

Jazzing for free

If you don't want to miss a beat during the exciting 21st staging of the Jamaica Ocho Rios International Jazz Festival, then you don't have to.

Every night this week, at the two designated Jazz Festival Villages in Kingston at the Four Seasons Hotel and in Ocho Rios at the Sunset Jamaica Grande, musicians will be jamming with each other during Jazz Week, which ends Friday, all for free. In the meantime, over in Ocho Rios, patrons can also stop by the Ocean Village Shopping Centre in Ocho Rios after a hard day's work, where the venue will be pulsating with jazz from fantastic local and international acts in free public concerts at 4 p.m. The first of the free sessions began yesterday and continue until Friday. The last hurrah for Jazz Week will be a free public concert on Fathers' Day at Turtle River Park in the centre of Ocho Rios on Sunday, as a thank you gift to patrons from the organisers of the festival for supporting the event over the last 21 years. Families are invited to take their dads to the free Fathers' Day concert and they neither have to drive nor cook as Jamventure Tours will provide transportation for a minimal fee and meals will be available at the venue. Patrons can book with Jamventure Tours, by calling 437-2441. The bus departs from the Small Business Association Park at Trafalgar Road in Kingston at 10 a.m. The organisers will be turning up the heat as the week comes to a close with private venues putting on their own concerts. The venues are Glen Jazz Club in Tower Isle on Friday, at 8:00 p.m. Over on the south coast is Treasure Beach Jazz Escape at the Two Seasons Guest House and Jazz Straight No Chasers, at the Jamaica Palace Hotel in Portland, both on Saturday, at 8:00 p.m. For more information on Jazz Week, contact the Jazz Centre at 927-3544, 22 East Kings House Road.