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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Johnson City's annual jazz festival to be held this March

JOHNSON CITY, Tenn. (March 3, 2019)— The annual Johnson City Jazz Festival is to be held March 21 through March 23. The festival will feature many well-known jazz musicians along with many local jazz ensembles.

The Johnson City Jazz Festival will be held at the Carnegie Hotel on West State of Franklin Road, across from the East Tennessee State University campus. On Thursday, March 21 from 8 to 11 p.m. the festival will showcase many local jazz ensembles and groups. These groups include: the ETSU Jazz Band, Perkins Peterson Quintet, the Tri-Cities Jazz Orchestra and The Funky Truth. This night of the event is free to the public, but tips for the performances are gladly accepted.

The second of night of the festival will showcase two well-known professional groups, the Bill Bares Trio and the Mary Louise Knutson Trio. Tickets for this night cost \$20 per person.

The third and final night of the festival will showcase the Michael Jefry Stevens Quintet and Steve Wilson. Tickets for this night of the event will cost \$20 per person. However, tickets for both the Friday and Saturday night events are on sale for \$30 per person.

The organizer of the Johnson City Jazz Festival, Bill Perkins, said he wants to help bring awareness to local jazz groups that the general public might not be aware of already. He also wants to help bring in more professional performers that the public might not ever get the chance to experience.

"Friday, we have the Bill Bare piano trio from Asheville, followed by the award-winning Mary Louise Knutson from Minneapolis...Area residents would have to travel far to see her any other way," said Perkins.

"It is quite unusual to have this kind of talent in Johnson City, especially all in one weekend. This will be a new opportunity for many area residents and a welcome event for those who have moved here from places that have world class jazz regularly," said Perkins.

Martin Walters, director of the ETSU Jazz Ensemble said, "I am very pleased to see a resurgence of jazz in the Tri-Cities area. Jazz is a true American art form and the basis for so many popular styles of music."

"The Johnson City Jazz Festival showcases top local and national artists coming together to provide our community with three days of fine jazz performances," said Walters.

Perkins believes the ticket prices set for the festival are very reasonable and competitive compared to that of other events that have this quality and quantity of talent all in one place.

"Thanks to our sponsors, we can offer this cultural experience for a very reasonable price, quite competitive with larger cities," said Perkins.

Sponsors for the event include: Time and Pay, Carnegie Hotel, Albert's Pawn, First Tennessee and many more. Tickets are available on the festival's website at www.johnsoncityjazzfestival.com. More information is available from info@johnsoncityjazzfestival.com.

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The Johnson City Jazz Festival is an annual festival of live jazz music.

