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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DAVE KOZ & FRIENDS ANNOUNCE 2024 CHRISTMAS TOUR Featuring Jonathan Butler With Special Guests VINCENT INGALA, ADAM HAWLEY AND Rebecca Jade**

**27th Annual Tour is coming to Cleveland December 8, 2024**

***Christmas Ballads (25th Anniversary Collection)* Available** [**HERE**](https://davekoz.store/products/dave-koz-friends-christmas-ballads-25th-anniversary-collection-signed-cd)

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Download hi-res artwork and artist photos [HERE](https://www.davekoz.com/dave-koz-christmas-tour-2024-media-kit)

**CLEVELAND, OH**- **Dave Koz & Friends Christmas Tour 2024**—the27th anniversary edition of the longest-running jazz-based Christmas tour—will stop in Cleveland at Playhouse Square on December 8, 2024. Bringing a fresh sensibility to this rich musical tradition, **Koz & Friends** will perform timeless Christmas classics plus a Chanukah medley and hits from each artist’s respective catalogue. This year’s tour, which will visit 18 cities in less than a month, reunites **Koz** with long-time musical partner, guitarist/singer **Jonathan Butler**, and features special guests, saxophonist **Vincent Ingala**, guitarist **Adam Hawley** and vocalist **Rebecca Jade**—all of whom are truly artists on the rise.  Tickets can be purchased online at [www.playhousesquare.org](http://www.playhousesquare.org) or by phone at 216-241-6000.

Writer Gary Graff (*Billboard,* *The Oakland Press*) calls the tour “a holiday institution.” *360°Sound* sees it as a “kick-ass holiday party, with our host Santa Koz making all our holiday dreams come true.” *Esquire* said, “A man who digs Dave Koz, is a man who digs life.”

**Koz** brings a holiday vibe to a classic Disney song in the animated video for his inspired rendition of **“When You Wish Upon A Star**” (from *Pinocchio*). View [HERE](https://youtu.be/65dWbRy6Xqk). The track is from his new EP, ***Dave Koz Does Disney***.[***Christmas Ballads***](https://davekoz.store/products/dave-koz-friends-christmas-ballads-25th-anniversary-collection-signed-cd)—**Koz’s** eighth and most recent holiday album—has won acclaim, with *Downbeat* noting, “*Christmas Ballads*...provide mellow aural bliss to anyone relaxing near a fireplace of crackling logs on a wintry night.” *The Mercury News* observed, “the smooth jazz master explores the romantic side of the season as he offers up such ballads as ‘Merry Christmas Darling’ and ‘Ave Maria.’ The performances, of course, are top-notch...” **Koz’s** latest recording project is a collaboration with the legendary **Bob James**, which will be released in 2025.

In over 30 years of constant touring, **Koz** has graced the stages of some of the most prestigious venues the world over, including Royal Albert Hall in London, Kennedy Center in Washington, DC, Carnegie Hall in New York City and various symphony orchestras across the country. **Koz** also headlines The Hollywood Bowl every other summer season as one of the legendary venue’s “regulars.”

In May 2024, **Dave Koz & Friends at Sea** sailed to Greece, Malta and Sicily on two sold-out voyages. **Koz** has raised over two million dollars to date for Starlight Children’s Foundation through the **Dave Koz & Friends At Sea** silent auctions and his network of fans.He has served as global ambassador for the Foundation for 30 years. Earlier this year, **Koz** received the 2023 Starlight Children’s Foundation Lifetime Achievement Award.

**Dave Koz and Friends Christmas Tour 2024**

11/29 – Atlanta, GA – Cobb Energy Performing Arts Centre

11/30 – Clearwater, FL – Ruth Eckerd Hall

12/1 – Sarasota, FL – Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

12/2 – Naples, FL – Hayes Hall Artis-Naples

12/3 – Jacksonville, FL – Florida Theatre

12/5 – North Bethesda, MD – The Music Center at Strathmore

12/6 – Newport News, VA – Ferguson Center For The Arts

12/7 – New Haven, CT – John Lyman Center For The Performing Arts

12/8 – Cleveland, OH – Connor Palace at Playhouse Square

12/11 – Warren, OH – Robins Theatre

12/12 – Chicago, IL – Auditorium Theatre

12/13 – Carmel, IN – The Palladium At The Center For The Performing Arts

12/14 – Columbus, OH – Palace Theatre

12/15 – Detroit, MI – Music Hall Center For The Performing Arts

12/18 – Mesa, AZ – Mesa Arts Center – Ikeda Theater

12/19 – San Diego, CA – Balboa Theatre

12/20 – Cerritos, CA – Cerritos Center For The Performing Arts

12/21 – Cerritos, CA – Cerritos Center For The Performing Arts

12/22 – Palm Desert, CA – McCallum Theatre

12/23 – Modesto, CA – Gallo Center For The Arts

[**Dave Koz**](http://davekoz.com/) has racked up an astoundingly impressive array of honors and achievements: nine GRAMMY® nominations, 12 No. 1 albums on *Billboard*’s Current Contemporary Jazz Albums chart, numerous world tours, a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, performances for multiple U.S. presidents and, most recently, a 2023 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award from President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris. A Platinum-selling artist, the California native is also known as a humanitarian, entrepreneur, radio host and instrumental music advocate.

