



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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REYES, LEVITT WELCOME BACK ECLECTIC MUSIC TO MACARTHUR PARK -- "Best salsa band in L.A." Son Mayor headlines summer concert series kick-off

Between crowd cheers and soulful dance rhythms of bands Punta Cartel and Son Mayor, Councilmember Ed P. Reyes and The Friends of the Levitt Pavilion-MacArthur Park tonight kicked off the 2008 summer concerts at the MacArthur Park bandshell.

"We are very lucky to live in one of the most diverse communities in the world right here at MacArthur Park. Through music, we can explore and learn about each other's cultures. Where else in L.A. can you find a concert where Arabic, Portuguese and Swahili music is being played all in one night? MacArthur Park," said Reyes, joined by Sharon Yakowski, The Friends' Executive Director and Esai Morales, actor and emcee of the ceremony.

Free concerts are back for a second season at the bandshell, Levitt Pavilion for the Performing Arts at MacArthur Park, through September 14. The weekly series boasts 50 performances featuring Grammy-nominated musicians and emerging talents from five continents. The concerts run every Wednesday to Sunday at 7:30 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Target Children's Night performances on Sundays begin at 6:30 pm.

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This season's line-up includes critically-acclaimed traditional Colombian vallenato music group, Very Be Careful, and local Mexican and Cuban jazz rhythm heroes, Quetzal, among others. The season finishes with Poncho Sanchez's Latin Jazz Band.

"On behalf of the Mortimer Levitt Foundation, it's a joy to say how very proud we are of what is being accomplished in MacArthur Park. The bandshell is beautifully restored; the local community is overwhelmingly supportive; and the Levitt program of 50 free concerts this summer brilliantly celebrates the Foundation's commitment to musical excellence and cultural diversity," said Elizabeth Levitt Hirsch, Vice President of the Mortimer Levitt Foundation.

The summer concert season at the Levitt Pavilion is produced by The Friends of the Levitt Pavilion - MacArthur Park, a non-profit organization committed to bringing culturally diverse entertainment for all ages, FREE OF CHARGE to the community.

Summer concert schedule, video and bandshell photos are available at www.cd1.lacity.org.

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