

Omaha Summer Arts Festival



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2007

Contact: Kelli Demetri
(402) 345-5401

2007 OMAHA SUMMER ARTS FESTIVAL PRESENTED BY FIRST NATIONAL BANK WORLD MUSIC PAVILION LUIGI WAITES STAGE LINE-UP

Friday, June 22

12 noon

Omaha Musicians Association Jazz All Stars
featuring Steve Raybine with Joey Gulizia,
Dan Cerveney and special guest Roger Neuman

4:00 p.m.

Grant Richard

After having played in several bands growing up, Grant Richard further honed his musical talent as the lead guitar player for the Kansas City indie/rock band Uncommonsense. In 2006, while on an extensive tour with the band, Richard began pursuing a modest solo project on the side. When Uncommonsense dissolved, Richard had the opportunity to devote all of his time to his solo career. His efforts paid off with the release of his first EP *Here Me Now* completed in November of 2006.

5:30 p.m.

The Turfmen

For the past 22 years and over 2,000 musical performances, the five-piece Irish folk band known as The Turfmen has been delighting Midwestern audiences at concert halls, night clubs, fairs, fundraising events and private gigs of all types. Featuring the accordion, banjo, fiddle, mandolin, bass and guitar, The Turfmen is the only Omaha Irish band that plays exclusively Irish music.

7:00 p.m.

BeauSoleil

Since forming in 1975, Grammy®-winners BeauSoleil have claimed their undisputed role as the most esteemed Cajun group in music. Michael Doucet avec BeauSoleil takes the rich Cajun traditions of Louisiana and artfully blends elements of zydeco, New Orleans jazz, Tex-Mex, country, blues and more into a satisfying musical recipe. From The Grand Ole Opry to Newport Folk, from concert hall to dance floor, the music of BeauSoleil continues to captivate audiences the world over.

-More-

9:00 p.m.

Public Property

Public Property brings the soul, funk, and fun back into reggae. By stirring the sounds of early reggae with modern hip-hop, soca with dub, and Hawaiian ukulele with ska, the band's recipe of old and new stylings has earned them a reputation as one of the Midwest's most progressive reggae bands.

Saturday, June 23

11:00 a.m.

Rain Dogs

The Rain Dogs are four talented musicians who have come together to share a love of American roots music. Creating a timeless sound all their own, the Rain Dogs perform music ranging in style from old time jug band blues and boogie woogie through the driving rhythms of early rock & roll. Working within a framework of acoustic and resophonic guitars, washboard, bass, mandolin, piano and harmonica, the band performs original songs and covers material from artists such as Bessie Smith, Memphis Minnie, Mississippi Sheiks, Muddy Waters, Bonnie Raitt and Bo Carter.

12:30 p.m.

Street Railway Company Jazz Band

The seven-piece Street Railway Company Jazz Band has played as a group since 1985 and features cornet, trombone, clarinet, piano, drums, tuba and banjo. The band plays traditional New Orleans dixieland jazz and has twice traveled to Europe to perform in Poland, the Czech Republic and Spain, including live radio performances in Prague and Valencia. The band has also performed at the Clear Lake Iowa Jazz Festival, Joslyn Jazz on the Green and has played at Trovato's Italian Restaurant in Omaha since 1986.

2:00 p.m.

Gravydippers

The blues classic rock of the Gravydippers, like good gravy, has many ingredients and has simmered through many years of gigs and musical experiences. Led by multi-talented local musician, Robert Glaser, the band counts among its musical influences Boz Scaggs, Santana, the Talking Heads, Paul Simon, The Beatles, James Brown, Van Morrison, Miles Davis, Wayne Shorter, the Allman Brothers Band and Sly & the Family Stone.

-More-

3:30 p.m.

Rain Dogs

The Kansas City-based Rain Dogs return for an encore performance.

5:00 p.m.

Waybacks

From new-grass, western swing and jug band to gypsy jazz, folk and fingerpicking alt-country, the Waybacks musical improvisational excursions defy categorization. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, the stellar musicianship and innate sense of adventure place the Waybacks in good company with the few bands at the forefront of new American acoustic music.

7:00 p.m.

Eric Steckel Band

Originally from Pennsylvania where he was first known for his energetic guest appearances with many of the area's finest performers, Steckel's early musical influences inspired him to pick up his first Fender Stratocaster at the age of nine. Steckel's passion for the blues enabled him to soon share the stage with many nationally known artists including Bob Margolin, Debbie Davies, James Armstrong, Tommy Castro, Joe Kubek, Bnois King and Solomon Burke. With a feeling and natural ability that cannot be explained for someone so young, Eric delivers a Freddie-BB-Albert King influenced performance with an intensity and skill that belies the fact that he is only 16-years-old.

9:00 p.m.

Son Venezuela

Passion is the word often used to describe this talented group of international musicians from Brazil, Dominican Republic, United States of America and, of course, Venezuela. Lead by vocalists Luis Guillen and Kelfel Aqui, who also plays the cuatro, Son Venezuela started out as a Latin American folk music ensemble, but soon took the leap from the concert hall to the dance floor. Salsa, Merengue, Calypso, Cumbia, Tamborera and Rumbas are just a few of the styles the nine-piece Son Venezuela performs.

-More-

Sunday, June 24

11:30 a.m. **Rhythm Collective**

Looking to get away to the islands without all the sand? Come listen to the music of Rhythm Collective, the area's newest Caribbean voice! Original and cover tunes all done in a reggae style. Party with Joe, Frank, Joseph and Soup as they take you on a musical vacation.

1:30 p.m. **Luigi Inc.**

Drummer, vibist, arranger, composer and an Omaha legend, Luigi Waites will provide his trademark "smooth jazz" set on his namesake stage. Waites began his musical career on the drums at the age of 12. He has performed as a member of 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. In addition, for more than 20 years, Waites has performed every Sunday night at Mr. Toad's in Omaha's Historic Old Market.

3:00 p.m. **Chubby Carrier**

A third generation musician and native Louisiana country boy, Carrier got his start playing drums in his father's band at age 12 and made his first debut on an accordion at age 15. His grandfather was one of the pioneers of zydeco, a music that brings together the French flavored Cajun waltzes and two-steps with the blues, funk, soul and R&B.

Touring with his Bayou Swamp Band, Carrier spreads the zydeco gospel through his latest CD, *Bayou Road* released on Swampadelic Records in 2006. This collection of mostly original material features a mix of horn piercing, bombastic funk with hypnotic blues, crashing keys and the ever-present squeezebox.

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

###