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**PROFESSIONAL PERFORMING ARTS COME TO DEKALB COUNTY**

*Just Make It Happen Productions to Bring High-quality Events to Local Venues*

**DeKalb, IL** — Do you yearn to see professional, quality performing arts events, but dread a long, tiring and expensive trip to downtown Chicago? Just Make It Happen Productions has a solution to your problem.

During its 2005-2006 season, the non-profit organization will offer a diverse line-up of performing arts events that have something for everyone. In addition, each event will take place in a local DeKalb County venue, while giving back to the community.

“Support the Arts Locally” is the theme for this year’s program, which reinforces the idea that Just Make Happen supports the performing arts locally on every level possible. This support is accomplished by providing accessibility to professional, quality performances, by supporting community performing arts groups, by helping community non-profit organizations raise funds and by giving back to the community through the charitable donation of all event proceeds.

Just Make It Happen will kick-off the 2005-2006 on Friday, September 30th, with the stage production of “The Gavin Wilson Show — As Time Goes By.” This original narrative musical was written by local resident Gavin Wilson and will pay homage to the classic style of Frank Sinatra. The play features a storyline about a man finding a book of music left behind by his recently deceased grandfather. The book is discovered to hold the key to a family secret. The Egyptian Theatre will play host to this extraordinary performance. All proceeds will be donated to fund the Egyptian Theatre Operations Fund.

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To celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, Just Make It Happen will present the critically acclaimed musical ensemble, “Sones de México” on Sunday, October 16th. This group specializes in “son,” a rich and lively Mexican music tradition and its many regional styles.

“[They] move seamlessly between styles and instruments playing with rock’n’roll energy without sacrificing cultural authenticity,” raved *The Chicago Tribune*. Over twenty-five folk instruments are featured along with four-part vocals and acrobatic dance demonstrations. An educational display and lecture will take place before this cultural event at the Egyptian Theatre.

This “family friendly” event offers free admission for children 12 and under with the purchase of an adult ticket. All proceeds from this event will go to the DeKalb County Hispanic Children’s Music Access Fund.

Duty, honor and country will once again be the focus of the 2nd annual presentation of “We Remember You” on Sunday, November 20th at the Egyptian Theatre. Audience members are invited to discover their patriotic side in this unique, internet radio and video show.

In addition, participants can view a “wall of honor,” experience a dramatic flag presentation, record a personal message to deployed troops and be treated to the singing talents of the “Sophisticated Ladies” accompanied by a fabulous big band.

Event proceeds will go to help support DeKalb County veterans, deployed troops and their families. This event is also “family friendly,” offering free admission to children 12 and under with a paid adult ticket.

Just Make It Happen will ring in the New Year with the presentation of the “Best Western Jazz & Dance Weekend.” The event will start on Friday, January 20th and will continue through Sunday, January 22nd at the Best Western Inn & Suites located in DeKalb.

In February, a “New Orleans Jazz Party” will help heat up the winter month, while “Brass... Take the Stage” will add classic big band and combo spice to the month of March. A “Tribute to Ole Blue Eyes” will salute Frank Sinatra in April, while local vocalists will get a chance at “One Evening of Fame” in May. June will play host to the “DeKalb Big Band Weekend.” Proceeds from each event will be donated to various DeKalb County entities.

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In addition to the scheduled performances, Just Make It Happen will take part in two featured bonus events. The first, a “Fall Community Ballroom Dance Series” will take place on Friday, October 21st and Friday, November 18th of 2005. The dance series is co-sponsored by the DeKalb Park District.

The second will be a “Big Band Cruise” to Jamaica, Costa Rica, Colombia, Panama and Honduras during the week of May 20th, 2006. Carder Travel, Ltd of DeKalb will handle travel arrangements for the cruise. Participants will have the opportunity to become “shell collectors” during their tropical vacation, as proceeds will be used to purchase a new acoustic shell for the Egyptian Theatre.

With an array of professional performing arts events, the 2005-2006 Just Make It Happen season is sure to be an excellent entertainment choice for the whole family, while adding culture, sophistication and strength to our local communities.

For more information about Just Make It Happen Productions, any of the scheduled events or to order tickets, please call 815-758-1093 or visit [www.JustMakeItHappen-DeKalb.com](http://www.JustMakeItHappen-DeKalb.com).