

2012 TGIF Jazz in the Parks – Band Information

The 27th season of TGIF offers something for everyone this summer. We're talking "Variety" – with a capital V. The music ranges from Big Band Swing to Chicago Blues to Afro-pop, with some Reggae, Latin, and New Orleans R&B on the schedule as well. The bands come from locales both near (San Diego, LA, Fresno) and far (San Francisco and Sierra Leone, West Africa). And finally, on the schedule are three longtime audience favorites, three groups returning from 2011, and three brand new bands. One thing stays the same though: you'll want to wear your dancing shoes to every single concert this summer!

The first three concerts take place at Stagecoach Park, 3420 Camino de los Coches, between La Costa Avenue and Rancho Santa Fe Road. The concert site is Baseball Field #1 on the park's upper level.

June 29, 2012 Mofo Party Band – Chicago Blues

Brothers Bill and John Clifton brought their gutsy central California version of guitar-whipped, harmonica-fueled Chicago Blues to TGIF last year and slayed everybody in the park. They admit they're having so much fun they may never go back to their well digging days. According to the Cliftons, "Drilling wells is a cold, thankless and dangerous job. When people say we look like we're having fun up there on stage, we are!"

July 6, 2012 Big Time Operator – Big Band Swing

San Diego's most acclaimed big band holds the record for TGIF appearances at 12. Carlsbad can't get enough of Mike's drum solos, Gunnar's bass licks, Warren's smooth vocals and the county's hottest horn section. Swing dancers start at six (actually, they start warming up at five) and don't stop until the music ends and the sun sets. Whether you croon, spoon or boogie woogie, this is your night to let loose.

July 13, 2012 Café R&B – Soul & Blues

With comparisons to Tina Turner and Etta James, Roach, the beautiful vocalist of this barnstorming sextet from LA has earned serious r-e-s-p-e-c-t over two decades. Husband Byl Carruthers on guitar carries his own blues creds, frequently called upon to write liner notes for the genre's biggest names. They're so strong, they need *two* keyboardists to back them up. Expect to be shaken, rattled and rolled!

TGIF moves to Poinsettia Park, 6600 Hidden Valley Road, for three concerts in July. Free shuttle service will operate between 4:30 and 9 p.m. from just ONE, NEW location: North Coast Calvary Chapel, 1330 Poinsettia Lane. The entrance to the parking lot is at the intersection of Aviara Parkway and Camino de las Ondas.

July 20, 2012 Steve Lucky & the Rhumba Bums, featuring Carmen Getit – Jumpin' Jive & Swing

From their first TGIF appearance in 2005, Steve, Carmen and the guys became instant crowd favorites. Their witty battle of the sexes, waged on his boogie woogie piano and her swingin' guitar, is backed by some crazy sax action. Consummate musicians who love to entertain, this group brings back the days of saddle shoes and porkpie hats, so brush up on your jitterbug!

July 27, 2012 B-Side Players – World & Reggae

From their initial meeting in an African drumming class at Southwestern Community College in Chula Vista, B-Side Players went on to national recognition as a leading band of genre-bending power.

Returning to TGIF after a triumphant 2011 debut, the Players bring back their original brand of global funk flavored with reggae, *son*, afro-beat, acid jazz, hip-hop and anything that catches their restless musical intelligence.

August 3, 2012 Madame LeRoux & Krewe, plus Euphoria Brass Band – New Orleans R&B
Powerhouse vocalist Michele Lundeen loves performing as her alter-ego the Queen of New Orleans with her hot Bourbon Street-style band, the Krewe. And we loved the idea of pairing up this great blues & zydeco dance group with Euphoria Brass Band, a traditional marching street band right out of French Quarter history. So join us for Mardi Gras in August, and don't forget your beads!

Calavera Hills Park, site of the final three concerts, is at 2997 Glasgow Drive on the corner of Carlsbad Village Drive. Free shuttle service will operate between 4:30 and 9 p.m. from Hope Elementary School, 3010 Tamarack Drive and from Calavera Hills School, 4100 Tamarack Drive at College Avenue.

August 10, 2012 Sierra Leone's Refugee All-Stars – Afro-Pop & World
Forged during war by people forced to flee their homeland, struggling for survival in rudimentary border camps, this inspiring group of musicians has become known worldwide for their uplifting songs of hope and joy. The Refugee All-Stars were already accomplished musicians when, starting with two donated old electric guitars and one microphone, they began entertaining their fellow camp residents. A chance encounter with an American documentary crew led to international attention and a career as the sound of the dispossessed yet optimistic people of the African continent.

August 17, 2012 Ruby & The Red Hots – Jazz & Blues
TGIF audiences have a special affection for this sultry North County singer, and she returns it with real feeling. Statuesque Ruby looks and sounds equally at home with a smooth-as-silk ballad or a blazing blues rocker. Backing her up, The Red Hots absolutely sizzle with horns that growl and purr, propulsive drumbeats and gripping guitar play. You'll want to be there when Carlsbad's favorite lady takes the stage.

August 24, 2012 Johnny Polanco Orchestra – Salsa & Latin Jazz
Polanco and his players were six notes into last summer's concert when the sound crew and TGIF staff started nodding, grinning and telling each other, "These guys are *terrific!*" And the crowd was quick to agree. Johnny's Dominican/Puerto Rican roots and his deep grasp of Latin instruments and rhythms guide this incredible ensemble, enthusiastically followed by salsa dancers across the nation. The perfect way to close out the 2012 series is a night of great music and great dancing, with the conga line led by Johnny himself.

What to bring, and what not to bring to the concerts

Patrons should bring low-back beach chairs and ground cover to TGIF concerts. Long-sleeve shirts, long pants, and insect repellent with "deet" are recommended as a precaution against mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus. Many patrons bring picnics; light refreshments are also available for sale. Opportunity drawings are conducted during the intermission by the Carlsbad Friends of the Arts to support the concert series and other cultural programs. The use of bikes, skateboards, skates and roller blades is not allowed in the parks during concerts. Smoking, pets and personal barbeque grills are not allowed in city parks by municipal ordinance.

Performers' websites

<http://www.mofopartyband.com/>

<http://www.myspace.com/btoswings>

<http://www.caferandb.com/>

<http://www.luckylounge.com/>

<http://www.bsideplayers.com/>

<http://madamelerouxkrewe.homestead.com/Info.html>

<http://euphoriabrassband.com/>

http://www.sierraleonesrefugeeallstars.com/fr_home.cfm

<http://www.rubyandtheredhots.com/>

<http://johnnypolanco.dimelorecords.com/>