

# CONCRETE AND GRASS

## LOWERTOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL

MEARS PARK ST. PAUL MN

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### ORDWAY ARTS PARTNERSHIP PERFORMANCES, PERFORMER BIOS AND SCHEDULES

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#### THE MINNESOTA OPERA

**FRI. SEPT. 11** Main Stage **6:30pm**

The Minnesota Opera performance features soprano Karin Wolverton and baritone Jeff Madison singing operatic favorites, accompanied by Jamison Livsey.

[www.mnopera.org](http://www.mnopera.org)

#### ORDWAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

**SAT. SEPT. 12** Main Stage **7:00pm**

The Ordway presents piano and vocal selections from the Great American Musical Theatre Songbook by the star of Park Square and Ordway's production of *Grey Gardens*, *Christina Baldwin* with Musical Director Raymond Berg on piano. Enjoy favorite selections from Bernstein, Weill, Gershwin, Porter, Mercer and more.

[www.ordway.org](http://www.ordway.org)

#### THE SCHUBERT CLUB

**SUN. SEPT. 13** Main Stage **1:30pm**

The Schubert Club presents performances from its 2009 Scholarship Competition: Hannah Peterson, flute - 1st Prize, Senior High School Brass & Woodwinds; Jonas Benson, viola - Finalist College/Graduate Strings; Austin Wahl, guitar - 2nd Prize, Guitar, and Cassandra Koob, soprano - Finalist, Advanced Voice.

[www.schubert.org](http://www.schubert.org)

#### THE SAINT PAUL CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**SUN. SEPT. 13** Main Stage **5:00pm**

The Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra performs one of classical music's most famous masterpieces: Beethoven's gripping 5th Symphony. [www.thespco.org](http://www.thespco.org)

#### AVIETTE

**SAT. SEPT. 12** Main Stage **2:30pm**

Playing progressive and accessible indie rock, Aviette is a Minneapolis-based band made up of Holly Muñoz (guitar/vocals), Justin Hartke (bass) and Kyle Larson (drums). Their debut record, *Until We Hear From Dave* was selected as one of the best records of 2006 by *The Onion A.V. Club* and was CMJ's #18 ADD. Songs from *UWHFD* were featured on IndieFeed and charted at core radio stations such as KALX, WRSU and WTCC. Aviette recorded their second full-length album, *The Way We Met* with Minneapolis-based producer Darren Jackson (Kid Dakota, The Hopefuls, Alva Star). From the driving beat of *What You Want Me To Say* to the determined optimism of *The Way We Met*, this collection of songs is consistent and thoughtfully arranged. *The Way We Met* was released nationwide on July 1, 2008.

[www.aviettemusic.com](http://www.aviettemusic.com)

#### ALICIA RENEÉ

**SAT. SEPT. 12** Acoustic Stage **5:00pm**

Alicia Reneé has just returned to the Twin Cities after finishing her undergraduate studies at UMD. She has performed lead roles in several musicals including *Seussical the Musical*, *Something Funny Happened on the Way to the Forum* and *Typed Out: An Unconventional Cabaret*. Alicia Reneé has quickly emerged as a talented, entertaining and commanding singer on the Twin Cities jazz scene. Her live performances include: Orchestra Hall; a tribute to Judy Garland at the Minneapolis Woman's Club; numerous club performances at the Dakota and Artists' Quarter; engagements in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and the Twin Cities Hot Summer Jazz Festival. This fall, Alicia will pay tribute to Judy Garland at the Camp Theatre in Saint Paul. Alicia's debut CD, *Wait For Me* was released on Summit Records in 2002. The disc features Reneé's interpretations of jazz and pop standards and classics, along with one original composition and a jazzy treatment of *Prince Ali* from the soundtrack of Disney's *Aladdin*. World-class Chicago pianist Jon Weber is among the musicians contributing

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to the CD, at Jon's request. *Wait For Me* has received strong reviews and radio support, and has been picked up by the national label, Summit Records. "It's impossible not to be impressed by Minneapolis wunderkind Alicia Renéé," according to a review of *Wait For Me* in the prestigious *JazzTimes* magazine. The writer goes on to observe: "Favoring grand, Garlandesque gestures, [Renée] tries with considerable success to emulate that big, bold Garland sound...." Alicia also appeared on Jon Weber's *Simple Complex* CD, 2005.

