

# Hassayampa Music Festival



The inaugural Hassayampa Music Festival took place September 30-October 1, 2023. The venue was Gambel Field in Tonopah, located at 2511 S. 331st Avenue. It was announced as 2 days of Blues and Grooves, and the promotion did not fall short on delivering. Well-known, respected, & popular performer Poppy Harpman called it "... two days of the best musical talent the state has to offer." He went on to thank attendees for supporting local music.

The venue has much to offer; with plenty of GRASSY space for vendors, camping, and activities. Vendors offered apparel, drinkware, military surplus items, candles, 3-D printed collectibles & gift items, jewelry, and more.

The weekend's weather was clear and temps were just right for an outdoor concert. Unfortunately, Saturday did get hit by some significant wind; which gave some vendors & campers troubles. By Sunday, much but not all had dissipated.

This weekend's lineup offered Blues, Rockabilly, Folk, Pop, Rock, Bluegrass, original music, & covers from numerous genres... With all top-notch performers. Not only was each band a winner ~ even the dj music between sets was good! ☺

Sunday's lineup opened with Bluegrass band 'Ten Dollar Wedding'. Bluegrass is such fun & uplifting music to listen to ☺ They were followed by 'The Black Hole'. They recently won the Arizona Blues Challenge and will be representing Arizona in Memphis, TN at the International Blues Challenge in January! Congratulations! It is always a treat to hear Poppy Harpman perform. Today, he & The Storm did not disappoint. True Flavor Blues band was another to share their significant talents. Their set included a tribute to Big Pete Pearson to mark his 87th birthday. It was my first time hearing bands 'Oliver Rage' and 'The Sugar Thieves' .... But will definitely look forward to hearing them each again! While we were not there on Saturday for the show, there's no doubt that the day's lineup was equally entertaining.

Activities included a huge play area for kids, with a slip n slide, bounce house, inflatable slide, & more. There was also corn hole and a volleyball net set up.

There were numerous raffle items available to win. The 50/50 pot provided Lei a \$245 prize.

The raffle for an Epiphone Les Paul guitar was won by Malcom.

This weekend was a fundraiser for the Guitars For Vets program. The organization uses music to help Veterans cope with PTSD and to help prevent Veteran suicides. G4V provides lessons and guitars at no cost. G4V has around 110 Chapters in some 40 states so far. Follow the link to learn more about the G4V mission and how you can help.

It was also a fundraiser for the Saddle Mountain Unified School District Middle School and High School Music Departments.

Thanks go out to the following for their support of this event. Hopefully we don't miss anyone ☺

Hassayampa Music Festival shared this announcement, "We want to send a huge shout out to all of our sponsors from the 1st annual Hassayampa Music Festival. Sunstate Equipment Co., LLC for the light towers, Get Simple Box for the 20' storage containers, Duncan & Son Lines for their generous support, Celebration Party Rentals for the use of the bounce house and water slide, Desert Young Marines for all of the help with the kids' area, and to Ramon & Christine Bonilla at Legacy Moves Consulting for sponsoring the 50/50 Raffle and Guitar Raffle. We could not have done this without you! Thank you for believing in us!" Additional thanks go to Sound Engineer James Gaspar of Gaspar Entertainment & his crew, and Aaron & Jared of Cervantes Ranch Welding LLC for turning a bland trailer into a killer stage!

Hassayampa Music Festival 2023 was a really fun time & we're glad to have spent the day there. It ended up with fewer people attending than it deserved. But those who came out were sure glad they did. They had a great time and got one hell of a show! As soon as the 2024 dates are set, that info will be in the calendar.

In the meantime, Gambel Field is the place to be for A Very Hassy Christmas Concert on December 16 from 11a-5pm; to add some Rockin' Blues to your Christmas Season.

Keep on movin' & groovin' ☺ 'bye for now ~

Betsy