

Jazz Concert on the Green

Written by Margaret Evans

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Performance at Palmetto Bluff will feature rising stars and All Stars of Jazz...



"New Orleans Hot Jazz" and an all-star performance "Celebrating The Golden Age of Swing" will be highlighted at the 3rd Annual Palmetto Bluff Concert on the Green, Wednesday evening, May 1.

Palmetto Bluff Marketing Manager Courtney Hampson, said all proceeds from the highly-anticipated two-hour concert will benefit the Junior Jazz Foundation, a philanthropic organization aimed at furthering jazz education and participation among young musicians.

The featured performances by the Martin Lesch Band and Bob Masteller's Jazz Corner Sextet will be preceded by the Junior Jazz Ensemble led by Hilton Head Christian Academy Musical Director and pianist James Berry.

Lesch, who is widely known for his spirited, up-tempo jazz arrangements on the piano, will perform the "New Orleans Hot Jazz" portion of the concert along with bassist Will Snyder, percussionist Chris Russell and multi-instrumentalist Danny Dennison.

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Concert goers who enjoy the "swing era" will then delight in the performance by Bob Masteller's Jazz Corner Sextet featuring sensational vocalist Gina Rene' and guest vocalist Reggie Deas along with pianist Eric Jones, bassist Dave Masteller, percussionist Chris Russell and Jody Espina on the saxophone.

"It's going to be a beautiful, warm spring evening under the setting sun," said Hampson. "This particular concert has become one of our most popular outdoor events. The style of music and time of year make it a wonderfully enjoyable venue."

Palmetto Bluff's waterfront 'Village Green' will be the venue for the classy family event, and is the picture perfect site for outdoor concerts. It looks out to the inland waterway and fronts on the picturesque Inn at Palmetto Bluff, a 5-star boutique hotel. It features several magnificent century old oaks and is cradled by beautifully landscaped cobblestone, lamp-lit streets.

Hampson said admission is \$25/vehicle at the Palmetto Bluff gate which will open at 5 p.m. for concert goers. The music getting underway at 6:30 p.m. Food and beverages will be available for purchase at the concert. Attendees are asked to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets. There are no advance ticket sales.

The Jazz Corner on Hilton Head Island is the concert's collaborative arm. Jazz Corner owner Bob Masteller was the prime mover for the event as a key fundraiser for the Junior Jazz Foundation, whose mission is to preserve the American art form of jazz by educating young musicians with classes, seminars, summer jazz camps and also supplying them with instruments and scholarships.

Entrance to Palmetto Bluff, a 20,000-acre private waterfront community and conservation preserve, is located on SC Highway 46 five miles west of downtown Bluffton. Proceed to the Welcome Gate, which will be open for concert goers beginning at 5:00 p.m. For additional details, visit Palmetto Bluff's website (www.PalmettoBluff.com) under "Events".

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