

BRECK CREATE

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release • June 2024

Breck Create Announces BIFA Festival Opener **Finding a Line: Skateboarding, Music + Media** **Ft. Jason Moran + The Bandwagon**

Plus! [Enter to win](#) a chance to skateboard inside the Riverwalk Center

More Information at breckcreate.org + check out our [blog](#)

Breckenridge, CO — Breck Create, the renowned arts and cultural organization in Breckenridge, Colo., is excited to kick off the 2024 Breckenridge International Festival of Arts (BIFA) with an event that merges an action sport with progressive jazz called Finding a Line: Skateboarding, Music + Media, on Friday, August 16th, at the Riverwalk Center. The event features pianist and composer Jason Moran backed by his trio, The Bandwagon, along with pro skateboarders Jordyn Barratt and Derek Scott and local skateboarders. The local skateboarders will be chosen through the [Skate Mission](#) contest, which is accepting applicants through July 19th. The event is free and standing-room only with local skateboarders beginning at 7 p.m. and the musicians and pros taking the stage at 8 p.m.

“The 2024 BIFA festival opener breaks exciting new ground by transforming the Riverwalk Center into a skate park,” says Tamara Nuzzaci Park, president/CEO of Breck Create. “This incredible feat could not have been accomplished without the ingenuity and hard work of our amazing production staff.”

During the event, Moran and his band will lay down tracks while pro skateboards freewheel around the Riverwalk Center. The music and the skateboarding will be improvisational, with the athletes and musicians creatively feeding off each other to produce dynamic tricks and licks.

“In jazz, there are so many moving parts, and within a composition, there are obstacles in the form,” Moran says. “Street skaters navigate a landscape finding ways to approach a rail in the same way a drummer approaches the beginning of a song. The mode of improvisation is paramount to how both skaters and jazz musicians approach life through different media.”

The first hour of the event will be dedicated to Skate-Mission winners, where approximately 20 local skaters will have the opportunity to sail around the Riverwalk Center. Breck Create plans to install a mini half-pipe inside the event space plus build a small skate park outside of the building, and two groups of 10 will take turns free skating on each. Local skateboarders interested in entering Breck Create’s Skate Mission contest should upload a video edit of tricks listed on the [contest webpage](#) between now and July 19th in order to be considered.

This opportunity is open to all levels of skaters—beginner, intermediate and advanced. Entries will be judged by local skate ambassador Hartman Austin along with volunteers he recruits for the event. These volunteers also will have the opportunity to ride the rails of the Riverwalk Center.

About Jason Moran Pianist and composer Jason Moran has established himself as a risk-taker and trendsetter for new directions in jazz. Rolling Stone calls him “the most provocative thinker in current jazz.” It’s that incomparable talent and unyielding drive towards innovation that earned Moran a prestigious MacArthur “Genius Grant” Fellowship and the title of Kennedy Center Artistic Director for Jazz.

Since 2000, Moran and his trio The Bandwagon (Tarus Mateen and Nasheet Waits) have dazzled audiences at elite venues worldwide. Moran has also performed with many acclaimed artists such as Charles Lloyd and Dave Holland, he composed a ballet for *Alonzo King LINES Ballet*, conceived a jazz and skateboarding collaboration, wrote the film score for *Selma*, and paid homage to two legendary pianists in his Blue Note album, *All Rise: A Joyful Elegy for Fats Waller*, and his multimedia program, *In My Mind: Monk at Town Hall 1959*. A prolific composer, Moran released two albums in 2018 – *Looks of a Lot*, which was commissioned by the Chicago Symphony Center, and *Music for Joan Jonas*, a collaboration with performance artist Joan Jonas containing excerpts from three of their major collaborations.

About BIFA BIFA is a 10-day celebration of Adventure + Creativity + Nature + Play. Local, national and international artists intersect to deliver traditional and unconventional experiences across music, dance, film, visual arts and family entertainment. From August 16 to August 25, 2024, the festival will transform the Town of Breckenridge into a vibrant hub of cultural exploration, with events spanning venues, public parks, trails, and open spaces. Explore

ticketed performances, immersive art installations, and art classes and workshops as well as dozens of opportunities for free, family-friendly fun. Learn more at breckcreate.org/bifa.

About Breck Create Breck Create aims to build a dynamic, year-round creative community in Breckenridge. The organization's mission is to deliver inspiring creative experiences that enrich the quality of life for all residents and quality of place for visitors. Breck Create supports and serves artists, creatives, cultural enthusiasts, visitors and the community at large by providing a year-round schedule of performances, exhibitions, screenings, art classes and workshops as well as other engagement opportunities.

The organization maintains, manages and operates the Town of Breckenridge's exceptional cultural facilities and also hosts arts-based events in public gathering spaces throughout Breckenridge. Breck Create's core attractions are the Riverwalk Center—a 750-seat, heated, indoor performance venue—and a lively Arts District campus of renovated historic structures that now function as studio spaces for art classes and workshops. These structures also include affordable rentals for local artists and visiting artists-in-residence participants. The Breckenridge Arts District is a certified district within the [Colorado Creative Industries](#) Creative District program.

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