

Jazz in the Garden at Desert Botanical Garden

Besides the swimming pool and the kitchen freezer, where can you go to cool off in Phoenix? Sure, air conditioning helps lower your body temperature, but being cool is more than that. It's a state of mind induced by your surroundings. Rather than escaping the desert, seek it out and drink in its beauty, its mystery, its lore and wonder. But do it in the moonlit tranquility of evening, and do it to the free-spirited melodies of jazz.

At the Desert Botanical Garden on Friday nights through July 19th, this is exactly what you can do.

As the stars stud the sky above you, so do lights twinkle along the main trail in the Garden, allowing you to enjoy the desert's shadowy serenity and peek at some of the plants that modestly reserved their blossoms for those with nocturnal natures. You'll be feeling cool and peaceful by the time you reached the secluded corner of the Garden where Ullman Terrace is. Because the concerts sell out early, it's a good idea to reserve your seat in advance. Chairs are sprawled around the stage in a manner that allows for individual preference. Some are up on the patio and include tables, which is desirable if you plan to partake of Eddie's Patio Café bullet. Others are closer to the stage and under trees, and some benches are also available.

Avid meat-eaters will appreciate the \$9.95 buffet menu; individual items are not available for purchase. The two-hour concerts start at 7 p.m. and the buffet is served until 8:30 p.m. Arrive with time to spare and spend some wonderful pre-music moments sipping a prickly pear margarita (3.25).

CITY SECTION

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