

News

just imagine

NJPAC

New Jersey Performing Arts Center
One Center Street, Newark, NJ 07102

**For Press inquiries, please contact:
Josh Balber, 973-353-8051 or jbalber@njpac.org**

NJPAC presents

CHASE 



For Immediate Release

“...perhaps the most powerful statement of the arts center’s—and Newark’s—success can be glimpsed on warm summer nights, when thousands of people throng its outdoor plaza for a weekly music series that has become Newark’s town social.”

--The New York Times

CHASE SOUNDS OF THE CITY 2008

NJPAC’S THEATER SQUARE IS THE PLACE TO BE THIS SUMMER!

**FREE OUTDOOR MUSIC SERIES TO RUN THURSDAY EVENINGS,
JULY 3 – AUGUST 28 AND FRIDAY, AUGUST 29**

Newark, NJ (June 18, 2008) – From jazz, blues, gospel, and reggae to beats from Africa, soul/R&B, funk, and hip-hop to electronica, Salsa, and Pop/Rock, NJPAC’s *CHASE SOUNDS OF THE CITY* brings a genre-bending party to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center’s Theater Square this summer with 29 bands over nine Thursday evenings and one Friday evening. *Chase Sounds of the City*, the acclaimed **FREE** outdoor music series, kicks off on Thursday, July 3 and runs every Thursday evening through August 28 and Friday, August 29 — from 5:00 – 9:45 p.m. Different groups will entertain the after work crowd, local residents, families and other concertgoers from around the region, all of whom made NJPAC “the place to be on Thursdays” when *Sounds of the City* was introduced ten summers ago. This summer’s

-more-

series is sponsored by Chase. Co-sponsors are Berkeley College, Bud Light and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. Additional support is provided by Newark Now and The Puffin Foundation.

"We are pleased to be the title sponsor of NJPAC's *Chase Sounds of the City*, the annual free summer music festival that brings the rich diversity of local communities together to enjoy the great music planned for the series," said **Joe Dempsey**, President, New Jersey Middle Market, JPMorgan Chase & Co. "*Sounds of the City* is an integral part of Chase's commitment to promoting community participation in the arts throughout the Metropolitan area and across the globe."

Chase Sounds of the City kicks off its tenth season on July 3 with a special evening that brings back to NJPAC **Jubilation**, the gospel choir committed to African American Sacred Music, established by NJPAC's Arts Education Department in 1998 and which has gone on to perform widely on its own throughout the area. Jubilation has performed with Queen Latifah, Michael Bolton, Cissy Houston, Dorothy Norwood, among others. Also on the stage opening night will be contemporary jazz group **Berkana** featuring **Nat Janoff**, exploring jazz influences in the jamband genre of music, and Newark singer/songwriter **Andre**, whose sound blends old-school and new-school R&B. Andre has performed with such notables as Carl Thomas, Boyz II Men, India.Arie, Naughty by Nature, the Temptations, Brian Mcknight, Frankie Beverly and Patti Labelle, among others.

The *Chase Sounds of the City* grand finale on Friday, August 29 will feature the dynamic eight-piece all-female salsa band, **Mayra Casals & CoCoMaMa**. Casals has been touring with jazz violinist Regina Carter for the past eight years. Salsa-singer **Luisito Rosario** will close the festival with his eleven-member band.

Other highlights of the festival include performances on July 31 by world music mash-up group **Yohimbe Brothers** which features Vernon Reid on guitar, laptop and vocals, DJ Logic on turntables, and vocalist Maya Azucena, who headlines her own night a few weeks later; jazz drummer **Winard Harper**, on August 7, who brings his 20+ years of experience and his own sextet to Newark; **The Gretchen Parlato Band**, also on August 7, winner of the 2004 Thelonious Monk Jazz vocals competition; and on August 21, **Brian Jackson**, the longtime musical collaborator with **Gil Scott Heron**, and NJPAC *Wachovia Jazz for Teens* vocal alumnus **Stephen McLean**, share the stage for a full evening of jazz.

Chase Sounds of the City will feature a **vendor marketplace** in NJPAC's arrival court. Vendors from around the area will have tents set up for concert-goers to shop at each evening of the series.

