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By: Dan Maley

Singer-songwriter Mullins performs in Macon park

Sunday was a special Mother's Day for Atlanta singer-songwriter Shawn Mullins. Mullins, best known for his 1998 hit, "Lullaby," has one child, 9-month-old Murphy. That means Sunday was the first opportunity for his wife, Kelly, to get the full Mother's day treatment. Unfortunately for her, Mullins was booked to play at Macon's Washington Park on Sunday. Fortunately for Macon, Mullins was booked to play at Washington Park Sunday. "I hated not being there in the morning," Mullins said before his performance. "But I'll drive home right after this and relieve her of baby duty." Mullins was the featured attraction of the latest installment of the monthly Second Sunday Brunch concert series, presented by the College Hill Alliance. Local singer-songwriter Amy Godwin opened the concert. Organizers estimated about 600 people gathered at the park for the mid-day event. It was one of the best turnouts yet. As with past Second Sunday events, families lounged on blankets and lawn chairs, enjoying picnic lunches they brought with them or sandwich plates sold on site. Many grown-ups sipped beer, wine and mixed drinks available from the bar. Kids splashed in the park's stream and painted flower pots at the activity table. Dogs tugged on leashes. Grown men played with hula hoops. As usual, the grass in front of the stage was crowded. Unlike recent concerts, the audience spread up the steep sides of the park. Some families settled in among the roses near College Street. The perfect weather had something to do

with the big crowd. The sky was clear, the temperature was near 70 degrees and a light breeze freshened the atmosphere. But the appearance of a celebrity artist — made possible by a grant recently obtained by the College Hill Alliance — was a big draw as well. Mullins, after all, has been on the “Tonight” show. “Lullaby” has been used in television commercials as far away as South Africa. Mullins doesn’t mind if most people know him only for “Lullaby,” which combines half-spoken verses about an unhappy Los Angeles beauty with a soaring, upper-register chorus. “I never get sick of playing it,” he said. “I guess it’s because it’s the one that brought me to the dance. A lot of singer-songwriters are in that boat. When we get lucky enough to cross over into that world, it’s usually a temporary thing. I never expected to be on pop radio. It’s really a blessing.” Mullins said he’s working on an album that may come out in the fall. He also has been writing country songs — he co-wrote “Toes,” the No. 1 country hit for the Zac Brown Band — and doing voice-overs for Aflac commercials. Angie Hayes walked to the park from her Orange Street home with her husband, Andrew, and their two children, 2-year-old Lily and 9-month-old Henry. “This is the first time we’ve made it to the Second Sunday Brunch,” Angie Hayes said. “It’s nice. ... It’s good to see someone famous.” She said her plans for the rest of Mother’s Day included going home so her kids could nap, going to another park and “then I’ll get my favorite, crab legs, after the kids go to bed, with a glass of wine.” On June 13, Second Sunday Brunch moves to its summer hours, 6-8 p.m. Fiddle-playing singer-songwriter Carrie Rodriguez is scheduled to perform.