

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Lineup for 2014 Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival Announced

National, regional jazz and blues musicians to play free, outdoor festival in downtown Indiana, PA.

Headliners: Pogie Bell Band with special guest Sean Jones, Sonny Landreth

Also featuring: The ChopShop, Dad Band, The Electomotives, Juke House Bombers, The Old Masters with special guest Laura Ferguson, Westsylvania Jazz All-Stars

Indiana, PA—The Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival is pleased to announce the lineup for its first annual Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival on May 24, 2014. The free, outdoor, one-day festival will present a full afternoon and evening of jazz and blues performances in the brand-new IRMC Park, in downtown Indiana, Pennsylvania.

“We’ve been able to book a very wide range of artists, from local favorites to national acts, and soulful blues to sophisticated jazz,” said steering committee member Matt Baumer. “To see all of this talent, for free, in a great small town venue is going to be really wonderful.”

“It isn’t *just* about the music,” noted steering committee co-chair Mike Powers. “We also aim to show off our community and to bring jazz and blues to kids across Indiana County. But the festival lineup is really the heart of all we’re doing, and we’re very pleased to be able to debut the Festival with such a strong lineup. We’re especially grateful for the advice and assistance we’ve received from the Pittsburgh JazzLive International Festival—we couldn’t have managed two headline acts in our first year without their help.”

CONFIRMED HEADLINE ARTISTS

Pogie Bell Band with special guest Sean Jones

Presented by Pittsburgh JazzLive International Festival

A Project of the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust

Trustarts.org/jazzlivefest

www.pogiebell.net

seanjonesmusic.com

For the first Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival, the Pittsburgh JazzLive International Festival has brought together an unbeatable combination: the Poogie Bell Band with special Guest Sean Jones.

Contemporary jazz trumpeter Sean Jones is carrying on in the tradition of Miles Davis, Freddie Hubbard, and Clifford Brown. The firebrand musician, born in Warren, Ohio, in 1978, began playing trumpet in fifth grade. After earning bachelor's and master's degrees (from Youngstown State University and Rutgers University, respectively), Jones went on to perform with a variety of name musicians, including Joe Lovano, Frank Foster, and others. A former member of the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra (directed by Wynton Marsalis), Jones is a professor at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He released his debut album, *Eternal Journey*, on Mack Avenue in 2004. *Gemini* and *Roots* followed in 2005 and 2006, respectively. In 2007, Jones featured various vocalists including Gretchen Parlato on *Kaleidoscope*. Two years later, he released his fifth Mack Avenue release, the ambitious *The Search Within*. In 2011, Jones returned with *No Need for Words*, an album loosely conceptualized around the idea of love and the various ways it can be expressed.

The sound of Poogie Bell's drums is what you hear on many of the world's finest jazz, neo-soul, R&B, and hip-hop records. Performer, record producer, composer, and arranger, you've heard his work with artists including Chaka Khan, Marcus Miller, Stanley Clarke, Hugh Masekela, Roberta Flack, Erykah Badu, David Bowie, John Scofield, David Sanborn, Angelique Kidjo, Joe Sample, Al Jarreau, Vanessa Williams, Stanley Turrentine, Victor Wooten, and Randy Crawford. Born in Pittsburgh and raised in New York, as a kid it wasn't unusual for Poogie to see the likes of drummer Max Roach, saxophonist Ornette Coleman, pianist Marylou Williams, or bassists Paul Chambers, Ron Carter and Richard Davis in his living room jamming with his father, a jazz musician and professor of music. Poogie's first "real" gig was with Tom Brown, Weldon Irvine, and Hugh Masekela. Then came a tour with one of the creators of what we know as hip-hop, Afrika Bambaata and the Soulsonic Force, followed by a tour with the Force MD's, a Temptations-style vocal group who were the first to incorporate R&B and hip-hop. Breaking into the traditional R&B world Poogie toured and recorded with artists Freddie Jackson, Phyllis Hyman and Chaka Khan. He came into the New Jack Swing era working with Keith Sweat, Teddy Riley, SWV and New Edition. He continues to tour and record with Marcus Miller, Victor Bailey, Bill Evans Soul Bop and Erykah Badu, among others.

The Poogie Bell Band is Poogie's solo project. When the Poogie Bell Band teams up with Sean Jones at the Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival, expect fireworks.

Sonny Landreth

www.sonnylandreth.com

The music of southwest Louisiana-based guitarist, songwriter, and singer Sonny Landreth is an evocative, a vibrant mixture of indigenous sounds and images informed by Delta blues and William Faulkner alike.

His blues slide guitar playing is distinctive and unlike anything else you've ever heard. His unorthodox guitar style comes from the manner in which he simultaneously plays slide and makes fingering movements on the fretboard. Landreth, who has an easygoing personality, can play it all. His distinctive guitar playing can be heard on recordings by John Hiatt, Leslie West and Mountain, and other rock and rollers.

Landreth was born in 1951 in Canton, Mississippi, and his family lived in Jackson, Mississippi, for a few years before settling in Lafayette, Louisiana. He began playing guitar after a long tenure with the trumpet. His earliest inspiration came from Scotty Moore, the guitarist from Elvis Presley's band; but, as time went on, he learned from the recordings of musicians and groups like Chet Atkins and the Ventures.

After his first professional gig with accordionist Clifton Chenier in the '70s, Landreth struck out on his own, but not before he recorded two albums for the Blues Unlimited label out of Crowley, Louisiana, *Blues Attack* in 1981 and *Way Down in Louisiana* in 1985.

The second of those two albums got him noticed by record executives in Nashville, which in turn led to his recording and touring work with John Hiatt. That led to still more work with John Mayall, who recorded Landreth's radio-ready "Congo Square." More recently, his 2008 album, *From the Reach*, featured guest stars such as Eric Clapton, Vince Gill, and Jimmy Buffet and hit No. 1 on the Billboard blues chart. His latest album, *Elemental Journey*, is an all-instrumental album that reached No. 4 on the Billboard blues album chart.

ALSO FEATURING

The ChopShop

The ChopShop presents funk and fusion that's raw, experimental, low down and dirty, but still polished, with energy high enough to power a grid. Based in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Dad Band

Jazz quintet Dad Band has been playing throughout Indiana County for ten years, and has been a driving force behind the Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival.

The Electromotives

A Pittsburgh-based quintet, The Electromotives play a mixture of jazz and soul, featuring the sultry vocals of Rosanna Paterra.

Juke House Bombers

Indiana blues band the Juke House Bombers will present a tribute to local blues legend Jeff Kelly.

The Old Masters with Special Guest Laura Ferguson

Hailing from Otsego County, New York, this jazz trio concentrates on standard jazz repertoire and the Great American Songbook. They'll be joined on vocals by Chicago native, and Indiana favorite, Laura Ferguson.

Westsylvania Jazz All-Stars

The Westsylvania Jazz All-Stars is a big band featuring the best high school musicians our region has to offer, as chosen by their band directors.

The Westsylvania Jazz & Blues Festival steering committee includes representation from jazz quintet the Dad Band, the Indiana Arts Council, the Indiana Theater, and the Indiana business community.

The festival is supported in part by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency. It is also supported by a generous donation from the Lively Arts program at Indiana University of Pennsylvania, as well as by a successful Kickstarter fundraising campaign that brought support from 83 backers on Kickstarter.com.

More information is available at www.westsylvanijazzandblues.org.

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