

MESQUITE CITIZEN JOURNAL

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Jazz Fest Winds Up Three Day Run

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By Barbara Ellestad



People from California, Washington, Colorado and Mesquite kick up their heels at the Mesquite Jazz Festival. Photo by Barbara Ellestad.

They came from as far away as Colorado, Washington, and California, and as close as Las Vegas and Mesquite for a three day Jazz Festival at the CasaBlanca Hotel Resort Casino.

They danced and tapped their toes for three days running as four different bands played everything from the Blues to Rag Time to a gospel session on Sunday morning.

"We follow the jazz music all around the country," Marti Schwartz explained. "The music has been wonderful. The dancing has been great. And, the food is very good."

"This is the first time we've been in Mesquite. I would rate it a 9.5 out of 10," Schwartz continued. "It's happy music. I hope this is only the first time in Mesquite. We want to come back."

The four bands, Sally's Jazznuts Jazz Band, the Titanic Jazz Band, the Uptown Lowdown, and the Rhythm Rascals, played 45 minute sets from early afternoon to late at night Friday and Saturday in the CasaBlanca Showroom. Sunday saw the bands start at 9:00 am for a Gospel Hour and then a final round of each band.

"Unfortunately, they don't have anything like this in Las Vegas. And it's supposed to be the entertainment capital of the world," Eddie Ostrow remarked. He came up to Mesquite from Las Vegas just to attend the Festival.

"I've gone to lots of Jazz festivals since the early '80s. They are marvelous. I came up here Saturday and Sunday just for this," Ostrow commented. "The bands are so up. It's a beautiful experience."

"During the festival, those in the audience and band members passed around a hat to collect money for the Virgin Valley High School jazz band," Petra Jones, CasaBlanca coordinator mentioned. "We collected \$300 for the kids."

Mesquite resident Sandi Sorenson explained how she enjoyed this Jazz Festival more than ever before, "I've heard jazz before but didn't like it all that much. But, I love this. It's a great sound."