



Perris Press Release

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First Ever Lake Perris Jazz Festival Hard to Top

The people who came to the first-ever jazz festival at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area agreed the venue was hard to top.

With a stunning view of Lake Perris and the surrounding mountains in the distance, the audience got an extra bonus of listening to a variety of performers and looking at Mother Nature at her finest.

"I have not been to Lake Perris before but I will be coming back," said Jovonda Anderson, who made the trip from Carson. "I enjoy jazz. I am out here to enjoy the weather, the lake and the music."

Pamela McCrumb of Colton echoed those sentiments. She called the chance to hear jazz while surrounded by the stunning beauty of Lake Perris "a rare treat."

"It's hard to beat the view and the music," she said. "This is a real good location. I am going to enjoy a good time in Perris."

The day's festivities began with a performance from the Loveland Church Men's Choir. Choir members said they wanted to make a "joyful noise" with their Gospel selections. Choir member Myron

Hester said 35 members of the singing group came to Lake Perris to sing. Hester said the Loveland Church Men's Choir has performed throughout Southern California and that the members were pleased to be invited to the Lake Perris jazz festival.

"We are tremendously excited to be here," Hester said. "A lot of the guys brought their families to the concert. We have to have a good time too."

Moreno Valley alto sax player Curtis Brooks proved popular when he took the stage, playing several numbers from the past and present. Brooks, 17, attends Vista Del Lago High School in Moreno Valley.

"It's all about just expressing yourself," he said. "Jazz is not about being a certain age. If you like it, it becomes part of you."

The jazz fest was created in part as a fund-raiser for the Lake Perris State Recreation Area. In a time of state budget cutbacks, some parks have been closed or face reduced hours of operations. Event spokeswoman Krystle Howard said she was pleased with the overall turnout.

"Everyone had a great time and the performances were amazing," Howard said.

Howard said plans already are under way for a second jazz fest in 2013, tentatively set for June 8.

"We want to bring more people to Perris, more people to the lake and bring all our communities together," Howard said.

Gaston Ochoa and Maritza Solis said they came to the festival because they enjoy hearing live music. Solis, of Victorville, said she came out to take in the scenery and support the Lake Perris State Recreation Area. Ochoa agreed.

"It's a great way to enjoy entertainment at a park," said Ochoa, of Highland. "It's nice to be here."



Moreno Valley's Curtis Brooks, 17, entertains the crowd at the recent jazz fest at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area.



The Loveland Church Men's Choir kicked off the day of entertainment with several Gospel numbers. The choir performs all over Southern California. Here is a press release and photos from the recent jazz festival at the Lake Perris State Recreation Area..