



News Release

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Third Time is the Charm for Friday Night at JazzFest

MURFREESBORO – High school jazz band members across the county are hoping for good weather May 1, when they are to open JazzFest on Murfreesboro’s historic square. “When Friday night was added to JazzFest, it immediately became one of the most popular parts of the festival,” according to JazzFest committee member Karl Wingruber. “But the last two years, we have had bad weather that interrupted the schedule. We are due for a clear night this year.”

Seven Rutherford County high school jazz bands are scheduled to perform sets beginning at 6:00 pm on Friday, May 1. Friday night is sponsored by Bridgestone/Firestone. “There is a lot of appeal to the Friday night schedule,” reminds Wingruber. “The kids and parents enjoy an opportunity for the students to showcase their talent in a non-competitive way, and many in the community enjoy the familiar, energetic tunes they play.”

Jazz has become a popular activity for area schools. All Rutherford county high schools have at least one jazz band, and several have two or more. Four local Middle Schools are also scheduled to perform on the Kroger stage on Saturday.

“Jazz provides a musical outlet the kids really seem to enjoy,” says Wingruber. “It is very different from the marching band or concert band music people usually associate with schools. And by the way, these kids are really good.” Wingruber has again organized an All-County band with some of the best players from the high schools to perform on Saturday. The All-County band will kick-off the main stage at 12:00 noon with a tribute to bassist Jaco Pastorius, Glen Miller tunes “Moonlight Serenade” and “American Patrol,” and the tune “Fever”, popularized by Elvis Presley and featuring vocalist Rebecca Andrews of Blackman High School.

After a thunderstorm rained out the Friday night festivities last year, festival organizers quickly arranged for the bands to perform on Saturday at the Center for the Arts. A rain plan remains in effect, but organizers say the kids have earned good weather.

JazzFest is organized by the Main Street staff and is chaired this year by volunteer Emily Parke. Roughly 400 volunteers from the community work under guidance of 12 committees to ensure a smooth-running festival. The Friday sessions begin at 6 p.m. and run until about 10:30 pm. Musicians will play Saturday from 11 a.m. to roughly 9:30 p.m.

For more information including a full music schedule, visit it the web site, www.mainstreetjazzfest.com., or call Main Street at (615) 895-1887.

