

African Arts in the Park 2010

Stage Entertainment Biographies



Donna Baxter Saturday's Mistress of Ceremony **CONFIRMED**

From: Johnstown, PA

Hosting: Saturday, August 14

Bio: Donna M. Baxter is the CEO and Web-Mistress of Soul Pitt Media, an African American internet marketing and graphic design firm based in Pittsburgh, PA. Founded in 2000, this award-winning company helps individuals, businesses and corporations reach African American consumers through online advertising, print and radio with clients including the August Wilson Center, Allstate Insurance, McDonald's, UPMC, Verizon Wireless, the US Army, just to name a few. Soul Pitt Media helps people connect with the Minority community through, TheSoulPitt.com, a community magazine which is a spin-off of the website, The Soul Pitt Quarterly. Donna serves as a speaker and digital consultant and is on a mission to educate Minority and women business owners on the power of the Internet. (www.donnambaxter.com)



UMOJA African Arts Company **CONFIRMED** Genre: Traditional African

Dance

From:

Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Saturday, August 14

Bio:

As presenters of the African Arts in the Park Festival, UMOJA has been in Pittsburgh since 1989 and serves the Pittsburgh area with educational programs and performances. UMOJA gives explosive dancing and drum performances and combines elements of traditional Western and Central Africa. UMOJA performs both days of the festival. (www.UmojaCompany.org)

Performance Start Time: 11:00 am

NO PHOTO

Torie Banks **CONFIRMED**

Genre: R & B

From:

Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Saturday, August 14

Bio:

A Pittsburgh based R & B vocalist.

Performance Start Time: 11:30 am

NO PHOTO

Hakim Rasheed **CONFIRMED**

Genre: R & B

From:

Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Saturday, August 14

Bio:

A Pittsburgh based R & B vocalist.

Performance Start Time: 11:45 am

NOTE: All Performers and stage personalities are subject to change.

NO PHOTO

Jazz Garcelle **CONFIRMED**

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: A Pittsburgh based R & B/Jazz vocalist.

Genre: R & B/ Jazz
Performing: Saturday, August 14

Performance Start Time: 12:30 pm



Azucar Band **CONFIRMED**

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Members: Indira Corales - Lead Vocals: Joe Herndon - Lead Trumpet, Background Vocals, Percussion: Steve McKnight - Solo Trumpet, Background Vocals, Synth: Chris Hemingway - Alto and Tenor Saxophones, Background Vocals: Ross Garin - Trombone: Eric Suseoff - Guitar: Brian Stahurski - Bass: David Glover - Timbales, Background Vocals: George Jones - Congas: Jose Moran - Bongos, Vocals

Bio: Azúcar is a full service Latin dance band playing the following styles: Salsa, Merengue, Cumbia, Reggaeton, Cha Cha Cha, Bachata, Bolero, Rhumba, and Latin Jazz (MySpace.com)

Genre: Salsa
Performing: Saturday, August 14

Performance Start Time: 1:15 pm



Jill West & Blues Attack **CONFIRMED**

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Members: Jill West (vocals), Greg Krupa (lead guitar), Hank Raffetto (bass guitar), Frank Cholewski (guitar), Nick Crano (drums)

Bio: A blues band that plays their own style of hard edged blues with a guitar blast, in the tradition of the Vaughn brothers, B. B. King, and Muddy Waters. (www.jillwest-and-bluesattack.com)

Genre: Blues
Performing: Saturday, August 14

Performance Start Time: 2:30 pm



Roger Humphries & RH Factor **CONFIRMED**

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: A Pittsburgh jazz icon, Mr. Humphries has played in several venues in the city and has a large following. (MySpace.com)

Genre: Jazz
Performing: Saturday, August 14

Performance Start Time: 3:45 pm

NOTE: All Performers and stage personalities are subject to change.



Artistree CONFIRMED

Genre: R & B/ Hip-Hop

From: Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Saturday, August 14

Members: Darrell, Jefferson, Twan Moore, Marquise McCrommon, Sterling Copeland, and Dean Williams

Bio: A Pittsburgh based R & B/Hip-Hop group influenced by Jagged Edge, Dru Hill, and Boyz II Men (MySpace.com)

Performance Start Time: 5:30 pm



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Dance

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Performing: Saturday, August 14

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Performance Start Time: 6:35 pm



Anji Corley, Sunday's Mistress of Ceremony CONFIRMED

From: Pittsburgh, PA

Hosting: Sunday, August 15

Bio: The newest member of the Donnie Simpson morning show team, Anji Corley earned her way onto the show as the winner of Donnie's "America's Next Top Jock" contest, beating out hundreds of other contestants from around the nation for the spot of co-host on the show. Anji was the former host of "The Midday Experience with Anji" on Sheridan Broadcasting Corporation's flagship station - WAMO 106.7 FM in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. In this role, she has interviewed some of the nation's greatest celebrities and leaders of all time, including: Beyonce, Justin Timberlake, Russell Simmons and

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Jamie Foxx. Accomplishing goals and taking charge is the way Anji Corley spends most of her days. It is not unusual for Anji to be in front of the camera as a television host or behind the mic as an on air radio personality. In a typical week, Anji will work as a model on commercial shoots, or an actress on a variety of movie productions. Whatever the task at hand, Anji is always prepared to bring that extra ump to each assignment.



