

Hart Plaza: festivals, fireworks and all that jazz

staff writer

There will be much more to do than watch the river flow and the fountain spray this spring and summer a Detroit's Hart Plaza.

Events already planned downtown should fill the eyes, ears and stomachs of Detroiters, suburbanities and, yes, even tourists who attend the festivities.

Tourists? In Detroit? The Republicans left last summer, you say.

"Look at the national-press acclaim Detroit received during the Republican convention," says Doren McPhail; spokeswoman for Detroit Renaissance Inc., a basiness-backed group promoting development and tourism in Detroit. "Sometimes I think we have a better reputation nationally than with our own people. The Republican delegates were our best press agents as far as getting the word out that Detroit is a great place to visit."

es a tel-ex from the Diversified Travel bu-reau in Tempe, Ariz., asking for information on this year's Montreux/Detroit Internation-al Jazz Festival "asywe have clients interest-ol in attending".

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EVERY WEEKEND, from now until the last weekend of September, Hart Plaza will be the site of 20 different festivals.

Seventeen of those festivals honor various ethnic groups, the 11th straight year foreign food, music, dance and culture have been celebrated in the city. You might sample Polish pierogi and dance the polis one weekend (Aug. 41-16) and ear corned beef and do a jig another (June 3-d. Fastival). The second—and fast-becoming annual—Montreux/Detroit International Jazz Festival concerts will take place Wednesday-Vaunday, Sept. 7-9.

More musicians, more sites and more concert dates are planned at the Detroit portion

cert dates are planned at the Detroit portion of this year's expanded international jazz fest, say directors. Concerts are planned at

Hart Plaza as well as the Bob-Lo boat, De-troit Institute of Arts, the Music Hall, three downtown hotels and two downtown parks. The concerts in Hart Plaza and the parks will be free and so will some of the performances at the hotels.

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Some of the jazz headliners already lined up for the festival include Sarah Vaugha, Archie Shepp, Hugh Masakela, Betty Carter, Donald Byrd and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band, according to Ms. McPhail.

The Detroit/Windsor International Freedom Festival is in its 23rd year and will be celebrated for 10 days from June 26 through July 4.

FIFTY EVENTS are planned in the two cities to eelebrate Canada's July 1 Dominion Day and our Independence Day on July 4. The single most popular event of the annual Freedom Festival, the fireworks display, will be Tuesday, June 30. The fireworks are the largest display of pyrotechnics in North America and a local institution ranking right up there

with the Santa Claus Parade on Thanksgiving Day.

Something new this year is that recorded music will accompany the fireworks. Radio station WTWR-FM (27 on the dial), with studies in the RenCen overlooking the riverfront, will play the 1812 Overture during the fireworks display and is urging spectators to tune in on portable radios. Sounds good as long as the guy with the loudest radio inst't tuned to the Tiger-Indian ballgame that night.

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The Blues Festival, the final festival of the summer, takes place over the weekend of Sept. 25-27 and, like the ethnic festivals, admission is free. Bobo Jenkins, president of the Detroil Blues Citob, is coordinating entertainment and local blues musicians such as Chicago Pete of Detroil Blues featured. Announcer at the blues fest will be the gravelly voiced Famous Coachman (his legal name), host of "Blues After Hours," which can be heard from midnight till 2 a.m. every Sunday morning.



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