



Alton Jazz & Wine Festival Planned for Saturday the 2nd at Amphitheater

by Sydney Sinks, News Reporter
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ALTON - After a successful [Food Truck Festival](#) last week, Alton Amphitheater is riding that momentum with another big event this weekend.

The Alton Jazz & Wine Festival invites community members to enjoy an evening of jazz music and a selection of wines from 6–10 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 2.

“It’s a relaxing evening,” Dan Herkert, chair of the Alton Amphitheater Commission, said. “It’s an affordable evening, which is what we try to do. You’ll have a great time.”

Three jazz groups will take the stage at the Alton Amphitheater throughout the evening as the audience sips and listens. Gates open at 6 p.m., and the Alton Jazz Confluence will start things off at 6:30 p.m. The Alton Jazz Confluence is a jazz group from Alton High School. Southern Illinois University of Edwardsville Jazz Program Director Jason Swagler and his group Weather Forever will follow at 7:15, and then the Trumpet Trio of Dawn Weber, Kasimu Taylor and Danny Campbell go on at 8:45 p.m.

Ken Whiteside developed this year’s lineup. Whiteside has played a big role behind-the-scenes since the festival’s beginning approximately five years ago. The Commission hopes he will also serve as the emcee this year.

Herkert, a trumpet player himself, noted his love for jazz, calling it “the true American form of music.” He joked that he was a bit less informed on the wine side of the festival, but promised there was something for everyone — including beer and soda if wine isn’t your cup of tea.

“We do a pretty wide selection, both reds and whites. I’m no big wine connoisseur, so don’t ask me a lot of details,” he laughed.

General admission tickets are \$5. You can also purchase a spot at the tables on the stage; snag a four-top for \$80 or a two-top for \$40. Herkert added that the festival is a great place for an intimate but affordable date night.

“You’ll feel like you’re sitting at a real jazz club,” he said. “It gives it a nice ambiance to go along with the music.”

For more information about the Alton Jazz and Wine Festival, visit the [event page online](#) at the Alton Amphitheater’s [official website](#). One week later, the [Alton Expo](#) will keep the excitement going with fair food, carnival rides and live entertainment from Sept. 7–10.

