



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Peggy Dineen
Tel: (402) 661-8442; (402) 312-7276
Email: pdineen@omahaperformingarts.org

**OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS PRESENTS *JAZZ ON THE GREEN*
AT MIDTOWN CROSSING AGAIN THIS SUMMER**

Season Line-up Announced For Free Summer Series

OMAHA, NEBRASKA – May 18, 2011 – For the second year, Omaha Performing Arts presents the beloved free summer series *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing. This dynamic outdoor concert series will run the six consecutive Thursdays following the Fourth of July, from July 7 to August 11, 2011 and is located in the idyllic Turner Park, conveniently situated in the heart of Midtown Crossing. The 2011 line-up for Omaha Performing Arts presents *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing includes something for everyone, from Latin jazz to big band swing and the blues.

Three-time Grammy®-nominated Tiempo Libre kicks off the season Thursday, July 7 with their Cuban-inspired, dance-inducing jazz. This Miami-based group is one of the hottest Latin bands today, reinvigorating traditional Cuban music with a youthful, modern sound and forging a new style born from the meeting of their Cuban roots and their new American experience.

Thursday, July 14 Incendio will bring their Latin guitar world fusion grooves to Turner Park at Midtown Crossing. This talented Los Angeles-based group takes Spanish guitar music to new and uncharted artistic levels with a sound that is all about energy, exploration and passion. Incendio's seven CDs have enjoyed international radio airplay and critical acclaim.

Omaha's own seventeen-piece ensemble Omaha Big Band will present their classic Big Band, toe-tapping swing on Thursday, July 21. The group performs a variety of Big Band styles, from classic Glenn Miller to contemporary Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and everything in between. Under the direction of trombonist Chris Acker, the group includes five saxophonists, four trombonists, four trumpeters and four members of the rhythm section. Omaha Big Band supports the Omaha Musicians Association by performing concerts as part of clinics and master classes for students of all ages.

The high-energy Sugar Thieves return to *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing this year, playing their sultry blues and danceable grooves Thursday, July 28. One of Phoenix Valley's brightest up-and-coming bands, they won the Arizona Blues Competition two years in a row and were 2009 finalists in the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, Tenn. The Sugar Thieves have

a fresh, new style, high-energy showmanship and a song list that brings together music enthusiasts of all ages.

With a mix of smooth jazz and urban funk melodies, Omaha-based Steve Raybine will play at *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing on Thursday, August 4. Described as a virtuoso vibraphonist, percussionist and composer/arranger, Raybine performs contemporary jazz music, which incorporates urban funk, rhythm and blues, pop and Latin music elements. Raybine has taught Jazz Studies and Percussion at universities for over 10 years, with lectures and performances featured on Nebraska Public Radio and Nebraska Educational Television. Raybine has played local festivals and venues in Nebraska, including the West Omaha Jazz and Gospel Festival and the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival.

The Thursday, August 11 finale will feature the boogie woogie swing sounds of Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums featuring Carmen Getit. The San Francisco Bay Area-based group has been called "instant crowd favorites" by the San Francisco Blues Festival and "consummate musicians and entertainers" by New York City's Lincoln Center. The group shines before a live audience, bringing an intense energy and sheer personal magnetism to the stage. They've earned a reputation as captivating entertainers with "superior musicianship" (*Downbeat*), engaging audiences at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland, the Half Note Jazz Club in Athens, Greece, the San Francisco Blues Festival, as the house band at the Derby in Hollywood and hundreds of nightclubs, festivals and performing arts centers around the world.

Concerts for Omaha Performing Arts presents *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing are free to the public. No reservations or tickets are needed. The venue opens at 5:00 p.m. and performances start at 7:00 p.m. Midtown Crossing offers convenient and secure parking for more than 3,000 vehicles. Two parking garages are easily accessible from 33rd, Farnam and Harney streets. In both garages, the first three hours are free and visitors pay only \$1 for each hour thereafter (with a maximum fee of \$6). Ample metered parking is available along Farnam Street. Metered parking is short-term (max. two hours) and is monitored Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. \$5 Valet parking is also available at Farnam Court from 5:00 p.m. to close. Midtown Crossing will be offering a free event shuttle throughout the evening, beginning at 5:00 p.m. For more information on parking and shuttle services, please visit www.MidtownCrossing.com.

Sponsors for Omaha Performing Arts presents *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing are Mutual of Omaha, Omaha Steaks, Alegent Health, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Nebraska, C&A Industries, Inc., Fran and Rick Juro and Mutual of Omaha Bank. Media sponsors for this year's series are Omaha World-Herald, KETV, NET, KIOS and Curzon Promotional Graphics. For more information on *Jazz on the Green* at Midtown Crossing, visit www.JazzOnTheGreenOmaha.com.

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OMAHA PERFORMING ARTS

Omaha Performing Arts is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing world-class performances to the Omaha metropolitan area. Omaha Performing Arts' commitment to the arts extends into its own series, Omaha Performing Arts *Presents*, as well as education and community involvement programs that help ensure the arts have a far-reaching impact. In partnership with Broadway Across America, Omaha Performing Arts also brings the finest in touring Broadway productions to Omaha.

Core to its mission, Omaha Performing Arts manages two landmark venues, the Holland Performing Arts Center and the Orpheum Theater – the former, which includes the acoustically acclaimed Kiewit Concert Hall and Scott Recital Hall and the latter, which includes Slosburg Hall, a proscenium theater. Omaha Performing Arts also provides comprehensive ticketing services for cultural and performing arts within the region through Ticket Omaha.

Omaha Performing Arts' performances are supported in part by the Nebraska Arts Council, Nebraska Cultural Endowment, the Mid-America Arts Alliance, National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Omaha and the Douglas County Visitor Improvement Fund. For more information on Omaha Performing Arts visit OmahaPerformingArts.org.

MIDTOWN CROSSING

Midtown Crossing is a 15-acre, mixed-use urban development in the heart of Omaha's historic midtown neighborhood. Built around an expanded and revitalized Turner Park, the million-square-foot development includes nearly 500 condominium and apartment units as well as more than 220,000 square feet for restaurants, retailers and entertainment venues along with parking for more than 3,000 vehicles. For more information, please visit www.midtowncrossing.com. Midtown Crossing at Turner Park, East Campus Realty, LLC, Mutual of Omaha Plaza, Omaha, NE 68175, Telephone: 402-351-5998, Fax: 402-351-1712, website:www.midtowncrossing.com.

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