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NEWS RELEASE



Image caption: West Philadelphia Orchestra kicks off Penn Museum's summertime concert series on July 10. Additional photos available for download <u>here</u>.

Garden Jams: Outdoor Concerts Return on Wednesday Evenings at the Penn Museum, Starting July 10

PHILADELPHIA, June 25, 2024—<u>Garden Jams</u>, the Penn Museum's **weekly summertime outdoor concert series**, **returns July 10**, with a live performance from the **West Philadelphia Orchestra**.

In July, Wednesday evenings at the Penn Museum feature live music and happy hour with cocktails and food trucks in historic Stoner Courtyard, along with after-hours access to the Museum's galleries and exhibitions, including *Ancient Food & Flavor*, until 8:00 pm.

Founded in 2006, the <u>West Philadelphia Orchestra</u> (WPO) plays original tunes written by its own band members. Percussionist and WPO Founder Gregg Mervine says the band was inspired by the "fanfares" of Eastern Europe and many other sources.

"Balkan brass bands are the most prominent influence, and we always mix in a few classic tunes from that repertoire," Mervine explains. "We've had a lot of fun in the past—weaving in and out of the gardens and fountains, parading around with kids, and creating a wide-open, freeflowing environment" at Garden Jams.

Other performers in this year's Garden Jams line-up include:

• <u>Zydeco-a-Go-Go</u> on Wednesday, July 17 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

A spicy mix of Louisiana Cajun two-steps, old-school Zydeco, vintage New Orleans rock and roll jukebox hits, and bayou country blues, Zydeco-a-Go-Go delivers favorites such as Fats Domino's *Blueberry Hill* and Bobby Charles' *See You Later, Alligator*.

• <u>Glenn Bryan and Friends</u> on Wednesday, July 24 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

Offering an unforgettable dynamic sound of diverse influences spanning jazz, classical, R&B, and Latin vibes, Glenn Bryan and Friends delivers an original musical journey that blends rich textures and classical training on piano, organ, and keyboards.

• <u>Guachinangos</u> on Wednesday, July 31 from 5:00 pm-8:00 pm

A Latin fusion like no other, Guachinangos offers electrifying stage energy and irresistible rhythms that blend Mexican and Colombian influences. This event is sponsored by the <u>Mexican Cultural Center</u>.

<u>Private tables and add-on experiences</u>, such as pre-paid drinks and private guided tours through the Penn Museum offer team building opportunities and make great group getaways in the city. Available with advance purchase.

\$15 general admission; \$5 PennCard holders; FREE for Penn Museum members. Penn Museum admission until 8:00 pm is included with each **Garden Jams** ticket.

In case of inclement weather, concerts will move indoors. There is no concert on July 3.

ABOUT THE PENN MUSEUM

The Penn Museum's mission is to be a center for inquiry and the ongoing exploration of humanity for our University of Pennsylvania, regional, national, and global communities, following ethical standards and practices.

Through conducting research, stewarding collections, creating learning opportunities, sharing stories, and creating experiences that expand access to archaeology and anthropology, the Museum builds empathy and connections across diverse cultures.

The Penn Museum is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm. It is open until 8:00 pm on first Wednesdays of the month. The Café is open Tuesday-Thursday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm and Friday and Saturday, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. For information, visit <u>www.penn.museum</u>, call <u>215.898.4000</u>, or follow @PennMuseum on social media.