

FESTIVAL STATS AND STUDIES · ORANGE COUNTY EDITION · AUGUST 2026

Thirteen editions of the *Newport Beach Jazz Festival*, and one trumpet player billed under five names.

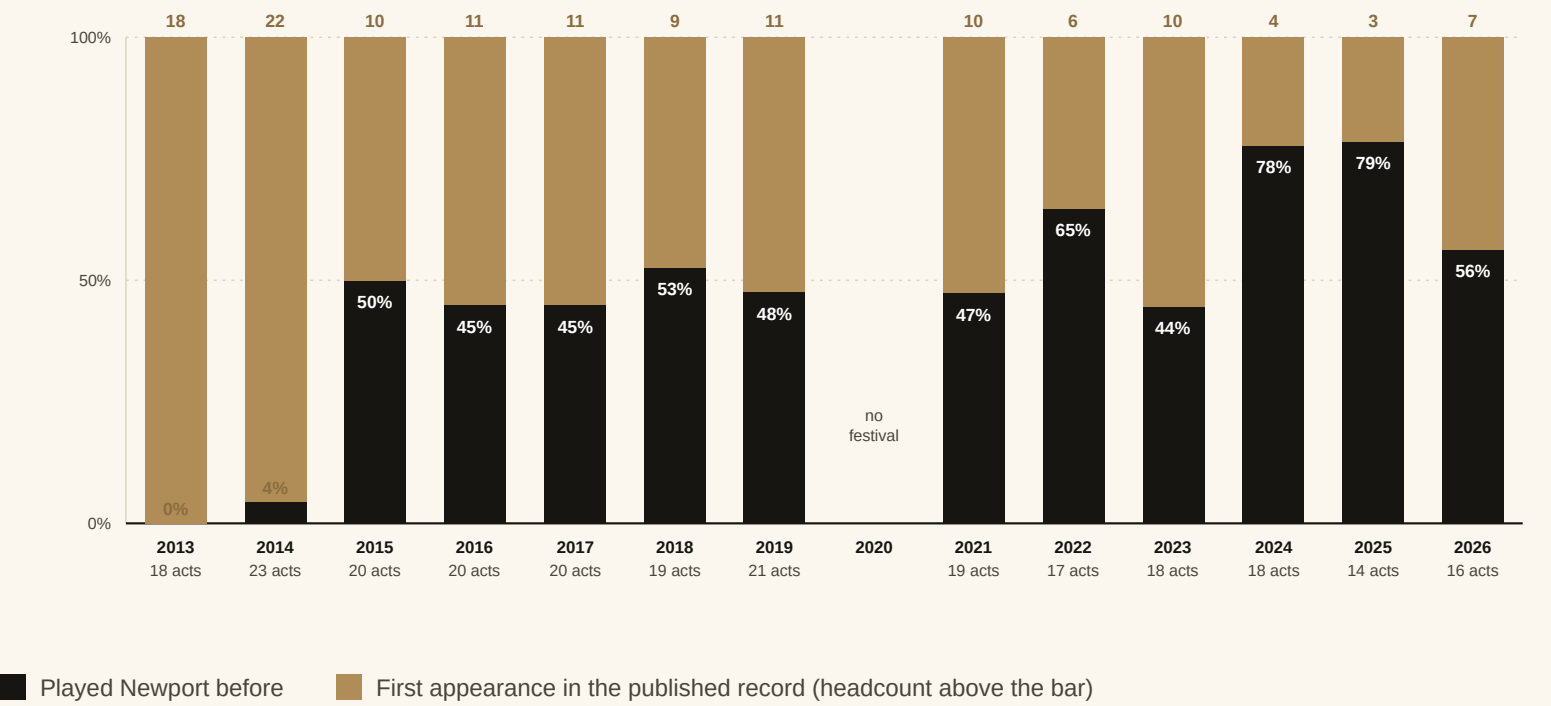
Every lineup the festival still publishes — 2013 through 2026, taken from its own Previous Performers page. Thirteen editions, 243 artist-slots once the supergroup billings are opened up and counted as the people inside them. This is not an opinion about anyone's playing. It is arithmetic.

