

Media Release

For Immediate Release
June 16, 2015

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NORFOLK WATERFRONT JAZZ FESTIVAL

*** Rain or Shine**

The Longest Running Outdoor Jazz Festival
Town Point Park, Downtown Norfolk Waterfront, Virginia.

NORFOLK, VA (June 16, 2015) – Hampton Roads' longest running outdoor Jazz Festival returns for two nights along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront, **Friday, July 17 & Saturday, July 18, 2015, starting at 5:00pm.** On a warm summer evening, relax to the legendary sounds of top national Smooth Jazz and R&B recording artists. Tickets are now on sale online at www.festevents.org.

What: 33rd Annual Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival

When: Friday, July 17: 5pm-11pm
Saturday, July 18: 5pm-11pm

Where: Town Point Park, Downtown Norfolk Waterfront, Virginia

Ticket Information:

- **General Admission:** Open Lawn seating; please bring your own chair.
 - Friday and Saturday - \$30 each day at the gate
 - Children:** Children 12 and younger are free
- **2-day General Admission Combo Ticket** \$49 in advance only
- **Reserved Seating 2-day Combo Ticket** \$69 in advance only
- **The New Journal and Guide VIP Jazz Club:** The **New Journal and Guide** VIP Jazz Club provides an amazing festival experience with access to an exclusive VIP Area that offers private gourmet catering and bar service at special prices. **The New Journal and Guide Jazz Club** VIP's will receive complimentary non-alcoholic beverages, complimentary cocktail hour hors d' oeuvres and private restrooms.
 - 2-day **The New Journal and Guide** VIP Jazz Club and General Admission Combo Ticket \$149 in advance only
 - 2-day **The New Journal and Guide** VIP Jazz Club and Reserved Seating Combo Ticket \$169 in advance only
 - Friday or Saturday **The New Journal and Guide** VIP Jazz Club and General Admission Ticket \$80 in advance only
- **Boaters package** (Parkside docking during Festival hours, no advance sales) \$20 docking fee plus General Admission fee for each guest on board Contact Jeffery Morrison at 757.441.2345 or email Morrisonj@festevents.org for more information.

Line up for the 33rd Annual Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival



Richard Elliot, Friday, July 17 at 7:45pm

Saxophonist Richard Elliot has arrived at a very special anniversary for blowing audiences away with his soulfully robust playing. 2014 marked 30 years since the release of his debut solo album, *Initial Approach* (ITI – 1984), on which he stepped out showcasing his tenor sax, soprano sax, Lyricon and writing skills. What does a red-blooded Scottish sax man raised in Los Angeles – now with a wife and five children – do for a 30-year encore? Well, this one-time member of the classic soul band *Tower of Power* proves he’s “not a young man” and drops

the most overtly sensual, romantic and intimate album of his career in collaboration with contemporary jazz production/guitar giant Paul Brown. The title of this 17th solo project is *Lip Service* (the artist’s first for Heads Up/Concord Music Group).

The 10-song *Lip Service* features seven all new original compositions with teasing titles such as “Sookie Sookie” and “All the Way,” as well as three choice covers of soul and pop hits from the ’80s (“Shining Star” by The Manhattan Transfer), the ’90s (“Anytime” by Brian McKnight) and today (“When I Was Your Man” by Bruno Mars).



Earl Klugh, Friday, July 17, 2015 at 9:30pm

Raised in the exciting cauldron of Motor City music, Earl Klugh absorbed a wide spectrum of influences from Atkins and Wes Montgomery to Sergio Mendes, Laurindo Almeida and guitar music from Brazil, Argentina and Spain. The pop tunes of Burt Bacharach and the Beatles, as well as The Funk Brothers, Motown’s legendary studio-session band, were also part of the mix, along with the lyrical jazz piano of Bill Evans. As a composer and songwriter, Earl Klugh’s credit appears on a wide range of recordings from artists such as Aretha Franklin, Jamie Foxx, Roberta Flack, Mary J. Blige, Kenny Loggins, Al Jarreau and many others. And he has been a guest artist with musicians from Buffett, Loggins, Brenda Russell and Stevie Wonder to jazz masters Miles Davis and McCoy Tyner.

