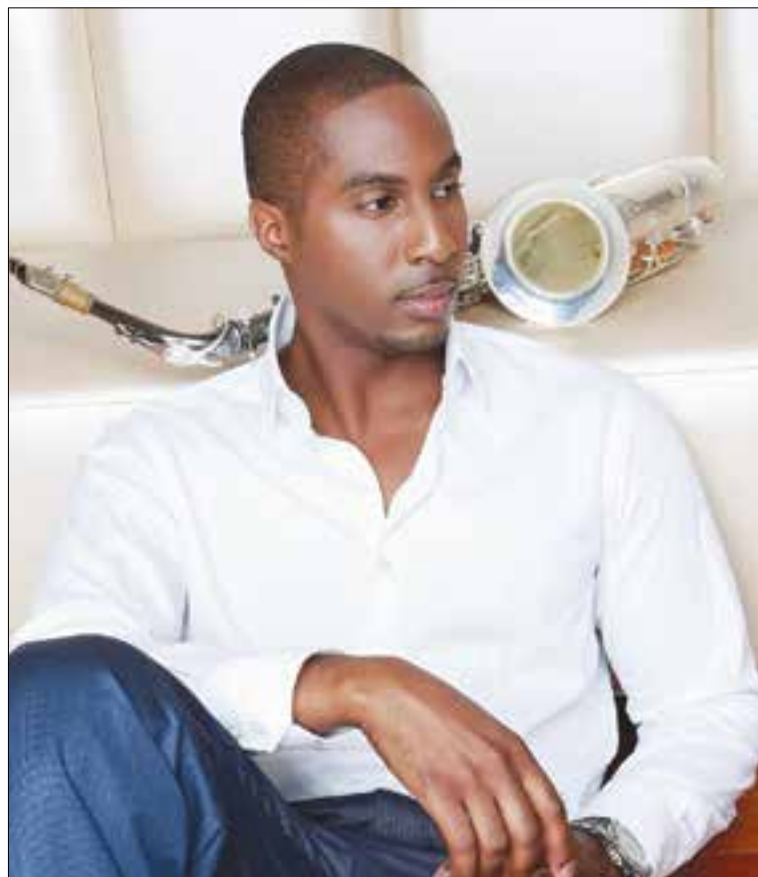




Mississippi  
Alberta  
North Portland

Vancouver  
East County  
Beaverton



Jazz vocalist, saxophonist and songwriter Eric Darius.

## A Legacy of Portland Jazz

### *Vanport Jazz festival a cultural revival*

Honoring the history of Vanport and the voices that formed our jazz community, the Vanport Jazz Festival will once again feature a lineup of internationally renowned artists and breathe new life into Portland's jazz scene.

The annual event will be held this year on Saturday, Aug. 3 at the Colwood Golf Center, 7313 N.E. Columbia Blvd., filling a stage with musicians who carry the torch for a diverse generation of jazz artists who came to Portland for work and then established Portland as a true jazz city because of their vibrant music and culture.

At its height, nearly 40,000 people lived in Vanport, including 6,000 African Americans. Vanport was then the nation's largest public housing project and the second-largest city in Oregon.

But Vanport wasn't built to last. On Memorial Day, 1948, the Columbia River broke through the nearby levees, unleashing a historic flood that displaced 18,000 people from their homes—a quarter of whom were African American. The Vanport Flood was, in the words of a former resident, the Hurricane Katrina of its time.



Smooth jazz saxophonist Euge Groove.

Portland's jazz scene rose to a crescendo during and after Vanport and over time, like the flood that dispersed it, evaporated in fragments. People passed away. Venues closed. But the audience remained, waiting for the music to return.

Today, the Vanport Jazz Festival pays homage to this legacy by hosting a jazz experience for the modern day. Featured artists for the upcoming event include Euge Groove, Andy Stokes, Eric Darius, The Queens of Soul Jazz featuring Althea Rene and Jeanette Harris and the



The Queens of Soul Jazz band features flutist extraordinaire Althea Rene and the sultry sounds of saxophonist Jeannette Harris.



Northwest soul master Andy Stokes hit the top 50 of the R&B charts last year with his hit "Best Day Ever." He will be one of the featured performers at the Vanport Jazz Festival, coming Saturday, Aug. 3 to the Colwood Golf Center in northeast Portland.

group War.

Living members of the Vanport community, national-caliber talent, and jazz aficionados everywhere are invited to discover the legacy of Portland jazz and experience the revival. For tickets and more information, visit [VanportJazzFestival.com](http://VanportJazzFestival.com).