

## Friends Indeed

# Oct. 1 Concert To Help Musician After Theft Of Instruments

Posted: Friday, September 3, 2010 8:46 am | Updated: 10:10 am, Fri Sep 3, 2010.

By Scott Smith

TIMES RECORD • SSMITH@SWTIMES.COM

A benefit concert to help an area musician and music instructor replace stolen instruments will be staged next month in downtown Fort Smith.

The Benefit for Don Bailey Concert will be held from 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 1 at Neumeier's Rib Room & Beer Garden, 817 Garrison Ave., and will feature multiple-genre sets by Don Bailey & Friends, Gary Hutchison, Mr. Cabbagehead & The Screamin' Radishes, The Linnie Hice Band, Bordertown featuring Pam Camp, Three Kings, Copesetic, Boxfoot Blues and Ten Cent Hat.

The on-stage musicians, as well as many relatives, friends and supporters, are rallying together in hopes of helping Bailey, who was playing with his family for a free concert July 4 in Hot Springs, when an alto saxophone and flute were stolen from his locked van, said UAFS student Brittany Dawson, one of the fundraiser's organizers.

"His vintage, heirloom alto saxophone was stolen ... and is worth \$8,000 or more," she said. "Plus, a \$2,000 flute. Insurance will only pay for \$200 for an irreplaceable antique from 1967.

"I, along with other students of Don's, have decided to put together a benefit for him to help with compensation for his loss," Dawson added. "We would like to show our appreciation of how awesome of a person Don has been as a teacher, mentor and friend."

Dawson met Bailey only seven months ago, yet she said she feels their friendship will last a lifetime.

"While I am not a musician, I am a devoted artist and poet," she said. "I quit writing poetry for about three years, and Don convinced me to start again. He gave me hopes and dreams again of traveling to New York and anywhere else I might see myself, because you only get one life to live."

Other students agreed that the Bailey concert is a worthy effort. James Jones said Don and his wife, Teri Bailey, treat him like a son. Don Bailey gave James the bassist slot at Woodlands United Methodist Church before James won a paying job as a worship leader at a Methodist church in northwest Arkansas.

"We, as friends, students and fans of Don, cannot fathom how he must have felt with his great loss," Dawson said. "It only seems right to help him in any way we can."

The Oct. 1 benefit will be much more than just a concert "to help replace material things" for Bailey, she said.

"This is a long overdue thank-you to him and Teri for all of the wonderful things they've done, without much recognition, for a vast amount of individuals," Dawson said. "He deserves anything he gets and more."

Admission to the event is \$5, with all proceeds going to Bailey for the replacement of instruments. Those attending after 8 p.m. must be 21 or older.

To make a donation, call Amy Dias at (479) 573-1111 or Carl Sundquist at (479) 573-1098. The account has been set up at Arvest Bank's, 5000 Rogers Ave. Checks can be made out to "Benefit for Don Bailey" and mailed to Arvest, P.O. Box 11110, Fort Smith, AR 72917-1110.

### The Benefit for Don Bailey Concert

**When:** 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Oct. 1

**Where:** Neumeier's Rib Room & Beer Garden, 817 Garrison Ave.

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*Times Record File Photo*

Don Bailey plays the flute during a Tinsel and Tails New Year's Eve Gala at the Holiday Inn City Center. Bailey, who teaches music at the University of Arkansas at Fort Smith, was playing a free concert July 4 in Hot Springs with his family when his "vintage, heirloom alto saxophone" and flute were stolen from his locked van.