

FESTIVAL STATS AND STUDIES · PENNSYLVANIA EDITION · AUGUST 2026

Thirty-five editions of the *Boscov's Berks Jazz Fest*, and one trumpet player who played twenty-two of them in a row.

Every bill the festival has ever published, 1991 through 2026, taken from its own artists-history page. Thirty-five editions, 1,500 artist bookings. Berks has the larger and broader bill of the two festivals compared on this page.

28 / 35 editions featuring Rick Braun — 80% of all Berks Jazz Fest editions	22 of those consecutively, 2004 through 2026
67% of bookings over the last ten editions went to an artist who had played before	200 artists played exactly one of the last ten editions and were never asked back

The core, 1991–2026

Thirty-five editions. The right-hand column is the one that matters: not how often an artist played, but **how often the festival rebooked them in every edition after their first one.**

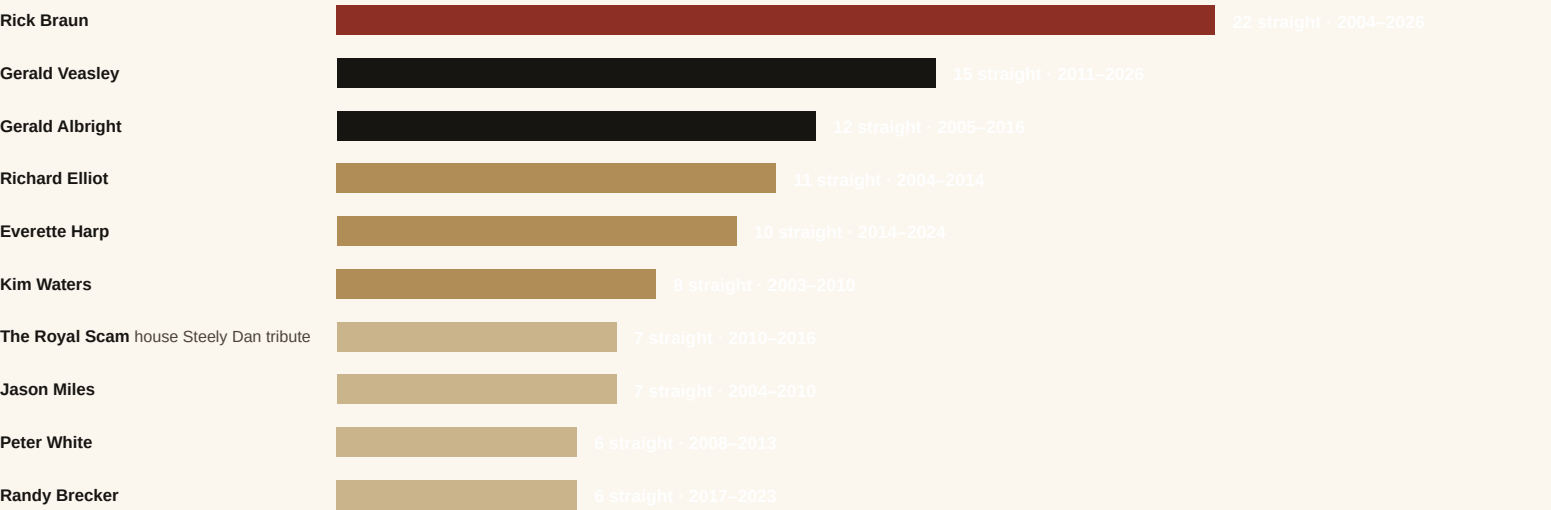
ARTIST	DEBUT	EDITIONS	% OF ALL 35	REBOOKED, EVERY YEAR SINCE DEBUT
Gerald Veasley	1994	29	83%	91%
Rick Braun	1995	28	80%	90%
Brian Culbertson	1996	23	66%	77%
Gerald Albright	2001	18	51%	72%
Bobby Lyle	2007	13	37%	68%
Boney James	1995	20	57%	65%
Chuck Loeb (<i>d. 2017</i>)	1999	17	49%	63%
Kim Waters	2000	16	46%	62%
Nick Colionne (<i>d. 2022</i>)	2006	12	34%	60%
Richard Elliot	1996	17	49%	57%
Peter White	1994	18	51%	56%
Brian Bromberg	1999	14	40%	52%
Everette Harp	1998	14	40%	50%
Chieli Minucci	2002	12	34%	50%
Kirk Whalum	1995	15	43%	48%
Two hundred other artists, 2016–2026			one edition. Never rebooked.	

