

March 12, 2007  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

701, 601 Spadina Cr  
Saskatoon, SK S7K 3G8  
Phone: 306.652.1421  
Fax: 306.934.5014  
Sask.jazz@sasktel.net

## The 21st Annual SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival First Shows Go On Sale

Saskatoon – SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival today announces a trio of world class concerts that will kick off the first weekend of the June 22 – July 1 summer celebration. Juno nominee and Canadian pop/jazz diva **Molly Johnson** will open the Broadway Theatre Jazz Series on June 22 beginning a stellar opening weekend line-up at the Broadway, which also includes Canadian jazz pianist legend **Oliver Jones** and Festival favourite and international jazz sensation **Joshua Redman**.

Tickets for all three shows go on sale March 19, announced Festival Manager Kevin Tobin.

Johnson's Juno nomination for Best Vocal Jazz Album for her new album "*Messin' Around*" is mostly upbeat with the disc's two most powerful performances, the Johnson-Steve MacKinnon penned "Rain" and a cover of Bruce Springsteen's "Streets of Philadelphia," are harrowing in their emotional impact. The mix is as diverse as the artist herself - adult-oriented pop songs, smoking versions of jazz classics, and soulful originals.

"It's been four long years since Molly as performed at the SaskTel Saskatchewan Jazz Festival," Tobin said. "It's a thrill to have her back to open the Festival at the Broadway Theatre." Tobin said fans, past and present, are encouraged to get their tickets early. "Tickets are selling out earlier every year due to the high demand, so we encourage everyone to get their tickets early because they won't last long," he said.

World class pianist **Oliver Jones** (Saturday, June 23) is considered one of Canada's finest musicians and a true living legend. His career intertwines with the proud history of jazz in his native Montreal, the thriving city that in its heyday also produced Oscar Peterson.

Oliver's unmistakable finesse, lightning-fast technique, solid articulation, powerful lyricism and rollicking rhythms has established him as a major modern mainstream player with an impressive technique and a hard-swinging style.

-more-

While pursuing his muse through a range of popular and innovative ensembles during his 15 years as one of the most compelling and fearless saxophone voices in jazz, **Joshua Redman** (Sunday, June 24) has always found occasion to test his limits and recharge his creative juices in the classic sax/bass/drums acoustic trio.

“On this visit, Joshua brings back a classic straight-ahead jazz show,” Tobin said. “He sold out on his last trip here, and we’re really happy to be able to bring him back to his Saskatoon fans who have been asking us for years to bring this wonderful artist back.”

Watch for more show announcements coming soon including world class shows in the Bessborough Gardens Mainstage.

Tickets go on sale on March 19<sup>th</sup> and available by visiting the Festival web site [www.saskjazz.com](http://www.saskjazz.com) or by calling the Festival Box Office at 306-652-4700 or 1-800-638-1211.

-30-

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Visit our web site [www.saskjazz.com](http://www.saskjazz.com) or contact Festival Manager Kevin Tobin (306-653-8350)