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PRESS KIT WITH FEST PHOTOS, VIDEO AND INFO ON 2018 PERFORMERS: <https://goo.gl/oSCcbM>

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GRandJazzFest ready for 7th festival presented by the DTE Energy Foundation

> *Euge Groove headlines seventh GRandJazzFest presented by the DTE Energy Foundation*

> *FREE festival Aug. 18 & 19 features 10 jazz acts over two days*

> *Grand Rapids Mayor proclaims August 2018 Jazz Month*

GRAND RAPIDS, MICH. – Aug. 8, 2018 – **The seventh annual [GRandJazzFest](#) presented by the DTE Energy Foundation** brings 10 diverse jazz performance acts to the Rosa Parks Circle stage Aug. 18 and 19 in downtown Grand Rapids at West Michigan’s only free, weekend-long jazz festival. GRandJazzFest 2018 also includes free face painting for the kids (and kids at heart), plus a beverage and V.I.P. area provided by the Grand Rapids Art Museum.

Grand Rapids Mayor Rosalynn Bliss proclaimed August 2018 as Jazz Appreciation Month in the city. The proclamation notes the GRandJazzFest presented by DTE Energy Foundation was first held in August 2012 and has drawn thousands downtown each year. This year, GRandJazzFest is expected to draw more than 10,000 people over the two-day event. The design of the festival in the center city allows festivalgoers the opportunity to explore the downtown by walking to local restaurants, clubs, museums, microbreweries and shops. Visitors also can take advantage of the local fare and deals, as the festival coincides with [Restaurant Week in Grand Rapids](#).

“We’re so excited to have the internationally known saxophonist, Euge Groove, headline the seventh annual GRandJazzFest presented by the DTE Energy Foundation,” said GRandJazzFest Founder, Audrey Sundstrom. “This year’s lineup also is loaded with talented up-and-coming jazz artists that will have you tapping your feet, chair-dancing and moving to the energetic music and performances. Pianist Oli Silk, trumpeter Lin Rountree and saxophonist Marcus Anderson all have released new CDs and are getting plenty of radio play. Our free festival is the perfect place to see them perform live! We’re fortunate to have



many amazing jazz artists in Grand Rapids. The Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde, John Gist, Kevin Jones and Tenth World, Lushh and Grupo Ayé will grace the stage to perform a variety of jazz genres. If you loved Richard Elliot last year, you definitely won't want to miss this year's headliner, Euge Groove! Two additional renowned artists – saxophonist Nelson Rangell and guitarist Steve Oliver – will close out our two-day, free, family-friendly festival. It's going to be grand!"

The complete performance lineup for the event in order of appearance:

SATURDAY, Aug. 18

1. Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde, 12:30 p.m.
2. John Gist, 2 p.m.
3. Kevin Jones and Tenth World, 3:30 p.m.
4. Oli Silk, 5 p.m.
5. Lin Rountree, 6:30 p.m.
6. HEADLINER: Euge Groove, 8 p.m.

SUNDAY, Aug. 19

1. Student Jazz Band: Lushh, 1 p.m.
2. Grupo Ayé, 2:30 p.m.
3. Marcus Anderson, 4 p.m.
4. Nelson Rangell and Steve Oliver, 5:30 p.m.

The DTE Energy Foundation, the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy, is helping festivalgoers care for the environment through its greening program and encouraging them to reduce, reuse and recycle. Through last year's program, the festival recycled 525 pounds of waste, and refused more than 720 pounds.

"Bringing the greening program to the heart of the city, during this prominent festival, is one of the many ways we give back to the community and take action to care for our environment," said Lynette Dowler, president of the DTE Energy Foundation. "The festival has grown to become one of West Michigan's most important cultural and community events, offering residents and visitors a chance to enjoy local and international performers. We're proud to support this event and help inspire attendees to recycle and reduce waste during the event and in their day-to-day lives."

The two-day GRandJazzFest is free for the seventh year in a row thanks to presenting sponsor DTE Energy Foundation, along with the City of Grand Rapids, GR and Jazz, IntentPR, Mobile GR and Parking Services, Corporate Live, GRAM and many others (see the full list at <http://grandjazzfest.org/sponsors/>). The festival also is grateful to the many volunteers who contribute to the successful execution and experience of GRandJazzFest.



