

Markham Jazz Festival Announces the Millennium Bandstand Acts

“Servin’ Up Jazz for the Past Ten Years”

With Master of Ceremonies Jaymz Bee of JAZZ FM91

Including; Hilario Durham Big Band, Tom Van Seters Quartet, Eliana Cuevas KC Roberts and many more...

Saturday, August 17th- Sunday, August 19th

Markham, ON – The **Markham Jazz Festival** (MJF) is proud to announce the Millennium Bandstand Acts for this year’s 10th anniversary festival.

The "Main Stage" events are located at the **Millennium Bandstand** on Unionville Village's picturesque Main Street, where the festival offers a free four-day event of superb jazz which will appeal to a universal, all-age audience.

The MJF is delighted to welcome **Jaymz Bee** as Emcee for the performances at the Millennium Bandstand on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. Jaymz Bee was raised in North Bay, Ontario, and moved to Toronto in 1981 to pursue a career in the entertainment industry. Jaymz Bee has worked freelance for many Canadian radio and television stations, he currently programs the popular Ralph Bemurgui morning show on JAZZ FM91 where he often guests and can be heard Saturday evenings 6 to 8PM on JAZZ.FM91 where he hosts and produces “Jazz In The City”.

This year’s line-up for the **Millennium Bandstand** are a mix of Canadian jazz artists from around the world ranging in music from traditional to swing, Latin, fusion, funk, world, and contemporary jazz.

Friday August 17th

Not Affiliated Big Band - A 20-piece, all-ages band, specializing in energetic jazz/swing music. Over the band’s nine-year history, Not Affiliated has developed into an exciting show band, impressing audiences with both their musicality, and their fun and relaxed stage presence. For more information visit <http://www.notaffiliated.ca>
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm

Skylark – Captures the sumptuous sound of the Big Band era with repertoire that covers the music of the 30’s to the 60’s with all the big names from Glenn Miller to Duke Ellington, along with a show-stealing tribute to the Andrews Sisters with theatrical flair, including themed costumes and synchronized choreography. Skylark members: Bonnie Craig, Dyanne Dumas, Marnie Kersten. Quartet: Danny McErlain – keyboard, Ron Johnston – upright bass, Kurt Lund – sax and clarinet, Glenn Anderson – drums. For more information visit <http://www.skylarktrio.com>
9:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Saturday August 18th

Brian O’Kane Quintet

Brian O’Kane is a faculty member at Humber College, where he himself studied before moving to Montreal to attend McGill University. He is a member of the Rob McConnell Tentet, the Bernie Senensky Quintet, Hilario Duran’s Latin Jazz Big Band plus several others. He has performed with some major jazz artists such as Dave Brubeck, Vic Vogel, and Diana Krall. For this performance the Quintet will be performing tunes from the “Hard Bop” era – tunes by greats such as Hank Mobley, Kenny Dorham, and Lee Morgan. Exciting music from a very exciting time! Joining Brian for the MJF performance are: Alex Dean – tenor saxophone, Brian Dickinson – piano Neil Swainson – bass, Barry Elmes – drums
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

DEW East - Named after its members (Alex Dean, Barry Elmes, Steve Wallace), D.E.W. EAST is a versatile, co-operative group formed in 1998 as a vehicle to bring together three of Canada’s best jazz artists into a “power trio” format. With bassist Steve Wallace and percussionist Barry Elmes, Alex Dean performs on a variety of instruments, including tenor and soprano saxophones, bass clarinet, flute and oboe. Neil Swainson guests on Bass for this performance with Barry Elmes, Steve Wallace & Alex Dean
2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Worst Pop Band Ever - Try to amicably reconcile their love of improvisational jazz with “pop” music. They twist and bend originals and covers, straddling genres and butting heads with expectation. The band’s debut CD, “Thanks for Coming Out”, was released in April 2006, to critical acclaim. “The music’s fresh, may appeal to pop lovers but assuredly to jazzers keen on a kind of driven fluency as genre stylings are examined, discarded and reworked.” (Geoff Chapman, Toronto Star, May 4, 2006)

Band members: Drew Birston – Bass, Chris Gale – Saxophone, Dafydd Hughes – Keys, Leo37 – Turntables, Tim Shia - Drums

