

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Swanky Kitchen Band Receives Rhode Island Honour on First Night of Historic Tour

Providence, Rhode Island, 29 July 2024 – Swanky Kitchen Band, the acclaimed Caymanian traditional kitchen band, has kicked off its landmark US tour with an electrifying performance at the FirstWorks Summer Beats festival on Friday (26 July). This tour marks the band's first multi-city endeavor, showcasing the vibrant sounds of Caymanian music to new audiences across the East Coast.

The tour kicked off with an explosion of energy and crowd interaction at the Roger Williams Park Dalrymple Boathouse Lawn in Providence, Rhode Island, where the band received an unexpected and prestigious honour. During their set, Kathleen Pletcher, Executive Artistic Director of FirstWorks, the series curator, presented the band with a special citation from the state of Rhode Island on behalf of Lieutenant Governor, Sabina Matos. This citation recognises the band's contributions to cultural heritage and their efforts in promoting Caymanian music.

"Swanky Kitchen Band are culture-bearers of the past, present and future of music from the Cayman Islands. The Band has given us an evening of extraordinary music and inspiring stories of Caymanian history. Most importantly, these world-class artists joined FirstWorks in our mission to connect art with audiences and infused our lives with joy", noted FirstWorks' Kathleen Pletcher.

"We are incredibly honoured and thrilled to receive this citation," said Samuel Rose, the band's leader and fiddler. "It's a testament to the cultural significance of Caymanian kitchen dance music and the hard work we've put into sharing it with the world. It was especially amazing to see so many Caymanians on the Eastern Coast come out to Providence to join in the fun," he continued.

Guardian of Caymanian Culture

Swanky Kitchen Band is the guardian of the Cayman Islands' indigenous musical genre—kitchen dance music. Since 2003, Swanky Kitchen Band has grown a loyal fan base and is Cayman's most sought-after and acclaimed performing act. The dynamic 10-piece band comprises Samuel Rose (fiddle), Nicholas Johnson (guitar), Paula Scott (grater/percussion), Lammie Seymour (bass), Devon Edie (sax/harmonica), Christopher Seymour (lead guitar), KK Alese (vocals), Jeffrey Wilson (vocals), Beneil Miller (keyboard and vocals) and Jared Tibbetts (drums).

Produced by the Center for Cultural Vibrancy, the Swanky Kitchen Band US East Coast Tour aims to celebrate and preserve Caymanian heritage while introducing the unique sounds of kitchen dance music to a broader audience. The tour will continue through various cities, bringing the band's dynamic performances and rich cultural history to new stages.

Swanky Kitchen Band extends its heartfelt thanks to its sponsors: the Ministry of Border Control, Labour & Culture; the Ministry of Youth, Sports, & Heritage; the Cayman National Cultural Foundation; and Cayman Airways Ltd.

For more tour details, please visit www.swankykitchenband.com/shows.

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***Photo Caption:** Kathleen Pletcher presents Rhode Island Citation to Swanky Kitchen Band members*

About Swanky Kitchen Band

Founded in 2003, Swanky Kitchen Band has become Cayman's most sought-after and acclaimed act. The band's music blends Irish and Celtic fiddling traditions with vibrant African rhythms, creating a unique and captivating sound. Swanky Kitchen Band is dedicated to preserving Caymanian heritage while bringing fresh takes on popular music and old standards.

About FirstWorks

FirstWorks is a non-profit based in Providence, Rhode Island whose purpose is to build the cultural, educational and economic vitality of its community by engaging diverse audiences with world-class performing arts and education programs. Now celebrating its 20th year, FirstWorks festivals, performances and programs have attracted more than 925,000 participants since its founding in 2004. During its 2022-23 season, FirstWorks produced over 40 arts education events reaching over 2,400 Rhode Island youth. Virtual Learning online platforms furthered FirstWorks educational reach and have engaged over 100,000 views from students, educators, and families. FirstWorks is the founding partner of PVDfest and has collaborated with the City of Providence to curate and produce the City's free, signature arts celebration since 2015. Embracing collaboration, FirstWorks has fostered over 90 community partnerships across business, social service, government, arts and education sectors. Visit <https://firstworks.org> to learn more.

About Roger Williams Park Conservancy

The mission of the Roger Williams Park Conservancy is to sustain and enhance Roger Williams Park as a vibrant public space for all. An independent nonprofit organization, the Conservancy works in partnership with the City of Providence Parks Department to steward the Park, offer community programs, raise resources, coordinate marketing efforts, and plan for its long-term sustainability and enjoyment by the community. Visit <https://rwpcconservancy.org> to learn more.