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5th Annual Duck Jazz Festival Performers Announced

Duck, NC — The 5th Annual Duck Jazz Festival is on Sunday, October 9, 2011 at the Duck Town Park, 1200 Duck Road, Duck, North Carolina. The Duck Jazz Festival is free to the public and will begin at 11:00 a.m., with gates set to open at 10:00 a.m.

The featured performers follow:

- TIZER featuring Chieli Minucci and Karen Briggs
- Adrian Crutchfield
- Soul Rebels Brass Band
- The Kirsten Thien Band

About the performers:

[TIZER featuring Chieli Minucci and Karen Briggs-](#)

[Lao Tizer-](#) Keyboardist and recording artist Lao Tizer captivates audiences of all ages and musical tastes. Tizer has been proclaimed “an independent artist with all the right moves” and “a torchbearer for the new generation of contemporary jazz”. He is a “*Best New Jazz Artist*” nominee and a Yamaha-endorsed pianist and keyboardist. He has appeared at many premier venues including Universal Studios Hollywood, Disneyland, Pier 39 – Fisherman’s Wharf San Francisco; and has graced the stage at events alongside artists including: Isaac Hayes, George Benson, The Commodores, Bruce Hornsby, Jethro Tull, and many more. Tizer’s recordings have sold over 90,000 copies and received acclaim in the industry’s most respected publications and his music can be heard on radio and television airwaves worldwide.

[Chieli Minucci-](#) Chieli Minucci is best known as the leader of the Grammy-nominated contemporary jazz group Special EFX, which formed in 1982. Together, Minucci & Special EFX have recorded a combined 26 albums, which include eight solo releases by Minucci, and a live concert DVD. Minucci has recorded and performed with top pop

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artists such as Celine Dion and Lionel Richie, as well as jazz artists Kim Waters, Marion Meadows, Bobby Caldwell, and many others. Minucci is also a composer for television and film and has won three Daytime Emmy Awards for his work on CBS's *The Guiding Light*. He has also written theme music for well-known programs such as *Good Morning America*, *Access Hollywood*, and *The 700 Club*.

Karen Briggs- Violinist Karen Briggs is no stranger to the east coast as she was born in New York City and raised in Portsmouth, Virginia. After graduating from Norfolk State University, she spent four years playing with the Virginia Symphony Orchestra. In 1991, Briggs auditioned for Yanni, the contemporary instrumental keyboard composer. She spent the next thirteen years touring and recording with him, and can be seen on a number of his live music videos. It was her appearances in these videos that earned her the nickname "The Lady in Red". The Ethnicity Tour of 2004 marked her last with Yanni. Briggs' music has been in many television and movie soundtracks and she has performed at well-known venues such as Carnegie Hall, Harlem's Apollo Theater, and The Kennedy Center. Briggs has a natural ability to improvise in various styles of music, such as jazz ensemble, symphonic orchestra, Latin orquesta, R&B, gospel, and rap.

Together, these talented musicians form a dynamic group with an unforgettable sound. In 2009 and 2010, TIZER made its international Concert debut with performances at various Jazz Festivals in places such as South Africa, Indonesia, and South Korea. Their current tour is taking them all over the U.S., from shows in California at the Newport Beach Jazz Fest to the Berks Jazz Festival in Reading, Pa. A new TIZER studio project is currently in the works as the band continues on its 2011 all-star concert tour.

Adrian Crutchfield- Adrian Crutchfield will return this year to co-host the Duck Jazz Festival. As co-host, Crutchfield will be involved in many pre-festival events leading up to the day of the Jazz Festival. These activities include conducting a master jazz class for local high school students as well as appearing and performing at local Duck venues. Crutchfield is mostly known for his neo-soul sound. His timbre creates music in a variety of genres including jazz, funk, Latin, and rock. Crutchfield, a saxophone aficionado, has been playing since he was four years old. He has performed with many internationally known artists, including Kim Waters, Alex Bugnon, Branford Marsalis, and the legendary Gap Band. Crutchfield's latest album "*Private Party*" is by far one for his best albums yet. He is currently in the studio working on his next album. With his

2

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TOWN OF DUCK, NORTH CAROLINA

PRESS RELEASE

raw talent and passion for jazz he is sure to become one of his generation's most prolific and successful professional musicians.

Soul Rebels Brass Band- Imagine blending the sounds of Mardi Gras funk, soft rock, and reggae so seamlessly it defies category. Now shrink that idea into a seven-piece ensemble, add a hip hop sensibility plus a hundred years of New Orleans jazz tradition, and you get the Louisiana sound known as the Soul Rebels. Following the devastation that Hurricane Katrina brought to their home, the group embarked on a reformation of purpose. Their most recent album, "*There's No Place Like Home*" is a soulful tribute to New Orleans Jazz and culture. Averaging around 250 shows per year, the Soul Rebels have brought the party to stages as far away as South Africa and Europe, playing some of the world's best-known music events, including the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Detroit Jazz Festival, and the Monterey Jazz Festival. This summer the Soul Rebels will be performing at the New Orleans 2011 Essence Music Festival, which features major recording artists such as Mary J. Blige, Trey Songz, and Macy Gray. With their powerful and uplifting sound, these gifted musicians are guaranteed to bring a Taste of New Orleans to the Duck Jazz Festival stage.

The Kirsten Thien Band- The Kirsten Thien Band featuring fiery blues singer/guitarist Kirsten Thien has been wowing audiences across the U.S. Kirsten Thien's soulful delivery of her insightful and sensual songs has earned her regular radio chart positions along with international press and radio airplay. Comparisons abound, from Keb' Mo' to Sheryl Crow, but Thien has carved out her own unique Contemporary Blues sound. Thien has two successful albums "*She Really Is*" (2003) and "*You've Got Me*" (2006) and her newest album, "*Delicious*" promises to be just that. Thien received the Abe Olman Award for Excellence in Songwriting in 2009. With her soulful voice and powerful lyrics, Thien is sure to deliver an unforgettable performance.

Please be advised that the schedule and featured performers are subject to change due to weather and performer requirements. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at duckjazz.com.

For more information on the Duck Jazz Festival, visit duckjazz.com, follow us on Twitter at [DuckJazzFest](https://twitter.com/DuckJazzFest), become a fan of the [Duck Jazz Fest](https://www.facebook.com/DuckJazzFest) on Facebook, or call (252) 255-1234.

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Photo Caption: TIZER featuring Chieli Minucci & Karen Briggs



Photo Caption: Adrian Crutchfield

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Photo Caption: Soul Rebels Brass Band



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