


# Anacortes Jazz and Blues Festival

**NEW EXHIBIT**

*Paint Me A River!*  
*Art Meets History*



Oct 10 - Jan 3, 2010

Opening celebration  
Oct 10, 4 to 7 pm

Featuring the works of  
over 85 artists reflecting each  
artist's view of area history

Artist demonstrations  
Nov 7 & 8  
throughout both days

**Skagit County  
Historical Museum**

501 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, La Conner  
At the top of the hill

Open Tues - Sun 11-5

360.466.3365

[www.skagitcounty.net/museum](http://www.skagitcounty.net/museum)

by Gavin Fuller

It will be a lot easier for concert attendees to give a warm welcome to the performers at the Anacortes Jazz and Blues Festival this year. For the past six years, Northwest jazz fans have huddled together and tried not to shiver while enjoying music from top international and regional artists. Curtis Wharf on Guemes Channel was a great location, with a stunning view of the San Juan Islands. In recent years, organizers shifted the Festival a few weeks earlier, hoping to luck out with some warmer temperatures. I recall last year, when even the fire of Hammond B3 titan Dr. Lonnie Smith couldn't warm our chilled bones. Not to worry, this year the cozy Anacortes Port Warehouse will be our sheltered domain for the weekend.

Friday's Gala Dinner and Concert will be held at 6pm at the Warehouse, and will feature pianist-singer Dena DeRose and her trio. She returns to Anacortes after performing at the Festival in 2006.

"There's not a speck of self-importance or pretension as DeRose joyously makes her way through new and old tunes... her voice has a fresh, clear-headed quality that speaks of self-confidence," said acclaimed writer Donald Elfman. Joel Siegal praised her as "the most creative and compelling singer-pianist since Shirley Horn."

The incomparable Allen Toussaint and his band will perform at 7:30pm on Saturday. Mr. Toussaint is one of the most celebrated musicians to hail from New Orleans. It would be foolish to attempt to summarize his contributions (as composer, producer, arranger, pianist and singer) to American music in the last 50 years. In short, this concert should not be missed.

Opening for Mr. Toussaint are Kim Field and the Mighty Titans of Tone. The Seattle R&B band is

a relatively new group, but *Option Magazine* credited seasoned front man Kim Field with "some of the smoothest harmonica work you will ever hear."

In previous Festivals, concerts have taken place throughout the afternoon on two stages. This year, consider spending the day exploring Anacortes's Old Town district, Deception

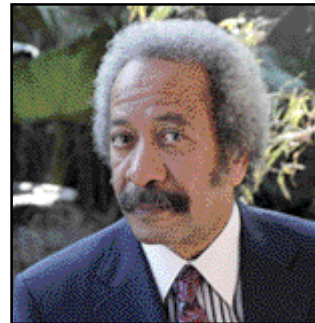


SRJO's tenor saxophonist, Hadley Caliman. At 77 years old, he is part of the living history of jazz music in America.

Pass State Park or any portion of the over 60 miles of trails throughout the city. Visit [www.anacortes.org](http://www.anacortes.org) for more day-trip ideas.

After enjoying Ms. DeRose or Mr. Toussaint, head out into one of the most active weekends of Anacortes nightlife. From 9pm to midnight on Friday and Saturday, you'll be hard-pressed to decide where to head first to enjoy music from many of the Northwest's finest jazz & blues artists and groups. Seven popular Anacortes restaurants and clubs including the Rockfish Grill, The Brown Lantern, Watertown Pub and Star Bar will host performers and as many fans as fire code and seating allows! In all seriousness, in

previous years many of these venues have been reduced to standing room only. If one venue or performer doesn't suit your taste or you simply can't get in the door, no worries. Just walk a few steps up or down Commercial



Allen Toussaint

Street – six locations are within 3 blocks. Bellissima Trattoria, at 904 Commercial, is a little further but word is their lasagna is definitely worth the trip.

Bellingham's own Cheryl Jewell is rising fast in the regional jazz vocalist scene, placing first runner-up to Northwest favorite Greta Matassa at the Seattle-Kobe Sister City Jazz competition in March. She'll be at the Majestic Inn & Spa on Friday.

Olympia native Mia Vermillion's blues vocals and guitar will blend with the styling of dobro and slide guitar master Orville Johnson at Adrift on Saturday. Other Jazz Walk performers include Thomas Marriott, Mark Taylor, Frankly Moanin' and Mambo Cadillac, to name a few. For a complete lineup be sure to visit [www.anacortes.org/jazzwalk.cfm](http://www.anacortes.org/jazzwalk.cfm).

Sultry songstress Stephanie Porter is a Seattle native and has been on the scene for more than 15 years. Hear her from 1-2pm on Sunday. Next, the Seattle Repertory Jazz Orchestra will present a fantastic show celebrating the brilliance of the late "Genius," Ray Charles. The SRJO has been performing for nearly 15 years and its roster includes 17 of the very best and most experienced Northwest jazz musicians. Hammond B3 master Joe Doria, guest singers and the SRJO will present songs from the Ray Charles' hit 1961 album "Genius + Soul = Jazz."