

Cheraw Has Jazz! SC Jazz Festival In Dizzy's Hometown

Dizzy Gillespie's hometown of Cheraw, SC ushers in its 12th year of the South Carolina Jazz Festival October 19-22 with four days of great jazz and exciting activities. The weekend, which coincides with the 100th anniversary of Gillespie's birth, will showcase the unique bond Gillespie shared with his South Carolina roots and jazz.

A wide variety of both free and ticketed concerts and events are scheduled for Thursday, Friday and Saturday, October 19-21. The festival culminates on Sunday, October 22, with a Jazz Mass at Wesley United Methodist Church.

Over 30 Jazz performances are scheduled during the festival including in-school performances. The concerts will feature regional musicians from both North and South Carolina and beyond. The festival kicks off with a free concert by the Winthrop University Jazz Orchestra on Thursday evening, October 19 at the Theatre on the Green.

Featured artist for the ticketed evening performance on Friday, October 20 at the Theatre on the Green is internationally acclaimed trombonist and composer Delfeayo Marsalis. On Saturday, October 21, regional musicians take to the stage to pay tribute to Dizzy Gillespie with Dr. Al Fraser as narrator. The group is comprised of trumpeters Mark Rapp, Eleazar Shafer and Jon Thornton. Joining them will be trombonist Dr. Mitch Butler, 17 year-old saxophone sensation Ben Eidson, Danny Boozer, Dustin Retzlaff and 19 year-old Sean Mason.

New this year will be a free Late Night Jazz Jam on Friday, October 20 at the Theatre on the Green featuring Sammy Miller and the Congregation. This New York based group is on a mission to bring the generosity back into jazz. North Carolina groups Empire Strikes Brass and Sidecar Social Club return to the festival.

Weekend activities include a free performance at Cheraw's Centennial Park by the SC Jazz Festival Big Band featuring 20 regional musicians, "Dizzy on Display" at the Southern African American Heritage Center, a Be-bop parade and evening jazz crawls. Music by Zeb Harrison and Company with dialogue by Gillespie's friend

and author of To Be or Not to Bop: Memoirs of Dizzy Gillespie. Dr. Al Fraser, will be presented at the Gillespie family's home church, Wesley United Methodist on Saturday afternoon.

Art abounds during the weekend with "Dizzy" inspired artwork by local students and the festival's 9th Italian Madonnari Chalk Competition. Market on Market returns with produce, food and more. Attendees can enjoy a self-guided Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour to over 25 points of interest, including Dizzy Gillespie related sites.

Tickets for a single evening concert at the Theatre on the Green are \$30.00 per person or a two day weekend ticket is \$50.00 per person. For more information call 843.537.8420 x12 or visit www.scjazzfestival.com.

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