



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL'S WORLD MUSIC PAVILION SHOWCASES WIDE RANGE OF STYLES AND GENRES

Friday, June 27

12 noon

Omaha Musicians' Association Jazz All-Stars

Trumpet player and vocalist Mike Gurciullo will kick off the Festival with a showcase of popular jazz standards. Gurciullo recently returned to Omaha from Las Vegas where he was the lead trumpet player for the Wayne Newton Band. He has also performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra and the Lon Bronson Big Band. Backing Gurciullo will be Dan Cerveny on keyboards, Mark Luebbe on bass and Joey Gulizia on drums.

3:30 p.m.

Mariachi Luna y Sol

In 2007, Mariachi Luna y Sol was voted "Best Ethnic Group" by the Omaha Entertainment Awards under the Live Music category. Recognized as the premier mariachi in the Midwest, the group is the only mariachi in the region with a full ensemble of violins, guitars, vihuela, guitarron, trumpets and vocals. With their beautiful harmonies and talented soloists, they have stunned crowds across the country with unforgettable performances.

5:00 p.m.

Chic Gamine

Chic Gamine has been singing together in various formations since 1997. Most recently, three members of the group belonged to the acclaimed world vocal ensemble Madrigaia. With a solo percussionist as their main musical support, Chic Gamine use their voices as instruments, effortlessly launching into intricate string arrangements, bass-heavy rhythm sections and melodious harmonies. Together, they create a sound that resounds with soul, passion and their own particular brand of humor that always leaves audiences begging for more.

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World Music Pavilion Stage Line-up
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7:00 p.m.

Zac Harmon

Born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, Zac Harmon is a disciple of the Farish Street Blues sound. Farish Street is universally recognized as the home of many great Blues legends including the late, great Elmore James. Harmon's early years included stints as a guitarist for Z.Z Hill, Dorothy Moore, McKinley Mitchell and Sam Myers. Later, he moved to Los Angeles and worked as a studio musician and began to make a name for himself as a writer/producer, crafting songs for such varied notables as Karyn White, Freddie Jackson, Evelyn "Champagne" King, The Whispers, Cherelle, Alexander O'Neal and the O'Jays. In 2002, Harmon recorded his own testimonial to the Blues and has been electrifying audiences with his music ever since.

9:00 p.m.

L'il Brian & The Travelers

For the past decade and more, Lil' Brian & The Travelers have developed a reputation as the most innovative and musically accomplished Zydeco band on the scene. Brilliantly drawing upon contemporary urban black sounds while remaining respectful and true to their Zydeco roots, Lil' Brian and The Travelers have created an incredibly exciting modern form of Zydeco music that is both rhythmically and lyrically sophisticated and just plain unbelievably funky!

Saturday, June 28

11:00 a.m.

Tim Wildsmith Band

Raw sound and honest lyrics are the key ingredients that make up the debut release from alternative pop newcomer Tim Wildsmith. The Omaha-based artist's *A New Morning* is a refreshing mix of alternative rock and mellow pop that draws comparisons to the likes of Ryan Adams, Damien Rice and Aqualung. Wildsmith is quickly gaining fans with his incredibly vulnerable lyrics, with which he tells the story of trying to survive a broken heart. From gentler, piano-based songs like "Recovery" and "Second Chance" to guitar-driven rockers like "Somehow" and "Love Is On The Move," Tim Wildsmith invites listeners in as he struggles to keep moving.

(More)

12:30 p.m.

Griffen Alexander

To the Pop-Rock / Acoustic scene, the 20-year-old Griffen Alexander, is a proverbial breath of fresh air. His songs about everyday feelings are sure to make their way into everyone's hearts. Griffen captures listeners with his sincerity, emotional depth and realism. Whether young or older, male or female, no matter what genre of music is preferred, Griffen's original music will captivate every audience.

2:00 p.m.

Black Squirrels

The Black Squirrels are influenced by the rich tradition of American country music, and although their reverence for the past runs deep, this is not a retro act. Black Squirrels meld a modern, literate twist onto the old forms. Although proficient players, a premium is placed on strong songs, whether it's a four-to-the-floor barnburner, or a gently swaying waltz.

3:30 p.m.

