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BETH MCKEE AND HER SWAMP SISTAS ARE AT IT AGAIN
Soulful women, singing out to fight local hunger.

From 3:00 to midnight on Saturday, May 19, Park Ave CDs and Orlando Magazine will present Beth McKee's 7th annual Swamp Sistas La La, a musical gathering of female-fronted acts, at the Orlando Fringe Outdoor Stage in Loch Haven Park. The free event, Beth's big re-imagination of the traditional Creole house party where guests chip in what they can for a community cause, will raise funds to help Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida feed kids over the summer months, when no school means no school breakfast or lunch for many who rely on it.

Swamp Sistas is an ever-growing alliance of over 2,700 creative and active Southern women, led by McKee, that's inclusive of all age and genre (musical members include legends like Janis Ian and next-gen rising stars like Sarah Shook.) More relevant than ever, the Swamp Sistas support not just each other, but their home communities at large. Artistically, they collaborate, mentor, and perform as the Swamp Sistas Songwriter Circle. Philanthropically, they organize and perform to raise money and awareness for targeted local causes and organizations like Second Harvest Food Bank.

Adding even more to the energy surrounding the La La, McKee will release her new album *Dreamwood Acres** at the event. Other headlining acts are Kaleigh Baker's *Some-day Honey* (Orlando debut) Chakra Khan (Alexandra Love and DaVinCi from Solil-laquists of Sound) and breaking soul act from St. Pete, the Betty Fox Band. These stylistically diverse performances will follow a 3 hour block of collaborative performances from the Swamp Sistas Songwriter Circle which will include Hannah Harber, Gailanne Amundsen (Jubal's Kin), Renee Arozqueta, Amy Robbins (Maple Sparrow), Kayonne Riley, Shadow Pearson (Actomatics) O-Sky, Jessica Delacruz and Tracey Gibbs.

Moreover, the Swamp Sistas Songwriter Circle will launch the *La La Summer Hope* Virtual Food drive at City of Casselberry's Earth Fest in Lake Concord Park, on Saturday April 28. The group will also host a volunteer night at the Food Bank on Wednesday May 2 and a pre-La La warmup at The Imperial at Washburn Imports on Thursday, May

10. Donations can be made at these lead in events, the La La, or online at www.lala-summerhope.com.

“Our very first La La was held in the parking lot at Park Ave CDs in 2012, and they’ve partnered with us ever since.” says McKee. “We’re excited that Orlando Magazine has joined the party as a co-presenting sponsor this year, and we all look forward to a spectacular day of music and giving, with a plethora of food and beverage options available on the Fabulous Fringe Lawn.”

Stage enhancements and decor for the La La will be designed and created by students from Bithlo's Orange County Academy, with guidance from ArtReach Orlando's Jenn Benner. This is particularly meaningful since Second Harvest provides lunches for participants of a summer art camp that ArtReach Orlando conducts at the academy.

When McKee talks about the La La’s and their community mission, her enthusiasm is evident: “Over the past two years, we’ve raised \$25,000 for this cause,, and this year we aim to raise another \$25,000 which will mean an additional 100,000 meals for kids in low-income families in our community, this summer. The campaign will run from April 28 until the end of the La La May 19 at Orlando Fringe, where cash and check donations will also be accepted.

***DREAMWOOD ACRES**

Releasing 18 May 2018, *Dreamwood Acres* is produced by Mitch Easter protégé John Pfiffner and features collaborators from the jangle-pop god’s inner circle. The subtly lush album is a furtherance of Beth McKee’s signature of roots music that rides the idyllic backroads of soul, gospel, blues, folk, pop, and rock. Here, she steps even further out with some newer indie threads (“Resurrection Mary,” “In Between the Lines”).

Beth herself says, “*Dreamwood Acres* could be from any place – from a summer camp to a cemetery, suburb or a sanitarium – and this record runs that gamut. I just let the songs go wherever they wanted. Let’s call it free-range music.”

To learn more visit www.swampsistas.com, or call (407)579-0439.

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