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The 2021 TD NIAGARA JAZZ FESTIVAL • www.niagarajazzfestival.com

welcomes you to enjoy our

3rd ANNUAL VIRTUALLY POSSIBLE

Niagara's ONLINE Summer MARDI GRAS

SATURDAY, July 24th – 3:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Featuring:

Vegas Cola Band, Dragon Ritual Drummers, Heavyweights Brass Band, Big 6 Brass Band, Lance Anderson, and Dr. Brice Miller and His New Orleans Jazz Ambassadors!

MAY 8, 2020 - TORONTO and ST. CATHARINES - The Award-winning TD Niagara Jazz Festival is now swinging into its eighth year, and with their herculean efforts to keep jazz alive in the Niagara Region, Festival Founders and Creative Directors Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea have again, curated stunning and innovative performance streams, secured programming and presented numerous fundraising events leading up our 2021, "Virtually Possible" Summer Festival event of thrilling and diverse jazz. As we move into the new normal and begin to embrace our full lives again, the TD Niagara Jazz Festival is ensuring that jazz and related, diverse music will help us to unite in healing the world through the arts, as well as through love, joy and compassion.

With this in mind, and with the continued support of our title sponsors, TD BANK GROUP, the TD Niagara Jazz Festival is bringing forth an unprecedented "Virtually Possible" jazz festival, including a weekend-long celebration of "Emancipation Day".

Along with our generous title sponsor, TD BANK GROUP, ONTARIO CREATES and the NIAGARA REGION will be supporting ALL of the TD Niagara Jazz Festival's livestreaming events, including **NIAGARA'S ONLINE SUMMER MARDI GRAS** and all of the Mardi Gras Sessions leading up to the event.

Featured Mardi Gras Sessions artists and fascinating guests will include **WITCHDOCTOR UTU**, who will deftly lead us through the history and culture of New Orleans, and a glimpse into the potent practice of Voodoo (which originated in Africa and made it to the New World), via the horror of slavery.

Another Mardi Gras Session features the exploration of one of The Big Easy's most identifiable cultural and musical experiences, "The New Orleans Second-Line". Noted Crescent City Musicologist, **DR. BRICE MILLER** will host this thrilling trip along with a look into the history and culture of the 'Baby Dolls'! All of the

Mardi Gras Sessions can be found on the TD Niagara Jazz Festival website during and after the Summer Mardi Gras event.

One of our pre-Mardi Gras celebrations features New Orleans drum master and "King of Tremé" **SHANNON POWELL**, who will present a drum Master Class on July 17th at 2:00 PM, which will be so enervating that you will have to take out your own drum and beat it!

Heavyweights Brass Band

The event itself, **Niagara's ONLINE Summer MARDI GRAS** will kick off with a festive virtual parade, led by the incomparable **HEAVYWEIGHTS BRASS BRASS BAND** and the entire day will feature non-stop music and interactive experiences appearances by the **VEGAS COLA BAND**, the **DRAGON RITUAL DRUMMERS**, **DR. BRICE MILLER AND HIS NEW ORLEANS JAZZ AMBASSADORS**, **BIG SIX BRASS BAND** featuring **MARDI GRAS INDIANS** and **LANCE ANDERSON**, which will certainly spice up the Gumbo – and speaking of Gumbo, the Master of Ceremonies for the Summer Mardi Gras events will be the Host of JAZZ FM 91's "Gumbo Kitchen", **RONNIE LITTLEJOHN** (gumbo@jazz.fm). The event will run from 3:00 PM to 11:00 PM on the festival's homepage and both Facebook and YouTube channels.

The festival encourages people to **'Stay home, Stay safe and Support Local'** this summer by offering **EXPERIENCE BOXES** featuring food, drinks and goodies all inspired by New Orleans culture. For more information about **EXPERIENCE BOXES** available from our partners, **COMFORT KITCHEN CAFÉ**, **FIORENTINA**, and **13th STREET WINERY**, please visit the Niagara's ONLINE Summer MARDI GRAS webpage by clicking here.

Join Niagara's ONLINE Summer MARDI GRAS by clicking here.

A quote from our Title Sponsors – TD BANK GROUP…

"We're going through challenging times, but we know that music has an incredible capacity to unite us. Music helps us grow, learn about ourselves and connect with others. Music also helps open doors to a more inclusive tomorrow and amplify voices that haven't always been heard – which is why we support Canadian music with a focus through the TD Ready Commitment to the Arts and cultural experiences that bring people together, and also break down barriers – even when we're apart".

Naki Osutei
Associate Vice-President, Social Impact (Canada) and Global Corporate Citizenship,
TD BANK GROUP

FOLLOW THE LIVESTREAMED EVENTS HERE, AND ON Facebook AND YouTube!

A WORD ABOUT NEW ORLEANS AND THE BIRTH OF JAZZ….Born out of the horrific evil of slavery, which was (and is) one of the most heinous and sinister practices and industries in the history of humanity, has come something precious, authentic, unique and beautiful – the art form of JAZZ. Jazz and Blues music is a heavy combination of Afro-centric rhythms and motifs as well as North American/Acadian Folk and Indigenous musics that have merged together in their own significant way as the literal embodiment of freedom. Not just freedom, but also a clear triumph of the human spirit over unimaginable cruelty, brutality and adversity. In this current climate of media-focused racism and intolerance, it has never been more important for us – ALL OF US – to honour the true story of our past, and the incredible and incalculable contribution of African Canadians and African Americans to the rich tapestry of our global culture. During the colonization of North America, African and Indigenous slaves were allowed to perform their music every Sunday in Congo Square, in New Orleans. In this way, slaves were able to preserve aspects of their culture and traditions by performing their music and dance for the slave owner's entertainment. With its more permissive atmosphere of a French Colony, New Orleans eventually morphed into an irresistible musical pot of cultural "Gumbo", where the main ingredients were African music and Indigenous people's music, with a big dash of Acadian (displaced French, marched by the English from Eastern Canada to Louisiana), Spanish and other European colonizers' instruments and music in the mix – the exciting result was the creation of a brand-new, contemporary art from called "Jazz". Other musical genres, including rock, pop, soul, gospel, country and beyond, all owe their existence to original Jazz and Blues. New Orleans and its special character shaped music as we know it today, and we want to celebrate this magical city in our idyllic home of Niagara for many years to come.

–Juliet Dunn and Peter Shea – TD NJF Co-creators

For ARTIST MEDIA MATERIALS, further information about The TD NJF Niagara's ONLINE Summer MARDI GRAS, or the VIRTUALLY POSSIBLE 8th Annual 2021 TD Niagara Jazz Festival, please visit us at www.niagarajazzfestival.com

EXCITING NEWS!

The TD NIAGARA JAZZ FESTIVAL is PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE that we have now been granted the status of a CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION, so TAX RECEIPTS may now be issued for donations of $25.00 or more!

To make a tax-deductable donation, please visit us at www.niagarajazzfestival.com/donations or call 1-844-LIV-JAZZ (1-844-548-5299).

To arrange a media opportunity with TD Niagara Jazz Festival Creators, Executive Director/Artistic Producer, **Juliet Dunn** and/or Co-Creator/Artistic Consultant, **Peter Shea:** Please contact LMC Media by phone at 1-416- 454-8041, or by e-mail lmcmedia@sympatico.ca

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