



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 31, 2011

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THE 13th ANNUAL CREEKSIDE BLUES & JAZZ FESTIVAL BRINGS MUSIC AND MORE FAMILY FUN THAN EVER BEFORE TO OLDE GAHANNA, JUNE 17 – 19

GAHANNA, Ohio – Despite the cold winter weather, the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) is gearing up for hot times ahead when it presents the **13th Annual Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival, June 17 - 19**, bringing together local, regional and nationally acclaimed blues and jazz musicians in Olde Gahanna.

The three-day festival will rock with more than 90 hours of live music on five stages, plus more family fun than ever before. The festival's great food and activities for all ages will encircle Gahanna's Creekside Park and Plaza with its waterside dining, shops and paddleboat excursions.

"The Gahanna CVB and the Festival Planning Committee are already putting plans into action for this year's festival. The Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival is first and foremost about presenting great musical artists and their music in a family-friendly environment." Laurie Jadwin, Festival chair, said.

BLUES: For the first time, the Festival and the Columbus Blues Alliance will present two nationally-acclaimed Blues headliners who will perform together on Saturday, June 18, on the Blues stage. The two headliners are Blues Music Award winners and current award nominees, **Bill "Watermelon Slim" Homans** and **James "Super Chikan" Johnson**. They will bring a blues blend of "Okie" (Slim, below left) and "Delta" (Super Chikan, below right) to Creekside.



Additional Blues headliners include: **Braille Blues Daddy, Bryan Lee** (Friday), **Mikey Jr.** (Saturday) and **No Saints, No Saviors, Allman Brothers Tribute** (Sunday).

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JAZZ: Jazz trumpeter, composer, producer and educator, **Pharez Whitted** with the **Liquid Crystal Project**, will headline on the Jazz Stage, Friday, June 17. Whitted's jazz heritage is storied—his father was the late singer and bassist Virtue Hampton and his uncle, trombonist Slide Hampton. Although based in Chicago, Whitted has an Ohio connection—he taught at The Ohio State University. Additional Jazz headliners include: The **Urban Jazz Coalition** (Saturday) and the **Columbus Jazz Orchestra** (Sunday).

Festival attractions and activities will include:

- **Expanded, New Stage, and New Location - Musical Discovery Zone:** The “Zone” will return again this year with an expanded offering that now includes the Musical Discovery Stage located within the Musical Discovery Zone, in its new home, adjacent to the amusement rides, along the south side of Mill Street. Along with the expanded entertainment offering, families will continue to enjoy this free, hands-on blues and jazz musical learning experience - beat the bongos, blow the horns, make your own musical instrument and more. Musicians from the Jazz Arts Group and Columbus Blues Alliance will provide children with a hands-on experience.
- **New Component to the Jog for Jazz:** The Fourth Annual “Jog for Jazz,” a 5K run/walk event, will now feature a Jog for Jazz Kids Fun Run (half mile run through Creekside Park for children ages 4-12)! Both events will be held on Saturday, June 18, in Olde Gahanna.
- **Rising Stars Blues & Jazz Contest:** Gahanna's version of American Idol for budding blues and jazz musicians.
- **Sunday Jazz Brunch:** Back by popular demand, the Sunday Jazz Brunch will be held on Sunday, June 19 at Mezzo Italian Kitchen and Wine
- **Mini-Midway:** Amusement rides including a fun house, giant slide, ferris wheel, merry-go-round, climbing wall and rides for small children.
- **Paddle Boat Rides:** Boaters can enjoy the music as they take a leisurely paddle along a branch of Big Walnut Creek.
- **Festival food, artisans and crafters**

During the past 13 years, Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival has evolved from a half-day event into a three-day family friendly event, with five stages of entertainment—Creekside Community Stage, Jazz Stage, Blues Stage and Acoustic Alley, plus more than 50 musical groups. The festival location spans the area from the eastern banks of Big Walnut Creek with its Creekside Park and Plaza into historic downtown Olde Gahanna. The park and plaza areas feature beautiful views of the creek, boardwalks, a lagoon, two waterfalls, waterside dining, retail shops and more.

Festival hours: Friday, June 17 – 5 p.m.-11 p.m.; Saturday, June 18 – 11 a.m.-11 p.m.; Sunday, June 19 -12-6 p.m. Admission is \$3 for adults (ages 12 and up). Children under 12 are free. Members of the military will also receive free admission, ID required. The Festival is presented by the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau and is made possible with help from a corps of dedicated local volunteers. Photos are available upon request.

For more information, visit www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com or call the Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau at 614-418-9114 or 1-866-GAHANNA

The Gahanna Convention & Visitors Bureau (GCVB) is a 501(c)(6) non-profit organization funded by a local hotel tax and partner support whose mission is to promote Gahanna as a vibrant destination by connecting the people and places of our community which contributes to economic prosperity. The GCVB annually presents the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival and Holiday Lights! Festival. We are grateful for the support given to the Creekside Blues & Jazz Festival by the event sponsors listed on our Web site: www.creeksidebluesandjazz.com