5 different band names Rick Braun has been billed under at this one festival	78.6% of the 2025 bill had already played Newport — the highest repeat rate on record
3 artists on the entire 2025 bill of fourteen were new to the festival	42 artists who play Newport also play San Diego, about 90 road miles south

EXHIBIT A

The rotation rate, thirteen editions

Each bar is one festival. The dark portion is artists who had already played Newport Beach. The brass sliver is everyone appearing for the first time in the festival's published history, with the headcount printed above it. In 2013 and 2014 everyone is new, because the records start there. Watch what happens after that — and watch 2024 and 2025.



Thirteen editions, 243 artist-slots, 132 distinct artists — 1.84 bookings per artist. Supergroups are expanded into their members: a “West Coast Jam” slot is counted as Richard Elliot, Peter White and DW3, because that is who walked onto the stage. Because nothing before 2013 is published, some “first appearances” are actually returns — which makes these repeat rates a floor, not a ceiling.

EXHIBIT B

The alias problem

Several package names recur at Newport — BWB, Jazz Attack, West Coast Jam, RnR, Summer Horns — drawing on an overlapping group of players. The table counts the separate billings under which each core player has appeared at Newport Beach.

ARTIST	BILLINGS	BILLED AT NEWPORT AS	YEARS PRESENT	EDITIONS
Rick Braun	5	BWB · Jazz Attack · West Coast Jam · RnR · Rick Braun	2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2021, 2023, 2026	8 / 13
Richard Elliot	5	Jazz Attack · West Coast Jam (x2) · RnR · Richard Elliot	2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023	7 / 13

ARTIST	BILLINGS	BILLED AT NEWPORT AS	YEARS PRESENT	EDITIONS
Peter White	4	Jazz Attack (x2) · West Coast Jam · Peter White	2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2022, 2024	7 / 13
Euge Groove	3	Jazz Attack (x2) · Euge Groove	2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018	5 / 13
Norman Brown	3	BWB · West Coast Jam · Norman Brown	2013, 2015, 2017, 2024	4 / 13
Jeff Lorber	2	Jazz Funk Soul (x2)	2021, 2024	2 / 13

In 2015 the festival billed both “BWB featuring Rick Braun” and “Jazz Attack featuring Peter White and Euge Groove.” In 2017 it billed “West Coast Jam featuring Rick Braun.” In 2018, “RnR: Rick Braun & Richard Elliot.” Four package names across three editions.

EXHIBIT C

Who actually plays Newport Beach

Share of the thirteen published editions. The house band has appeared more often than any headliner in festival history. Thirteen artists account for a quarter of every slot on every schedule.

ARTIST	EDITIONS	RATE
Derek Bordeaux	10 / 13	76.9%
DW3	8 / 13	61.5%
Rick Braun	8 / 13	61.5%
Peter White	7 / 13	53.8%
Richard Elliot	7 / 13	53.8%
Brian Culbertson	5 / 13	38.5%

ARTIST	EDITIONS	RATE
Euge Groove	5 / 13	38.5%
Norman Brown	4 / 13	30.8%
Gerald Albright	4 / 13	30.8%
Vincent Ingala	4 / 13	30.8%
Adam Hawley	4 / 13	30.8%
Lindsey Webster	4 / 13	30.8%
Damien Escobar	4 / 13	30.8%

Derek Bordeaux — whose group has performed a tribute to 1970s soul, a tribute to Marvin Gaye, and other tribute programs — has played more Newport Beach Jazz Festivals than Rick Braun, Peter White and Richard Elliot.

EXHIBIT D

First-listed acts, 2013–2026

Thirteen editions, eleven distinct first-listed acts (Babyface appears in 2013 and 2024, Anthony Hamilton in 2021 and 2025). Nine of the eleven are R&B, soul or funk acts; two are smooth jazz acts. Seven of the eleven first charted before 1987. The date beside each name is when that act first charted.

