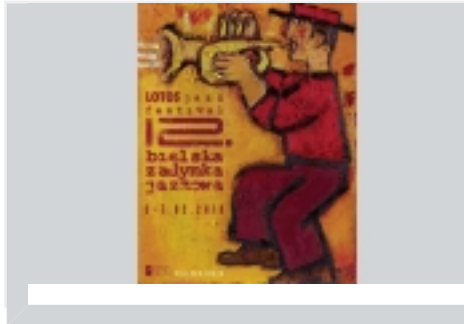


Jazz in Bielsko Biala

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The Lotos Jazz Festival – the 12th edition of Bielska Zadymka Jazzowa, one of the most popular jazz festivals in Poland, kicks off today. The highlight of the event will be a performance by legendary American pianist McCoy Tyner, former member of John Coltrane's Quartet, accompanied by saxophone player Gary Bartz (Feb.4).

German group Jazzanova named one of the best nu-jazz formations will perform on Feb 5. Dee Dee Bridgewater will close the evening on Feb. 6 with pieces from her newest album 'To Billie With Love: A Celebration of Lady Day', a homage to Billie Holiday. The festival is organised by Sztuka Teatr Association and Bielsko-Biała Community. Lotos, Poland's fuel giant, is the main sponsor of the event. MP/SJ/RK