

Summer music series takes flight

The Tallahassee Regional Airport hosts local musicians to enhance travelers' experience

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Rhythm and blues band, N Spire, from Quincy, Fla., played last Friday at the Tallahassee Regional Airport as part of its summer music series. / Photo courtesy of Lindsay Marshall

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The Tallahassee Regional Airport is hosting a summer music series for the second year in row. Every Friday for six weeks, a live band plays in the center concourse of the Ivan Munroe Terminal building between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

"We were inspired by other airports," said Laura Brown with the Department of Aviation. "This is the norm in Austin, Texas."

The idea is to give passengers a sense of place. The music welcomes visitors to the city, and welcomes Tallahassee residents back home.

For people flying out of the airport, it bids them a musical farewell

before they depart. Customers also have the option to grab a meal or drink from the Samuel Adams Tallahassee Brewhouse while enjoying the music.

"This is the first time we've had a real audience, with people eating and drinking cocktails," said Brown. "Good food, good music and good drinks make for good entertainment."

Last year's lineup was strictly jazz played by locals, including FSU and FAMU jazz bands. This year, the airport has decided to branch out to other types of music, including rhythm and blues, country and swing jazz musicians.

"Our main audience is business travelers," said Brown. "But everyone has a special taste in music, so we wanted to expand so everyone can enjoy it."

This summer's concert series began on June 22, and will continue every Friday until July 27. The next three acts to play are blues and country band, the Swingin' Harpoon, jazz band the Zach Bartholomew Trio and blues and country band Cheap and Easy, which are all local acts.

This past Friday, rhythm and blues band, N'Spire, from Quincy, Fla., played in the concourse.

"They have never been invited to the airport before," said N'Spire's band manager, Monica Smart. "It's an exciting opportunity."

Past performers include jazz and rhythm and blues band Phillip Solomon Stewart and the Palace and renowned jazz group the Leon Anderson Jazz Quartet. The Department of Aviation is pleased with the results of the live music. They are always striving to improve customer satisfaction and experience, and want travelers from all over to know what the Tallahassee Regional Airport has to offer. Brown said she wants the summer music series to go viral.

"People love music, they live for music," said Brown. "It has definitely done what we wanted it to."

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