

This is a quick note to say how much we in "Kalabash" have been thrilled to be a part of your "Keeping Jazz Alive" series. Like so many in the Performing Arts community in Toronto, the musicians in the jazz sextet have been hit hard by the cancellation of live performances in the city, and across the country, because of the need to curb the spread of the COVID-19 virus. And it's not just live performances, but also the curtailing of many other creative, educational or commercial activities that we as musicians get involved in, as we earn a living with our craft. The real frightening thing for all of us, is the realization that 'Live Performance', with its need for larger audiences, is going to be very slow coming back to the city, the province and the country. In fact, because of the failure to control the virus in the US, the entire North American "Live Events" sector is in mortal trouble.

The other side of this calamity for us, is that full time musicians like most artists, are largely self-employed, and not covered by "Employment Insurance" like so many in the workforce. So, we are very grateful that JPEC has kicked off this initiative. It helps a bit financially, but more importantly, it also fulfills that drive for self-expression that motivates us as artists. It was great to bond with band mates in the studio, masks notwithstanding, to make some great music again. From all of us in Kalabash, many thanks to you and the rest of the JPEC family. And pass on our thanks also, to your sponsors who support this initiative, especially your lead sponsor **TD**. We all appreciate the critical role **TD** plays in supporting Jazz in Toronto and across the country.

Looking forward to working with you and the JPEC team again. Stay safe, stay healthy. This too shall pass! Fingers crossed!

Sincerely,

Tony Pierre Kalabash