

PRESS RELEASE:

May 6, 2010

For immediate release:

Through May 22, 2010

For more information:

Laura C. Lieberman, 770/949-2787

FREE CONCERTS ON DOUGLASVILLE'S O'NEAL PLAZA IN MAY
Presented by the Cultural Arts Council

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 8th, Saturday, May 15th, and Saturday, May 22nd. All evening performances begin at 7 p.m. The 2010 spring series showcases DELTA MOON's double-slide Delta-billy boogie-woogie blues, THE ARTIE BALL SWING BAND's small big band sound, and classic rock and rock music by DIVIDED BY SIX. 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 8th, 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 spring concert this year.

PAGE TWO – 2010 FREE SPRING CONCERTS ON THE PLAZA

The second Saturday, May 15th, THE ARTIE BALL SWING BAND, featuring some of the most diverse jazz talents in the Southeast, will demonstrate why it is becoming known as one of the premier shows in our region. With charming, theatrical orchestrations and timeless melodies, this band will help everyone get a little more fun out of life. Reveling in the glory days of the 1930s and '40s, Artie Ball plays swing, blues, boogie and Dixieland with all the appropriate camp and candor of that era. The core musicians of this “mini-big-band” are band leader and vocalist James Cook, Joe Ellison on drums, Mike Jones on saxophone, Colin Jones on trumpet, Dan Horowitz on standup bass and Steve Key on guitar. Guaranteed to make the kiddies jump, the parents smile and old folks reminisce about times gone by, the Artie Ball Swing Band provides a good time for all. Prepare to tap your toes and dance away your doldrums with the joyful, jazzin’ sound of the Artie Ball Swing Band during their first concert on the plaza.

On the third and final Saturday concert of the Spring Concerts on the Plaza series produced by the Cultural Arts Council, May 22nd, DIVIDED BY SIX includes Tom Cook (bass), Tim Miles (guitar), and Tim Johnson (drums) who began playing together in the 1960s inspired by the Beatles, Steppenwolf, Cream and Jimi Hendrix. For six years they have performed together in variously named bands around Atlanta and in West Georgia, ending in 1971 with a group known as “The Boston Tea Party.” Today, 35 years later after separating to pursue varied professional careers, they have come back together again and still are performing rock classics of the 1960s and '70s, joined by guitarist Chris Lum and vocalists Billy Reese, Pam Lum and Penny Reece. Their original classic rock style, combined with newer country influences are sure to prove to be an audience pleaser for the Cultural Arts Council’s third and final Spring Concert on the Plaza this year.

The mission of the Cultural Arts Council of Douglasville/Douglas County is to nurture, guide and stimulate the enjoyment of and participation in the arts among Douglas County residents by providing an atmosphere conducive to the arts, broadening the spectrum of quality exhibits and performances available to the community, and fostering individual interactions with the arts through a wide range of satellite organizations. The Cultural Arts Council and its programs supported in part by the City of Douglasville, the Douglas County Board of Commissioners, the Georgia Council for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, and the National Endowment for the Arts, which believes a great nation deserves great art.

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

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CALENDAR LISTINGS: MUSIC PERFORMANCES

TITLE: FREE SPRING CONCERTS ON THE PLAZA

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

DATE: Saturday, May 8th Delta Moon
Saturday, May 15th The Artie Ball Swing Band
Saturday, May 22nd Divided by Six

TIME: 7 p.m.

COST: Free to the public

CONTACT: Cultural Arts Center, 770/949-2787

Directions from Atlanta: Take I-20 west 18 miles past I-285 to the Chapel Hills exit (Exit 36); stay right off the exit following signs for Campbellton Street; stay on Campbellton through one stop light and 5 stop signs; at the second light, turn left on Church Street, drive two blocks, and turn right on Price Avenue taking an immediate right into free public parking. O'Neal Plaza is located across Church Street with seating in front of the stage on the right.

THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL OF DOUGLASVILLE/DOUGLAS COUNTY

8652 Campbellton Street
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