When it comes to films, Klugh’s guitar is on the soundtrack scores of *How to Beat the High Cost of Living*, *Marvin and Tige* and *Just Between Friends*. CBS Golf embraced Klugh’s “Take it From the Top” as their theme song for many years of exciting coverage of the sport. And moving from the silver screen to television, he has performed on such iconic shows as *The Tonight Show*, *Late Night* featuring David Letterman, *The Today Show* and *Good Morning America*. In addition to his 13 GRAMMY® nominations and his GRAMMY® statue for the million-selling album, *One on One*, with Bob James, Klugh also won the 1987 Edison Award (the European equivalent to the GRAMMY®) for *Life Stories* and his 1987 disc with George Benson, *Collaboration*, was certified Gold by the RIAA. His latest three releases, *Naked Guitar* (2005), *The Spice of Life* (2008) and *HandPicked* (2013) went back-to-back-to-back as GRAMMY® nominees for Best Pop Instrumental Album.

**Pamela Williams, Saturday, July 18, 2015 at 8:00pm**

Dubbed "the Saxtress" after the title of her debut record, Pamela Williams is undoubtedly, one of the most popular performers on today's smooth jazz scene. Although she established her solo career in LA, Williams' molded her musical identity during her youth. Her talents were nurtured by the rich musical heritage of Philadelphia. One of her earliest influences was the late great Grover Washington Jr. whose cutting-edge blend of styles first inspired Williams with an interest in jazz. Pamela tours the world electrifying audiences with her dynamic sound and captivating stage presence.

Pamela Williams is a multi-talented recording artist, composer, and producer who play flute and piano in addition to the saxophone. She has written and produced songs for the late Teena Marie. She has also produced a gospel project for an upcoming vocalist. Williams made her solo debut in 1996 with *The Saxtress*, an album that immediately brought her name into the limelight. The

project peaked within the Billboard Contemporary Jazz Album top 10 and remained on the chart for a full five months while also earning her the title of Best Female Contemporary Jazz Artist of the Year. On that release and on each of her subsequent projects, Williams has continued to exhibit a stylish blend of flavors, from Latin & Jazz, Funk, to R&B, hip-hop and house. Pamela Williams has 10 CDs to her credit. She presently tours around the world.

**Musiq Soulchild, Saturday, July 18 at 9:45pm**

MUSIQ SOULCHILD, a soulstar who has developed a sound uniquely his own, by fusing together the essence of "Soul Music" with "Funk" rules and "Hip Hop" swagger, all while making his mark on the charts with his first hit single entitled "Just Friends (Sunny)" from his platinum Def Soul release "Aijuswanaseing" (I just want to sing). He made us ponder the meaning of true affection with his second hit simply entitled "Love"

Staying in the game with his third release "Soulstar" featuring hit tunes such as "For the night" and "Who Knows" it's clear that Musiq is not only an artist of substance, but also consistency. Musiq has received awards from Billboard, BET, ASCAP, BMI and Soul Train. He also has been featured on TV & print ads along with having his music featured with major corporations such as McDonalds, Nike, Coca-Cola, Levis and The GAP. He's toured the country extensively, and is also internationally renowned for not just bringing great music, but also a great show.

**Generation neXt featuring Nicholas Cole, Lin Rountree & Lebron
Friday, July 17 at 5:30pm and Saturday, July 18 at 6:30pm**



With successful outings at some of the country's premiere festivals in 2014 including Berks, Seabreeze, Capital Jazz, Newport Beach, Norfolk and Catalina Island Jazztrax, Generation neXt is ushering in a new dimension of smooth jazz/R&B grooves with style and flair. These world class musicians and rising stars from Trippin 'N' Rhythm Records/Cutmore Entertainment are at the cutting edge of contemporary jazz with R&B/soul influences.

