

2007 Cadillac Sunset Jazz Festival Artists Announced

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Charlotte, NC- The 2007 Cadillac Sunset Jazz Festival, presented by Pride Magazine, is pleased to announce the jazz artist lineup on Saturday, September 22, at Symphony Park - SouthPark Mall. Local jazz sensations Soulgenic and Uncommon Jazz will perform along with Charlotte's own Maria Howell (now based in Atlanta). Headlining this year's festival is the electrifying jazz violinist, Ken Ford. The concert is free and scheduled from 1:30pm until 8:30pm.

Ken Ford, an Atlanta-based jazz violinist, plays with a passion never seen in the most esteemed and decorated musicians. He becomes one with his violin and will have you entranced with his aggressive facial expressions and body movements. Although Ford was classically trained, he yearned to play the music he enjoyed most- contemporary jazz. He has a soulful and funky sound, as well as a unique and electrical stage presence. Ford has opened for jazz artists Boney James, Norman Brown, funkster D'Angelo, and Kirk Whalum. Brace yourself. His energy is overwhelming!

Maria Howell is a jazz singer and actress best known as the "church choir soloist" from the movie "The Color Purple." Throughout her career, she has wowed audiences as the opening act for the legendary Ray Charles, and has shared the stage with Earth Wind and Fire's point man Phillip Bailey. In addition, she's shared stages with Nancy Wilson, Marvin Hamlisch, Will Downing, and George Benson.

Uncommon Jazz is a band based out of Charlotte, NC that is gaining fast recognition for its creative energy, versatile styles and constant rhythms. Uncommon Jazz is one of the most exciting live jazz bands around. They allow the audience to be absorbed by the gumbo of jazz, funk, latin, soul, and neo soul.

Soulgenic has a sound that captures the raw energy of funk syncopation, the pure emotion of soul grooves, the freedom of jazz improvisation and the passionate elements of Latin rhythms. They were voted Charlotte's Best New Band of 2006 by Creative Loafing.

Historically, Pride Magazine created the Sunset Jazz Festival to give back to the community. For the past 15 years the festival has produced great outdoor jazz concerts and other entertainment for Charlotte and surrounding areas. Our audience is diverse and consists of jazz enthusiasts, families and individuals from various ethnic groups, who come together to have a relaxing and fun-filled affair filled with live music.

Sponsors of the 2007 Cadillac Sunset Jazz Festival include: Cadillac, Lowe's Home Improvement, Alltel, WCNC Carolinas News Connection, The Charlotte Observer, Wachovia, Fitness TV Network, Charlotte Shout, CIAA, The DoubleTree Hotel-SouthPark, Radio One and Pride Magazine.

For the latest updates, visit www.cadillacsunsetjazzfestival.com.