

And the award for contribution to jazz goes to... Bill Clinton? Former president joins Kevin Spacey, Goldie Hawn and Pharrell Williams onstage at prestigious music competition

- **Clinton was honored at Thelonious Monk Institute's International competition**
- **The event was also attended by John Mayer, Chaka Khan and Don Cheadle**
- **In his eight years in the White House, Clinton was known for promoting jazz**

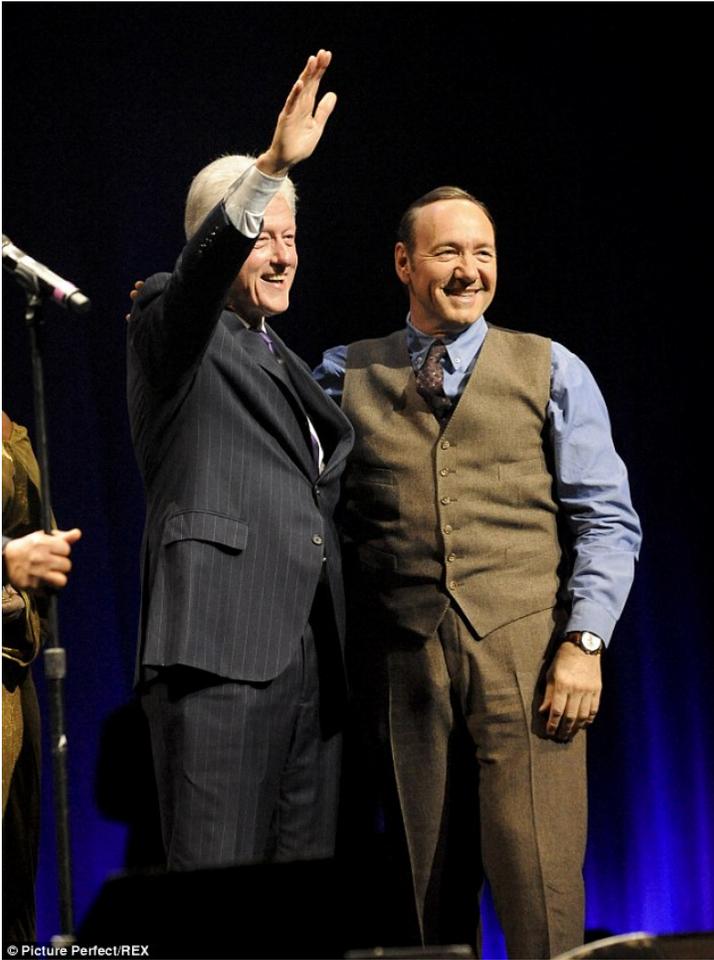
By Annabel Grossman

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Former US president - and keen saxophonist - Bill Clinton was honored for his 'essential and valuable contribution to jazz' at a star-studded music competition and gala in Los Angeles.

Clinton joined the likes of Goldie Hawn, Kevin Spacey and Pharrell Williams at the prestigious Thelonious Monk Institute's International Jazz Trumpet Competition at the Dolby.

The competition and accompanying All-Star Gala Concert - which was also attended by the likes of, John Mayer, Chaka Khan and Don Cheadle - saw more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded to talented young musicians and composers.



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Kevin Spacey (right) congratulates former president Bill Clinton on receiving the Maria Fisher Founder's Award



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Goldie Hawn was among a host of stars to turn out for the Thelonious Monk Institute's International Jazz Trumpet Competition



Pharrell Williams performed at the competition and accompanying gala, which saw more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded to talented young musicians and composers

Lifelong jazz devotee Clinton was onstage to receive the prestigious Maria Fisher Founder's Award for essential and valuable contributions to jazz education and the jazz tradition.

Herbie Hancock, musician chairman of the Thelonious Monk Institute of Jazz, described Clinton, who served in the White House from 1993 to 2001, as one of his 'personal heroes'.

He said the former president 'has been a jazz advocate for decades and supported the education programs of the Thelonious Monk Institute throughout his Presidency'.

Hancock added: 'He continues to be recognized for his creativity on the tenor saxophone, skills he honed during his youth through public school music programs.'



