

Publicity Contact:

Michelle Jewell
324 Elm Street, Niles, MI 49120
269-684-6386 / 574-621-0583 (cell)
mjewell@franzjackson.com
www.franzjackson.com
www.facebook.com/franzjacksonjazzcelebration



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CHANGE IN TIME AND VENUE FOR 2012 FRANZ JACKSON JAZZ CELEBRATION ON NOVEMBER 10TH

DOWAGIAC, MI – The 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration: Blowin' The Blues Away! will be held on Saturday, November 10th, at the Wood Fire Trattoria, 134 S. Front Street, Dowagiac, Michigan, beginning at 5:00pm (ET). This is a change in time and venue from the Dowagiac Middle School Performing Arts Center where the event was previously scheduled to take place.

The Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration honors the late Chicago jazz legend Franz Jackson, a former Dowagiac resident, for his lifelong contribution to the music world. This year, Jazz Celebration will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Franz's birth with an expanded one-day jazz concert event featuring a variety of professional jazz musicians from Chicago, Michigan and beyond.

To further Franz's philosophy on music and mentoring, The Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration is proud to collaborate with Charity Music, Inc., (www.charitymusicinc.org) on this year's event. Charity Music, Inc., is a Michigan-based non-profit organization that provides new and used musical instruments to homeless and disadvantaged children so that they may pursue their musical aspirations. A portion of the proceeds from the 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration will benefit Charity Music, Inc. and its programs.

Jackson, who passed away at the age of 95 in May, 2008, started his professional career at the age of 16 with boogie-woogie pianist Albert Ammons and played with virtually every jazz great including Count Basie, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Fletcher Henderson, Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday. His resume boasted numerous credits such as being a 2005 American Heritage Jazz Series Honoree as one of the Greatest Living Jazz Tenor Saxophonists, an appearance on "The Prairie Home Companion" with Garrison Keillor, an interview by Studs Terkel for Steppenwolf Theater's TRAFFIC series and a posthumous award of the Chicago Making History Maker Award shortly after his death in 2008. In November, 2007, Mr. Jackson's 95th birthday was celebrated in Dowagiac with a nearly 3-hour-long gala concert featuring two dozen musicians from across the country. The event raised over \$7,000 which was donated to four non-profit organizations focused on arts education, preservation and promotion.

The Jazz Celebration features CGQ (the Chris Greene Quartet) from Chicago and vocalist Jenna Mammina, a St. Joseph, MI native who now splits her time between California and New York. Immediately following this year's Jazz Celebration, the CD release party for "*Franz Jackson: Milestone*", Jackson's last recorded album, will take place at 8:00pm (ET) at the Wood Fire. "*Milestone*" features the music recorded during Jackson's 95th birthday concert. The 2-disc CD set was funded through a grassroots campaign via Kickstarter.com by Jackson's daughter and is scheduled to be officially released on November 1st, the anniversary of Franz's 100th birthday. An "all-star" group of musicians, many of whom were part of the 95th birthday concert, will perform at the CD release party including Eric Schneider, Judi K, Yves Francois and Billy "Stix" Nicks, all of whom are featured on "*Milestone*".

Tickets for the 6th Annual Franz Jackson Jazz Celebration and CD Release Party will be \$25 for adults, \$10 for children ages 12-17 and children under 12 will be admitted free. Please visit www.franzjackson.com, or www.facebook.com/franzjacksonjazzcelebration for more information and to purchase tickets online.

Interviews with Michelle Jewell (Franz Jackson's daughter) and/or any participating musicians may be arranged by calling Ms. Jewell at 574-621-0583. ###