EDITION	FIRST-LISTED ACT	FIRST CHARTED	YEARS BEFORE THE 2026 FESTIVAL
2013	Kenny “Babyface” Edmonds	1986	40
2014	Chaka Khan	1978	48
2015	Boney James	1992*	34
2016	Michael McDonald	1982	44
2017	The O’Jays	1963	63
2018	The Commodores	1974	52
2019	Morris Day and the Time	1981	45

EDITION	FIRST-LISTED ACT	FIRST CHARTED	YEARS BEFORE THE 2026 FESTIVAL
2021	Anthony Hamilton	2003	23
2022	Marion Meadows & Alex Bugnon	1988	38
2023	KEM	2003	23
2024	Babyface	1986	40
2025	Anthony Hamilton	2003	23
2026	The Isley Brothers	1959	67

The 2026 first-listed act, the Isley Brothers, first charted in 1959, 67 years before the 2026 festival.

EXHIBIT E

Overlap with San Diego

Newport Beach is run by Omega Events. The San Diego Smooth Jazz Festival, about 90 road miles south, is run by Rainbow Promotions. Two different companies, two different cities, two different weekends. **Forty-two artists play both.** That is 51% of everyone San Diego has ever booked.

The overlap is consistent with a limited pool of artists who play smooth jazz festivals, from which both events book.

SHARED BETWEEN THE TWO

Boney James · Brian Culbertson · Rick Braun · Peter White · Richard Elliot · Gerald Albright · Norman Brown · Jonathan Butler · Eric Darius · Vincent Ingala · Najee · Euge Groove · Michael Lington · Nick Colionne · Paul Taylor · Kim Waters · Lin Rountree · Damien Escobar · Marcus Anderson · Spyro Gyra · Down to the Bone · Jackiem Joyner · Selina Albright · Althea Rene · Karen Briggs · Jazmin Ghent · Jeanette Harris · Alex Bugnon · Average White Band · Lalah Hathaway · Will Downing · Steve Oliver · Nestor Torres · Phil Denny · Julian Vaughn · Willie Bradley · Rebecca Jade · Brian Simpson · DW3 · Curtis Brooks · Jeff Ryan · The L.A. Collective

METHOD

Where the numbers come from

Every lineup was taken from the festival's own published archive at [festivals.hyattconcerts.com](#) — the Previous Performers page for 2013 through 2025 and the Lineup page for 2026. No third-party listings were used. No lineup was reconstructed from memory.

The festival publishes nothing before 2013, although it has run since 1996. Seventeen editions are therefore missing from this analysis, all of them from the era when Rick Braun, Peter White and Richard Elliot were already touring. Every repeat rate here is understated.

There was no 2020 festival. Supergroup billings are expanded to their named members; where a member was not named on the poster, they are not counted. An artist appearing twice on one weekend counts once for that edition.

First-listed act = the first act listed for each year on the festival's Previous Performers page (2013–2025) and Lineup page (2026). Chart dates are the year the act, as billed, first appeared on a Billboard chart (solo artists

under their own name; for the 2022 co-billing, Alex Bugnon's 1988 debut album). *Boney James: 1992 is the release year of his debut album; a chart entry that year was not confirmed.

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. 13 published editions, 2013–2026. 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.



Ingala's four Newport editions are more than Boney James managed over the same span. Both of his first two — 2014 and 2016 — were billed as a co-headline with Jonathan Fritzen: the same pairing, twice, two years apart. Koz appears once, inside Summer Horns. Full cross-festival treatment in Festival Stats and Studies · Volume V — The Carousel.

READ NEXT

The alias problem starts here and runs through the whole dataset.

SAN DIEGO

San Diego Smooth Jazz Festival

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Festival Stats and Studies · Orange County Edition · Compiled August 2026 from festivals.hyattconcerts.com/lineup/previous-performers/.

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