His 2020 album, *A New Day*, reached the No. 1 position on numerous jazz charts, including iTunes and Amazon, and delivered an unprecedented four back-to-back No. 1 hits on *Billboard’s* Smooth Jazz Airplay chart—“Side By Side” ft. David Sanborn, “Dr. Norm” ft. Paul Jackson, Jr., “The Closer We Get” and “Summertime in NYC.” Koz broke new ground with his 2021 release, *The Golden Hour*. Recorded live in the studio with a large jazz ensemble, the album marked his first full-length collaboration with guitarist/producer/internet sensation Cory Wong. In 2022, Koz celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Dave Koz and Friends Christmas tour with the release of his eighth and most intimate holiday album to date, *Christmas Ballads*, and a new all-star, 25-date tour. His 2024 EP, *Dave Koz Does Disney*, featured modern renditions of beloved Disney songs from numerous eras.

Dave Koz & Friends at Sea visited Greece, Malta and Sicily on two sold-out 2024 voyages, bringing the total number of sold-out voyages since the cruise’s inception to 18. Cabins are on sale now for Dave Koz & Friends’ two 2025 back-to-back cruises to Iceland, Norway and The Netherlands. Koz recently announced a new cruise brand—SOMMA—which will offer the ultimate in luxury, relaxation and entertainment. Cabins for the inaugural SOMMA—Italia cruise, which will sail the Italian coast in September 2024 on Seabourn’s Ovation, have already sold out.

[**Jonathan Butler**](https://jonathanbutler.com/)is a shining example of purposeful excellence in a time when artists of optimism are at a premium. From recording local hits as a teenager growing up during the apartheid of South Africa, Butler went on to become a world-renowned singer, guitarist and songwriter, delivering soulful salvos of R&B, gospel, jazz and pop. Touring professionally by age seven, Butler’s first single, “Please Stay,” was the first by a Black artist played on white radio in segregated South Africa. Jonathan became a national icon. His music even provided solace to Nelson Mandela, who later met Butler and told him that listening to his music had helped him endure time in prison.

On his new album, *Ubuntu*, Butler swings full circle back to his homeland, going back 60 years to his upbringing in apartheid-era Cape Town, which shaped his world view, prompted years of advocacy and instilled the ideology of ‘Oneness’ (Ubuntu). Featuring producer/bassist Marcus Miller and special guests Keb’ Mo’ and Stevie Wonder on harmonica, the new album serves both as a rebirth of musical creativity and reconciliation with systemically biased history to forge a brighter future.

[**Vincent Ingala**](https://www.vincentingala.com/)has blasted into an exciting stratosphere of his own making since his 2010 critically acclaimed debut album, *North End Soul*. The charismatic saxophonist was named *Billboard’s* Smooth Jazz Artist of the Year in 2012 and Sirius XM Watercolors Breakthrough Artist of the Year in 2013. His music is consistently found atop the most noteworthy music charts in the world. He’s charted nine No. 1 hits on the *Billboard* Smooth Jazz Airplay Chart and over 20 songs within the chart’s Top 10.

An “old soul” as he’s often referred to, Vincent possesses a deep knowledge and appreciation for all genres of music. His versatility on multiple instruments makes him sought after, both live and as a producer in the studio. His seventh studio album, 2021’s *Fire & Desire*, finds Vincent playing every instrument throughout the entire album, along with nine original compositions, and a reimagining of Houston Person’s dance floor hit, “Disco Sax.”

[**Adam Hawley**](https://adamhawley.com/) is a gifted performer, sideman, and educator, known for his lithe, groove-oriented approach to contemporary jazz and R&B. After working steadily for over a decade with many marquee jazz and pop artists (including Natalie Cole, Jennifer Lopez, Manhattan Transfer and Peabo Bryson), the guitarist launched his solo career with the 2016 album, *Just the Beginning*, which featured three chart-topping smooth jazz singles—"35th Street," "Joy Ride" and "I Don't Mind." His second solo album, *Double Vision*, contained the No. 1 singles "Can You Feel It" and “Just Dance” (ft. Dave Koz). “To The Top” ft. Jeff Ryan from *Escape*, his third album, was the No. 1 song on *Billboard’s* Smooth Jazz Airplay Songs year-end chart for 2020. 2021’s *Risin’ Up* included the hits “Risin’ Up” and “Let’s Get Down Tonight” ft. Vincent Ingala, which topped *Billboard’s* Smooth Jazz Airplay chart.

[**Rebecca Jade**](https://www.rebeccajade.com/)is an accomplished singer/songwriter who has opened for Jeffrey Osborne, Boney James and Musiq Soulchild. In 2020, she performed with Sir Elton John at the Academy Awards. In addition, Jade has toured with the Queen of Percussion, Sheila E., since 2017. An eight-time San Diego Music Award winner, she has released five full-length records, including an album of Cole Porter classics, *Planet Cole Porter*, with jazz guitar virtuoso Peter Sprague. She wrote and co-produced her newest album, *A Shade of Jade*, with Carnell Harrell. Also an athlete, Jade graduated from UC Berkeley on a full basketball scholarship. In 2023, she released her first-ever Christmas EP, *Just Another Christmas Album*.

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[www.davekoz.com](http://www.davekoz.com)

<https://www.youtube.com/c/DaveKozMusic-Videos>

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Playhouse Square, home to the largest Broadway season ticket holder community in North America, is Northeast Ohio's destination for entertainment. A not-for-profit performing arts center, Playhouse Square is a champion of arts education and downtown Cleveland, and proud to be the home of The City Club of Cleveland, Cleveland Ballet, Cleveland International Film Festival, Cleveland Play House, Cleveland State University Department of Theatre and Dance, DANCECleveland, Great Lakes Theater and Tri-C JazzFest.