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# Cathedral Park Jazz

*Free festival to  
kick off 34th year*

One of Portland most beloved jazz and blues festivals is marking its return this weekend thanks to the Jazz Society of Oregon. The 34th annual Cathedral Park Jazz Festival will take place Friday, July 18 through Sunday, July 20 in Cathedral Park under the St. Johns Bridge.

The north Portland event is the longest-running free jazz/blues festival west of the Mississippi. Hours of operation are 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday; and 12-noon to 10 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

For some time, the fate of the Cathedral Park Jazz Fest has been in question. This year, the Jazz Society of

Oregon took over the production under the leadership of Jazz Society organizer and board member Arthur Marx.

A committee composed of representatives of different community organizations were able to raise the needed sponsorships which include Schnitzer Steel, The Tire Factory, WasteXpress Environmental, Oregonians Credit Union, Port of Portland, University of Portland, US Bank, Burgerville, S & H Recycling, Tonkin Corp. and many others, Marx said.

The next monumental task was to secure the talent for the festival. Renowned sax player and educator Mary-Sue Tobin (The Quadruphonnes) helped make the arrangements for nearly 100 players to attend this year's festival.

The lineup includes Mel Brown and his septet; Waterfront Blues Festival favorite DK Stewart; Michael Quinby and his band the Roseland Hunters; celebrated bassist Tom Wakeling; Farnell Newton and

the Soul Funk Project; The Lily Wilde Orchestra; and the Art Abrams Swing Machine.

Along with the festival renaissance is a new user-friendly festival layout. To provide more seating room in the amphitheater "bowl", the food and merchant booths will be situated on Crawford Street at the foot of the park. This new design allows more room to lay out your blankets and set up a comfortable "camp" for the weekend.

There will also be more room under the bridge to toss the Frisbee, play games with the kids, for relaxing meditation to the sound of blues and jazz in the background, or for just catching some sun.

The festival has also secured a variety of local craft beer and cider brewers as well as several excellent wineries to quench your thirst.

For more information and a complete Cathedral Park Jazz Festival lineup, visit [cpjazz.com](http://cpjazz.com).