

## JOYCE COOLING KICKS OFF BENEFIT CONCERT SERIES FOR NATIONAL ALLIANCE ON MENTAL ILLNESS

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By: Kim Betton, [SmoothJazzTimes.com](http://SmoothJazzTimes.com)

Joyce Cooling is gearing up for a concert series very dear to the hearts and lives of thousands of Americans. MUSIC FOR THE MIND is a benefit for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). The internationally acclaimed guitarist – singer – song writer is performing the shows in Boston, Massachusetts, Montclair, New Jersey, and the first performance being on Friday, August 6, 2010 at Anthology, in downtown San Diego, California. Portions of the proceeds and merchandise sales will support those cities' local NAMI chapters. Cooling knows first hand about the fight against mental illness. "It all began when my brother was diagnosed with schizophrenia at 19 years old," said Cooling who credits NAMI for being the saving grace for her entire family.



"We had nowhere to turn. Then one day my mother learned about NAMI. The organization gave us so many resources, supported us through meetings, and so much more. NAMI is a wonderful support group that truly saved our lives. Now it's my turn to help NAMI to help other families," Cooling told SmoothJazzTimes.com.

Cooling's melodies are soothing, cool, and relaxing. The jazz artist is a show stopper before concert crowds. In fact during the MUSIC FOR THE MIND series, Cooling will play tunes from her latest CD "Global Cooling."

With an estimated 26.2 percent of Americans ages 18 and older suffering from mental illness, Cooling hopes her musical gifts during this critical time will heighten awareness about mental illness, medical research and the struggles with the stigma linked to the condition.

"That word mental illness has such a horrible stigma attached to it that people kind of shrink back and say 'oh no, I don't have mental illness'," expressed Cooling. "But we must realize that 1 in 4 families are affected by mental illness. It is everywhere and we have to do our share to make things better," she said.

NAMI is America's largest grassroots mental health organization. Those who cannot attend the MUSIC FOR THE MIND shows can offer support for the non-profit by visiting [www.nami.org](http://www.nami.org) to make a donation.

MUSIC FOR THE MIND Concerts Featuring Joyce Cooling:

Aug. 6, 2010	Anthology, San Diego, CA
Oct. 7, 2010	Scullers Jazz Club, Boston, MA
Oct. 8, 2010	Trumpets Jazz Club, Montclair, NJ

For more information visit [www.joycecooling.com](http://www.joycecooling.com)