

For Immediate Release:

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True Legends of Jazz to Perform Saturday at 2020 Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival

Event: 38th Annual Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival

Date: Friday & Saturday, August 21 & 22, 2020

Location: Town Point Park, Downtown Norfolk, VA Waterfront

Tickets: Tickets go on-sale Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020

Online Link: bit.ly/NFKJazz2020

Norfolk, VA – (November 15, 2019) – The jazz supergroup True Legends of Jazz will perform Saturday, August 22, 2020, at the 38th Annual Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival presented by Optima Health at Town Point Park along the Downtown Norfolk Waterfront.

The True Legends of Jazz supergroup features **Norman Connors and the Starship Orchestra, Ronnie Laws, Lonnie Liston Smith, and Jean Carne**. The group joins Saturday headliner and 10-time Grammy Award-winning artist George Benson in 2020 Jazz Festival lineup. Additional artists and lineup details will be announced in the coming weeks.

Tickets for the 2020 Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival go on-sale Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020.



Norman Connors (Drums) is an American jazz drummer, composer, arranger, and producer who has led some of the most influential jazz and R&B groups. Connors has achieved several huge R&B hits and possibly best known for the 1976 hit, "You Are My Starship" on which Michael Henderson provided lead vocals. Like Roy Ayers, George Benson, and Patrice Rushen, Connors is best known for his major R&B hits but started out as a jazz improviser. The drummer/composer was born and raised in Philadelphia and became interested in jazz when he was only a child.



Ronnie Laws (Saxophone) taught himself to play the alto saxophone at age 11 and it has led to an illustrious jazz career. Laws has played alongside some of the industry's biggest names, including Earth, Wind & Fire, the Jazz Crusaders, and Hugh Masakela. His first solo record was Pressure Sensitive on Blue Note Records in 1975 and it yielded his biggest hit "Always There." Over the years, Laws has performed and recorded with a series of A-list musicians including Howard Hewitt, Brian Culbertson, Ramsey Lewis, Jeff Lorber, Alphonse Mouzon, Sister Sledge, and many others.



Lonnie Liston Smith (Keyboard) is a jazz, soul, and funk musician who has played with several legendary jazz artists, such as Pharoah Sanders and Miles Davis, before forming Lonnie Liston Smith and the Cosmic Echoes. Smith, born in Richmond, is a keyboardist of the first rank and has influenced a generation of young players that have acknowledged his rhythmic urgency, harmonic acumen, and composing skills. In a career that spans over 40 years, he has been heard as a featured sideman for some of Jazz' most illustrious leaders before stepping out to reveal his own original concepts as a band leader in the mid 70s.



Jean Carne (Vocals) has recorded and shared the stage with some of music's most prolific artists, producers, and songwriters over the years, including Stevie Wonder, Lou Rawls, The O'Jays, Phyllis Hyman, and many more. Carne has also acted as vocal coach for numerous Singers in the music fraternity including the Supremes' Mary Wilson and Michael Jackson. Born in Columbus, Georgia, and raised in Atlanta, Carne's singing ability was so striking that at age four she sang solo with her church choir. Encouraged by her parents, Carne became proficient on the piano, organ, clarinet, English horn, oboe, and bassoon.

For more information on the 2020 Norfolk Waterfront Jazz Festival, head to bit.ly/NFKJazz2020.

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, and tall ship visits 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. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2020 season!

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