Counts are produced by a script that reads the festival's own published bills and extracts every named artist, including artists appearing inside package billings. Where a name could not be parsed unambiguously it was dropped rather than guessed, so every figure is a floor. 2026 is a lineup announcement rather than a full schedule and is therefore lighter than a normal year.

EXHIBIT B

The streak board

Consecutive editions, no gaps, in a festival that has been running since 1991. The record is twenty-two — the longest unbroken run at either festival compared on this page.

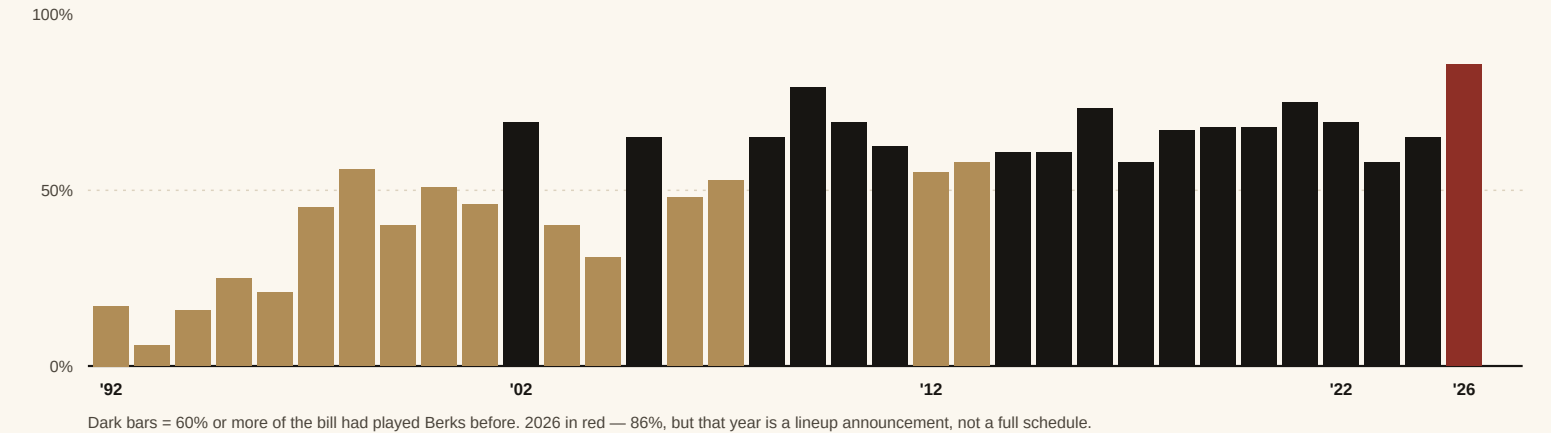


Rick Braun's run is longer than the entire performing history of most artists on the bill.

EXHIBIT C

The rotation rate, thirty-four measurable editions

Percentage of each year's bill that had played Berks before. The festival opened in 1991 with a blank slate; by 2002 two-thirds of the room was already returning; the last ten editions run at 67%.



Last ten editions: 535 artist-slots, 300 distinct artists, 1.78 bookings per artist, 67.1% of slots filled by a returning artist. Two hundred of those 300 artists appeared once and never again.

EXHIBIT D

Berks is not an agency festival. That is the surprise.

The three agents who supplied 42.4% of Rehoboth's artist-slots over its last ten editions — Butler, Hansen and Talbert — supplied **79 of 535 Berks bookings over ten editions, 14.8%** (93, or 17.4%, with Major Scale Management added). At Rehoboth the three-agent share was 59% in 2025. Berks draws on a wider set of booking desks; its concentration is in a small number of *artists* rather than agencies.

WHAT BERKS DOES DIFFERENTLY

Bills of 45 to 75 acts, against Rehoboth's 30. Symphony collaborations, straight-ahead programming, blues, gospel, big bands, high-school ensembles, a Django night, a bop night. Three hundred distinct artists in ten years against Rehoboth's 116. On these measures of breadth, Berks has the wider bill.

WHAT IT DOES IDENTICALLY

The most-booked names recur. Rick Braun has appeared in 28 of 35 editions and 22 in a row. Gerald Veasley, a Philadelphia-born bassist with a long association with the festival, 29 of 35. With Brian Culbertson (23), the three account for 80 of a possible 105 edition appearances. The most-booked names have changed little since the late 1990s.