## **GINGER COMMODORE AND TANNER TAYLOR**

**SUN. SEPT. 13 Main Stage 12:00pm**

Ginger Commodore is one of the premier gospel and jazz vocalists in the upper Midwest and has been a member of the music scene for many years. Classically trained, Gospel influenced, Jazz inspired. Ginger's musical foundation is a true amalgam of musical styles presented with her own unique delivery, from touching whisper to full throated (yet controlled) power. She began her performing as a long time member of the Grammy Award winning *Sounds of Blackness*.  
[www.gingercommodore.com](http://www.gingercommodore.com)

Tanner Taylor hails from Jefferson, Iowa - commonly known as the "birthplace of bebop." After studying with Jack Oatts and Garry Dial he relocated from Des Moines to Minneapolis, in 2001. He has quickly become one of Minnesota's top jazz pianists. You can catch Tanner tickling the ivories with all of the Twin Cities' finest vocalists, as well as leading his own groups at local jazz hot-spots such as the Dakota, Artists' Quarter and Hell's Kitchen.

## **KID DAKOTA**

**SAT. SEPT 12 Acoustic Stage 7:30pm**

Like the Black Hills of songwriter Darren Jackson's native South Dakota, alt-rock duo Kid Dakota is a creature of extremes: Whisper-quiet vocals explode into searing guitar riffs and crushing drumbeats in a single breath. Loneliness and beauty go hand in hand. And a two-man band from Minneapolis makes a sound big enough to fill a stadium. Those two men—Jackson on electric guitar and vocals, and Ian Prince on drums—offer up a moody fusion of rock, folk and country on the order of Okkervil and Sparklehorse. [www.kiddakota.com](http://www.kiddakota.com)

## **DESDAMONA**

**SAT. SEPT. 12 Main Stage 5:30pm**

DESDAMONA is an international, award-winning artist; who has taken her distinct lyrics, sound and artistic stylings to audiences from Minnesota to Hawaii, from Puerto Rico to Germany; gracing some of Hip Hop and poetry's most illustrious stages. Desdamona has had the pleasure of opening up for distinguished artists including Wyclef Jean, GURU, Bahamadia, Zap Mama, Black Uhuru/Sly & Robbie, Saul Williams, Ursula Rucker and Rhymesayers Artists. She has also shared the stage with other influential Hip Hop artists including Canada's Eternia and bgirl Rockafella. Desdamona has worked in over 200 schools throughout the Midwest, conducting workshops and as artist in residence, working with more than 10,000 students in public, private and alternative schools as well as colleges and universities. Desdamona is one of the founders of B Girl Be, the first international festival, which celebrates women in Hip Hop. She was a featured performer at the We B\*GirLz Festival in Berlin, Germany (2008), the SheRock Festival (2008), and was a Minnesota Music Awards featured performer (2005). Desdamona won the award for Best Spoken Word Artist from the MN Music Awards five consecutive years.

## **THE FLATWHEELERS FEATURING MARTIN DEVANEY AND JAKE HYER**

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Acoustic Stage 4:00pm**

Born in the dim barrooms of Saint Paul, Martin and Jake have been working, playing music, and helping each other move for years. They figured it was high time to start an actual band. After a brief stint as The Porchlights, they have ended up as The Flatwheelers and are currently recording a full length debut with producer Mark Stockert in Minneapolis at Underwood Studio. Martin Devaney was born in Saint Paul, where he still resides as the unofficial Mayor. To date, he's released four full length albums and an early homemade ep back in 2001. Over the years he's played shows and shared stages with numerous Minnesota bands and national acts that include: Dan Bern, Ike Reilly, Evan Dando, Damien Jurado, Wreckless Eric & Amy Rigby, Crooked Fingers, Andrew Bird, Mason Jennings, Rhett Miller, Mike Doughty, Mary Lou Lord, The Roots, Billy Bragg, Semisonic, The Jayhawks, Soul Asylum, Southern Culture on the Skids, Richard Buckner, Cary Hudson, Slim Dunlap, Robbie Fulks and more. He's also played saxophone in Heiruspecs, Mike Gunther and His Restless Souls, and The Pogue Brady Rock Band.  
[www.myspace.com/martindevaneyband](http://www.myspace.com/martindevaneyband)

