

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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Charlie Christian: Playing it Forward

With less than 60 days left until the annual *Charlie Christian International Music Festival*, Chairman, Mark Temple, has laid out a plan to move the festival forward for the next ten years, starting with the 2017 festival. Temple said this year's event will kick off in the City Council Chambers on Tuesday, May 31st with the traditional musical welcome to those attending the council meeting. Saxophonist Morris McCraven & Friends will fill the corridors of City Hall with sweet melodies of jazz and blues until the council meeting starts. Mayor Mick Cornett may be making his last proclamation for the festival since he is not running for another term as mayor.

Temple assures everyone that Anita Arnold, Executive Director of Black Liberated Arts Center (BLAC), Inc. will be seen with Mayor Cornett during the entire month of May on the City's Public Service TV station as they promote the 32nd annual festival of music. The event is June 2nd & 3rd in Oklahoma City. It promises to be as exciting as any previous festivals though one day shorter this year. Joining the celebrity guests this year for the celebration will be Freddie Jenkins (Charlie Christian's only living relative other than Mr. Jenkins sons) and his wife, Daisy. Daisy just received a movie contract for her first book, "Within the Walls," a compelling story of black women in corporate America.

This year's festival theme is "Charlie Christian: Playing it Forward." Audiences will experience great music that shows the breadth and depth of Charlie's music and music of others that he influenced such as B.B. King, Carlos Santana, Chuck Berry, George Benson, Wes Montgomery and many, many others

For more information, email BLAC, Inc. at blac37inc@yahoo.com or call (405)524-3800. This event is sponsored in part by BancFirst, Oklahoma Arts Council, and Oklahoma City/County Historical Society.