops: Funk, led by Funk Filharmonik members, saxman John Scarpulla and percussionist Steve Finkelstein; Rap/Hip-hop led by Long Islander Clifton Torres; Electronic Music, by Huntington resident up-and-comer Mikah Feldman-Stein (aka M.E.M.E.). Songwriting is also on the slate, led by Patricia Shih, Toby Tobias, Marty Stone and others. For many the day's high point could be Community Jams in Percussion, Jazz & Funk, and Blues – the latter led by Huntington's favorite bluesman Willie Steel. Online registration for workshops is recommended at the Home's website.

Two terrific Main Acts headline on the Chapin Stage during the day. The dynamic world music ensemble **Bangalore Breakdown**, led by improvisational giants Premik Russell Tubbs (sax) and Uli Geissendoerfer (keyboards) take the stage at 12:30. And the talented vocalist, songwriter and keyboard player **Mala Waldron** takes the stage at 3PM with her Quartet, which includes

Huntington guitar virtuoso Steve Salerno. (Fittingly, Mala's father, Mal Waldron, was a jazz piano great who played and recorded with John Coltrane.)

2015 also marks the 50th anniversary of the Huntington Summer Arts Festival, and is testament to the importance of Huntington's commitment to arts and music. The program is partially funded by a Suffolk County Community Arts grant from the Department of Economic Development and Planning.

The Coltrane Home hopes to attract all members of the Long Island community and beyond to this event. As Alice Coltrane has intimated in the past, this is about bringing everyone together to make, and enjoy music.

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