Tips for festivalgoers:

Location

GRandJazzFest will be held at Rosa Parks Circle in downtown Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Rosa Parks Circle is located at 135 Monroe Center NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. You can find Rosa Parks Circle on [Google Maps](#).

Mobile GR encourages attendees to walk, bike or ride the bus to the festival

A new festival partner this year is the City of Grand Rapids' Mobile GR and Parking Services department. Mobile GR encourages festivalgoers to consider walking, biking, riding the bus, or sharing a ride with a friend to the festival. There are bike racks installed by the City of Grand Rapids around the Rosa Parks Circle venue for stowing and self-locking bikes.

Learn more about getting around Grand Rapids, and parking options for those who drive, <https://grandjazzfest.org/plan-your-visit/>.

Get there early - especially if you love big band music. Grand Rapids Jazz Orchestra with Edye Evans Hyde kicks off the festival, which starts at noon on Saturday, Aug. 18. The fest goes until 10 p.m. that night and continues Sunday, Aug. 19, starting at 1 p.m. and going until approximately 8 p.m.

WHAT TO BRING

Bring **lawn chairs**, **mini-coolers** and **sunscreen**. The event takes place in a sunny, open area with some shady areas around the perimeter. The fest's main tent will have bottled water for sale, the adjacent Grand Rapids Art Museum will be featuring a special refreshment area, and there are plenty of places surrounding Rosa Parks Circle to grab a quick bite and beverage. **Plus, it's Restaurant Week during GRandJazzFest!** Learn more here: <http://www.experiencegr.com/restaurants/restaurant-week/>.

Also: There's free Wi-Fi at Rosa Parks Circle via iserv, compliments of The City of Grand Rapids. GRandJazzFest's website is mobile-optimized, which makes it easy to find the fest schedule and more. Plus, take photos while you're at the fest and share on social media. Got feedback? Take our online survey (www.grandjazzfest.org/2018-survey/) with your phone to help us keep producing great fests.

For local hotel information, please visit [experienceGR.com](http://experiencegr.com). Hotels within walking distance of Rosa Parks Circle include:

- Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
- City Flats Hotel
- Courtyard by Marriott Downtown
- Holiday Inn Grand Rapids Downtown



- JW Marriott Grand Rapids

More information on GRandJazzFest can be found at www.grandjazzfest.org, and at the festival's Facebook and Twitter sites – www.facebook.com/grandjazzfest and www.twitter.com/grandjazzfest.

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About GRandJazzFest

GRandJazzFest presented by the DTE Energy Foundation is a community event of the nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization “GR and Jazz” founded in 2012, with the purpose of promoting and bringing awareness of jazz and related arts to new and diverse audiences through educational programs and community events. GRandJazzFest 2018 is a FREE weekend-long event that runs Saturday, Aug. 18, from noon until 10 p.m., and Sunday, Aug. 19, from 1 p.m. to 8 p.m., featuring notable jazz artists, including many who are Michigan-based. GRandJazzFest brings together acclaimed jazz performers and highlights emerging artists for diverse audiences. GRandJazzFest is held at Rosa Parks Circle, a central location in the heart of downtown Grand Rapids, where attendees can enjoy music, support local businesses and visit other Grand Rapids attractions. The festival is FREE. More information at www.grandjazzfest.org.

About the DTE Energy Foundation

The DTE Energy Foundation is the philanthropic arm of DTE Energy, continuing the legacy of community support and involvement of its electric and natural gas utilities, which serve 2.2 million electric customers in Southeast Michigan and 1.3 million natural gas customers in Michigan. In 2017, the DTE Energy Foundation provided \$18 million in grant support to nonprofits throughout the company’s service territories. As one of Michigan’s leading corporate citizens, DTE Energy is a force for growth and prosperity in the 450 Michigan communities it serves in a variety of ways, including philanthropy, volunteerism and economic progress. <http://www.dteenergy.com/foundation>.