

For Immediate Release

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New York Jazz, South of the Skyway

SARASOTA, FL . . . FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE . . . Secure your bar stool now; Cork's Upstairs Lounge brings unparalleled musicianship to the Sarasota music scene. Every **Friday and Saturday evening** from **8-11PM**, Cork features innovative local groups ***Sampa Jazz*** (Fridays) and ***Lotus Fire*** (Saturdays), both anchored by violinist Keven Aland and featuring such celebrated musicians as Nicholaas Krasner on guitar (*Los Listos*), Don Dean on upright bass, Nick Dow on drums, and Regis Moreira on piano. Martinis, small plates, an extensive wine list and full dinner menu are available throughout the evening.

Since the restaurant's conception, providing an innovative music program has been one of the main goals for owner Lisa Morris: "My husband Bob and I met in Chicago and loved the city's vibrant music, art, and culinary scenes. Contemporary in ambiance, modern in cuisine and innovative in music, Cork is our taste of the metropolitan life in the heart of Sarasota."

Violinist Keven Aland coordinated the weekly line-up, seeking musical groups consistent with Cork's contemporary identity. Friday headliner ***Sampa Jazz*** features Aland alongside Don Dean (upright bass), Nick Dow (drums), and Regis Moreira (piano); comparable to the acts of Southbeach, Chicago and New York, *Sampa Jazz* is international in style and driven by creativity, passion, and raw talent.

Saturday's duo ***Lotus Fire*** reunites Aland with renowned local guitarist Nicolaas Kraster of *Los Listos*. Prior to disbanding in 2001, Aland and Kraster built a popular following at musical venues (Gastronomia, Alley Cat Café, The Main Street Station) across Sarasota. Fusing traditional melodies of rumba, flamenco, and tango to modern rhythms, *Lotus Fire* creates a musical complexity both inspiring and seductive in spirit. As stated by Aland, "this music serves to amaze and enlighten the listener, the musician and student of music alike."

To listen to recordings of *Sampa Jazz*, visit Cork's homepage www.corkonthecircle.com. For more information about Cork's live entertainment schedule, please visit <http://www.corkonthecircle.com/weekly-happenings.html> or contact us at info@corkonthecircle.com, 941-388-2675 or 29 N. Blvd. of the Presidents, Sarasota, FL 34236.



Sampa Jazz musicians (from left) Don Dean, Nick Dow, Keven Aland and Regis Moreira

About Cork

Cork is the one-stop destination for casual Mediterranean dining and wine and spirits retail - at the street level - and modern dining - on the second floor. Located on St. Armand's Circle, Sarasota, Florida's famed shopping and restaurant district on the Gulf of Mexico, Cork was named "Best New Restaurant" by Florida Trend Magazine and "simply the most exciting new restaurant in Sarasota" by STYLE Magazine. Its contemporary continental cuisine is punctuated by an international wine list that compliments Chef Trefry's cuisine. All wine list selections are available for retail purchase in the ground floor BottleShop.

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