



Interactive mobile feature to open at Washington Park soon

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Nina Perlove with the fountains in Washington Park, set to open Friday

With the ribbon cutting set for 10 a.m. at Washington Park on Friday, I went today to get a preview of what folks will see. First, I parked in the new, 450-space garage, which was great, and took the elevator up to ground level. That opened up onto Music Hall Plaza, a symphony-sized plaza directly across from Music Hall's main entrance.

The interactive music and water feature in the park is still being tested. The fountains were running on Thursday, but the interactive mobile application that will allow visitors to select classical music to be played on their hand-held device or broadcast over the park's sound system was still being installed, said Nina Perlove, executive director of the American Classical Music Hall of Fame.

"There is some chance that we may have the app fully installed and integrated with the park sound system and fountain for the ribbon cutting tomorrow," she said.

When it's ready, visitors will even be able to set the tempo for "dancing" water on the park's new fountain. We did walk over to the Walk of Fame, where visitors will see pavers engraved with the names of inductees into the Hall of Fame.



One of the pavers in the "Walk of Fame"

Using iPads, phones or other hand-held devices, park-goers will be able to access information and music relating to the inductees, including composers such as Aaron Copland, musicians such as contralto Marian Anderson or orchestras such as the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

They will be able to request short musical excerpts for listening on their own device, or to be heard on public speakers in eight zones throughout the park. And, they can opt to have the water in the park's large

fountain “dance” to their choice of music.

While I was there, Scott Palamar, of H2OArts of Malibu, CA, was making adjustments in the control room at the park which will operate the fountains.

“Scott’s technology is different from any other dancing fountains in the world,” Perlove says.



Scott Palamar in the control room at Washington Park

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