SHARE OF ALL BOOKINGS SUPPLIED BY BUTLER, HANSEN AND TALBERT, LAST TEN EDITIONS

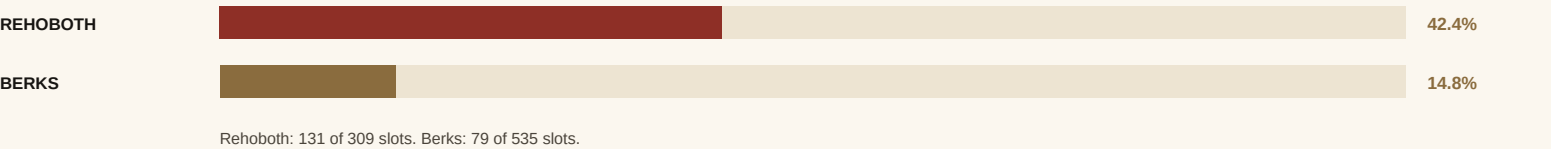


EXHIBIT E

The producing nonprofit has announced its closure

The Berks Arts Council (founded 1971), which ran this festival from 1991 to 2026 — 35 years — **announced on 27 July 2026 that it would cease operations**; no closure date was given. A new management organization, Berks Jazz Fest, was announced by John Ernesto (the festival's general manager and artistic director until 2024, then a consultant) and Jim Boscov, with the 36th festival scheduled for April 2027. This page records elsewhere that Berks buys more widely than Rehoboth, and that reflects his programming.

The structural point is about institutions, not individuals. A festival is meant to be an institution that outlives the people who book it. When the institution winds up and the working relationships are what carry forward, the continuity that survives is personal rather than institutional — which is the same dependency this study measures everywhere else, arriving by a different route.

EXHIBIT F · THE TWO FESTIVALS, SIDE BY SIDE

Same argument, different mechanism

	BERKS JAZZ FEST	REHOBOTH BEACH JAZZ FESTIVAL
Editions studied	35 (1991–2026)	28 recoverable (1996–2026)
Typical bill	45–75 acts	29–33 acts
Distinct artists, last ten editions	300	116
Bookings per artist	1.78	2.66
Repeat share of bookings	67.0%	84.5%
Three-agent share of bookings (Butler, Hansen, Talbert)	14.8%	42.4%
Longest consecutive run	22 — Rick Braun, 2004–2026	12 — Brian Simpson and Club Phred
Highest single-artist share of all editions	83% — Gerald Veasley, 29 of 35	54% — Braun, White, Simpson, 15 of 28

Artists with exactly one appearance in ten editions	200 of 300	59 of 116
Producing entity	Berks Arts Council — closure announced 27 July 2026 ; now Berks Jazz Fest	Delaware Celebration of Jazz, Inc.

Berks is the more open festival on every measure of breadth shown here, and one trumpet player has been on 80% of its bills. The two findings are not in conflict. A festival can shop the whole market for the undercard and still treat the top of the bill as a standing order.

EXHIBIT G

What these numbers do and do not support

An earlier version of this page made the same case in ten sarcastic restatements. They added heat and no evidence, and they are gone. The claim the record carries, stated once.

WHAT THE RECORD SHOWS

Rick Braun has appeared on 28 of 35 bills, 22 of them consecutively between 2004 and 2026. Gerald Veasley 29 of 35, Brian Culbertson 23. Rebooking rates measured from each artist's debut run from 91% down to 48% for the fifteen most-booked names. Across the last ten editions, 67% of slots went to a returning artist, and 200 of the 300 artists in that decade appeared once. Every figure is taken from the festival's own published artists-history page and is reproducible from the raw files.

WHAT IT DOES NOT SHOW

It does not show that any of these musicians lacks drawing power — several are among the most-booked players in the idiom, and Gerald Veasley, a Philadelphia-born bassist, has a long association with the festival. It does not show collusion, favouritism or any impropriety by the festival, its staff or any artist, and none is alleged. Berks buys from a wider market than Rehoboth: three desks supply 14.8% of its bookings against 42.4% at Rehoboth.

