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**The 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CREEKSIDE BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL BRINGS  
MUSIC, A SALUTE TO FATHER'S DAY AND FAMILY FUN TO OLDE GAHANNA,  
JUNE 15-17**

GAHANNA, Ohio – GAHANNA, Ohio – The **14<sup>th</sup> annual Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival (CBJF)**, presented by the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau, is already charged up with high-energy talent as it begins rolling out three days of blues and jazz programming for five stages, **June 15 – 17, 2012**.

With a storied history for bringing the best locally, regionally and nationally acclaimed blues and jazz musicians to Olde Gahanna, the CBJF continues that tradition with a 2012 line-up that includes **Kim Wilson's Blues All-Stars**, featuring 2012 Blues Music Award nominee, singer/harmonica player Kim Wilson, and the **2010 American Smooth Jazz Awards "Best New Artist," jazz trumpeter Cindy Bradley** performing with Columbus-based **Urban Jazz Coalition**.

**Sean Carney and the Camp Blues Kids** will kick off the festival from the Community Stage on Friday, June 15. Carney, winner of the 2007 International Blues Challenge and Albert King Award, has performed at the festival every year since its debut. The Camp Blues Kids (ages 11 and older) are mentored by Carney during Camp Blues, which is held during the week of CBJF. Their "camp experience" culminates with their premiere stage performance at CBJF.

"Every year it's a fun challenge to select the blues roster for the festival. The Columbus area alone is home to many great musicians, and when we consider the national scene too, I feel like a kid in a candy shop. Now we've got the headliners nailed down and these musicians, along with many other blues and jazz crowd pleasers, are ready to rock!" said Bob Thomas, member of the Columbus Blues Alliance and the CBJF planning committee.

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**BLUES:** Topping the blues bill on Friday, June 15, is the Jimi Vincent Band (JVB). Since forming in 1989, the JVB has played rockin' blues, performing three times at the International Blues Festival and opening for artists such as Bonnie Raitt, Robert Lockwood Jr, John Lee Hooker, Kenny Neal and many more. Their latest CD, "Been There, Done That... Won't Do That Again," is a mix of original music and classic blues. JVB fans are happy that playing the blues isn't one of the life lessons indicated in the title.

We all sing the blues sometimes, metaphorically speaking, but on Saturday, June 16, Kim Wilson's Blues All-Stars will grace the stage with the genuine article, a unique brand of the blues. Wilson, also lead/singer and harmonica player for the Fabulous Thunderbirds, has put together the Blues All-Stars, a six-piece band that will showcase Wilson as a diverse blues virtuoso who is a historian of classic blues and, as one of the world's top harmonica players, many have referred to him as the "King of Chicago Blues harmonica."

On Sunday, June 17, singer/guitarist Ray Fuller and the Bluesrockers will headline the Blues Stage. Fuller, a graduate of Gahanna Lincoln High School, learned from and played with blues giants such as Muddy Waters and John Lee Hooker. When Fuller sings "Who's Gonna Be Your Sweet Man," one can almost believe he's channeling the late, great Muddy Waters himself. In fact, after hearing Fuller play the slide guitar, Waters once commented, "That was some hot slide boy! I could smell the smoke backstage!"

**JAZZ:** The Tony Monaco Trio will take the stage on Friday, June 15. Monaco, a celebrated Hammond B-3 jazz organist, was something of a keyboard prodigy, starting out on the accordion at age 8. By the time he was 12, Monaco had decided on his career as a jazz organist. During his teen years, he played in Columbus jazz clubs, and he continued his rise to prominence under the tutelage of famed local organ artists Hank Marr and Don Patterson. Today he tours the globe as an internationally renowned organist accomplished in a variety of genres, including blues, funk, jazz and gospel.

Plan on grooving with New York City jazz trumpeter Cindy Bradley and Columbus' jazz septet, the Urban Jazz Coalition on Saturday, June 16. From her NYC base, Bradley has performed internationally while releasing two CDs in the past three years, *Bloom* in 2009, a collaboration with Grammy winning producer Michael Broening, and most recently *Unscripted*, a collection that showcases her stylistic diversity. A virtuoso on the trumpet and flugelhorn, she has won a variety of awards, including being named "Debut Artist of the Year" at the Catalina Island Jazz Trax Festival and by *Smooth Jazz News*.

