



Sally McKay, left, and her daughter, Mary McGeorge, are bringing a touch of New Orleans to Mesquite for the inaugural Mesquite Jazz Festival Friday through Sunday at the CasaBlanca Resort.

PHOTO SPECIAL TO MLN

Mother-daughter promotional team coordinate Jazz Festival

Special to Mesquite Local News

The promoters of the inaugural Mesquite Jazz Festival, which will be held Friday through Sunday at the CasaBlanca, promise their event will be memorable.

"We have jazz enthusiasts coming from Denver, Arizona, Missouri, Virginia and even New Orleans," said Sally McKay from her home in Oceanside, Calif. "In fact, I look for the Mesquite Jazz Festival to be the best first-time festival I have ever been involved in 20 years."

McKay has concentrated the majority of her events on cruise ships, but she has good feelings about heading for Mesquite.

"This is going to be fun, and we're really looking forward to it," said McKay, who spearheads MG Travel for Jazz.

"This is our first time out with a land festival — and it has been just great working with the CasaBlanca," she said. "We like being producers of a festival that enables us to enjoy the music we love. My husband, Bob, has been involved as a volunteer with jazz festivals for the past 30 years up and down the West Coast. In fact, we first met in 1994 at the San Diego Dixieland Jazz Festival.

"We are hoping this festival helps fill

the void from losing the four Pacific Northwest festivals in the past year," she said. "We enjoy being producers of a festival which enables us to enjoy the music we love. Bob has been involved as a volunteer with jazz festivals for the past 30 years up and down the West Coast of the U.S. and Canada.

McKay's daughter, Mary McGeorge, backs her mom's prediction and is looking forward to the trip.

"I'm from New Orleans and I'm a real jazz enthusiast," McGeorge said stressing that the Louisiana city is pronounced "Nawlins." "We hear that the good people of Mesquite already know how to party and we're going to take them to the next level with the Mesquite Jazz Festival. New Orleans is a party town and we are planning to turn Mesquite into a party town, too.