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Thornetta Davis' website
MSU Professors of Jazz webpage

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Grand Concert Series on the downtown riverfront kicks off on June 14th

Lansing, Michigan – June 12, 2017 – The Lansing City Market and Lansing Entertainment and Public Facilities Authority are bringing concerts back to the City Market's riverfront again this summer. The jazz and blues genres will be returning to the Grand Concert Series, but the R&B night, on July 12th will be something new. The concerts will take place twice a month through September, all starting at 6:30 pm. Admission is free due to generous sponsorship from LAFCU, Wolverine Development, and WKAR.

The headliner for the June 14th date will be international singer, songwriter and recording artist, Thornetta Davis. Davis has opened up for acts such as Ray Charles, Smokey Robinson, and Gladys Knight. She has performed with household names, Bob Seger and Kid Rock. Davis has been the winner of over 25 Detroit Music Awards, including best blues/R&B vocalist and Detroit Blues Society's Living Lifetime Achievement Award. Detroit Blues Society also crowned her Detroit's Queen of Blues in 2015. The biggest winner of the 2017 Detroit Music Awards, she garnered eight awards, including outstanding live performance. Her latest album, "Honest Woman," was released in 2016.

One of the largest draws of last year's series, MSU Professors of Jazz, returns on June 22nd. The "hard-bop" band was established in 2000 under artistic director, Rodney Whitaker, the director of the Jazz Studies program at Michigan State University. The MSU Professors of Jazz are members of the jazz faculty in the university's College of Music. The seven-piece ensemble features Etienne Charles on trumpet, Randy Gelispie on drums, Diego Rivera on tenor saxophone, Xavier Davis on piano, Randy Napoleon on

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jazz guitar, Michael Dease on trombone, and Rodney Whitaker on bass. The band performs music from the jazz canon, including standards, jazz classics, and original compositions.

The headliners for the remaining Grand Concert Series dates include R&B artist, Alise King, on July 12th; gospel jazz group, Horn & Holland, on July 20th; local blues band, Root Doctor, on August 9th; blues/rock band, Pat Zelenka Line, on August 16th; local blues band, Frog & The Beeftones on September 6th; and jazz flutist Brandon Marceal on September 14th.

The opening act on June 14th will be the Everett High School Jazz Band. June 22nd's opening act will be trumpet player, Jabreel Johnson.

"We are proud to announce the expansion of the concert series on the Grand, to not only include more shows, but more artists and genres of music," said LEPFA president and CEO, Scott Keith. "The annual series provides continued opportunities for residents and visitors to experience free concerts in a scenic environment – along the river in downtown Lansing. These great artists performing all summer long not only provide entertainment, but experiences in the arts for the children who attend."

Refreshments will be available for takeout from City Market merchants, who will be open throughout the event. Limited seating will be available; attendees are encouraged to bring camp chairs. In the event of rain, the concert will be moved inside the Market.

"I really enjoy the Grand Concert Series for after work entertainment with a view," said Lansing resident, Jenny Schu. "There's plenty of room for a large crowd where everyone can see and hear the music, dance, or hang out with friends at the Waterfront."

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About the Lansing City Market Lansing City Market was established in 1909. The urban market is home to a variety of merchants offering artisan cheese, specialty foods, gifts, flowers, jewelry, kayaking, biking, and a full bar and restaurant experience on the riverfront. Hours for the year-round market are: Tuesday – Friday 10 am – 6 pm.; Saturday 9 am – 5 pm. For more information, visit the Lansing City Market website.

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