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Performance Start Time: 11:00 am

NO PHOTO

The Flow Band **CONFIRMED**

Genre: Reggae

From: Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Sunday, August 15

Members: Dr. James Alston Jr., Donna Davis, Uzel Finney Jr., Chuck Jones Jr., Ernest Pollar, Deborah Starling

Bio: The Flow Band, heralded as "The premier Reggae band in Pittsburgh" by Pittsburgh's *City Paper* for several years now, has never stopped its flow. The band has been around for over 19 years with Uzell Finney Jr. leading the group in roots-rock-reggae style. Since 1996, a new Flow configuration has been rocking Pittsburgh, Ohio, Chicago and Maryland.

Performance Start Time: 11:45 am



Kevin Howard **CONFIRMED**

Genre: Smooth Jazz

From: Pittsburgh, PA

Performing: Sunday, August 15

Bio: A jazz keyboardist with over 20 years of experience, Kevin has shared the stage with George Benson, Marion Meadows, Najee, Kenny Blake, and Roger Humphries. (www.kevinhoward.net)

Performance Start Time: 12:30 pm

NOTE: All Performers and stage personalities are subject to change.

NO PHOTO

Afro-American Music Institute CONFIRMED Genre: Jazz

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: A Pittsburgh based Jazz band.

Performing: Sunday, August 15

Performance Start Time: 2:15 pm

NO PHOTO

Brian Wright Sr. CONFIRMED

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: A Pittsburgh based gospel vocalist.

Genre: Gospel
Performing: Sunday, August 15

Performance Start Time: 3:15 pm

NO PHOTO

Our Brother's Keeper - CONFIRMED

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: A Pittsburgh based instrumental/jazz/gospel group.

Genre: Instrumental Gospel
Performing: Sunday, August 15

Performance Start Time: 4:00 pm

NO PHOTO

Spirit Filled Ministries - CONFIRMED

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Bio: Spirit Filled Ministries is an explosive gospel group that energizes crowds in any venue. Comprised of many members, they have toured Pittsburgh and its surrounding states for years.

Genre: Gospel
Performing: Sunday, August 15

Performance Start Time: 5:00 pm



Artistree CONFIRMED

From: Pittsburgh, PA
Members: Darrell, Jefferson, Twan Moore, Marquise McCrommon, Sterling Copeland, and Dean Williams
Bio: A Pittsburgh based R& B/Hip-Hop group influenced by Jagged Edge, Dru Hill, and Boyz II Men (MySpace.com)

Genre: R & B/ Hip-Hop
Performing: Sunday, August 15

Performance Start Time: 5:45 pm

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Dru Hill (National R&B Recording Artist) **CONFIRMED**

From: Baltimore, MD

Genre: R & B/ Hip-Hop

Members: Sisqó, Jazz, Nokio, Tao

Performing: Sunday, August 15

Bio: **Dru Hill** is an American singing group, most popular during the late 1990s, whose repertoire included R&B, soul, and gospel music. Founded in Baltimore, Maryland, and active since 1992, Dru Hill recorded seven Top 40 hits, and is best known for the R&B #1 hits "In My Bed", "Never Make a Promise", and "How Deep Is Your Love". Tamir "Nokio" Ruffin was the group's founder; his band mates included main lead singer Mark "Sisqó" Andrews, Larry "Jazz" Anthony, and James "Woody Rock" Green. Signing to Island Records through Haqq Islam's University Records imprint, Dru Hill released two successful LPs before separating for a period from late 1999 to 2002, during which time Sisqó and Woody released solo albums. While Woody's *Soul Music* LP was a moderate success in the gospel music industry, Sisqó's *Unleash the Dragon* LP and its hit single "Thong Song" were major pop successes, and established Sisqó as a household name outside of Dru Hill. In 2002, by then part of the Def Soul record label, the group reunited and added fifth member Rufus "Scola" Waller to the lineup for their third album, *Dru World Order*. In early 2008, the original quartet version of Dru Hill began touring. On March 6 of that same year, original member Woody announced he was quitting the group again to dedicate himself to his gospel ministry. The group held a contest in their native Baltimore for a replacement for Woody. The group never said why they did not keep Scola in the group. After eight years, R&B multi-platinum group Dru Hill reunites and signed a new recording contract with Kedar Entertainment. Sisqo, Nokio, Jazz and new member Antwuan "Tao" Simpson (pronounced Tay-oh) are back and will release their fourth CD offering, *InDRUpendence Day* in stores summer 2010. The album has released two singles, "Love MD" and "Back to the Future". Dru Hill is ready to fulfill the void in the industry, as well your need for great music, entertainment, and more.

Performance Start Time: 6:00 pm

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