

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PLEASE TOUCH MUSEUM PRESENTS 17TH ANNUAL JUNIOR JAZZ FESTIVAL February festival at Memorial Hall introduces youngsters to jazz music

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Please Touch Museum will transform Memorial Hall into the biggest and hippest jazz club around during the month of February with the 17th Annual Junior Jazz Festival, the only area event to introduce young children to the wonderful world of jazz. Live music, theater performances, and educational activities will fill the museum for a month's worth of concerts and special activities that focus on musical expression and the history of jazz.

Top kid-friendly musicians will take the stage of the museum's new theater for five weekends from Jan. 31-March 1. Kids will also learn a bit of jazz history by taking in a Please Touch Playhouse performance of "Scat Cat's Junior Jazz Jamboree." This interactive show tells the "tail" of an everyday alley cat who happens upon "Max Roach," who teaches her the history of jazz. Max also introduces her to some of the well known artists who made it popular – Stingray Charles, Bunny Goodman, Louie Arm and Hammerstrong and Piggy Lee. This Please Touch Playhouse original production will be performed Mondays through Fridays in February at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and is free with museum admission.

Performance Schedule

Performances take place Saturdays at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. and Sundays at 12:00, 1:30 and 3 p.m. and are free with museum admission.

Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1

Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble

One of Philadelphia's most innovative and progressive jazz groups, Warren Oree and The Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble has been a favorite fixture of Junior Jazz for more than a decade, introducing young children to jazz with fun, interactive performances. Formed in 1979, the band has performed throughout the world and has recorded eight CDs of uniquely styled jazz originals and standard compositions. Since 1990, Oree has been lecturing and presenting workshops on jazz, music composition, and other aspects of the music industry.

Saturday February 7

Tony Miceli and his Jazz Band

Vibraphone virtuoso Tony Miceli, who debuted at the 2008 Junior Jazz Festival, is one of Philadelphia's most renowned jazz musicians, having performed and recorded with Gerald Veasley, Olivier Hutman, and John Swana. He is currently involved with groups such as The Philly 5, Monkadelphia, Mallet Madness and Meg Clifton and the Cliftones. He performs virtually everywhere in town, including the Philadelphia Museum of Art and Chris' Jazz Cafe, and he mentors a number of young jazz musicians.

Sunday, February 8

Arpeggio Jazz Ensemble

Arpeggio returns for another fun, interactive performance.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday, February 14, 15 and 16

Louie Miranda

Louie Miranda is a Junior Jazz regular who performed at the grand opening of the new museum at Memorial Hall in October. Louie is an amazing guitarist who performs Latin jazz in highly interactive family-oriented concerts that blend sophisticated rhythms with inspiring lyrics to create music that teaches as it entertains.

Saturday and Sunday, February 21 and 22

Fandango

Small heads will be boppin' and tiny feet will be stompin' when Philadelphia's premiere Afro-Cuban and Brazilian percussion ensemble visits the Junior Jazz Festival.

Saturday, February 28 and Sunday, March 1

Tony Miceli and his Jazz Band

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Please Touch Museum® at Memorial Hall, Fairmount Park is dedicated to enriching the lives of children by providing learning opportunities through play. Recognized locally and nationally as one of the best children's museums, Please Touch is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Sundays 11 a.m. -5 p.m. Admission is \$15 for adults and children age one and over. Children under one are free. For more information, please call 215-581-3181, or visit www.pleasetouchmuseum.org.

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