The narrow claim: a stage that never changes hands generates no evidence about anyone who never stood on it. A festival can shop the whole market for the undercard and still treat the top of the bill as a

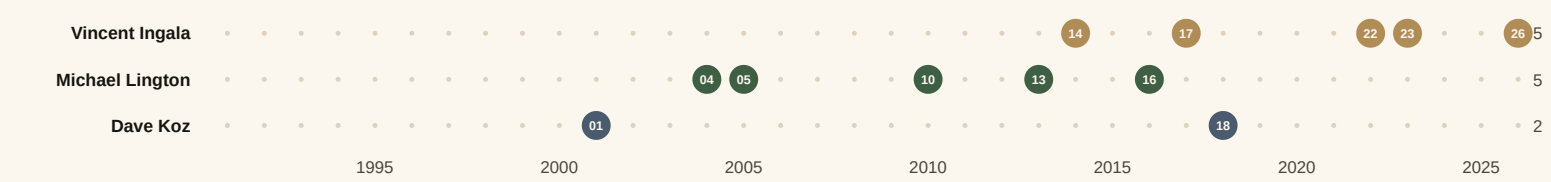
standing order, and thirty-five years is a long time to leave that untested.

If any figure on this page is wrong, it will be corrected on the record. See [Corrections & Right of Reply](#).

EXHIBIT · THE CAROUSEL

Ingala, Lington and Koz here

Three careers tracked across every festival in this study. A filled dot is an appearance; the number at the right is the total at this festival. 35 editions, 1991–2026. Vincent Ingala is the genre's permanent newcomer, Michael Lington its most evenly distributed working artist, and Dave Koz the one who stopped waiting for the phone and built an event of his own.



Michael Lington's first two Berks bookings — 2004 and 2005 — predate the window most tallies cover, which is why he is routinely undercounted. Vincent Ingala did not appear until the festival's 24th year and has been back four times since. Dave Koz has played Berks twice in thirty-five editions. Full cross-festival treatment in *Festival Stats and Studies · Volume V — The Carousel*.

READ NEXT

Thirty-five editions, one trumpet player on twenty-eight of them. The desks behind it are mapped in The Gatekeepers.

THE NETWORK

The Gatekeepers

Four desks, and the people who sell and buy at the same time.

[READ →](#)

DELAWARE

Rehoboth Beach Jazz Festival

84.5% of slots over ten editions went to a returning artist.

[READ →](#)

THE CONTROL

Jazz at the Oxford

Fourteen seasons in a Bend hotel ballroom. Four desks supply 3.5%.

[READ →](#)

METHOD & SOURCES

One appearance = one artist named on one edition's bill, solo or inside a package (Guitars & Saxes, BWB, RnR, West Coast Jam, the Sax Pack, Heads Up Super Band, the Chuck Loeb Memorial All-Star Jam, Gerald Veasley's Unscripted, tribute shows). Names are extracted from the festival's own verbatim bills by script; where a name could not be parsed unambiguously it was dropped rather than guessed, so **every count here is a floor**. The festival treats 2020 and 2021 as a single combined edition — 2020 was postponed and the 30th-anniversary festival ran in 2021 — and it is counted once. That gives 35 editions across 36 calendar years. The 2026 entry is a lineup announcement rather than a completed schedule and is lighter than a normal year.

Primary sources: the festival's own artists-history page, berksjazzfest.com/berks-jazz-fest-artists-history (year-by-year, 1991–2025); the 2026 lineup announcement and printable brochure PDF; berksarts.org; agency roster pages and artists' own booking-contact pages for the representation map; Pollstar and CelebrityAccess for agency formation; WDIY (28 and 31 July 2026), BerksWeekly and BCTV (3 August 2026) for the Berks Arts Council closure announcement and the successor organization.

Correction, September 2026: Rick Braun (28, not 27) and Gerald Veasley (29, not 26) totals, their streaks, and the dependent slot, rotation and agency figures were recounted from the raw bills in *berks-lineups-1991-2005.txt* and *Berks Seabreeze JazzTrax - raw lineups 2006-2026.txt*. The tally script had dropped four billings: Rick Braun 2026 and Gerald Veasley 2011, 2013 and 2016. Braun is counted under Hansen (Reliant) as in the representation map.

Working files: *berks-lineups-1991-2005.txt* and *Berks Seabreeze JazzTrax - raw lineups 2006-2026.txt* (raw bills), *berks-tally.py* (the arithmetic, so it is auditable), *Berks - appearance counts and rotation.txt* (full output).

Compiled August 2026