Scott Severin & the Milton Burlesque

Omaha's own Scott Severin redefines eclectic. Born "sometime during the Kennedy administration," this songwriter/performance artist has been a folkie, punk rocker, actor, street performer and published poet. Although his musical style could nominally be defined as Indie-Rock, he manages to encompass and eviscerate musical styles from Country & Western, Americana, traditional Rock & Roll, Blues, Folk and Tom Waits-like mock opera. The only thing easily definable about Scott Severin's sound is that it is truly original and challenging.

5:00 p.m.

Chic Gamine

For those who missed Friday night's performance, or those who are back for a second dose, Chic Gamine will bring their unique sound back to the World Music Pavilion Stage.

(More)

7:00 p.m.

Brave Combo

Over the last 28 years, Brave Combo has collected a dizzying array of descriptive musical pegs, boldly going where few bands have gone before, and even fewer could (or would) dare to venture. Succeeding in its first mission, Brave Combo is America's premier contemporary polka band, and a Grammy Award-winning one at that. In the same breath, to name some but hardly all of the colors found on Brave Combo's musical palette, one can describe them as a groundbreaking world music act, a hot jazz quintet, a rollicking Rock & Roll bar band, a Tex-Mex conjunto, a sizzling blues band, a saucy cocktail combo, a deadly serious novelty act, a Latin orchestra, and one of America's dance bands par excellence.

9:00 p.m.

New Orleans' Own Hot 8 Brass Band

Founded by Bennie Pete, Jerome Jones and Harry Cook in 1995, this New Orleans band has played in traditional second line parades hosted each Sunday ever since. The Hot 8 are famous for playing all day in the sun, then hopping to a club gig and playing through the night. But even more than their boundless energy, what makes the Hot 8 special are the sounds they coax from their well-loved, well-worn horns. The Hot 8 Brass Band has toured both nationally and internationally and plays regularly at the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The band was also featured in the Spike Lee film *When the Levees Broke* about the devastating impact and aftermath of hurricane Katrina.

Sunday, June 29

11:00 a.m.

Brad Colerick

Colerick's music blends Americana, Folk and Country to create smooth, catchy melodies that seep into your heart with a single listen. His finely wrought, plainspoken lyrics find the poetry in everyday language to celebrate the often forgotten moments that make life worth living. Nebraska-born Colerick's understated delivery and beautiful melodies reveal new levels of emotional complexity with every listen.

(More)

12:30 p.m.

Southpaw Bluegrass Band

The Southpaw Bluegrass Band began life in the fall of 2003 as a duo featuring singer-songwriter/guitarist David Fleming and songwriter/banjo picker Steve Hoiberg, both of Omaha. In April 2005, singer/mandolinist Justin Kephart joined the boys, adding almost immediately to the already unique group dynamic.

Based on an inherent musical synergy and rooted in a mutual love and respect of bluegrass and the associated instrumentation, the group's current mission is to introduce the music to a younger local audience. To date, performances have been very well-received, as has the ever-growing catalog of original Southpaw songs and instrumentals, further inspiring the group's assertion that bluegrass moves those new to the genre to tap their toes and clap their hands...but only if they're given the chance to hear it.

2:00 p.m.

Luigi Inc.

Drummer, vibist, arranger, composer and an Omaha Summer Arts Festival institution, Luigi Waites will provide his traditional "smooth jazz" set from the stage named for him some 20 years ago. Waites, an Omaha living legend, began his musical career on the drums at the tender age of 12. He has performed in house-bands for such greats as Ella Fitzgerald, Sarah Vaughn and Dinah Washington. His group, Luigi, Inc., has opened for renowned jazz performers including Dizzy Gillespie, Ramsey Lewis, Lionel Hampton and James Brown. After more than 30 years, Waites continues to perform every Sunday night at Mr. Toad's in Omaha's Historic Old Market.

3:30 p.m.

SABOR

The music scene has yet to see a hybrid of such raw talent that crosses Latin America with an American twist. This extraordinarily talented group from South Omaha plays a variety of styles that include Santana, Norteño, Cumbia, Flamenco, Latin Jazz, Bachata, ballads, Latin Blues, American oldies y mucho más. One of the group's newest vocalists, Milena, recently made it through the first auditions of *American Idol* and sings her heart out with true passion.

For links to artist web sites, please visit **www.SummerArts.org**.

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