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For Immediate Release

Riverfront Welcomes Annual Music Festival

“The Premier Jazz and Blues Festival in the Midwest”

OMAHA (6/06) – The Mighty Mo will be engulfed with jazz and blues music once again, as the annual Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival gears up for its 5th year. The music kicks off at 5:30 July 7th with doors opening at 4:00 and continues into Saturday with the doors opening at 2:30 and music starting at 3:30. The festival has been highly anticipated in the past and this year is no exception. Grammy award winning Artist Chaka Khan and 30 year vintage jazz veterans Spyro Gyra will kick off the 2-day event Friday night, along with Janis Joplin’s original band Big Brother and the Holding Company, and the Steve Rabine Band. Saturday’s line up features last year’s hottest jazz violinist Ken Ford, as well as chart topping, award winning brass musician and song writer Rick Braun. New Orleans native, and bayou queen of the piano, Marcia Ball is another artist to listen for on Saturday. Other acts include saxophone playing blonde bombshell Mindi Abair, local artist Luigi Waittes, and Big John Dickson and Curly Martin.

Besides the fantastic music, the festival has much to offer. Vendors will be offering a variety of food and drinks for purchase. On Saturday, attendees will have a chance to enter a raffle drawing to win a new Harley Davidson bike. The first 500 attendees on Friday and Saturday will also receive a ticket to enter a drawing to win a round trip flight on festival sponsor Midwest Airlines. Plan to stay late on Saturday, because for the first time in the festival history, the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival will feature a fantastic fireworks show after the last act.

Tickets for the Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival may be purchased online at www.ticketomaha.org, by phone at **(402) 345-0606** or (402) 341-1811 (TTY). Tickets can also be purchased at the **Ticket Omaha Office** located in Holland Performing Arts Center. Additional tickets are being sold at all Homers locations, and Leola’s CD’s and Tapes. Daily tickets purchased in advance are \$15, \$20 at the gate and \$25 for both days. Advance tickets are subject to service charges at the various outlets.

To avoid traffic, festival attendees can park in the Gallup parking lot and take the shuttle that will drop them off at the festival grounds. More information on the shuttle can be found on the website www.omahajazzandblues.com. Information on performing artists, hotel packages, driving directions, and more can also be found on the website

US Bank has returned as the presenting sponsor. Lead sponsors include, OPPD, KETV, Midwest Airlines, Omaha Small Business Network, Douglas County Improvement Fund, Mutual of Omaha, Pepsi, Budweiser, Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Nebraska, Subway on 40th & Dodge and many more. See www.omahajazzandblue.com for a complete listing of festival sponsors.

The Omaha Riverfront Jazz and Blues Festival is produced by the Midland's Cultural and Historical Association; a non-profit organization. The Omaha Riverfront Jazz & Blues Festival is a staple in the cultural preservation of Jazz & Blues music. The festival emphasizes the importance and contributions of Jazz and Blues in America and continues to celebrate the rich heritage of Jazz and Blues in the Omaha community.

Complete festival information can be obtained through www.omahajazzandblues.com or by calling 402.884.1214. This event is managed by Clark Connection Group.

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