

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Date: 6/1/2010

Re: Pittsburgh Jazz Scene; Irwin Art and Jazz Nights

Ctc: Irwin Main Street Mgr., Donn Henderson 724-296-8074

### **Pittsburgh Jazz ; Irwin Art and Jazz Nights Series starts with Betters**

Irwin Art and Jazz Nights will kick off year three with Pittsburgh jazz great, Harold Betters. Betters will appear at the Third Thursday Art and Jazz Night on June 17<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 9 p.m. The event features local artists and musicians with 3 indoor and 2 outdoor music venues. Harold Betters will appear at the corner of Main and 3<sup>rd</sup>.

*HAROLD BETTERS*, is a remarkable man who has enjoyed a career spanning over four decades and is admired and respected by fellow musicians, friends, and fans nation-wide. A native of Connellsville, he performed at THE ENCORE in Shadyside for so many years, it became known as "The House that Betters Built". His skills have reached far beyond the Pittsburgh Jazz Scene. Harold has performed with Louis Armstrong who described his sound as "rich and honest." Other musicians he has worked with include Al Hirt, Slide Hampton, Ramsey Lewis, and Urbie Green. The Harold Betters Quartet toured with Ray Charles and appeared with comedian, Dick Gregory, at New York's Apollo Theater.

He has been a guest on several television shows including "The Tonight Show," "Merv Griffin," and "Mike Douglas," as well as on local TV programs in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, and San Francisco. Recognized by the Playboy Jazz Poll as one of the best trombonists in the country, and as "Mr. Versatility" by Downbeat Magazine, he has also been named "Man of the Year in Music" by the Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce.

The June Art and Jazz night will feature Betters and several other area musicians including; Dave Cremonese, Ray Morretton, Rick Struzzi, Jason Hollar and Thom Book. Area artists will also be displaying their works from 5-9 p.m.

Some 18 local merchants will hold a "Shoppe Crawl" with monthly prizes and a grand prize of 2 tickets to a fall Penguin Hockey game and dinner for two at The Church Brew Works in Pittsburgh.

The Third Thursday Art and Jazz Nights are held monthly June through August. The 2010 event is being made possible by Duncan Financial, S&T Bank, a Westmoreland County Tourism Grant and The Irwin Project.

A complete schedule is available at [IrwinPa.Org](http://IrwinPa.Org).

DRH