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GIA MAIONE PRIMA FOUNDATION, COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS JOIN FORCES TO PRESENT THE LOUIS & GIA MAIONE PRIMA MUSIC CAMP

Free, two-week summer camp for students interested in jazz music to run in July

RED BANK - In another example of creative partnerships designed to empower students through the performing arts, the **Gia Maione Prima Foundation** will sponsor a free music camp in partnership with the Count Basie Center for the Arts and Red Bank's **Jazz Arts Project**.

Open to 3-8th grade students throughout Monmouth County, the **Louis & Gia Maione Prima Music Camp** will connect young musicians to instruments and world-class instructors, all through the lens of jazz. Named for the singer and widow of the late, great Louis Prima, the Gia Maione Prima Foundation supports and encourages the appreciation for American jazz, American popular music and jazz performance, as well as the fine arts.

The music camps will employ safety and health protocols employed organization-wide by the **Count Basie Center Academy of the Arts**. These protocols, inclusive of temperature checks, daily sanitizing and social distancing, are endorsed by **Hackensack Meridian Health's Keeping America Safe Assist Program**.

"This past year has only underscored the importance of the arts and music for all of us, and, particularly, how vital it is for our young people to have continued access to instructors and collaboration with their peers." stated **Anthony J. Sylvester, Trustee to the Gia Maione Prima Foundation**.

“This will be our third year of collaboration with the Gia Maione Foundation and our partners at the Jazz Arts project to present the Louis & Gia Maione Prima Music Camp,” said **Dr. Lucy Chen**, Director of the **Basie Center Academy’s School Of Music**. “The Basie Center Academy has been hosting onsite music classes since last fall, and our social distancing and COVID-19 protocols will keep students safe while still affording them access to a free, world-class music education experience.”

The objective of the camp is to offer a no-cost opportunity to students to experience hands-on instruction from professional musicians and dedicated, experienced music educators. The programs mission, according to **Jazz Arts Project founder Joe Muccioli**, is to put “instruments in (students’) hands, music in their hearts and hope in their future.”

“The Jazz Arts project is grateful to the Gia Maione Prima Foundation and Count Basie Center for the Arts for their support of this vital initiative,” says Muccioli. “I know first-hand how impactful a positive experience in learning to play an instrument is, and how it can really change a life. Our organizations will join forces to extend the impact and longevity of a program that will continue to positively impact the lives of young students and their families.”

The Louis & Gia Maione Prima Music Camp will run during the weeks of July 12 and July 19. Wind instrument camp runs from 9-11:30am daily, with strings and keyboard students onsite from 12:30 – 3pm. A full-day camp encompassing both studies is also available. The camps take place at Red Bank Middle School, 101 Harding Road in Red Bank. Students interested in registering for the camp should visit www.thebasie.org/musiccamp or call 732.741.8880.

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ABOUT THE COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS

The Count Basie Center for the Arts is New Jersey’s premier center for the cultural arts, dedicated to fostering powerful, inclusive artistic experiences and creative exchange of ideas. The Basie mission is to inspire, educate and entertain through its distinct and engaging cultural and artistic offerings that reflect the diversity of the region. As a nonprofit organization, the Basie is committed to enriching the community’s quality of life by generating opportunities for participation in the arts, partnering with schools, collaborating with other mission-based organizations and driving regional economic prosperity. The Basie Center has hosted an array of world-class artists, including Bruce Springsteen & the E-Street Band, Jon Bon Jovi, John Legend, Crosby Stills & Nash, Tony Bennett, Sophia Loren and Ringo Starr. Count Basie Center programming is made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts.

For more information, visit www.thebasie.org.