On Sunday, June 17, the CBJF jazz theme will feature a variety of father/son and father/daughter performances, in a tip of the hat to Father's Day. Headlining the Sunday celebration of "Dads," the Columbus Jazz Orchestra (CJO) will take the stage as they feature premier pianist Bobby Floyd, along with his daughter, Bobbi Floyd Townes, on vocals. The CJO will also invite the children of some of the orchestra's musicians to perform. The members of the Columbus Youth Jazz Orchestra will also join in the festivities when they turn the spotlight on some of the band members' fathers.

Hailing from the Pittsburgh jazz scene and performing as a father/son team, Tony Janflone Sr and the Tony Janflone Jr Quartet will celebrate the day as part of Gahanna's jazzy salute to Dad. Janflone Sr is well known in Pittsburgh for a variety of musical talents. In addition to his own reputation as an accomplished guitarist, he encourages aspiring musicians through his years of experience as a top instructor of guitar. Janflone's star pupil is Tony Janflone Jr. He has been playing since the age of 9, with Dad's guidance and influence in all facets of music. Tony now enjoys the success he's achieved and plays with his own group, the Tony Janflone Jr Quartet.

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Louis Tsamous, musician services coordinator for the Jazz Arts Group and member of the CBJF planning committee, is committed to the Father's Day theme: "Since Sunday's performances fall on Father's Day, I feel that the festival should embrace the occasion. All of the jazz acts that day will feature either father/son or father/daughter combinations," Tsamous said.

The three-day festival features more than 90 hours of live music, delicious cuisine, artisans from the region, amusement rides and engaging family activities plus favorite events including Jog Your JAZZ Off!, the Rising Stars Contest and the Sunday Jazz Brunch.

Festival attractions and activities will include:

- **Musical Discovery Zone (MDZ):** The popular "Zone" returns, featuring expanded offerings that include the MDZ Family Stage located within the Musical Discovery Zone, adjacent to the amusement rides, along the south side of Granville Street. Families will continue to enjoy the free, hands-on blues and jazz musical learning experience - beat the bongos, blow the horns, make your own musical instrument and more. Musicians from the Jazz Arts Group and Columbus Blues Alliance will provide children with a personal learning experience with the pros.
- **Jog Your JAZZ Off!:** On June 16, the CBJF will feature its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Jog Your JAZZ Off! 5K Run and Walk. The 5K begins at 10 a.m. The Jog Your JAZZ Off! Fun Run, for kids ages 4-11, is a half-mile route through Creekside Park which begins at 9:30 a.m.
- **Rising Stars Contest:** Aspiring young musicians (age 20 and under) have an opportunity to compete for the title of "Best Rising Star" of the CBJF on June 16. Contest finalists will perform before a panel of judges on the Creekside Community Stage from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and the winning musician/group will perform on the MDZ Family Stage later that evening.
- **Sunday Jazz Brunch:** Back by popular demand, the Sunday Jazz Brunch will be held on June 17 at Mezzo Italian Kitchen and Wine.
- **Mini-Midway:** Amusement rides including a fun house, giant slide, merry-go-round and rides for children of all ages.
- **Paddle Boat Rides:** Boaters can enjoy the music as they take a leisurely paddle along a branch of Big Walnut Creek.
- **Festival food, artisans and crafters.**

During the past 14 years, the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival has evolved from a half-day event into a three-day family friendly event, with five stages of entertainment – Creekside Community Stage, Jazz Stage, Blues Stage, Acoustic Alley and the MDZ Family Stage. The festival location spans the area from Big Walnut Creek, with its Creekside Park and Plaza, into historic downtown Olde Gahanna.

Festival hours: Friday, June 15 – 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday, June 16 – 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, June 17 – 12-6 p.m. General admission: \$4. Children under 12: free admission. Members of the military and their immediate family members: free admission, ID required. Weekend pass: \$10, may be pre-purchased or purchased at entry gate, Friday night only. The festival is presented by the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau and is made possible with the support of sponsors and help from a corps of dedicated local volunteers. For more information, visit [www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com](http://www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com) or call the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau at 614-418-9114. **Photos available upon request.**

*The Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization funded by a local hotel tax and partner support whose mission is to promote Gahanna as a vibrant destination by connecting the people and places of our community which contributes to economic prosperity. The GCVB annually presents the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival and Holiday Lights! Parade. We are grateful for the support given to the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival by the event sponsors listed on our Web site: [www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com](http://www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com).*