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Singer-songwriter John Mayer performs at the star-studded jazz event at the Dolby in Los Angeles



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Hollywood actor Don Cheadle joined actors and musicians at the star-studded event at the weekend

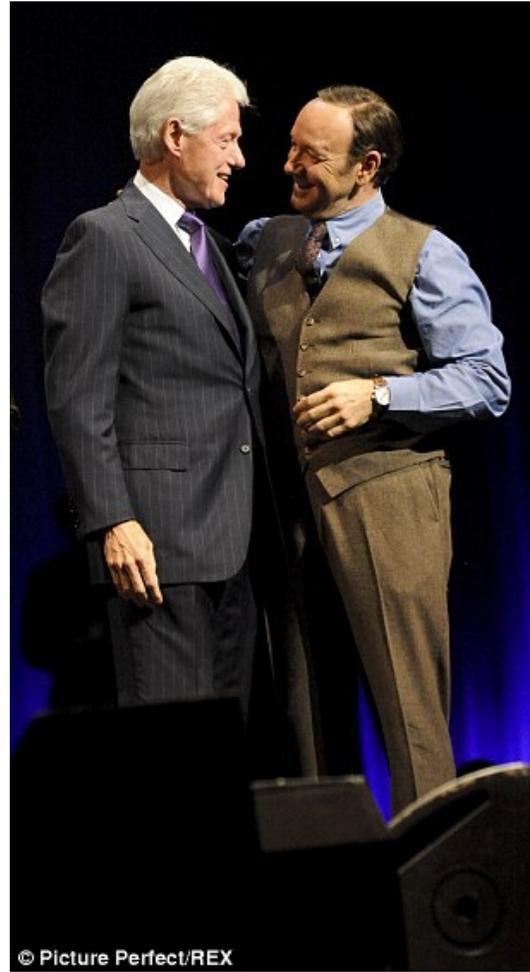


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American singer-songwriter Chaka Khan joined the host of celebrities onstage

Throughout his eight years in office, Clinton brought jazz to the White House on several occasions, and also helped enable jazz musicians and students to travel around the world.

The first In Performance at the White House event of his Administration was an evening of jazz on the South Lawn and at the 1994 Summit of the Americas Clinton and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright showcased jazz and the Institute's musicians before 34 world leaders.



The competition and accompanying All-Star Gala Concert attended by Pharrell Williams (left) and Bill Clinton and Kevin Spacey (right) saw more than \$100,000 in scholarships and prizes awarded to talented young musicians and composers.

Clinton, who performed in the all-state high school band as a teenager in his native Arkansas, also famously played his saxophone - while wearing a suit and sunglasses - on the Arsenio Hall TV show during his first presidential campaign in 1992.

Widely regarded as the world's most prestigious jazz competition, the Thelonious Monk awards were this year hosted by Hollywood star Kevin Spacey, along with Herbie Hancock and Quincy Jones.

Other jazz heavyweights present on the night included Dee Dee Bridgewater, Wayne Shorter, Dianne Reeves, Marcus Miller and Billy Childs.



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Quincy Jones and Goldie Hawn share the stage at the jazz awards held at the Dolby in Los Angeles



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Dee Dee Bridgewater (left) performing alongside and renowned jazz trumpeter and singer Theo Croker



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The event included a number of star-studded performances including those by Kevin Spacey along with Dee Dee Bridgewater and Diane Reeves (left) and John Mayer (right)

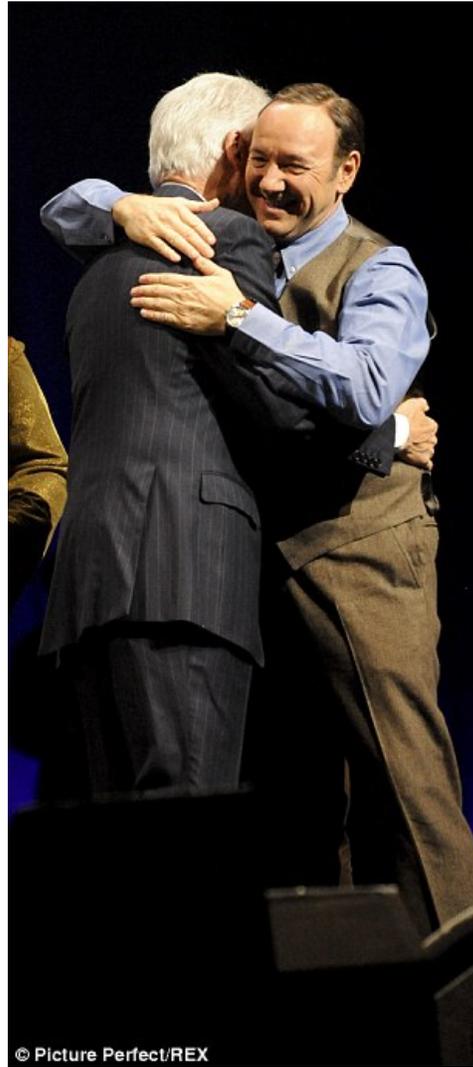


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Taj Mahal (left) and John Mayer (right) perform together at the jazz trumpet competition at the Dolby



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Bill Clinton is congratulated by Kevin Spacey (right) and Pharrell Williams takes to the stage to perform (left)



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Jazz stars Dee Dee Bridgewater, Diane Reeves and Taj Mahal performed at the prestigious music competition