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For information and high resolution image, contact:
Nancy Howell, Executive Director (352) 383-2627

**11 th Annual Mount Dora Music Festival
Presents Nine Free Concerts and Top Name Performers**

World-renowned musicians and in-demand local artists performing classical, jazz, blues, easy listening, Latin, big band, bluegrass, country, folk and rock 'n roll music will be featured in five showcase concerts and nine complimentary concerts at various venues throughout downtown Mount Dora during the 11th Annual Mount Dora Music Festival, February 21-24, 2008.

Kicking off the free concerts on Thursday, February 21, at 11 am are the Raintree Chamber Players, a group of gifted, classically trained musicians who have been performing together since 1992. The Mount Dora Community Church will host the flute, violin, viola, and cello ensemble, who will present a repertoire of classical music ranging from Bach to Debussy, as well as contemporary pieces and standards by Gershwin and Porter. The former members of the Florida Symphony Orchestra now perform with the Orlando Philharmonic and Bach Festival Orchestras, and at special performances at Walt Disney World.

Thursday afternoon at 1:30 pm, the W.T. Bland Library will present the Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra String Quartet in the Community Room. The principal string players of the beloved Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra are professional virtuoso strings who perform elegant music with tongue-in-cheek panache! A light dessert will also be provided.

That evening, Music in the Park from 5 to 7 pm will feature Jeff Rupert and Dirty Martini playing Brazilian jazz at the Donnelly Park stage. Rupert, an internationally renowned tenor saxophonist, composer, arranger, and educator has been a featured soloist on recordings with Maynard Ferguson, Diane Schuur, Mel Torme, and on Benny Carter's Grammy-winning *Harlem Renaissance* and Ed Bradley's NPR broadcast *Jazz from Lincoln Center*. In constant demand around the world, Rupert has taken the spotlight at leading jazz festivals including the Montreux Jazz Festivals in Switzerland and Japan, the Chicago Blues Festival, Jamaica Jazz Festival, at Britain's Bishopstock, the Jubileums Blues Festival in Norway, and at New Zealand's Jaguar International Jazz Series as well as numerous other festivals in Scandinavia, the Middle East, South America, and Australia. Rekindling his love of Brazilian music, Jeff Rupert and Dirty Martini recently released their debut recording *Save your Love for Me*.

Wrapping up Thursday's performances in the park is an audience-participation drumming circle from 7 to 8 pm. Guests are invited to bring their favorite percussion instrument and feel the rhythm of the drums.

Friday at noon, folksinger Chris Kahl performs music from his latest album, *Orange Blossom Memories: Songs of Florida* at the W.T. Bland Library Community Room. During the hour-long concert, Kahl will share original folk songs and stories about the history, folklore, and characters of the Sunshine State. After the Space Coast native's self-titled debut album received strong reviews,

he released two other albums, *Odessa Morning* and *Up From the Underground* while living and touring in Europe.

That evening, Music in the Park from 5 to 7 pm will feature Leo Lopez and Tumbao who will spice up Donnelly Park with Latin flamenco jazz. Lopez, a native of Puerto Rico, was given his first guitar at the age of three. He later studied classical guitar at InterAmerican University before being accepted at the prestigious Conservatory of Music where he was invited to perform at the Heineken Jazz Festival in 1995. He relocated to Orlando in 2005 to perform at Central Florida's major attractions, and soon discovered a new sound with his group Tumbao, a talented Latin quartet who honor their Afro-Caribbean roots and reveal a modern take on a wide range of musical styles including rumba, salsa, guaracha, bolero, mambo, merengue, bomba and plena, cumbia and Cuban son.

Saturday Music in the Park performances begin at noon as the Central Florida Youth Big Band introduces a variety of musical styles from swing to Latin to funk and rock. Representing several area schools, the 20 extremely talented musicians range in age from 13 to 19. In addition to performing at various local civic, charitable, and church events, the band was recently invited to appear this Spring at the Next Generation Jazz Festival in Monterey, California.

From 1:30 to 4 pm, Donnelly Park will sway with the rhythmic sounds of salsa Latin jazz with Orlando Sanchez and Akangana. A virtuoso professional musician in the area of ethnic percussion, Sanchez is currently working with Donna Summer and has performed and recorded with other nationally known artists such as Stevie Wonder, Nell Carter, Backstreet Boys, Paquito D'Rivera, JP Torres, and Ed Calle. Akangana was featured as the house band for the national television program "*Emeril Live*," and Sanchez can be heard on various nationally televised programs on Nickelodeon performing all the percussion instruments.

Sunday's Music in Park concert begins at noon with Mountain Brew, featuring Sara Burr on mandolin, Andy Burr on guitar and harmonica, Renee Riddle on fiddle, Eddie Riddle on bass, and Ron Hart on drums. Since 2004, the Lake County quintet has performed contemporary and traditional folk, bluegrass, country and popular standards distilled from the finest American and Irish-Celtic traditions.

In addition to these free concerts, the MDMF will also present five ticketed Showcase Performance events. Two-time Grammy-winner Rita Coolidge will headline the Showcase Performances on Saturday night, February 23, with two shows at 5 and 8 pm at the Mount Dora Community Center, 520 N. Baker Street, downtown. General admission tickets are \$36 in advance, \$41 at the door. The most versatile singer of the rock generation, Coolidge also sings pop, rhythm and blues, jazz, folk and country music. She is best known for her hits '*Your Love Has Lifted Me) Higher and Higher*' and '*We're All Alone*'; in addition to albums that focus on her Native American roots and the duos hits shared with then-husband Kris Kristofferson.

Satisfaction, A Rolling Stones Experience will rock the Community Center Friday at 7:30 pm. Recognized as the world's first full-time touring Rolling Stones tribute band, Satisfaction celebrates the look, sound, and attitude of the iconic rockers. The full-scale production is led by vocalist Chris LeGrand, who portrays the flamboyant Mick Jagger in

note-for-note renditions of classics such as Start Me Up, Honky Tonk Women, and (I Can't Get No) Satisfaction, as well as on acoustic hits Angie and Wild Horses. General admission tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door.

On Sunday at 3 pm, Cab Calloway Brooks turns back the clock to pay tribute to his grandfather with sounds first heard at the Cotton Club in the late 1920s and '30s. Taking the Community Center stage in his wild Zoot Suit, Calloway Brooks becomes the "Hi-De-Ho" man as the seven-piece Cab Jivers deliver authentic dance, blues, and boogie numbers based on original vintage orchestrations. An accomplished musician, Calloway Brooks graduated from the prestigious New England Conservatory of Music. General admission tickets are \$25 advance and \$30 at the door.

Lake County's own Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra's presentation of an 'Evening at the Opera' will be performed Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Catholic Church. The program will include exciting moments from famous operas. General admission tickets are \$36 advance and \$42 at the door.

Tickets can be purchased online at: mountdoramusicfest.com or at these locations: Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce, First National Bank Trust Department, Euro Donnelly Footwear and ABC Music. For more information or to purchase tickets by phone, call (352) 385-1010 or (352) 383-2627.

The MDMF is sponsored in part by Target, Mainstreet Leasing, City of Mount Dora CRA, Lake County TBR, Waterman Communities, The Daily Commercial, Mount Dora Community Trust, Publix and Wal-Mart.