21-year old keyboard phenom Nicholas Cole displays the technical proficiency and artistic vision of those twice his age. Cole's release 'Endless Possibilities' scored 4 Top 10 Billboard singles and the hit, 'Snap', featuring Vincent Ingala was a Top 5 Billboard smash. In addition to a thriving solo career, Nicholas has become an in-demand producer and collaborator, working with Ben Tankard, Willie Bradley and Julian Vaughn among others.

'Soulfunky' is soul-jazz and R&B trumpet master Lin Rountree's fifth studio CD and follow up to the success of 2013's 'Serendipitous'. Slated for release in mid-May, the 12 song self-produced collection is Rountree's funkier and most soul-filled to date featuring some of the hottest musicians and producers in the business. Showcased in the 2012 Whitney Houston film, 'Sparkle', Lin has performed with icons including the late George Duke, Marcus Miller, Tim Bowman and Kem.

"It's all about the sound." That is the powerfully simple principle inherent in saxman Lebron's music. Brian McKnight, Phil Perry and Will Downing all influenced his phrasing, expression and solos as did Gerald Albright, Kirk Whalum, Grover Washington, Jr. and Nelson Rangell. His debut release 'Shades' featured Paul Brown on the hit 'Groove City' and the single 'Kinetic' enjoyed strong support at Billboard. Lebron's much anticipated sophomore release will be out in July 2015.



RaJazz, Saturday July 18, 2015 at 5:15pm

Comprised of six superb Virginian performing artists, who have captivate audiences of all ages and tastes with a savory mix of smooth jazz and R&B. RaJazz members are Rogers Brown, leader and keyboardist, Stephanie Sanders, saxophonist, Tray Spence, bass guitar, Shanna Gaines, vocalist, Billy Springs, vocalist and Chris Whitaker, drummer and vocalist, Brandon Barbee, trumpet and Ahisa Henry, vocalist. RaJazz has performed at the Norfolk Town Point Jazz Festival in 2007 and opened for Najee summer of 2010 at the Virginia Beach Sandler Center for Performing Arts. RaJazz opened for Boyz II Men at the American Music festival 2009 in Virginia Beach, VA. and

opened for Zapp summer of 2010 at Afrikan Festival in Hampton VA. RaJazz also has performed several times at the Bayou Classic in New Orleans, LA.

Festival Quick Facts:

Weather: In the event of severe inclement weather, the festival will be relocated to the Scope Arena. For Scope Arena policies, please visit http://www.sevenvenues.com/about/visitor_info/scope or call 757-664-6464. Generally, lawn chairs, food and beverage, coolers, blankets, umbrellas and alcohol are not permitted. All ticket sales are final. No Refunds. Norfolk Festevents reserves the right to postpone, cancel and/or evacuate events due to adverse weather conditions.

Parking: Parking is available in several of the Downtown Norfolk garages within a short walk of the park. The fee for event parking in the downtown Norfolk garages is \$5.00

Special Notes: Lawn chairs, picnic blankets, coolers, food and non-alcoholic beverages are permitted in Town Point Park. No alcohol or glass is permitted; food and alcohol will be available for purchase during the festival.

Festival Tents and Large Umbrella Area: A special area in Town Point Park is reserved for festival guests wishing to set up a tent or large umbrellas for shade. All umbrellas must be lowered during performances if seated in front of the stage; no tents or other structures are permitted in the lawn directly in front of the stage.

For additional information: More information about events, including park regulations, parking, and surrounding attractions, can be found by visiting festevents.org, or by calling 757.441.2345.

The 33rd **Annual Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival** is produced by Norfolk Festevents, Ltd., presented by AT&T and sponsored by the City of Norfolk, The New Journal & Guide, Norfolk Waterside Marriott, Lumos Networks, Miller Lite, Yuengling, CFE Equipment Corporation, and Pepsi.

Norfolk Festevents, Ltd., based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10 month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments—Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk's official event marketing agency since the city's downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming, and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun and livable waterfront communities in the country.

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