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FOR RELEASE ON OR AFTER FRIDAY, AUGUST 5

OLD TOWN RINGS WITH JAZZ SATURDAY NIGHT

FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

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Lansing, Mich. (Aug. 5, 2011) – On Saturday, August 6, Old Town will reach its jazzy climax with the final day of the free-admission Lansing JazzFest, held at the corner of Turner Street and East Grand River Avenue.

The festivities kick off at 1pm with dance performances by **Children's Ballet Theatre** and **Happendance's Community Dance Project** on the MICA Stage.

Music performances start at 2pm with local favorites **Lanswingers & LCC Jazz Band**, followed by **Ray Kamalay's** recreation of 1930s jazz and **Peter Nelson Quartet** with its operatic vocal accompaniment. Next **Marcus Elliot Quartet** will share its saxophone compositions and the world sounds of **Elden Kelly & the Global Roots Jazz Collective's** will introduce you to unique instruments the oud and the glissentar.

At 7:30pm, headliner **Nicole Mitchell Quartet** takes the stage. Nicole Margaret Mitchell, a creative flutist, composer and bandleader, has been named "Top Flutist 2010" by Downbeat Magazine's Critic's Polls and also placed first as Downbeat Magazine's "Rising Star Flutist 2005-2010." She was awarded "Jazz Flutist of the Year 2010" by the Jazz Journalist Association and "Chicagoan of the Year 2006" by the Chicago Tribune. The founder of the critically acclaimed Black Earth Ensemble and Black Earth Strings, Mitchell's compositions reach across sound worlds, integrating new ideas with moments in the legacy of jazz, gospel, pop, and African percussion to create a fascinating synthesis of "postmodern jazz."

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Next up at 9pm is headliner **Straight Ahead**, led by jazz performer and instructor Marion Hayden. This five-member ensemble masterfully mixes a host of musical material with solid vocals. Straight from the heart of Detroit, they speak volumes through their instruments. "We pull from many different directions within the school of jazz like Latin and swing style, which incorporates a mix of straight jazz and funkier side of jazz," says Hayden.

Closing out the festival is the spine-tingling Latin jazz of **Los Gatos**, a quintet that sounds like a full-bodied ensemble, rich with interlaced Spanish vocals that keep dancers dancing and spirits soaring.

Saturday will also feature music clinics by Jeff Shoup (drums), Nicole Mitchell, Marion Hayden, Cory Allen (guitar), and Pete Siers on the MICA Stage.

Festivalgoers can also experience children's activities in the Kidz Beat area, food and craft vendors, a beverage tent (\$5 admission) and riverboat taxi service, which provides a means of experiencing the Grand River in a new way.

The Lansing JazzFest is a free community music festival, attracting attendees from across the city, state, and region. It is produced annually by the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art (MICA), a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that serves as a catalyst for community development through quality arts programming. See www.jazzlansing.com or call 517-371-4600 for more information.

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Lansing JazzFest 2011 Schedule

Friday, August 5, 2011

MESSAGEMAKERS STAGE

4:30-6:30 pm Jeff Shoup Quartet featuring Tamara Mayers
7:30-9:00 pm Dave Sharp's Secret Seven
10:30 pm-12:30 am The Tyrone Johnson Funk Fusion Group

JACKSON NATIONAL STAGE

6:30-7:30 pm Lisa Smith
9:00-10:30 pm Dr. E

MICA STAGE

5:00-6:00 pm Dr. E Clinic
6:15-7:15 pm Elden Kelly Guitar Clinic
7:30-8:30 pm Maeve Gilchrist Trio

Saturday, August 6, 2011

MESSAGEMAKERS STAGE

2:00-3:00 pm Lanswingers & LCC Jazz Band
3:00-4:00 pm Ray Kamalay
5:00-6:00 pm Marcus Elliot Quartet
7:30-9:00 pm Nicole Mitchell Quartet
10:30 pm-12:30 am Los Gatos

JACKSON NATIONAL STAGE

4:00-5:00 pm Peter Nelson Quartet
6:00-7:30 pm Elden Kelly & the Global Roots Jazz Collective
9:00-10:30 pm Straight Ahead

MICA STAGE

1:00-2:00 pm Children's Ballet Theatre
2:00-3:00 pm Happendance's Community Dance Project
3:00-4:00 pm Jeff Shoup Drum Clinic
4:45-5:45 pm Nicole Mitchell Clinic
6:00-7:00 pm Marion Hayden Clinic
7:00-8:00 pm Cory Allen Guitar Clinic
8:00-9:00 pm Pete Siers Music Clinic

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