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FREE CONCERTS ON DOUGLASVILLE'S O'NEAL PLAZA IN MAY
Progressive Blue Grass, Great Southern Rock & Big Band Jazz

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to present its annual Spring Concerts on the Plaza at the O'Neal Plaza in historic downtown Douglasville on Saturday, May 7th, Saturday, May 21st, and Saturday, May 28th. All evening performances begin at 7 p.m. The 2011 spring series showcases PEACHTREE STATION's traditional and progressive blue grass, THE RANDALL BRAMBLETT BAND's mall big band sound, and Big Band classics with lots of swing by THE ETOWAH JAZZ SOCIETY. Supported by the City of Douglasville and the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, these special outdoor events are free and open to the general public. Ample free parking is available near O'Neal Plaza. Listeners are reminded to bring their own seating.

On the first Saturday of the spring series, May 7th, PEACHTREE STATION, featuring the seasoned talents of Melody Armstrong (bass), Tom Mendenhall (mandolin and guitar), Jeff Partridge (guitar and vocals), Steve Schaaf (dobro and vocals), and Scott Woody (banjo), is one of the most exciting blue grass bands in Georgia, performing regularly at The Red Light Café in Atlanta and regional festivals. Peachtree Station is a band whose music offers traditional and contemporary bluegrass with influences of newgrass, folk and rock. While the band's foundation is in traditional bluegrass, listeners are just as likely to hear progressive music from this talented group of musicians. All are veterans, each having over 20 years of performing experience, and together they are a very solid bluegrass band with exciting instrumentation, great vocals and tight harmonies.

Originally from North Carolina, Woody has been playing banjo and performing blue grass music for more than 30 years. Credited with starting the Red Light Café's "Bluegrass Thursdays," he has played with such Atlanta favorites as The Handsaw Brothers and steelBlue. Currently based in Snellville, bass player Armstrong began playing in Augusta with the group, Flatbed and has performed in major festivals throughout the Southeast. Another North Carolinian, Mendenhall has been playing guitar and mandolin since he was 13. With his brother Tim, he grew up playing in bluegrass bands around Central North Carolina, learning both traditional and newgrass techniques. Schaaf joined PEACHTREE STATION in 2008 after playing with Atlanta groups for many years including Coal Mountain. In addition to dobro, he plays mandolin, fiddle and several other instruments. The newest member of the group, singer and guitarist Jeff Partridge performed with Bullsboro, Brushfire, Counterpoint and Overdrive for more than 30 years before joining PEACHTREE STATION.

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The second Saturday, May 21st, THE RANDALL BRAMBLETT BAND showcases the talents of one of the South's finest songwriters and musicians. While Bramblett may not be a household name, he is legendary within music circles for his songwriting and musicianship. He released a pair of acclaimed solo albums in the mid-'70s, then joined the jazz-rock band Sea Level, becoming their principal songwriter and vocalist. Bramblett then embarked as a big-league, musical utility man and performed primarily on sax and keyboard with some of the greatest names in rock history including Traffic, Steve Winwood, Levon Helm and Bonnie Raitt. He also continued to perform live with THE RANDALL BRAMBLETT BAND, an extraordinary group of professional musicians from the Athens -Atlanta area. At the turn of the new millennium, he refocused on his recording career. *Now It's Tomorrow*, his fourth for New West Records and seventh solo album, represents an artistic peak in a long and stellar career. Full of memorable songs and musical performances, the album blends sharp songwriting, subtle psychedelic grooves and outstanding musicianship. Bramblett "grew up playing soul music" in Jesup, Georgia. His hero was James Brown, but he also had a lot of Ray Charles and some jazz influences. After studying religion and psychology at the University of North Carolina, where he was inspired by Bob Dylan, James Taylor and Carole King to being songwriting, he moved Athens, Georgia which remains his home base today. Bramblett has performed with the Allman Brothers Band, Widespread Panic, Gov't Mule, Roger Glover, Atlanta Rhythm Section, John Hammond, Cowboy, Bonnie Bramblett, the Cheese String Incident, Robbie Robertson, Phoebe Snow and the Grateful Dead. The Cultural Arts Council is honored to bring a musician of his caliber and acclaim to Douglasville this spring.

On the third and final Saturday concert of the Spring Concerts on the Plaza series produced by the Cultural Arts Council, May 28th, the now 22-piece THE ETOWAH JAZZ SOCIETY was formed almost a decade ago by a Cartersville-based group of dedicated musicians who love to perform a wide variety of music, ranging from Big Band era classics to jazz standards and Broadway and pop hits. Influenced by Stan Kenton, Maynard Ferguson, Buddy Rich, Count Basie and Tommy Dorsey, this band demonstrates just how good a community-based ensemble can be. This ensemble has been getting rave reviews wherever it plays throughout North Georgia, its players serving as good will ambassadors for the great American style of music that they clearly love. With terrific vocals by Patty Holladay and imaginative arrangements, THE ETOWAH JAZZ SOCIETY will present a play list, highlighted by performances of Tommy Dorsey's "On the Sunny Side of the Street", Count Basie's "Fly Me to the Moon," and Stan Kenton's "Stompin' at the Savoy."

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is supported by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, and the Georgia Council for the Arts, a partner agency of the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art. Contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our website, www.artsdouglas.org, for more information and directions to the plaza.

