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## **Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts Announces Live Music Lineup** *Arts and Crafts Festival's Ambiance Set by Local Musical Entertainment*

**TAMPA (February 16, 2010)** — In addition to fine arts and crafts, the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary Raymond James Gasparilla Festival of the Arts includes an eclectic blend of Tampa Bay musical artists on the Main Stage in Curtis Hixon Park in downtown Tampa. Live music acts on March 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> include:

### Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Main Stage

Pinellas County Center for the Arts Steel Band, 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.  
Sheila Kristen Hughes and the TSP Orchestra, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Todd Plant Band, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Voodoo Soup, 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Denise Moore & Then Some, 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

### Sunday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010, Main Stage

Acoustic Harmony, 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.  
Group Havana Swing, noon to 1:30 p.m.  
Judy Tampa and Bunko Squad, 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
Opera Tampa, 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Kicking off the Festival's music lineup on Saturday morning, the [Pinellas County Center for the Arts'](#) Steel Band, under the direction of Joe Braccio, produces music with a mixture of classic island music and a blend of other genres. The Pinellas County Center for the Arts at Gibbs High School is a center of excellence in the visual and performing arts.

Described by *Music Connection* magazine as "an artistic project that aims for something unique," [Sheila Kristen Hughes and the TSP Orchestra](#) deliver an earthy, jazzy blend of acoustic-tinged music. Drawing a broad range of comparisons from Dave Matthews Band to Hawaiian superstar Israel Kamakawiwo'ole ("Somewhere Over the Rainbow") to Sarah McLachlan, the band was a semifinalist in the 2007 Independent Music World Series and received an "Honorable Mention" in the 2007 Singer/Songwriter Awards for "Let It Rain Down" from their 2006 release, *Perspective*.

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[The Todd Plant Band](#) has assembled some of the finest local musicians to perform a set filled with hits from Journey, Marvin Gaye, Santana, The Beatles, Frank Sinatra, Black Eyed Peas and more. Plant has toured with former band members of The Doobie Brothers, Chicago, Steely Dan and many others.

Blues-rock trio [Voodoo Soup](#) blends explosive lead/slide guitarist Chip Jordan with veteran bassist Wes Schaefer and drummer "Blues" Simpson in the style of early Allman Brothers, Freddy King, James Gang, Government Mule, Cream and ZZ Top. The band is planning a European tour this summer.

[Denise Moore and Then Some](#) is an engaging jazz and blues ensemble fronted by a songstress with a wide vocal range and a phenomenally accurate ear. Moore was a featured vocalist for the Tampa Bay Women's Blues Revue for ten years, and the group received the Virginia Slims Diva award in 1999.

Starting off Sunday's lineup, [Acoustic Harmony](#), the guitar/vocal duo of Gary Young and Leah Clark, uses nothing but an amplified Ovation guitar, some percussion, and their voices in their performances. Their repertoire spans a long list of genres not often found in one set.

Group Havana Swing brings together a collection influenced by the band's Cuban and South American cultures, including salsa, merengue, bachata, son montuno, hot ballads, boleros, cumbias and more. The band features bassist Gaby Sequeira, lead vocalist Abel Fera, vocalist Jennifer Hernandez, pianist Leyo Peña and Henry Mendoza on the keyboards and electronic percussion.

With a style described by *tbts*' 'Soundcheck' as "quirky, jazzy alt-Americana," [Judy Tampa and Bunko Squad](#) consists of Judy Tampa (Judy Hargraves) on vocals, acoustic and electric guitar, John McEwen on acoustic guitar, djembe, mandolin and Irish bouzouki, George Pappas on vocals, acoustic guitar and harmonica; Harry Hayward on drums; Anne VanAtta on acoustic bass; and TJ Weger on resonator guitar.

Resident opera company of the Straz Center for the Performing Arts, [Opera Tampa](#) produces and presents the highest caliber of grand opera, complete with the spectacle and grandeur that makes it "the queen of the performing arts."

*The Gasparilla Festival of the Arts is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation dedicated to producing an annual, premier juried outdoor art festival for the enjoyment and education of patrons, artists and guests as well as for the enhancement of the Tampa Bay area's cultural arts. The non-profit organization relies on support from sponsorships, on-site retail sales and corporate and individual gifts to fund its programs and events. The Tampa-based organization is staffed entirely by volunteers. For more information, visit [www.gasparilla-arts.com](http://www.gasparilla-arts.com), email [gasparillaarts@yahoo.com](mailto:gasparillaarts@yahoo.com) or call (813) 876-1747.*

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