

# **ELEVENTH STREET JAZZ FEST 2009**

*New festival debuts Saturday, May 16 & Sunday May 17 in Modesto, CA.*

**Proceeds to benefit Modesto Traditional Jazz Society**

## **CONTACT**

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MODESTO – Hey gang, there’s a new jazz festival coming to town!

Eleventh Street Jazz Fest 2009 brings together the best of traditional, New Orleans-style jazz and Big Band swing, as well as three living jazz legends – Plas Johnson, Bill Watrous and Bobby Shew – for two unforgettable days of music and merriment right here in the heart of California’s Central Valley.

Oh, and one more thing.

Mic Gillette, the man who helped put the power in the original Tower of Power horn band, via his trumpet and trombone, will make a special guest appearance with the Legends of Jazz, joining the trio onstage Sunday, May 17, at the Gallo Center for the Arts.

But the fun actually begins a day earlier, on Saturday, May 16, when three great traditional jazz bands -- Natural Gas, Creole Jazz Kings and JassCity – take the stage, rotating between three venues throughout the day Saturday. The venues -- Barkin’ Dog Grill, Fat Cat and Tresetti’s World Caffe – all are located on Eleventh Street in downtown Modesto. And all three are just a few steps apart from each other, making it easy for jazz aficionados to engage in some serious club hopping.

Also performing Saturday are the acclaimed Ernie Bucio Little Big Band, the Jazz Unlimited Big Band, the Dan Maas Quartet and Blue & Beige, a combo led by Central Valley saxophone legend Martin Martinez.

The Devil Mountain Jazz Band will get things rolling Sunday, May 17, with a 10 a.m. Gospel set, the first of three sets the group will play that day during a special meeting of the Modesto Traditional Jazz Society. The Jazz Society, dedicated to the preservation of traditional New Orleans-style jazz, will set up shop for the day at The Gallo Center for the Arts.

There will be plenty of room for dancing and a special jazz brunch, for a separate price, also will be available between 10 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. When the boys from Devil Mountain are taking a break, look for the special “All-Star” jam sets featuring a bevy of “mystery” musicians.

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The Legends of Jazz Concert, from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday, May 17, tops off the two-day jazz gala.

Tower of Power's Mic Gillette, along with the Jazz Legends – Plas Johnson, whose tenor sax gave the "Pink Panther" its voice; Bill Watrous, the bop-style trombonist who set the standard for all trombonists over the last 30 years and Bobby Shew, who's played his melodic trumpet and flugelhorn with jazz luminaries such as Buddy Rich, Woody Herman and Horace Silver to name just a few – all will be backed by Ernie Bucio's Little Big Band.

The Modesto-based Little Big Band has performed throughout the Central Valley, as well as New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz. The group recently performed in concert at Modesto's State Theater and has backed or opened for many well-known artists, including the Temptations, Maynard Ferguson, Rich Little, Bob Newhart, James Moody, Clark Terry. The list goes on and on. For more on the band visit [www.erniebucio.com](http://www.erniebucio.com)

A variety of ticket options are available to festival-goers.

The two-day "All Events" ticket is just \$40; A Saturday single-day ticket is \$25; Sunday single-day tickets also sell for \$25 a piece. Tickets to the Devil Mountain performance are \$10 each; while tickets for the Legends of Jazz Concert with Mic Gillette are \$20 a piece. There will be a separate charge for the Sunday Jazz Brunch meal.

Tickets are available, beginning Feb. 27, 2009, at the Gallo Center for the Arts Box Office in Modesto. To order tickets call 209-338-2100; toll free 1-877-488-3380; online at [www.galloarts.org](http://www.galloarts.org) The Gallo Center Box Office is located at 1000 I Street, Modesto CA. 95354. Box office hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Proceeds will benefit the Modesto Traditional Jazz Society.

Established in the 1980s, the Jazz Society meets on the third Sunday of the month at Modesto Moose Lodge, 821 Fifth Street, to celebrate New Orleans-style jazz and Big Band Swing. Dancing is not required but strongly encouraged. The Jazz Society also offers youth scholarships, each year sending deserving music students to jazz camp in Sacramento.

Visit the Jazz Society's website at [www.modestodixieland.com](http://www.modestodixieland.com) for more information.

**For Band and Artist Bios & Pics contact Margaret Squires at 1-209-988-2334 or [margeaux10@yahoo.com](mailto:margeaux10@yahoo.com)**