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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Blues, Latin music to fill the green at Steam Pump Village

Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance kicks off 2009-10 Cultural Concert Series in Oro Valley with Oct. 30, Nov. 20 concerts

Oct. 14, 2009—The 2009-10 Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) Cultural Concert Series begins this fall with two free performances on the green at the Steam Pump Village shopping center on North Oracle Road, north of First Avenue.

On Friday, Oct. 30, the **Sweet Willie D Blues Band** will take the stage at 6:30 p.m. The four-man outfit has a sound rooted in the West Memphis blues.

When he was just 12 years old, front man Willie D played the drums in Memphis blues club owned by the great Albert King. He draws musical inspiration from other blues greats, including B.B. King, Lucky Peterson and Luther Allison.

In the decades since, Willie D learned the guitar and traveled throughout the South with various blues acts. In 2005, the Missouri native moved to Tucson and resumed his playing career.

The SAACA Cultural Concert Series plans a second performance at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Nov. 20.

The **Rafael Moreno Quartet** will take the stage to with its classic Latin sound. Moreno has a made an indelible mark on Tucson's Latin music scene during his nearly 20-year career.

Moreno has assembled a top-notch group of players — Amilcar Guevara (piano), Ian Stapp (bass), Eric Hines (percussion) — to back him for the Nov. 20 concert at Steam Pump Village. The quartet will play boleros, bossa nova, Latin jazz and American Songbook standards with a Latin twist.

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Blues, Latin music to fill the green at Steam Pump (cont.'d)

The 2009-10 SAACA Cultural Concert Series at Steam Pump features a variety of ethnic, regional and world musical styles. The goal of each free performance is to broaden attendees' appreciation of various musical traditions and the cultures from which they originate.

For more information, or to schedule interviews with the performers, please contact Ty Bowers at (520) 797-3959 or via e-mail at ty@saaca.org. Publication-ready images of the performers also are available on request.

About the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) exists to ensure that, through engagement in arts and culture, our communities produce strong, inspired citizens. SAACA enlists artists, businesses, governments, and individuals to expand artistic and cultural opportunities in their respective communities. To enhance access to the arts and to promote cultural awareness in the communities it serves, SAACA presents large-scale festivals, events and other programs. The Alliance also promotes educational opportunities in the arts and culture for both the young and the old.

Organization History

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) grew out of the Greater Oro Valley Arts Council (GOVAC), an organization established in 1997 to provide artistic and cultural opportunities for residents of northwest Tucson. GOVAC eventually became one of the largest arts organizations in the region. In 2009, owing to its success, the group expanded its mission to include creation of partnerships with business, governments, and communities throughout Southern Arizona that would encourage innovative, creative cultural expression in the arts for years to come.

For more information about the Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance, go online to www.saaca.org.

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