



For Immediate Release

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The Markham Jazz Festival Announces New Artistic Director

Markham, ON-The Markham Jazz Festival has acquired acclaimed musician Michael Occhipinti to fill the role of Artistic Director for the festival's 2010 summer event.

Occhipinti is no stranger to the role, or to Canada's music scene. He has performed at jazz festivals across Canada and world wide with his various projects, including 2009 JUNO nominee The Sicilian Jazz Project, is the Artistic Director for the Ontario Music Centre's Summer Music Camp, and teaches jazz combos at The Royal Conservatory of Music. His newest group, the instrumental funk group Triodes, has just released its *debut* CD *Chunked*. When asked about joining the Markham Jazz Festival, Occhipinti was excited and eager to be a part of this musical summertime tradition. "I'm flattered that I have been asked to coordinate the artistic talent for this summer's festival. I've enjoyed performing at the festival myself, and I know it has a great reputation for showcasing great music in a wonderful location. I'm hoping to put together a roster of artists that draws new people to Markham and builds on the success the festival has already had.

The Markham Jazz festival is equally excited about this partnership. Festival Director Linda Briggs says, "We're very happy to have secured such a renowned musician to craft our line-up of musical acts this year. Michael is an 8 time Juno nominee and we look forward to hearing what his award-recognized taste is going to bring to this year's festival."

The 2010 Markham Jazz Festival will run from August 20th – 22nd and is one of the town's most notable events. The event attracts thousands from across Ontario to the quaint main streets of Markham and Unionville where they enjoy numerous stage performances, and several "Hot Spots," (pubs, bars and restaurants that also feature jazz performers).

More Info: contactus@markhamjazzfestival.com, or call 905-471-JAZZ (5299)

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