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Music lovers can indulge after Thanksgiving, too

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) CRYSTAL LAKE - **After** stuffing down some turkey this **Thanksgiving**, area **music lovers** will have the chance to **indulge** in another all-American tradition - jazz. The Raue Center for the Arts in Crystal Lake is holding its inaugural "Raue Jazz Festival" Friday through Sunday this **Thanksgiving** weekend.

"We are really happy about the jazz fest; it's a great opportunity to celebrate the community and the **music** with wonderful artists," said Richard Kuranda, Raue's executive director.

Composer, pianist and native Chicagoan Ramsey Lewis will headline the show with a performance Saturday as part of the Ramsey Lewis Trio, the Raue Center said in a news release. Ramsey is the recent recipient of the "Jazz Masters Award" from The National Endowment for the Arts.

Concert vocalist and national recording artist Maureen Christine will be joined by Michael Bazan and his jazz trio to kick off the event at 3 p.m. Friday.

The Philip Hamilton Group is set perform at 8:30 p.m. both Friday and Saturday. Hamilton is known for his vocal stylings and wide-ranging collaborations with other musicians, including the Pat Metheny Group, according to the Raue Center. Crystal Lake's own The Sinful Saints Dixeland Jazz Band will follow Hamilton's Friday performance.

Master trombone player Delfeayo Marsalis will perform Sunday afternoon beginning at 3 p.m., according the Raue Center. Marsalis has spent the better part of his career fine-tuning albums and producing more than 75 major-label recordings for artists such as Harry Connick Jr., Marcus Roberts and Spike Lee, the Raue Center

said.

Those attending the festival have the option of buying either \$33 tickets for a specific show or a "festival pass" that includes all the shows throughout the weekend for \$120. Wine-maker Kendall-Jackson is the title sponsor of the event and will provide wine tastings to attendees.

Kuranda said he felt good about the lineup for the inaugural festival, which is taking a multi-day approach to the center's programming. He said the range of local to international performers made for "just a great weekend of **music**."

If you go

What: Inaugural Raue Jazz Festival.

Where: Raue Center for the Arts, 26 N. Williams St.

When: Friday through Sunday.

Cost: \$33 for individual shows; \$120 for the festival pass.

Information: Call the Raue Center box office at (815) 356-9212 or visit www.rauecenter.org.

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