



News Release

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Special Events

For Immediate Release

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Free Jazz in the Park Series Returns for 27th Year Top notch talent announced for 2016 series.

The talent is set and the amphitheater is ready for another season of music with Clark County Parks and Recreation's Jazz in the Park concert series, which celebrates its 27th year. This year, the free series will feature Lavay Smith and Outside Inn Trio and the Bishop Gorman Jazz Ensemble on May 7, Kim Waters and Brian Simpson and Las Vegas Academy Jazz Combo on May 14, Vincent Herring & Streetology and Las Vegas Academy Jazz Combo on May 21, Jesse J and Will Donato and Las Vegas Academy Jazz Combo on May 28 and Kneebody plus The Shapiro Project and Cheyenne High School Jazz Club on June 4. Seating for those with picnic baskets, blankets and low-back chairs will begin at 5 p.m. with performances beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Clark County Government Center Amphitheater, 500 S. Grand Central Parkway. Food and drinks will be available on site. Admission and parking are free.

"Jazz in the Park is a cultural institution in this town, a free event where we bring some of the biggest names in jazz here," said County Commissioner Chris Giunchigliani. "It's a great opportunity to enjoy great music in our beautiful amphitheater. Just bring a blanket, some lawn chairs and something to eat and drink and enjoy the music and the company of your neighbors and fellow jazz enthusiasts."

Lavay Smith is an American singer specializing in the Blues and Jazz, from Swing to Bebop. Smith tours internationally with her 8-piece "little big band", Lavay Smith & Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers, and she is known as The Queen of Classic Jazz & Blues.

Maryland-born saxophonist **Kim Waters** debuted in 1989 with the LP Sweet and Saxy; where his earliest releases -- 1991's Sax Appeal, 1993's Peaceful Journey, and 1994's It's Time for Love among them -- boasted an R&B vibe, he eventually began moving toward smooth jazz, a transformation that culminated in 1998's Love's Melody. One Special Moment followed a year later, and From the Heart was issued in spring 2001.

Inspired keyboardist, composer, prolific studio musician and producer **Brian Simpson** is a master of all he purveys. His eloquent approach to playing, sophisticated harmonics sense, bluesy overtones, R&B flavor and keen sense on how to craft a song that stands the test of time have made him the go-to man for many. Brian Simpson has a knack for churning out genre-bending timeless anthems. George Duke once said "What I love about Brian's playing is his understanding that melody and groove are important." Simpson's approach is simple, "I'm following in the footsteps of those that laid the foundation of contemporary jazz music. The fusing of jazz and R&B is just what contemporary jazz is all about."

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Vincent Herring is a saxophone virtuoso with a uniquely intense and vigorous musical voice. He is considered one of the premier saxophonists of his generation, having appeared as guest soloist with many artists and ensembles including Wynton Marsalis at Lincoln Center and John Faddis with the Carnegie Hall Big Band. In addition to authoring his own line of eBooks and teaching private lessons in-person and online, Vincent is currently on the faculty of William Patterson University and conducts master classes and jazz workshops at conservatories and universities around the world.

"Saxophonist, vocalist, songwriter **Jessy J** is one of the brightest stars on the Smooth Jazz scene. Her previous works and her combination of extraordinary musical talents and exciting live performances have garnered her several Smooth Jazz radio #1s, a #1 Billboard Contemporary Jazz chart position, Billboard's and R&B's Contemporary Jazz Song Of The Year Award and was even featured in People en Español issue of "Los 50 Mas Bellos" (The 50th most beautiful People). "

Will Donato award-winning composer and saxophonist, whose new upcoming CD release for 2014 "Universal Groove" is his fifth solo CD release on Innervision Records. Will currently has a hit radio single, "Grand Slam" produced by hit-maker Steve Oliver on the Billboard Chart Top 30. Will has performed with some of the best known musicians of the genre, namely Ricky Lawson of Quincy Jones and Michael Jackson fame, Al McKay of Earth Wind and Fire, Bruce Conte of Tower of Power, Steve Reid of The Rippingtons, Steve Oliver, Greg Karukas, Nick Colionne, Joey Sommerville, and more! He also fronted Steve Reid's Bamboo Forrest for four years. He has worked outside the smooth jazz genre as well, most notably with Gerald Levert, Toni Childs, and pop star Richard Marx.

Kneebody's sound is... explosive rock energy paralleled with high-level nuanced chamber ensemble playing, with highly wrought compositions that are balanced with adventurous no-holds-barred improvising. All "sounds-like" references can be set aside; this band has created a genre and style all its own.

Shapiro Project is a Las Vegas based Jazz quartet led by guitarist and composer Eugene Shapiro. It also features Eugene's brother Boris Shapiro on drums, Brian Triola on keyboards, and Phil Wigfall on saxophone. We also work with a female vocalist Lynae Michele. Shapiro Project is a Jazz group with a fresh approach to the Jazz idiom mainly through new works written by Eugene Shapiro and the creative musicianship that gives their sound a sparkling vitality.

Jazz In the Park Series is produced by Clark County Parks & Recreation and sponsored by Findlay Volkswagon.

Those interested can call Clark County Parks and Recreation at (702) 455-8200 or visit the website at Clark County Parks and Recreation also can be found on [social networking sites](#) such as Twitter and Facebook by visiting <http://tinyurl.com/4dfw8ea>.

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Clark County is a dynamic and innovative organization dedicated to providing top-quality service with integrity, respect and accountability. With jurisdiction over the world-famous Las Vegas Strip and covering an area the size of New Jersey, Clark is the nation's 13th-largest county and provides extensive regional services to more than 2 million citizens and 42 million visitors a year. Included are the nation's 8th-busiest airport, air quality compliance, social services and the state's largest public hospital, University Medical Center. The county also provides municipal services that are traditionally provided by cities to almost 900,000 residents in the unincorporated area. Those include fire protection, roads and other public works, parks and recreation, and planning and development.

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