4:00 pm - 5:30 pm

Tom Van Seters Quartet - Well-known as a performer/composer on the Canadian jazz scene for many years, Pianist Tom Van Seters has recently produced his latest CD release entitled “The Long View”, which also features legendary Canadian vibraphonist Don Thompson. . Based in Brandon, Manitoba, (where he is Assistant Professor of Jazz Studies at Brandon University) and originally from Montreal, Tom’s music has been featured on radio programs and stages throughout Canada. For this concert Tom is joined by some of Canada’s premier jazz musicians:

Kelly Jefferson – saxophones, Jim Vivian – double bass, Ted Warren – drums

For more information visit <http://www.tomvanseters.com>

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

MJF All-Star Big Band - Is an auditioned big band made up of Markham area high school students. The band is led by educator Leon Racine from Bayview Secondary School. Students auditioned for and practiced throughout the summer, in preparation for this one hour concert at the Millennium Bandstand on Saturday, August 17 as the “opening act” for the Saturday night headliners.

8:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Hilario Duran Big Band - Renowned for his piano, arranging, and composing skills, Hilario Duran is one of Cuba’s premier ambassadors of Latin Jazz. “From the Heart” is a tribute to the “Golden Era” of the great jazz band orchestras in Cuba. This album quickly gained worldwide recognition resulting in a 2007 JUNO winner, GRAMMY nomination, and National Jazz Award Best Latin Jazz Band of the year. Duran’s blend of traditional Big Band sounds with hot Salsa and creative Latin Jazz melodies produces a sensational Latin-style Big Band experience. Some of the finest Canadian and Cuban soloists and performers form Duran’s 18-piece Latin Jazz Orchestra which feature prominently in the “who is who” of the Canadian scene.

For more information visit <http://www.hilarioduran.com>

9:30 pm - 11:00 pm

Sunday August 19th

Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band - Have earned a reputation as one of the world’s most exciting and innovative ensembles performing original music based in traditional Yiddish sounds. Founded almost 20 years ago, the band has toured throughout Canada, Europe and the United States...performing high energy music of cultural synthesis. They have been recognized for their excellent musicianship, unique compositional stance, and commitment to passionate performance. The Bulgars have released five critically acclaimed JUNO –nominated CDs, including the most recent “Sweet Return”.

The group features: Dave Wall – lead vocals and percussion, David Buchbinder – trumpet, Peter Lutek – clarinet/saxophone, Tania Gill – piano, Victor Bateman – bass, Frank Botos – drums

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm

Eliana Cuevas - Venezuelan born singer, songwriter, composer and bandleader Eliana Cuevas has created her own musical language out of jazz and a variety of Latin American popular styles. Accompanied by a stellar quartet of piano, bass and two percussionists, she uses her remarkable vocal abilities to explore a wide diversity of rhythms and feelings encompassed in a body of mainly original work. A dynamic and compelling performer, she has met with an enthusiastic reception both at home and abroad. Based in Toronto, Eliana performs regularly with her own quartet and as guest vocalist with a variety of other ensembles in clubs and concerts. Eliana has recently finished recording her second full length CD entitled “Vidas (Lives)”.

Accompanying Eliana are: Luis Guerra – vocals, Luis Orbegoso – percussion, Daniel Stone – percussion, George Koller – base 3

For more information visit <http://www.elianacuevas.com>

2:30 pm - 4:00 pm

KC Roberts - Funk / Hip Hop / Rock. Imagine if Jamiroquai, The Roots and The Neptunes decided to put on a show with Jimmy Hendrix. Guitarist / singer / mc, KC Roberts brings with him a fierce-sounding 8 piece band, with horns, female vocals and a rhythm section. KC seamlessly blends funk and jazz with hip hop, house, jungle and rock.

Band members include: KC Roberts – Lead Guitar and vocals, Angela Wheeler – Vocals, Kirsten Rea – vocals, Will Loach – trumpet, RJ – trombone, Bobby Hu – saxophone, Tyler Emond – bass guitar, Colin Kingsmore – drums, Todd Pentley - keys

For more information visit <http://www.myspace.com/kcrobertsandtherawblue>

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

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Friday evening, August 17

Saturday, day and evening August 18th

Sunday afternoon, August 19th

Contact: 905-471-5299

For more information visit www.markhamjazzfestival.com

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