

**MEDIA RELEASE  
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**April 1, 2011**

**\$25,000 Grant Adds Extra “Jazz” to this Year’s Aurora Festival of the Arts**

**Aurora** – Over the past two years, the organizers with the Aurora Festival of the Arts (AFA) have been building a solid summer music festival, drawing area residents and people from across York Region to hear some amazing musicians at Town Park. And this year’s festival, which runs from July 29-31, promises to be bigger than ever including Canadian Idol Star Missy Knott, renowned Smooth Jazz Guitarist Rob Tardik and Rocker Neil Chapman, The Sounds of Motown Show, Juno nominees and winners including George St. Kitts, George Oliver and Billy Newton-Davis, Maple Blues Diva Robin Banks, Stacey Kaniuk, Caribana & Blues Club North and many upcoming local artists! Over 5,000 people attended last year’s event and to help the festival continue to grow, it has received a **\$25,000** grant from the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**.

“As the MPP for Newmarket/Aurora I am pleased to lend my enthusiastic support to the Aurora Festival of the Arts!” Frank Klees MPP

Funds from the Foundation’s grant will be used to help the fledgling festival cover the costs of booking musicians from across York Region and beyond, drawing on an eclectic mix of music and the arts. The AFA hopes to increase the festival’s visibility, expand community partnerships and inspire an appreciation of the arts amongst people of all ages, but especially young people. In addition to thanking the Ontario Trillium Foundation, AFA also wishes to thank the Town of Aurora for its support.

To further support the Festival, organizers are hosting a Hollywood Style Black Tie Fundraising Gala. Join them on the red carpet 7pm Thursday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at (to be announced). For more details on how to purchase tickets, please visit the website at: [www.aurorajazzfest.com](http://www.aurorajazzfest.com)

“The AFA is thrilled to receive this funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation! It will help showcase local talents, create a sustainable annual community arts gathering and educate our youth about the value of the Arts. This festival stimulates tourism, “stay-cations” and thereby economic development in York Region adding to its attraction as a tourist destination. 2011 Festival includes, visual artists, film festival artists, all sewn together with non-stop music: Jazz (Latin/Fusion/Contemp); Folk, Big Band; Rock n’Roll; R & B; Folk; Soul; Motown and pop.”  
Sher St. Kitts, Aurora Festival of the Arts, Chair

The Aurora Festival of the Arts runs over the Civic long weekend, entrance is \$5 per adult/day or weekend pass for only \$12; Admission free for kids 12 and under and Seniors 65+. In addition to the music, there will be an Artisans Marketplace, Kids Art Camp and lots of tasty food. This grassroots festival also supports charities: Canadian Centre for Abuse Awareness: [www.abusehurts.com](http://www.abusehurts.com) and Safehaven: [www.safehaven.to](http://www.safehaven.to)

Volunteers & Sponsors are invited to contact [sher@stkittsmusic.ca](mailto:sher@stkittsmusic.ca) Become a Festival Friend!

A leading grant maker in Canada, the Ontario Trillium Foundation strengthens the capacity of the voluntary sector through investments in community-based initiatives. An agency of the Government of Ontario, OTF builds healthy and vibrant communities. [www.trilliumfoundation.org](http://www.trilliumfoundation.org)

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**For more information, please contact:**

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