

Stamford Center for the Arts to honor Brubeck

By Elizabeth Kim, Staff Writer

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STAMFORD -- Jazz legend Dave Brubeck will be the first recipient of the [Stamford Center for the Arts Legacy Award](#).

The SCA announced Monday that Brubeck, a Wilton resident who received a Kennedy Center Honor for lifetime achievement in the arts last month, will be honored April 29 at the [Palace Theatre](#) on Atlantic Street.

After the ceremony, the 89-year-old pianist will perform with The [Dave Brubeck Quartet](#) as part of a benefit concert that will assist in reviving the SCA's music education program.

The new award is intended to recognize great performers in arts or entertainment and, in particular, those who have made a lasting contribution toward arts education, according to SCA Executive Director [Elissa Getto](#).

"Dave Brubeck's many contributions to jazz have been recognized for over 50 years nationally and internationally," she said.

Brubeck is probably best known for "Time Out," his 1958 album with the Dave Brubeck Quartet. It included "Take Five," which became the first jazz single to reach 1 million in sales. In addition to jazz, he has composed many classical works. During the [Kennedy Center Honors](#), pianist [Herbie Hancock](#) said Brubeck was "the reason I don't have a day job."

Brubeck's fellow Kennedy Center honorees were [Robert De Niro](#), [Bruce Springsteen](#), [Mel Brooks](#) and Grace Bumbry.

In 2000, he was named chairman of the [Brubeck Institute](#), which was established in his honor by his alma mater, the [University of the Pacific](#).

He has contributed to various area choral and instrumental groups and supported educational causes. Last summer, he performed in Norwalk at a benefit concert sponsored by a Connecticut music education charity.

Brubeck's appearance in Stamford will be his first in at least five years, according to Getto.

"It's a good time for him to return," she said. "He is so beloved in the area."



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The decision to honor Brubeck came as [SCA board](#) members were discussing ways the organization could rededicate itself to the mission of arts education, Getto said. The center, which filed for bankruptcy in August 2008, suspended the program last year.

As a result, proceeds from a gala preceding the show will go toward SCA's Summer 2010 Arts Infusion Education Program. The program is intended to engage and teach young people ages 4 and 18 in the area. For the 2010-11 season, a scholarship will be awarded in Brubeck's name.

Tickets for the performance will go on sale to SCA members Wednesday and the general public Jan. 20. They cost \$40 to \$65. Tickets to the gala are \$150 per person.

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