

United Nations Celebrates Jazz Day

On April 30 the U.N. Postal Administration (UNPA) issued three mini-sheets of twelve stamps each and a souvenir card to celebrate International Jazz Day. The stamps are denominated in U.S. 49¢ (for use out of U.N. New York headquarters), .70 Euro (out of Vienna), and 1 Swiss franc (out of Geneva).

While Jazz started as a unique American musical art form that originated at the beginning of the 20th century, it is rooted in African traditions, draws from European musical forms, and has evolved into various styles around the world.

In 2011 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) proclaimed April 30 as “International Jazz Day”. Each year International Jazz Day events, which are organized by UNESCO and the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, highlight the historic influence that the genre has had in connecting people and igniting social change. The Global Host City for 2014 is Osaka, Japan.



Sergio Baradat, the artist of the stamp series had the following to say about the designs: “This was a wonderful project to work on. I approached it as a multi-faceted piece of art where each stamp is a collage onto itself, in tandem with the other pieces to create one large composition. I was inspired by the abstraction that is Jazz; I wanted to give the designs atmosphere and a sense of sound through color.”

The stamps of the United Nations, as well as the issues of 20 other postal administrations at face value may be accessed at the World Online Philatelic Agency, <http://www.wopa-stamps.com/>.