



MEDIA RELEASE

CONTACT: Connie Baker

888.215.6222

[conchita.baker@verizon.net](mailto:conchita.baker@verizon.net)

## **ORANGE COUNTY CLASSIC JAZZ FESTIVAL RETURNS FOR 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S GREATEST MUSIC**

Costa Mesa, California/July 24, 2006. It's time again for toe-tappin' and foot-stompin' to the sounds of classic American jazz when the Orange County Classic Jazz Festival opens its doors this summer. Slated for Thursday through Sunday, August 3-4-5-6, at the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa, the festival presents 16 bands playing the great American music of the 1920s, '30s, '40s and early '50s by some of the genre's most acclaimed bands.

According to Festival Co-Director and Founder John Dieball, "This is America's only original art form. Jazz was created in the saloons and bawdy houses of New Orleans, Kansas City, Chicago and New York, and spread across the nation and around the world as a symbol of America's ingenuity and unique style."

Music performed at the festival covers 1920's café orchestra, Dixieland, Swing, Boogie, Big Band and early instrumentals. This is danceable, sing-able and fun music. Annually, the festival attracts nearly 13,000 guests.

1520 West Yale Avenue Orange, California 92867  
888.215.6222 - fax 714.637.2816 - [jad@jadtec.com](mailto:jad@jadtec.com)

This year's international bands include the **Fryer-Barnhart International All Star Band** from England and **Paris Washboard** from France. Both of these acclaimed ensembles are known worldwide as tops in the field of 1920-30 classic jazz.

Other bands performing this year:

- **Banu Gibson & the New Orleans All Stars**, New Orleans, LA – Banu has performed with the Boston Symphony, at the Hollywood Bowl and on radio's "A Prairie Home Companion," always singing the great ballads of the '20s & '30s.
- **Crazy Rhythm Hot Society Orchestra**, Cypress CA – 1920's café society music at its best
- **High Sierra Jazz Band**, Three Rivers, CA – the West Coast's Number 1 band plays hard driving West Coast jazz
- **High Society Jazz Band**, La Jolla CA – recreates the great Louis Armstrong band
- **Midiri Brothers**, Mays Landing, NJ – all instrumental ensemble playing the sounds of early Benny Goodman & Lionel Hampton
- **Mike Henebry Orchestra**, Cypress, CA – classic 1930's big band sounds played from original charts
- **Nannette & Her Hotsy Totsy Boys**, Riverside CA – 1920s lively song & dance
- **New Reformation Band**, Saginaw, MI – reliving the '40s with great music and lively banter
- **Night Blooming Jazz Band**, Claremont CA – musicianship, comedy, vocals and fun with this Number 1 rated Southern California band
- **Pieter Meijers Quartet featuring Brady McKay**, Hollywood CA – with Brady's stylish vocals & the quartet's hearty renditions of great ballads and old favorites, this band always draws the dancers
- **Saint Louis Stompers Classic Jazz Band**, St Louis MO – recreating the sounds of jazz icon Bix Biederbecke

- **Titan Hot 7**, Nashville TN – nationally ranked the best classic jazz band on the circuit today, this septet plays it all from ragtime to blues
- **Titanic Jazz Band**, Burbank CA – recreates the music of Turk Murphy and the famed South Frisco Jazz Band
- **Wally's Warehouse Waifs**, Otisville MI – a little bit of everything combined with showmanship, musicianship and humor brings this band to the top of every festival MOST WANTED lists.

The Orange County Classic Jazz Festival operates differently than other similar events. There are five stages running at the same time. Attendees wear a badge for admission and are free to wander from venue to venue at any time. Many who attend are dancers; others, "foot-stompers" as they are called, prefer to listen & watch. All ballroom venues are in the Hilton Costa Mesa.

As is true with all performing arts events, the Orange County Classic cannot survive without its outstanding sponsors, especially the Costa Mesa Conference & Visitor Bureau, the lead sponsor, which supports with funding, promotion, advertising and participation by its member hotels. Additional sponsorship comes from Kawai Pianos, Zildjian drums, Pierre Cardin, Jazzdagen Tours, Juice Plus+, Citizens Business Bank, Arbor Records, Anaheim Band Instruments and DSR Audio.

Festival performances this year begin Thursday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> from 6 pm to 11pm with a free concert open to anyone who purchases an All Events or Patron badge. This is also Media Night. Friday and Saturday performances run from 10:30 am until 11 pm; Sunday is open 10:30pm-6pm.

All Events badges, \$80, allow entry into all performances; Patron badges, \$210, include All Events benefits, plus preferred seating and Pierre Cardin gifts.

Silver & Gold Patron packages, priced at \$900 and \$1250 respectively, include Patron benefits, plus private receptions and Hilton VIP accommodations; both of these options are sold out.

Day Badges are also available: Friday, \$40; Saturday, \$45; Sunday, \$33. All tickets may be purchased at the door with cash, check, VISA or MasterCard.

There are several dining options at the festival, including the Hilton Bristol Palms, the Festival Cafeteria, Lobby Coffee Bar, Lobby Desserts Bar and outdoor Barbecue. The Festival Marketplace includes vendors selling jazz books, jazz "wearables," dance shoes and more.

Special Festival accommodation rates are offered by the Hilton Orange County/Costa Mesa – sold out, Holiday Inn Costa Mesa (\$102) and Ayres Hotel & Suites (\$119, including full breakfast). For more information and to order badges or make hotel reservations, visit [www.oc-classicjazz.org](http://www.oc-classicjazz.org) or call 1.888.215.6222.

The Orange County Classic Jazz Festival is produced by Orange County Classic Jazz Festival, Inc., a non-profit 501C(3) California corporation. Festival directors are John A. Dieball and Connie & Larry Baker.

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