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Portland Swing Festival Celebrates Vintage Music and Dance

Hundreds of dancers from all over the world converge on Portland this March

PORTLAND, OREGON – Dancers from all over the world will descend upon Portland March 6-8, 2009, to spend the weekend swing dancing to live music during the Portland Lindy Exchange. The event will feature six bands, three historic dance halls and eight nationally-known DJs.

Last year's festival drew dancers from 25 states and four countries, with more than 1,200 people in attendance.

Local residents are encouraged to attend. The dances and concerts are all-ages and family-friendly. Each evening event features a beginning swing dance lesson before the bands take the stage. The lesson is free with the price of admission.

The Portland Lindy Exchange was named after the 1940s style of swing dance known as the Lindy Hop. Lindy exchanges happen all over the world, when a city opens its doors to visitors and schedules numerous dances over the course of several days. Local dancers host out-of-town visitors. Dancing often lasts late into the night.

"We're thrilled to bring the excitement of the swing era back to Portland once again," said organizer Jason Isbell.

The area's best vintage swing bands will play this year's festival. Friday's kickoff dance at Tiffany Center showcases the Midnight Serenaders and the Reece Mashburn Sextet. Saturday's dance at McMenamin's Crystal Ballroom includes the Pete Petersen Septet and 6 Foot Swing. Sunday evening the Crystal Ballroom swings to The Stolen Sweets along with Pete Krebs and His Portland Playboys.

Saturday afternoon will find a crowd of dancers showing off their moves in the open air at Pioneer Courthouse Square. This dance is free and will happen rain or shine.

Late night dances featuring swing and blues music from local and national DJs take place each night after the bands finish. There is a separate \$10 admission for these events.

A full weekend pass to all events costs \$70 and is available at www.pdxlx.com with payment through PayPal. Admission to each evening dance is \$20. Tickets for Saturday and Sunday nights may be purchased through Ticketmaster. Friday night admission must be paid at the door. All shows begin at 7:00 p.m.

A schedule of all events is available at www.pdxlx.com. To arrange an interview, live dance demonstration or video shoot, please contact Isbell at 541-908-2182 or dance@portlandlx.com.

High-resolution professional photographs of the 2008 Portland Lindy Exchange are available for use in your publication but must include credit to Evrim Icoz Photography. Photos may be obtained from <http://www.evrimgallery.com/Portland-Wedding-Blog/portland-lindy-exchange-2008/>

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