

Brass to bluegrass: summer concert series offers musical variety, new sponsor

CHRISTINE CARROLL
THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE

Snow in March. Freezing temperatures in April. C'mon. Admit it. You were afraid summer might never come.

Well, summer's here, and if you're looking for a way to celebrate, check out Crossing Vineyards and Winery's outdoor concert series on Fridays at 7 p.m. from June through September.

Crossing Vineyards' fourth "Summer Under the Stars" season will feature seven concerts and a distinguished new corporate sponsor, SmithBarney of Newtown.

"We pride ourselves on partnering with businesses that promote the arts in our community," said Brad Adams, Branch Manager, Smith Barney of Newtown. "We are pleased to help bring the public a fine concert series like 'Summer Under the Stars' at such a unique local venue as Crossing Vineyards and Winery."

The series debuts on Friday, June 8, with the rousing repertoire of The Nassau Brass. This classic brass quintet is currently



celebrating its eighteenth year as a performing ensemble, known for its classical selections, as well a wide range of "lighter fare," including Jazz, Dixieland, Ragtime, Pop, Broadway Show tunes, Americana and Traditional Marches.

The Fairmount String Quartet returns on Friday, June 22. This well-respected group has been delighting area audiences since 1984 with classical favorites and the string quartet literature of the masters, as well as jazz/pop standards and show tunes.

The Fairmount String Quartet features Taia Harlos and Barbara Jaffe on violin, Beth Dzwil on viola and Ronald Lipscomb on cello. In 2004 the group was chosen by CN8 and VIP Magazine to

provide ceremony music for the live broadcast of "The Ultimate Wedding."

Mark Cosgrove, known for his distinctive flat-picking sound, will take center stage with The Good Medicine Bluegrass Band on Friday, July 13. Cosgrove began playing acoustic guitar full time in the mid-1980s when he joined The Lewis Brothers, a Philadelphia-based bluegrass band. Cosgrove has since won the U.S. National Flatpicking Guitar Championship in Winfield, Kansas, and the Doc Watson Guitar Championship in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

The Eric Mintel Quartet will fill the summer skies with its unique brand of jazz on Friday, July 27. Mintel has performed at the White House, and The Kennedy Center, as well as at jazz festivals around the country.

Soprano extraordinaire Rosella Washington will entertain on Friday, August 10. Her rich, powerful

renditions of familiar show tunes and jazz standards are guaranteed to thrill concert-goers.

Bluegrass fans won't want to miss the "high and lonesome" sounds of The Jericho Grass on Friday, August 17. Purely acoustic, but casting a wide musical net, the Grass performs arrangements from jazz to country, all with a bluegrass core. Members of the band include John Gehman on guitar, Peter Kane on fiddle, Karl Klingler on mandolin, Toby Hoffman on banjo and John Stetson on bass.

Back by popular demand, The Odean Pope Jazz Trio will offer the series' final concert on Friday, September 7.

A beloved local artist, Pope has performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra and has appeared with the Saxophone Choir at Lincoln Center in New York. He has also has played with Dizzy Gillespie and Grover Washington Jr. and has backed up popular R&B performers such as Patti LaBelle, The Temptations, Stevie Wonder and Gladys Knight and the Pips.

Smith Barney of Newtown's generous financial support has helped Crossing Vineyards hold the concert ticket price at \$10.

Performances will be held rain or shine. Guests are asked to bring a lawn chair. Too busy to cook? Order a picnic supper in advance at an additional cost of \$30 per person. BYOB is not permitted. Call or check the Web site for menus and details.

Crossing Vineyards and Winery is located on a 200 year old estate at 1853 Wrightstown Road in Washington Crossing. To purchase tickets or picnic suppers call 215-493-6500, ext. 19 or buy on-line: www.crossingvineyards.com.

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