

Whale and Jazz Festival Preview

April 2 - 18, 2009

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The Whale and Jazz Festival is coming up fast. We look forward to another great celebration of the gray whale migration with 14 events over three weekends packed with fine food and music.

The festivities kick off with a presentation by renowned photojournalist Sigfried Matull featuring images and a lecture of his most recent travels documenting these magnificent creatures we honor every year.

There will be the Annual Chowder Challenge. Tastings include a free concert with traditional New Orleans jazz by Barnebey's Hot Four, back again by popular demand.

Poetry & Jazz continues the theme of International Flavors by presenting a selection of Japan's many poetry forms. Dressed in kimono, Mariko Kitakubo of Tokyo will perform her own tanka, and Linda Galloway will recite Amelia Fielden's translations. This pair will be accompanied on the koto (harp) by Shirley Muramoto and Karl Young on the shakuhachi (bamboo flute). After intermission, the feature of the evening will be a butoh theater piece composed and danced by Don McLeod, master of a school for butoh training in Los

Angeles, using the haiku of Basho as translated by Jane Reichhold.

And then there will be the main event of the festival.

A message from our Festival Music Coordinator, Fred Adler:

This year for The Main Event of the Whale & Jazz Festival I have booked "Todd Sickafoose's Tiny Resistors/Blood Orange" after having frequently witnessed their absolutely magical and thrilling ensemble sound in the Bay Area.

Believe me, this unusual combination of bass, violin, trumpet, glockenspiel, saxophone, guitar and other instruments, executing Todd's original compositions, is truly some of the most original and riveting jazz that I have ever heard over the decades-bar none!

I am very excited to present this cutting edge, yet totally accessible music at the Gualala Arts Center for this year's Main Event. Witness some of the most compelling jazz performed anywhere, anytime, ever!

You won't want to miss this one!

Go to GualalaArts.org for details, and look for a full program in the April Sketches.

...In Other Whale News

The Arts Council of Mendocino County, with support from the Mendocino Coast Chamber of Commerce, will launch a new whale art event during the 27th Annual Fort Bragg Whale Festival scheduled for March 21 - 22, 2009.

Art Splash...Whale Migration will feature art by more than 70 professional and community artists whose work will be sold at silent auction to raise money for

the programs and services of benefit to artists and the community provided by the Arts Council, and the Chamber's Student Scholarship Program.

There are a number of Gualala Arts member artists participating in this year's event. If you can find your way to Fort Bragg that weekend, show your support for a good cause. Details at mendowhale.com