



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE...

APRIL 23, 2009

32ND ANNUAL ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL STARTS THE SUMMER OFF WITH A SIZZLE

Join all the Cool Cats in the Community at Grant Park for One of the Nation's Largest Free Jazz Festivals

WHAT: The 32nd Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival Presented by American Family Insurance
WHEN: **May 1 - May 31, 2009; Memorial Day Weekend Festival – May 23-24, 2009**
WHERE: Various venues throughout Atlanta culminating in a 2-Day Festival in historic Grant Park
TIMES: Times vary per event – Full time schedule will be available at www.atlantafestivals.com

ATLANTA – Calling all jazz aficionados! Every day in May, Atlanta will embrace its musical roots by bringing the nation's most high-profile jazz musicians to venues around the city, culminating in a festive jazz-filled weekend in Grant Park. With 31 days of fabulous events, including live jazz at Atlanta nightclubs; special events and concerts around the city; dinner and jazz at some of the city's top restaurants; and a two-day Memorial Day Weekend Celebration spectacular events, the 32nd Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival Presented by American Family Insurance spans the musical gamut!

For 31 years, the Atlanta Jazz Festival has presented authentic jazz to both residents and visitors of Atlanta. Local jazz enthusiasts and supporters of the Atlanta Jazz Festival overwhelmingly demanded the festival continue for its 32nd year despite economic conditions and budget restrictions, and the Atlanta Jazz Festival Presented by American Family Insurance is happy to bring what Mayor Shirley Franklin called "one of the city's proudest traditions" back for a spectacular month-long musical experience.

"Atlantans and the Office of Cultural Affairs are passionate about jazz, committed to this community and understand the importance of maintaining this long-standing tradition and cultural experience," says Camille Russell Love, Director of the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs. "We are delighted to bring the festival to historic Grant Park this year as well as at venues throughout metro Atlanta for folks of all ages to enjoy!"

MAY EVENTS – THE 32TH ANNUAL ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY AMERICAN FAMILY INSURANCE:

- ❏ **31 DAYS OF JAZZ:** All month long enjoy special events and concerts around the city, offering the sounds of live jazz at venues throughout metro Atlanta, including:
 - **Dinner + Jazz** – An exceptional dining experience! Enjoy live music from Atlanta's most talented jazz artists in the city's most popular restaurants
 - **Nightlife** – Offers the renowned sounds of live jazz nightly at nightclubs throughout the city
 - **Neighborhood Jazz (NJ)** – New this year, features performances in Piedmont Park on May 2nd and Cleophus Johnson Park on May 16th
- ❏ **Memorial Day Weekend Festival – Aaron's Main Stage Line-Up**
*Rain or shine: Line-up subject to change and as of April 17, 2009

Saturday, May 23	Sunday, May 24
3:00 pm – Rialto All Stars	5:30 pm – Mausiki Scales and the Common Ground Collective
7:00 pm – Russell Gunn & Elektriz Butterfly	7:00 pm – Cindy Blackman (drummer also with Lenny Kravitz)
8:30 pm – Freddy Cole	8:30 pm – Hiroshima

Other artists include: Bernard Linnette Interactive featuring Chanda, nu Noise, Jaspers, Gritz & Jelly Butter, The Colin Agnew Jazz Group, GSU Jazz Combo and Kathleen Bertrand

The Atlanta Jazz Festival Presented by American Family Insurance is proud to have the generous support of Aaron's, the Fulton County Arts Council, The Home Depot, Delta Air Lines, The Coca-Cola Company, Coca-Cola Enterprises, Inc., Anheuser Busch, Publix and JazzTimes Magazine.

ABOUT THE ATLANTA JAZZ FESTIVAL

Produced by the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, the Atlanta Jazz Festival builds on the success and heritage of previous festivals by continuing its expansion with a 31-day schedule. It is the mission of the Atlanta Jazz Festival to expose and entertain a diverse audience of jazz aficionados, young jazz enthusiasts and musical artists to the rich heritage and variety of jazz as an authentic form of traditional music. For more information on the Atlanta Jazz Festival, please call the information hotline at 404.853.4234 or visit the website at www.atlantafestivals.com. Find The Atlanta Jazz Festival on Facebook - <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Atlanta-GA/2009-Atlanta-Jazz-Festival-32nd-Annual/67705214939?ref=s> or Twitter - <http://twitter.com/ATLJazzFest09>.

The 2009 Atlanta Jazz Festival is a program of the City of Atlanta Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs.

For More Information (Media only):

Tara Murphy/Michelle Marron – 360 Media, Inc. – 404.577.8686 or info@360media.net

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