



Friends of Starlight Concerts, Inc. * P.O. Box 35158 Tulsa, OK 74153-0158 * www.starlightbands.net

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Contact: Wendy Reed, Friends of Starlight Concerts, Inc.
Phone: 918.798.STAR (7827)
Online: www.starlightbands.net

STARLIGHT JAZZ ORCHESTRA TO PLAY FOR FIRST FRIDAY

Free concert Friday, August 5 at Guthrie Green

Tulsa, OK—Friday, August 5 will be the First Friday Art Crawl in the Brady Arts District in Tulsa. Starlight Jazz Orchestra will take the stage for a free concert at Guthrie Green at 8pm. The concert is sponsored by Universal Combustion Corporation, and is a “Tribute to the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra” which is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year.

The Vanguard Jazz Orchestra is a 16-piece jazz orchestra based in New York City. It was founded in 1966 by Thad Jones and Mel Lewis. Jones, a trumpeter who was featured in the Count Basie Orchestra, and Lewis, a Los Angeles-based drummer from the Stan Kenton Orchestra, collaborated to bring in some of the top New York City studio musicians to form their group. Jones arranged many pieces for the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra, which was quickly recognized as a world-class big band.

Special guests on August 5 will be Shelby Eicher and his “Gypsy Jazz” group. Eicher was a member of Roy Clark’s band for 15 years and made appearance on “The Tonight Show” and “Hee Haw.” He currently teaches fiddle, mandolin, and guitar.

Guarantors for the 2016 season are the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Treeman Family Foundation in honor of Jeff Treeman. Other major sponsors include: Cedar Creek, Circle Cinema, Creative State, George Kaiser Family Foundation, Guthrie Green, Liberty Press, National Endowment for the Arts, Public Radio Tulsa: KWGS/KWTU, Saied Music Company and the Jimmie & Helen Saied Foundation, Universal Combustion Corporation, and the Charles & Marion Weber Foundation in memory of Dr. Charles E. and Marion L. Weber.

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The Oklahoma Arts Council is the official state agency for the support and development of the arts. The agency's mission is to lead in the advancement of Oklahoma's thriving arts industry. The Oklahoma Arts Council provides approximately 500 grants to almost 250 organizations in communities statewide each year, organizes professional development opportunities for the state's arts and cultural industry, and manages hundreds of works of art in the public spaces of the state Capitol. Additional information is available at arts.ok.gov.

For more information, go to starlightbands.net or call 918.798.STAR (7827). The public can also follow Starlight Bands on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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