

2026 AJHF INDUCTEE: JONATHAN KARRANT

Jonathan Karrant was born and raised in Fort Smith, Arkansas. As a child and young adult, he performed in concerts and events across the state, working with pianist Deli Smith and the Don Bailey Quartet. Since then Karrant has lived in New York, California, and Las Vegas where he has had major success working in some of the finest jazz venues and performing arts centers. Karrant continues to return to Arkansas to perform for various events and charities including: The Arkansas Woman of the Year Gala, Art Around the World (Fort Smith Regional Arts Museum), Depaul USA Gala, Reynolds Cancer House, Crisis Intervention Center, and with The Arkansas Symphony. Now based in Las Vegas, Karrant has been a leading force for jazz, contributing much to the arts and culture of the community. He is a preserver and innovator of straight-ahead jazz, striving to keep one of America's original arts forms thriving. Karrant sits on the boards of both the Las Vegas Jazz Society and the Jazz Outreach Initiative and collaborates with these organizations to create new partnerships through performance, education, and advocacy. Karrant's album *On and On* hit #4 on the Billboard Jazz Charts. His album *Live* hit #2 on the iTunes Jazz Charts. *Shadow Fall* was a collaboration with Thelonious Monk Award-winning pianist Joshua White and was included in the top jazz albums of the year by Roots Music Reports. Karrant's most recent recordings are a holiday album entitled *Christmas Wish* and a unique collection of songs titled *Eclectic*. These albums feature duets with singers Diane Schuur and Jane Monheit. Karrant has toured and recorded with such renowned artists as Kenny Rampton, Tamir Hendelman, Joe Alterman, and Houston Person. Honors include New York City Jazz Cabaret Honors, "Best Singer" for the Bravo California Awards, and being named one of the Top Ten rising vocalists by *DownBeat Magazine*.

