

2011 Festival Press Conference

At a press conference held on November 9, the following was given to media and is now released for public information.

August 6, 2011, will be the 80th anniversary of Leon Bismark Beiderbecke's death and the 40th anniversary of the first Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Festival.

By moving the annual Bix Festival's date to the weekend of August 4-7, 2011, we will be returning to our Festival's roots. Our festival's origin was a result of the Bix Beiderbecke Memorial Jazz Band of New Jersey traveling to Davenport in 1971 to play a musical tribute to Bix.

We will have the opportunity to recreate the excitement and the music of the first "Festival: the 'Festival that began the annual celebration of the musical genius of Davenport's own Bix Beiderbecke. Some of the same musicians of our early festivals will join us, playing traditional jazz at the very same venues where Bix himself once played: the Hotel Blackhawk, the Coliseum Ballroom, and LeClaire Park. For the 40th year, our festival guests will be able to relive the music that put Davenport on the American music map.

We will be utilizing the Hotel Blackhawk as our headquarters hotel: a hotel where the walls still resonate to the sound of Bix's cornet and piano when he played there so many years ago. To join with the Hotel Blackhawk, the Col Ballroom, the River Music Experience, and LeClaire Park is a natural partnership. A partnership that is good for music, good for jazz fans, good for business, good for Davenport, and good for the entire Quad Cities.

With our four music venues now in downtown Davenport, our thousands of visitors from the Quad Cities area, from across the United States, and from foreign lands will become acquainted with Davenport; its parks, its river, its casino, its restaurants, its hotels, its museum, its people, and its music.

With our rich musical history of Bix Beiderbecke, inspired by his musical genius and his contributions to American jazz, and considering the successes of our 39 past Festivals, we are looking forward to another 40 years of bringing the best traditional jazz bands to the Quad Cities