
Palm Springs Smooth Jazz Outdoor Festival

Contributed by Pat Krause
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13th Annual Palm Springs Smooth Jazz Outdoor Festival

Indian Canyon Golf Course

May 17, 2008

Photos By Pat Krause

The 13th Annual Palm Springs Smooth Jazz Outdoor Festival was held to benefit the Hanson House Foundation. The event was hosted by the Indian Canyon Golf Course on Saturday, May 17, 2008. Platinum donors were provided with a concert by Jay Soto and The Jay Soto Jazz Group. Jay Soto is not only a guitarist but a renowned song writer. The Jay Soto Jazz Group has a new and fresh sound is already well known in the Jazz world. As one watches Soto, they will easily become entranced watching his fingers just fly over his guitar, He clearly has his own interesting and exciting style of Jazz music.

Out on the beautiful Indian Canyon Golf Course, the guests were served superb hors D'oeuvres as they listened to great jazz music. Dinner was then served outside on the golf course by the lake. Once seated and dinner was served, the next concert began. The second group, the #1 in Smooth Jazz, the Rippingtons. Grammy Nominated guitarist Russ Freeman, started the Rippington's over 20 years ago. Their groundbreaking album "Moonlighting" was voted the #1 most influential contemporary album of all time by Jazziz Magazine. Since then the group has won many awards and have been considered to be "Group of the Year" on many occasions.

Once dinner and concert were concluded a live auction was held and awards were presented. Frank Ercoli, Medical Director of Trauma and Critical Care Services at Desert Regional Medical Center and Chairman of Hanson House Foundation, presented the 2008 Hanson House Humanitarian Award to James Harmon. George Mena a survivor of a major critical illness and injury and dubbed "The Miracle Man," was given the

2008 Hanson House Inspiration Award. Mena has been very involved with Hanson House for several years.

General Admission ticket holders were allowed into the event after dinner was served, They were able to hear the concert by the Rippingtons and stayed to hear Everett Harp who closed the event. Saxophonist Everett Harp plays a blend of Jazz and R&B. Harp has played with many well known stars and has recently started touring as a solo act. All guests were entertained by the best in Jazz.

Hanson House Foundation provides a Home Away From Home for Families in time of need. Currently it offers 16 rooms each with a private bath. The facilities are available to families. Each has a kitchen and laundry. Chapel facilities available to the guests. Families of critically ill or injured are thus able to stay close to the hospital and their loved ones. Hanson House is directly across the street from Desert Regional Medical Center in Palm Springs.

To see Pat Krause the great photos of this event, [click here](#).

Legend for Photos By Pat Krause

- Car from Sponsor, Mercedes Benz of Palm Springs
- Shelley Light, Emil Forrer and Lynne Jacobs sell drink tickets
- Jay Soto Jazz Band are left to right, Bassist, Rufus Reginal John Philpot, Keyboardist, Juko Tamura, Lead Guitarist Jay Soto, Drummer Russ Miller, and Horn player George Shelby
- Jay Soto
- Sponsor, Dr. Scott & Sandy Aaronson, Award Winner Jim Harmon and wife Betty, Mrs and Mr. Stephen Hoffmann
- Honoree Jim Harmon with Founder and Current President, Frank R. Ercoli, MD with Honoree George Mena
- Dr. and Mrs. David Conston, Dr. and Mrs. Robert Guss, Susan and Jeff Nelson, Bonnie Kramer and Anthony Nelson
- Mrs. and Dr David Conston and Mrs. and Dr. Robert Guss
- Don and Caroleen Sowle and Teresa and Barry Whipple
- Susan Hale and Anne and George Robinson
- Mr. and Mrs Gregg Aritan, Mr. and Mrs Dave Johnson
- Dr. Louis and Susan Stabile, Dr. and Mrs. Ralph Steiger, Dr. and Mrs David Duffner, Dr. and Mrs Serif, Cinda and Dr. Joel Thayer

- Mr. and Mrs. Richard Milanovich
- Esther Mann, Julie Wolf and Irene Sobel, Volunteers
- View of guests before dinner
- View of guests Dining
- Findarr Connor Garvey plays with Puggles the dog that was auctioned off at the event.
- The Rippingtons
- Russ Freeman of the Rippingtons
- The moon rises at Indian Canyon Country Club