Featured on WCBS-TV, WNBC-TV, WABC-TV and in *The New York Times*, *Chase Sounds of the City* brings together thousands of people from different ethnic groups and communities who live and work in Newark, as well as from beyond the City's limits. Created in October 1998, this free after-work music series was the brainchild of a group of Newark residents, musicians, students and NJPAC staff, whose purpose it was to help fulfill the Arts Center's mission to be a place of access and involvement for local artists and audiences. "We have extended the great success of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center beyond its front doors," said Evan White and Verushka Wray-Spirito, co-Producers of the series.

Many of the *Chase Sounds of the City* artists are New Jersey-based. Towns represented include Roseland, Scotch Plains, Jersey City, Bloomfield, Hackettstown, Roselle, Irvington, Union City, Hoboken and East Orange.

See below for a complete list of participating artists.

For information, call the *Chase Sounds of the City Hotline* at **973-353-8046**; 1-888-GO-NJPAC (1-888-466-5722); or visit the NJPAC Web site at www.njpac.org.

New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), located in the heart of an emerging downtown Newark, New Jersey, is the sixth largest performing arts center in the United States. Home of the Grammy® Award-winning New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, NJPAC has been widely cited as a catalyst in the revitalization of New Jersey's largest city, attracting over 5 million visitors (including more than 900,000 children) in its first ten years of operation.

Programming has been made possible in part by funds from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts/Department of State, a Partner Agency of the National Endowment for the Arts and by funds from the National Endowment for the Arts.

DATE	TIME	PERFORMER	GENRE	CITY	STATE
7/3/08					
		DJ Jihad Muhammed		Roselle	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Berkana feat. Nat Janoff	Jazz	Roseland	
	7:15-8:00 p.m.	Jubilation	Gospel	Scotch Plains	NJ
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Andre	R&B, Soul	Newark	NJ
7/10/08					
		DJ Punch		Newark	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Jean Caze	Jazz	Valley Stream	NY
	7:15-8:00 p.m.	Julio Santillán Septet	Argentinean Contemporary Music	Sunnyside	NY
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Toubab Krewe	African Dance Grooves	Asheville	NC
7/17/08					
		DJ Adam Cruz		Bloomfield	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Malika Zarra	Moroccan World, Jazz	Jersey City	NJ
	7:15-8:00 p.m.	Lil' Bastad	Blues, R&B, Funk	Bloomfield	NJ
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Kakande Denunya	West African	New York	NY
7/24/08					
		DJ Wayne Louis		East Orange	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	B.D. Lenz	Contemporary Jazz	Hackettstown	NJ
	7:15-8:00p.m.	Judah Tribe	Reggae	Roselle	NJ
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Royalty Band	Caribbean	Irvington	NJ
7/31/08					
		DJ Shake		Jersey City	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	Brazz Tree	New World Acoustic Rock	Jersey City	NJ
	7:15-8:00 p.m.	PVD feat. John Robinson	Jazz-Hip Hop Fusion	Jersey City	NJ
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Yohimbe Brothers	Electronica World Music	New York	NY
8/7/08?					
		DJ Frank D		Morristown	NJ
	5:45-6:30 p.m.	The Gretchen Parlato Band	Jazz	New York	NY
	7:15-8:00 p.m.	Winard Harper	Jazz	Newark	NJ
	8:45-9:45 p.m.	Taj Weekes & Adowa	Reggae	New York	NY

8/14/08					
DJ Joey Mazza			Paterson	NJ	
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Richard Bennett Group	Jazz	Brooklyn	NY	
7:15-8:00 p.m.	Walter Christopher	R&B/Soul	New York	NY	
8:45-9:45p.m.	Maya Azucena	R&B/Soul	Brooklyn	NY	
8/21/08					
DJ Delmar Browne			Brooklyn	NY	
5:45-6:30 p.m.	Stephen McLean	Jazz	East Orange	NJ	
7:30-8:15 p.m.	Eve Cornelius	Jazz	Bronx	NY	
8:45-9:45 p.m.	Brian Jackson	Jazz	New York	NY	
8/28/08					
DJ Tee Mallory			Newark	NJ	
5:45-6:30p.m.	Rainbow Fresh	Indie Pop, Rock	Union City	NJ	
7:15-8:00	Lizz Fields	Jazzy Soul	Brooklyn	NY	
8:45-9:45	Tortured Soul	Live House Music	Brooklyn	NY	
8/29/08					
DJ Danny Ramirez			New York	NY	
TBD	Mayra Casalas & CoCoMaMa	Salsa	New York	NY	
TBD	Luisito Rosario y Su Orq	Salsa	Hoboken	NJ	

###