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Star-studded lineup adds spice to Feast for the Palate

A star-studded lineup and professional demonstrations will entertain, educate and tempt the tastebuds of visitors to this year's Feast for the Palate Sunday, June 18. The outdoor gourmet gala, at the Royal Ambassador in Caledon East, will bring together the region's best in this culinary experience that's also a huge fund-raiser for Hospice Caledon.

Joining the roughly 50 gourmet food and wine partners for this lakeside afternoon experience will be world-class musicians, artists and designers.

Conductor Kerry Stratton, music director of the Toronto Philharmonia, will lend his personal flare to the occasion. He will lead the 21-piece orchestra Grand Salon, presenting music of the Palm

Court era. This part of the concert program will focus on music of the 1920s and '30s with some Viennese "thrown in for good measure," Stratton noted. Just last month, Stratton conducted the Vienna Concert Verein in their first Canadian tour and he made his recording debut with the world renowned Nurnberg Symphony Orchestra in an all-Brahms program.

Caledon's own Rikki Rumball will bring in a jazz band to back up several talented local musicians. Along with Rumball, taking centre stage will be Stephanie Welton, an 11-year-old who sounds like Judy Garland. Kate Moura, the new owner of Rumball Music, will do three songs from her new demo. Local guitar teacher Eric Mahar will present some jazz harmonica, along with a 75-year-old student. Ten-year-old Carly Markham will perform and then Rumball teams up with Chris Simmons and Leslie Hanson in an Andrew Sisters

style act called "Armed and Dangerous."

The Wave fm 94.7 Smooth Jazz, a major sponsor of Feast for the Palate, will be on-site for the event. The Wave is bringing with them Canadian Smooth Jazz Award nominee Daniela Nardi and members of her band, DNA5.

"We are very pleased to be contributing to the success of this fund-raiser and to be encouraging the donation of funds to such an important organization in the Caledon community," said Mary Kirk, Wave co-owner. "The Wave is popular in the Caledon area among listeners, so it is nice to be able to support a good cause in the region."

Singer, songwriter and instrumentalist Nardi is considered a "smoldering, passionate performer with an enticing voice." Her unique, emotionally charged music has been compared to the likes of Joni Mitchell and Sting - with an "earthy modern jazz cum pop approach to her music." Nardi has worked as a film composer, voice-over artist and actress. Her one-woman show also produced and arranged a CD, *One True Thing*, which has received critical acclaim and DNA5 was nominated for Best Group at the 2006

Canadian Smooth Jazz Awards.

Visitors will be able to watch the talented celebrity paint and plaster duo Jim Connelly and Peter De Sousa of Masterpieces Studio. They appear regularly on home design programs on HGTV, including Debbie Travis's runaway hit show *Facelift*. Caledon Living magazine proudly presents Jim and Peter who will provide a demonstration on how to create a portable herb garden, just in time for the lazy days of summer. They plan on holding a live auction following their demo to help raise funds for Hospice Caledon, with Jim acting as auctioneer. And, they vow to personally deliver the portable herb garden to the highest bidder!

Jim and Peter are working with Westwind Pictures to develop their own TV show. The energetic duo is also creating their first book and instructional DVD. They appear monthly at various IKEA locations in Toronto and are scheduled to "Set Sail and Discover Design" with Carlson Wagonlit Travel for an eastern Caribbean cruise in February of 2007. The dynamic design duo are featured quarterly in Caledon Living magazine.

Helping to make the after-

noon visually stunning will be work displayed by several local artists. Those committed to date include Patti Foley, Bob Pennycook, Elizabeth Babyn, Anne Shabason, Lyn Westfall, Christine McGrath and Donna Greenstein.

Foley is a self-taught Caledon photographer who finds inspiration in the countryside and the farms that dot the rural landscape. Pennycook is a mixed media artist who works with paper, paint and fibre. Babyn is a well known area artist and teacher, specializing in non-objective abstract painting on canvas. Shabason's award-winning work includes two- and three-dimensional art in many media including pottery, paper mache and acrylics. Westfall is a full-time visual artist who draws her inspiration from Caledon landscapes. McGrath specializes in fine crafts including a line of home accents in textiles. Many of her designs have been featured on HGTV. Greenstein offers her botanical watercolors painted from life. Be sure to spend some time with these talented artists who will be on-site during the afternoon.

Visitors will also enjoy several culinary demonstrations throughout the afternoon. Hickory Dickory Decks is providing a deck demo station with a propane barbecue provided by Beachcomber Caledon. Terra Cotta Woodworks will create a kitchen, complete with refrigerator and cook top. Participating chefs are from Chef Talk Bistro, Bolton; Daniel's of Nobleton; The Millcroft Inn & Spa, Alton; Gourmandissimo, Caledon East; Dupont Catering,

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