



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

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Zzymzzy Quartet to Visit “A World of Jazz” at Central Library

Family Program Will Explore Global Influences on Early Jazz

SAN DIEGO – The third concert of the 2011 Fall Concert Series of the City of San Diego Public Library will take place on Sunday, October 16, 2011 with a performance by the Zzymzzy Quartet (Beston Barnett, guitar, vocals; Matt Gill, clarinet; Pete Miesner, guitar, vocals; Paul Hormick, bass). The FREE family program will be held at 2:30 p.m. in the third floor auditorium of the Central Library, 820 E St., in downtown San Diego. Program selections may be chosen from the following:

G. Lockhart, E. Seitz, The World Is Waiting for the Sunrise
S. Bechet, Petite fleur
Ochi Chorniye (traditional Russian)
I. Berlin, Russian Lullaby
E. Piaf, L. Gugliemi, La vie en rose
D. Reinhardt, Daphne / Swing 42
Odessa Bulgar (traditional Klezmer)
S. Secunda, J. Jacobs, Bei mir bist du schön
R. Rodgers, O. Hammerstein, Bali Hai
D. Ellington, Mount Harissa
Z. de Abreu. Tico Tico
P. Beltrán Ruiz, Sway

According to group leader Beston Barnett, “The guys from the Zzymzzy Quartet have simple ambitions: they just want to play it like it was when it was unamplified, melodic, swinging, dreamy, full of sly surprise. From the Prohibition through the Second Big War, the glory days of Louis Armstrong and Duke Ellington are being recaptured humbly and with humor in San Diego by four musicians who know it don't mean a thing without that swing.”

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The group will discuss how folk music from Europe, South America, and Africa influenced early jazz composers, and will perform examples of jazz from the 1930s and '40s that demonstrate this cultural exchange. Mr. Barnett adds, "If there's a theme that I feel the Zzymzzy Quartet comes back to again and again, it's the feeling of these different influences—from France, Russia, Brazil, Cuba, and of course Africa—melding to make this very American music. Jazz was never stable—it was born of a sort of mixed marriage of English hymns and African rhythms, and it was always hungry for more sounds, more styles it could incorporate and make its own."

The Zzymzzy Quartet takes its name from a hypothetical "last word" in the dictionary: thus, their tagline, "The Last Word in Gypsy Swing." The "Gypsy" sound is heard in much of the guitar work, heavily influenced by the stylings of French Gypsy jazz legend Django Reinhardt, but the group also pays tribute to the Swing Era with classic standards and idiomatic originals. Since the Zzymzzy Quartet came together in 2004, they've played dances, parties, weddings, festivals, art openings, and events throughout Southern California to unanimous enthusiasm, carving out a name for themselves as a tasty dance band and a classy addition to every wedding. In 2008, Art Hurts Records released their first CD, *Zzwing!* which, on top of inspired playing and elegant arrangements, features cameos from a variety of beloved San Diego musicians.

The concert is free and open to the public. The 5 Star Parking lot no. 12, which is adjacent to the Library at the southeast corner of Broadway and Eighth Avenue, is available for free parking. Enter the lot from Eighth Avenue. The Library thanks 5 Star Parking for the complimentary parking. For more information, call Central Library's Art, Music and Recreation Section at 619-236-5810 or visit the Library on the City's website at www.sandiegolibrary.org. Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branch libraries, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's online catalog.

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