






5TH ANNUAL ATLANTA ARTS FESTIVAL AMPS UP ENTERTAINMENT WITH A NEW, LARGER MUSIC STAGE

The Whiskey Gentry, Sam Thacker, A1A among artists to perform at the 2011 event

ATLANTA – Art isn't just for the eyes; this year the 5th Annual Atlanta Arts Festival revamped the music stage, gave it a new name and is bringing in acts that live up to the new digs. The Festival Music Stage will feature nitty-gritty band The Whiskey Gentry, power-pop anthems with Sam Thacker, and attendees can sail away to Margaritaville with the only tribute band personally sanctioned by Jimmy Buffett, A1A along with many more local Atlanta talents Saturday, September 17 and Sunday, September 18 in Piedmont Park.

 **The Whiskey Gentry** – Formed in the spring of 2009, The Whiskey Gentry is a band of Atlanta misfits that defy categorization in Atlanta's saturated music market. From bluegrass to punk to gospel to outlaw country to old-time rock and roll, The Whiskey Gentry combine accomplished musicianship with high-energy stage shows that are sure to provide many an evening of pickin' and dancin' for the southeast music scene. A motley crew, no doubt, but one full of experienced and hungry musicians from all walks of life with a few very important things in common: the desire to play good music, have fun, and entertain folks. They were recently chosen as Atlanta's Critics Pick for Best Local Country Act, and have shared the stage with national touring acts such as Doc Watson, Old Crow Medicine Show, Rhett Miller of the Old 97's, John Popper, Ed Roland of Collective Soul, Chatham County Line Slobberbone, and more.

 **Sam Thacker** – If you've lived in Atlanta for more than a week, you've no doubt heard of singer-songwriter Sam Thacker. After diving headfirst into the music scene with his 2005 debut album, *Above the Underneath*, Sam Thacker wasted no time getting down to business. Over the next four years he would collaborate with Grammy-nominated artists, spend time in various recording studios in Atlanta, and tour tirelessly across the country picking up avid fans along the way. In 2009 Thacker released his highly anticipated sophomore effort, *Lines*. He's played alongside acts such as Better Than Ezra, Sister Hazel and Gavin DeGraw, and continues to draw attention with his magnetic personality, gripping lyrics and dynamic stage presence.

 **A1A** - The only Tribute Band personally sanctioned by Jimmy Buffett, A1A released their first all original CD, "Ship Happens!!" in 2003 and in June 2008 saw the release of their second original CD, "Beachwrecked", which continues to augment the "tropical rock" island genre with the band's own unique and original style. A1A's new all original CD, "The Road To Paradise," was released on June 11, 2011, and with astounding reviews the band is getting ready to set sail on The 2011 Road To Paradise Tour. Atlanta native Jeff Pike and A1A bring to life a highly energetic, colorful, family friendly, Parrot Head Extravaganza Jimmy Buffett Tribute Show and have performed exclusively for clients such as Ted Turner, Bill Gates and Microsoft, CNN, NASCAR, Hewlett Packard, The Atlanta Braves, The United States Navy, Bellsouth, AT & T, The Georgia Aquarium, The MGM Grand, and now the Atlanta Arts Festival!

How could this line-up possibly get better? Well, it's completely **free** to the public. Now that's music to your ears!

Saturday*

11:00am – 1:00pm | Todd Wells
1:30pm – 2:30pm | Amy Gerhartz
3:00pm – 4:00pm | Sam Thacker
4:30pm – 5:30pm | Wade in the Rhythm
6:00pm – 7:30pm | A1A

Sunday*

11:00am – 1:00pm | James Arthur
1:30pm – 3:00pm | Zydeco T
3:30pm – 4:30pm | JK & The Lost Boys
5:00pm – 6:30pm | The Whiskey Gentry

*The line-up is subject to change. Event is rain or shine.

For the latest details "fan" the Atlanta Arts Festival on Facebook www.Facebook.com/AtlantaArtsFestival and follow them on Twitter @AtlantaArtsFest – don't forget to use the event hashtag **#aaf!**

ABOUT ATLANTA ARTS FESTIVAL

Atlanta Arts Festival is a professionally-juried fine arts event that will fill Piedmont Park in Atlanta GA with color and life, September 17-18, 2011. Ranked among the top 200 art festivals in the country in sales for both fine art and fine craft by the *Art Fair Sourcebook* in 2009, Atlanta Arts Festival brings to the drawing board 200 local and nationally recognized artists from an eclectic mix of 12 mediums, including jewelry, painting, photography, ceramics and sculpture, leather and metal, glassblowing and more – all in one weekend! For more information visit www.AtlantaArtsFestival.com, call 770-941-9660.

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