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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

***SoJo Summerfest* Announces New Name, Local Bands for 27th Annual Two-Day Music Festival in Corporate Woods**

More than \$1.5 million donated to local children's charities from this iconic, family friendly event formerly known as Jazz in the Woods in Overland Park

Overland Park, Kan. (March 22, 2016) – [SoJo Summerfest](http://SoJoSummerfest.com), previously called *Jazz in the Woods*, announces today its new name and the bands that will headline the popular music festival and charity fundraiser on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18 at Corporate Woods Founders Park in Overland Park. *SoJo Summerfest* expects another 30,000 people to attend the 27th installment of this premier event and summer tradition on Father's Day weekend.

"The *SoJo Summerfest* name appeals to a broader audience of music lovers and better reflects the diversity of the bands that played at the event for the past seven years," said Marc Shaffer, sponsorship chair of the inaugural *SoJo Summerfest*. "It also gives us the flexibility to adjust talent booking and event amenities over time to ensure the festival remains relevant for a wide variety of audiences in years to come."

This year's "all-local" musical lineup on the [Meyer Music Main Stage](http://MeyerMusic.com) includes:

Friday, June 17, 2016:

- [A La Mode](#) (Jazz/Blues) – 5:30 p.m.
- [Shades of Jade](#) (Indie R&B) – 6:30 p.m.
- [Rattle & Hum](#) (U2 Cover Band) – 7:45 p.m.
- [Big Time Grain Company](#) (Country Rock) – 9 p.m.

Saturday, June 18, 2016:

- [Blair Bryant](#) (Smooth/Groove Jazz) – 5:30 p.m.
- [Run With It](#) (Pop/Rock/Funk) – 6:30 p.m.
- [Elton Dan](#) (Elton John Cover Band) – 7:45 p.m.
- [The Elders](#) (Celtic Pop/Rock) – 9 p.m.

"As you can see from our talented group of home-grown bands from Kansas City, *SoJo Summerfest* is definitely not a jazz concert," said Shaffer. "This year's lineup represents an assortment of varied musical genres. Musically, there will be something for everyone."

The newly named *SoJo Summerfest* is also a meaningful charity fundraiser organized and produced by the [Overland Park South Rotary Club](http://OverlandParkSouthRotaryClub.com), historically raising a total of more than \$1.5 million for local non-profits since its inception as the *Corporate Woods Jazz Festival* in 1989. Now in its 27th year, 100 percent of the net proceeds from attendees and sponsors will be donated to four local children's charities:

- [Operation Breakthrough](#)
- [Sunflower House](#)
- [Growing Futures Early Education Center](#)
- [Future of Hope Foundation](#)

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“The charity component of *SoJo Summerfest* emanates from ‘service above self,’ the motto of the Overland Park South Rotary Club,” said Jeff Hagen, president of the Overland Park South Rotary Club. “Organizing the festival does just that. It’s a significant undertaking and a tribute to our 100+ club members currently working faithfully to bring a fun and family friendly *SoJo Summerfest* to the area.”

The term “SoJo” in the festival’s new moniker is short for South Johnson County, where Corporate Woods is located. The name also reflects the family focused summer environment, including a “Kids Zone” sponsored by [Midland Loan Services/PNC](#) with crafts, games, face painting and inflatable bounce houses.

New this summer will be the “Taps & Trucks” beer garden featuring selections of craft beer from local breweries and a variety of food trucks. Additionally, food and drinks from local restaurants and caterers will be available for purchase from tents.

“Entertainment at *SoJo Summerfest* will be as vibrant, toe-tapping and splendid as ever,” said Overland Park Mayor Carl Gerlach. “Also, its endeavor to raise funds for local charities is a tremendous benefit to many in need. The City of Overland Park is fortunate to serve as a co-sponsor of this popular annual event and I know many residents are eager to attend.”

SoJo Summerfest will run from 5:30 to 11 p.m. on Friday, June 17 and Saturday, June 18 at Corporate Woods – Founders Park adjacent to Building 40, located at 9401 Indian Creek Pkwy., Overland Park, KS 66210. The festival is open seating on the grass for the general public, so attendees are encouraged to bring blankets and lawn chairs for their comfort. Also, please note there are no bleachers or benches supplied by the festival and coolers are not permitted inside the gates.

About *SoJo Summerfest* & Overland Park South Rotary Club

An annual event that attracts more than 30,000 attendees and benefits local children’s charities, *SoJo Summerfest* is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization organized and produced by the Overland Park South Rotary Club with the help of many volunteers and funded through the generosity of sponsors and attendees. The Overland Park South Rotary Club is one of 28,000 worldwide clubs with 1.2 million service-minded business and professional leaders that provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace. For more information, please visit www.sojosummerfest.com and www.overlandparksouthrotary.org.

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