



THEBASIE.ORG • OFFICE: 732-224-8778 • BOX OFFICE: 732-842-9000 • 99 MONMOUTH STREET • RED BANK • NJ 07701

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INFO: JONATHAN VENA, COUNT BASIE CENTER • JVENA@THEBASIE.ORG – 732.224.8778 X 107



GIA MAIONE PRIMA FOUNDATION, COUNT BASIE CENTER FOR THE ARTS AND THE JAZZ ARTS PROJECT 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 current 3-7th grade students in Monmouth and Ocean counties, the **Louis & Gia Maione Prima Music Camp** will connect young musicians to instruments and world-class instructors. 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 Prima Foundation is excited to continue its partnership with the Count Basie Center and the Jazz Arts Project in sponsoring the Louis and Gia Maione Prima Music Camp," stated **Anthony J. Sylvester, Trustee to the Gia Maione Prima Foundation**. "During the past couple of years, the importance of music education and the arts have been vital. The camp offers young people the opportunity to have access to hands-on music instruction and collaboration with their peers, key to fostering the program's mission of social and academic success."

"We are thrilled to continue to partner with the Jazz Arts Project to help bring the Louis & Gia Maione Prima Music Camp to students who need it most," says Samantha Giustiniani, Senior Director of Education, Count Basie Center for

the Arts. “Access to the arts and music education is essential, and we’re honored to continue to provide a free, world-class music education experience this year. “

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 weekdays July 11 through 22. The camps take place at the Basie Center’s Monmouth Conservatory of Music, located at 65 Chestnut Street in Red Bank. Students interested in registering for the camp should visit www.thebasie.org/musiccamp or call 732.741.8880.

###

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.