



This is a special weekend. The Savannah Philharmonic offers its annual mega-gift to the community – Phil the Park.

Phil the Park is a happening, as much as it is a performance. We expect 20,000 of your neighbors to fill Forsyth Park, in the heart of the city, but I'm rooting for 30,000. If you show up, we might set a record for the event.

Phil the Park is produced by the Savannah Philharmonic, with support from the city and local businesses. Two of my babies – this magazine, The Skinnie, and Cutters Point Coffee – are proud sponsors. The Skinnie and Cutters Point will both host tents in the park, where we would love to see you and give you some gifts that express our appreciation for your ongoing support.

The date for Phil the Park is Saturday, October 7. Many attendees enjoy the annual picnic tradition, creating elaborate spreads reflecting the celebration's theme. This year's tag is "Around the World." Expect picnics to feature globally inspired decorations and cuisine. Picnic-throwers are encouraged to enter the judged competition, with prizes and bragging rights at stake.

Phil the Park begins when you show up to claim your spot and set your table...you can make a day of it or choose from the schedule of activities. At 4:30, judges begin to evaluate picnic displays. At 5, the 3rd Infantry Division Rock Band takes the stage. Savannah Music Festival's Jazz Academy follows at 6. The main event – the Savannah Philharmonic Spectacular concert, conducted by Artistic Director Keitaro Harada, with guest artists Alysha Umphress, gold medalist at the 2023 American Traditions Vocal Competition, and the SCAD Bee Sharps, the college's exceptional vocal ensemble – is set for 7 o'clock.

Sit close to the bandshell or enjoy the giant video display from any distance you choose. Visit sponsor tents. Sample a wide array of food truck specialties. The fun and spectacle continue until at least 9 o'clock.

Do you need a ticket? No.
Does the Phil charge admission? No.

Is the Phil truly driven by its mantra, "Something for Everyone?" Saturday is proof positive...a definite "yes!"

The Savannah Philharmonic (SavPhil, among friends) is the region's premier community-focused arts organization and Phil the Park is a distillation of its mission: To entertain, inspire, and build community.

Many residents cite the presence of a world-class orchestra as affirmation of our community's vibrancy. Our resident orchestra has been recognized as an innovative leader in its field. Saturday is your opportunity to celebrate our shared good fortune – the privilege of calling this region 'home.'

I hope to see you in the park. Stop by and say "hi."

Scott A. Lauritti

To contact us with your ideas, responses, letters and more, email us at mail@theskinnie.com



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