

## **Jazz on the Green Announces New Downtown Ft. Myers Alliance**

**Ft. Myers, Florida** – December 17, 2008 – Jazz On The Green is pleased to announce that the new home for the event as of January 2009 is Centennial Park, downtown Fort Myers, Florida. This venue brings a great many new opportunities to the event and the community. As always Jazz On The Green brings fantastic music, fabulous food and refreshments, fine art, fun activities and a feeling of community to a sophisticated and festive audience that comes from all over the world. Event organizers are also in the initial stages of creating an alliance with downtown Fort Myers and the Edison Festival of Light for 2010.

“We have begun talking to Bobbi Stage, Executive Director of the Edison Festival of Light about Jazz On The Green becoming a part of the festival,” says Patricia Williams, Treasurer/Director, Jazz On The Green. “We are planning to solidify this alliance for the 2010 festival.”

Organizers of the Jazz on the Green event were pressed earlier in the year, due to the sudden unavailability of its venue (Estero Community Park) as a result of Tropical Storm Faye, to secure a new venue for the event. This in turn created the need to reschedule the event entirely. In the midst of this, headlining act Wayman Tisdale underwent the amputation of his leg as part of his treatment against cancer and was cancelled from the show. Couple these things with an economic transition and one thing is sure to happen: Change.

“We’ve definitely been shifted and moved by circumstances beyond our control, but we’re seeing something amazing emerge out of all of this,” says Renee Bledsoe, Vice-Chairman of Jazz On The Green, “All of these trials and tribulations may just be leading us to make changes that will ultimately be for the greater good of the event. We definitely feel that the event taking place when there are more tourists here and then possibly aligning with downtown Ft. Myers and the Edison Festival, are really positive and exciting developments. These things hold a lot of potential for growth and expansion for all concerned.”

Despite hurricane fallout and the loss of a venue, an artist cancellation and a transitioning recessive economy, the board of directors of the event have made magic and miracles happen to bring Jazz On The Green to life in 2009 in the face of overwhelming change and challenges. The show must go on, is the battle cry of the organizers of the much beloved Jazz On The Green event.

Jazz On The Green isn’t just a good time, it’s a good cause and a non-profit organization that raises both money and awareness for children and the environment, through the Southwest Florida Children’s Charities and Wild About Green programs. This year, we’ve chosen two charities whose mission is to help women and children in our community, Footsteps to the Future and Mary’s House of Hope.

It’s not too late to get involved. There is still plenty of opportunity to sponsor the event and to get involved. To see how you can support Jazz On The Green, by becoming a sponsor or a volunteer or to purchase tickets, please visit us online at [www.jazzonthegreen.com](http://www.jazzonthegreen.com)

### **UPDATED SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Friday Event, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – Doors 7pm**

**Reserve Cigar and Wine Bar** - Featuring Tony Pastrana and NY Latin Jazz

**Saturday, January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2009 Gates open 3pm**

**Main Event – Centennial Park, Downtown Fort Myers**

Featuring as our headliner the Grammy Award winning icon, ARTURO SANDOVAL  
Along with Four 80 East with Nils & Shilts | BK Jackson | Wendy Renee

Ticket prices range from \$10 – 70 for e-Fan Club members and \$15 – 80 for non-members.  
Visit [www.JazzOnTheGreen.com](http://www.JazzOnTheGreen.com) to join, it's free and you will receive instant discount promo codes for online ticket sales only.

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### **ARTIST INFO:**

**ARTURO SANDOVAL... 5 GRAMMY'S, 6 BILLBOARD AWARDS AND AN EMMY.** What more does one need to say? This year we are in the presence of true greatness and we are now privileged to call him a national treasure in the USA! A native of Cuba who now makes the Miami area home, Arturo even has an HBO movie of his early life and escape from Cuba to his credit. The HBO movie, For Love or Country won him an Emmy for the soundtrack. He is fluent in classical, straight jazz, Afro-Cuban grooves and smooth jazz of course. Call him Professor Sandoval as he is also a tenured professor at Florida International University. Prof. Sandoval, one of the worlds most dynamic and vivacious live performers, has played with the likes of Sinatra, Getz, Mathis, Dizzy, Woody, Justin Timberlake and Alicia Keys...and is sure to bring some unforgettable moments to Jazz on the Green!!

**FOUR 80 EAST WITH GERMAN GUITARIST NILS AND FORMER DOWN TO THE BONE SAXMAN, SHILTS...** The brainchild of Canadian producers and players Rob DeBoer (guitar) and drummer Tony Grace to bring their brand of groove jazz to the public. They have been nominated for numerous Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards. The Four 80's as they are affectionately called, whip it up for the new millennium with Nu-Jazz, Groove Jazz, Chill and Trance...I'm sure we are all in for a music re-education! For this show they've added (from Germany by way of California) the amazing guitar of NILS, (whom we've had here in SW Florida as a solo act) coming off of 2 hit albums of his own. AND SHILTS, Shilts has spent the past 11 years with Down To The Bone, and before he starts his solo tour in support of his own newly released solo CD, he agreed to join the FOUR 80's for this event as well...We are in for a treat with this SUPER GROUP, created especially for JAZZ ON THE GREEN!!!

**B.K.JACKSON...** A gifted 16 year old sax player; he is truly this years up and comer. B.K. is beginning to get national recognition and was the winner of the 2008 Capitol Jazz Challenge. How wonderful for smooth jazz lovers that we get to witness the development of the "new guard". Again, lucky for us, he calls the Tampa area home. We are so pleased to bring this new young sensation to the ears of SW Floridians.

**WENDY RENEE...** Joyful, zany, a fun personality PLUS great pipes...what a way to start this years event! We are lucky that Wendy now makes SW Florida her home. Wendy specializes in Jazz/Smooth Jazz and R&B vocals. She's full of energy, which translates to a great way to welcome our guests and introduce them to the entire "goings on" at this year's event.

**TONY PASTRANA AND NEW YORK LATIN JAZZ....** Percussionist Tony leads this mighty band of amazing local musicians through a host of smooth and high energy Latin grooves and the band's vocalists and to the mix a variety of pop, R&B and Latin classics that will keep the masses movin'! Latin rhythms have been Tony's passion and work for more than 40 years and he has surrounded himself with talent that shares his joy of expression.