

*2017 Essex County SummerMusic Concert Series
to Take Center Stage in the Historic Essex County Park System*

Essex County Executive DiVincenzo Invites Public to Experience Spectacular Fireworks and the Hottest Acts in Jazz, Doo Wop, Rock and Roll, Reggae, Latin and More

Essex County, NJ – Essex County Executive Joseph N. DiVincenzo, Jr. invites the public to attend the **2017 Essex County Free SummerMusic Concert Series**. The free Concert Series brings a diverse group of musicians and entertainers to perform at locations throughout the historic Essex County Park System and provides residents with an evening leisure activity to enjoy the parks. This year's series features three concert and fireworks spectacles, Friday night concerts in Brookdale Park and nine cultural festivals.

“The Essex County Free Summer Music Concert Series offers a diverse lineup of performers who will take center stage throughout our historic Parks System. Pack a blanket, enjoy the cool evening breeze, and dance to the sounds of classical, rock and roll, jazz, big band, Latin and more. We have an amazing line-up that is sure to entertain and impress,” DiVincenzo said.

The SummerMusic Concert Series is being sponsored by Rose Squared Productions, The Horizon Foundation for New Jersey and TD Bank. The series is also made possible, in part, by the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State.

Over the course of 12 summer weeks, there are 32 different events, featuring some of the best local and international acts in jazz, rock and roll, big band, reggae and more. The 2017 SummerMusic Concert Series begins Saturday, June 17th with a Gospel Festival in Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park and concludes Sunday, September 10th with Mike Griot's Essex County South Mountain International Blues Festival. There will be three Concert and Fireworks Extravaganzas this summer: the first features Fillet of Soul on Thursday, June 29th in Essex County Weequahic Park, the second features the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra on Friday, June 30th in Essex County Branch Brook Park in Newark and the third features Jersey Sound on Monday, July 3 in Essex County Brookdale Park in Bloomfield/Montclair.

The 2017 concert series schedule is as follows:

- Saturday, June 17th, 12 noon to 5 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: Gospel Festival*
- Saturday, June 24th, 12 Noon, Essex County Weequahic Park, Newark: House Music Festival*
- Tuesday, June 27th, 7 p.m., Essex County Yanticaw Park, Nutley: Groove Street Quintet
- Thursday, June 29th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Weequahic Park, Newark: Concert by Fillet of Soul and a Fireworks Spectacular
- Friday, June 30th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Branch Brook Park, Newark: Concert by the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and Fireworks Spectacular (In case of rain, the concert will be held in the Cathedral Basilica in Newark and the fireworks display will be rescheduled.)
- Monday, July 3rd, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: Concert by Jersey Sound and the Fireworks Spectacular
- Friday, July 7th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: The Duprees
- Tuesday, July 11th, 7 p.m., Essex County Independence Park, Newark: Latin Splendor

- Wednesday, July 12th, 7 p.m., Essex County Veterans Memorial Park, Newark: Trilogy, An Opera Company
- Friday, July 14th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: Darlene Love
- Tuesday, July 18th, 7 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: Denise Hamilton
- Wednesday, July 19th, 7 p.m., Essex County Riverbank Park, Newark: Julian & Dominique
- Friday, July 21st, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: Radio Nashville
- Tuesday, July 25th, 7 p.m., Essex County Watsessing Park, Bloomfield/East Orange: Pulse Jazz Quintet
- Wednesday, July 26th, 7 p.m., Essex County Grover Cleveland Park, Caldwell/Essex Fells: Steppin' Out
- Friday, July 28th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: Gloria's Miami Sound featuring Nikki Torres
- Tuesday, August 1st, 7 p.m., Essex County Ivy Hill Park, Newark: Gordon James
- Wednesday, August 2nd, 7 p.m., Essex County Verona Park, Verona: Frank Piombo Quintet
- Friday, August 4th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: New York Bee Gees
- Saturday, August 5th, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: African Caribbean Festival*
- Tuesday, August 8th, 7 p.m., Essex County Vailsburg Park, Newark: Richard Reiter
- Wednesday, August 9th, 7 p.m., Essex County Riverfront Park, Newark: Frank Valdes
- Friday, August 11th, 7:30 p.m., Essex County Brookdale Park, Bloomfield/Montclair: The Infernos
- Saturday, August 12th, 4 to 9 p.m., Essex County Ivy Hill Park, Newark: International Food and Music Festival*
- Sunday, August 13th, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: Latino Festival*
- Tuesday, August 15th, 7 p.m., Essex County Cedar Grove Park, Cedar Grove: Symphonics
- Wednesday, August 16th, 7 p.m., Essex County West Side Park, Newark: Bradford Hayes
- Friday, August 18th, 7 p.m., Essex County Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange: Cameos
- Saturday, August 19th, 2 to 7 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: House Music Festival*
- Sunday, August 20th, 2 to 7 p.m., Essex County Monte Irvin Orange Park, Orange: Essex County Talent Showcase*
- Saturday, September 9th, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Essex County Branch Brook Park, Newark: African Caribbean Festival*
- Sunday, September 10th, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., Essex County South Mountain Reservation, West Orange: Mike Griot's Essex County South Mountain International Blues Festival*

Events with an asterisk (*) are co-sponsored by the Essex County Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs. Concerts are held at accessible sites. Persons who require special accommodations or assistance are asked to call at least two weeks prior to the concert to alert staff as to their needs. Admission to the concerts is free. For more information, please call the Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs at 973-268-3500.

The Essex County Park System was created in 1895 and is the first county park system established in the United States. The Park System consists of more than 6,000 acres and has 23 parks, five reservations, an environmental center, a zoo, Treetop Adventure Course, ice skating rink, roller skating rink, three public golf courses, golf driving range, two miniature golf courses, Treetop Adventure Course, three off-leash dog facilities, a castle and the Presby Memorial Iris Gardens.