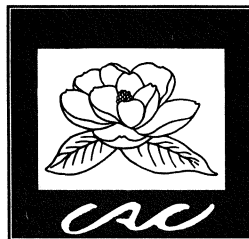


PRESS RELEASE:

September 11, 2009



For immediate release:

Through September 26, 2009

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

**FREE CONCERTS ON DOUGLASVILLE'S O'NEAL PLAZA IN SEPTEMBER
DELTA MOON & THE PAN PEOPLE STEELBAND**

Douglasville, Georgia – The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is pleased to present its annual Fall Concerts on the Plaza on O'Neal Plaza in historic downtown Douglasville on Saturday, September 19th, and Saturday, September 26th. Both evening performances begin at 7 p.m. The 2009 fall series showcases DELTA MOON's double-slide Delta-billy boogie-woogie blues and the PAN PEOPLE STEELBAND's great Caribbean rhythms. 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 chairs.

On the first Saturday of the fall series, September 19th, DELTA MOON presents double slide guitar playing by Tom Gray on lap-steel and Mark Johnson on bottleneck slide guitars. They met in an Atlanta music store, and after seeing Ry Cooder and David Lindley perform together at the New Orleans Jazz Festival, they (along with singer Gina Leigh and a rotating cast of drummers and bassists) formed DELTA MOON. Playing clubs and festivals around Atlanta and the South, the band quickly gathered a wall full of local "best" awards. After DELTA MOON won the International Blues Challenge in Memphis in 2003, the band widened its touring to include the western US, Canada, and Europe. After Gina Leigh left the band in 2004 and Kristin Markiton sang with the band for the next year and half, the band decided to continue as a quartet with Tom Gray writing and singing all the lyrics. "I didn't start out to sing lead in this band," says Gray who in his pre-lap guitar days was a songwriter, keyboardist and vocalist for The Brains, "but like kudzu I've taken over." Gray was named "Blues Songwriter of the Year" by the American Roots Music Association last year. In late 2007, after years of revolving-door rhythm sections, Delta Moon settled on a permanent line-up with Darren Stanley, from Stone Mountain, Georgia, on drums and Franher Joseph, from Haiti by way of Jonesboro, Georgia, on bass. In 2008 Delta Moon signed with the European label Blues Boulevard, a division of Music Avenue. The first CD, *Howlin' Under the Southern Moon*, released in early 2009, was a compilation of Delta Moon songs previously released in the United States. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* once wrote, "The joy this band exudes in its playing is enough to light up several large rooms." We expect DELTA MOON to illuminate O'Neal Plaza in a blaze of blues glory during the Cultural Arts Council's first fall concert this year.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street • P.O. Box 2018

Douglasville, Georgia 30133

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www.artsdouglas.org

PAGE TWO – 2009 FREE FALL CONCERTS ON THE PLAZA

The second Saturday, September 26th, the PAN PEOPLE STEELBAND will perform for the second time in Douglasville. Their 2006 performance on O’Neal Plaza is still remembered by many as a rare and marvelous instance of authentic Caribbean music being played here; it was almost as if the historic downtown had been transported to Trinidad. One of the most prominent steel bands in the Southeast, the PAN PEOPLE STEELBAND celebrates more than two decades of entertaining and educating audiences about the unique art of “pan” (or steel drum music). Steel band music began with slaves’ street processions, which evolved into the annual Carnival celebrations in the Caribbean islands. At first African drums were used in these parades, then tamboo bamboo (lengths of bamboo) were played, and modern steel drums (made from tin dustbins and steel oil barrels) began to be used during the late 1930s. In 1945 the first steelband competitions began during Carnival in Trinidad. Pans are made from 55-gallon steel drums by an intricate process of hammering, heating and chroming which gives the instruments their concave shape and exceptional tonal quality. Physicists have actually determined that pans do not have the characteristics of drums nor do they function as drums in bands or musical groups.

Founded in 1986 at Atlanta University Center, the PAN PEOPLE STEELBAND showcases talented musicians from throughout the Caribbean including Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua, and the US Virgin Islands as well as the United States. Under the direction of Dr. Ajamu Nyomba, this large ensemble of pannists will present the traditional music of the islands, calypso, soca and reggae, along some rhythm and blues, jazz classics, and maybe even hip hop for Douglasville audiences on O’Neal Plaza.

“We are bringing back two great bands this fall,” commented Bob Smith, Cultural Arts Council’s Program Committee Chair. “Delta Moon’s last performance here was just amazing, and the Pan People will have everyone dancing. I am ready.”

The Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is supported by its membership, sponsors, 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.

The Cultural Arts Center of Douglasville/Douglas County is located at 8652 Campbellton Street in historic downtown Douglasville, Georgia, about 20 miles from Atlanta and just off I-20 west (exit 36). Hours of operation are Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays, 1 until 5 p.m. For directions and more information, please contact the Cultural Arts Council at 770/949-2787 or visit our web site, www.artsdouglas.org.

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CALENDAR LISTINGS: MUSIC PERFORMANCES

TITLE: FREE FALL CONCERTS ON THE PLAZA

PLACE: O'Neal Plaza in Historic Downtown Douglasville
Exit #36 from I-20

DATE: Saturday, September 19th Delta Moon
Saturday, September 26th Pan People Steel Band

TIME: 7 p.m.

COST: Free to the public

CONTACT: Cultural Arts Center, 770/949-2787