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Time: 7 - 10:30pm, August 10, 2009

Place: Digital Media Factory, 2809 Mission Street, Santa Cruz

Tickets: available on line or at 1-800-838-3006

JAZZ HARMONICA TAKES CENTER STAGE AT WEST COAST SUMMIT

Eight Top Players to be Filmed Before a Live Audience in Santa Cruz at the West Coast Jazz Harmonica Summit

The West Coast Jazz Harmonica Summit will be filmed in high definition video in front of a live studio audience on Monday, August 10 at the Digital Media Factory in Santa Cruz. Timed to take place one day in advance of a week-long international harmonica convention in Sacramento, seating will be limited with only seventy tickets now available at www.JazzHarmonicaSummit.com.

The summit will feature eight of the west coast's top jazz harmonicists, including, in alphabetical order:

Pete Blasberg: Our most senior player, who got his start with the harmonica bands in Chicago during the late 1930's. Pete is a vibrant and swinging jazz player.

Jon Eriksen: is a Bay Area first-call session player on jazz harmonica and vibes who also leads a local Afro-Cuban jazz band called "Soul Sauce".

Steve Malerbi: Sweet sounding and hard swinging Bay Area harmonica player, band leader, and drummer who also customizes and repairs the harmonicas of many harmonica stars.

Damien Masterson: A wonderful (and masterful) Bay Area jazz harmonica and alto sax player who is well versed in a variety of Latin and Brazillian styles.

Michael Peloquin: An amazing and soulful Bay Area player who is a triple-threat on harmonica, saxophone, and vocals. 1997 Gold Medal winner of Hohner's International Harmonica Festival and Competition.

Michael Polesky: Los Angeles area be-bop harmonica player with his own unique and driving jazz style.

Slide Man Slim: Santa Cruz area jazz harmonicist and guitar player who will be performing with both a looping device and his long-time musical partner Penny Hanna.

Winslow Yerxa: Bay Area all-around harmonica expert and player extraordinaire, author of the highly regarded "Harmonica for Dummies", who will be performing with violinist Tuula Cotter.

Plus:

The San Francisco Harmonica Ensemble: A quartet of harmonicists Steve Malerbi, Damien Masterson, Michael Peloquin, and Winslow Yerxa performing some exciting original harmonica arrangements.

There will be an excellent backing trio from the Bay Area for this event: **Jeff Massanari** on guitar, **Sam Bevan** on bass, and **Bryan Bowman** on drums.

The harmonica isn't often associated with jazz. There are arguably only two truly famous living practitioners: jazz great Toots Thielemans and (although he's not often associated with jazz) Stevie Wonder. But jazz harmonica actually has its own rich history featuring numerous less-than-famous (but still great) players. This summit will spotlight a handful of very fine and talented musicians that all play a mean jazz harmonica.

The week starting August 10th marks a major California harmonica convergence. The day after the summit will be the first day of the annual convention of the Society for the Preservation and Advancement of the Harmonica (SPAH) taking place in Sacramento. The convention is usually held in the Midwest -- the last time it was in California was about twenty years ago. SPAH is where harmonica players from all over the world get together and jam, perform, discuss harmonica technique, and have a terrific time doing it. All featured summit artists will be attending the convention this year following the summit.

The Digital Media Factory is an up-and-coming multi-media production facility in Santa Cruz with a wonderful sound stage and a terrific video and audio crew.

We expect this to be an exciting and very unique musical event, perhaps the first of its kind, specifically focused on a variety of jazz harmonica players.

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If you'd like more information about this event, please visit our website at www.JazzHarmonicaSummit.com, where you'll find profiles, pictures, and audio samples of all the players as well as an article describing how the event came about. Also, please feel free to contact the event's producer, Slim Heilpern (aka Slide Man Slim), at slim@JazzHarmonicaSummit.com.