## FREDDY FRESH WITH SPECIAL GUEST MARK WHEAT

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Main Stage 8:30pm**

Freddy Fresh is among the most active and prolific American underground dance music artists, having released more than a hundred records on dozens of different labels worldwide. Born and bred in Saint Paul, Fresh's name is more often associated with the London UK scene, to which he relocated in the late '90s after having top 40 chart success with 2 of his songs. Fresh's first record label was formed in late 1992 and was called Analog Recordings. His label empire then grew to include a host of sub labels (Analog UK, Butterbeat, Electric Music Foundation and then Socket and Boriqua labels) In addition to a growing stateside audience, Fresh is also one of the few contemporary non-Detroit techno/electro musicians to have a strong European following, and his records for Experimental, Harthouse, and Martin "Biochip C" Damm's Anodyne label have strengthened his international presence. Although Freddy's release history has included tracks in just about every style from hip-hop and house to techno and trance, his roots and most consistently pursued affectation lay in electro and breaks; his records thrive on buzzing modular analog noises and resolutely dirty production techniques, resulting in a distinct, instantly recognizable brand of funky, minimal, somewhat experimental dance music. He's a Saint Paul boy who has played over 35 countries and worldwide festivals with everyone from Eminem to Bob Dylan. It will be a night to remember with Freddy playing everything guaranteed to shake those rumps (Disco, Funk, Breaks, Hip Hop).

[www.myspace.com/fredfresh](http://www.myspace.com/fredfresh)

Mark Wheat, longtime Twin Cities mix master and Current evening DJ will join Freddy for the set.

## HEIRUSPECS

**SUN. SEPT. 13 Main Stage 6:30pm**

As decreed by the Mayor of Saint Paul, Christopher B. Coleman, Saturday, December 22, 2007 was officially Heiruspecs day. Heiruspecs celebrated by playing two sold out Ten Year Anniversary shows in Saint Paul and releasing a limited edition full length disc with out of print or unreleased songs and five brand new songs, titled *Ten Years Strong*. After the merch got counted and the openers got paid Heiruspecs, and a group of their close friends, walked the half block back to their rehearsal space, shared a couple high fives, drank champagne and celebrated ten years of Heiruspecs. It goes like this: Heiruspecs started in 1997 at Saint Paul Central High School. The founding emcee of the group, Felix, had been honing his freestyle skills in turntable based settings when he found an unlikely partner in the form of aspiring bassist, Sean "Twinkie Jiggles"

McPherson. The duo improvised music with a rotating cast of emcees and other musicians four days a week in Central's recording program and cheated on theory tests every Friday. Heiruspecs hit the road in 2002 with the second pressing of a thousand copies of their new record, *Small Steps*. The band played as a backup band for many of underground hip-hop's up and comers including Atmosphere, Aesop Rock, Sage Francis and The Typical Cats. The group is featured on Atmosphere's Live album *Sad Clown Bad Dub 3* and the Typical Cats/Oddjobs record *Live at Bryant-Lake Bowl*. Heiruspecs caught the attention of Razor and Tie records and in September of 2004 they released *A Tiger Dancing*. The record brought Heiruspecs national press and tours opening for Cake, Lyrics Born, Tre Hardson (Pharcyde) and Ja Rule. Heiruspecs has been back in the studio crafting what is shaping up to be the most personal, honest and though-out record of their career.

[www.myspace.com/heiruspecs](http://www.myspace.com/heiruspecs)

## THE IDLE HANDS

**SAT. SEPT. 12 Main Stage 1:00pm**

Local indie rock band The Idle Hands, one of Minneapolis' hottest talents, have been steadily gathering buzz all year. The five band members, two Irish, three Minnesotan, are true headliners. They rocked First Avenue at the South by Southwest Sendoff in March, impressed at SXSW itself, headlined to a packed 331 Club in April, drew crowds to a solo show at Art-A-Whirl in May and mesmerized the Kitty Cat Klub at their CD release party in June. Their new album, *The Hearts We Broke on the Way to the Show*, is out. [www.myspace.com/theidlehands](http://www.myspace.com/theidlehands)

## JELLOSLAVE

**SUN. SEPT. 13 Main Stage 3:00pm**

Jelloslave is a cello and drum quartet with an eclectic repertoire ranging from Bach to Led Zeppelin to their own improvisational and jazz-influenced compositions. Jelloslave features cellists Michelle Kinney and Jacqueline Ferrier-Ultan, along with drummer Greg Schutte and tabla player Gary Waryan. Jacqueline Ferrier-Ultan has collaborated with world-renowned jazz, new music, and rock artists including Anthony Cox, Bill Carrothers, Dan Wilson, and Andrew Broder. After completing graduate school at NYU, Michelle Kinney recorded, performed and toured internationally with some of the most respected innovators in new music today including Henry Threadgill, Butch Morris, George Cartwright, and Steve Tibbets as well as recording with Natalie Merchant, Sheryl Crow, John Cale and Richie Havens. [www.myspace.com/jelloslave](http://www.myspace.com/jelloslave)

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## SPIDER JOHN KOERNER

**SAT. SEPT. 12 Acoustic Stage 6:30pm**

For 50 years, John Koerner has explored the ranges of traditional American song, as a solo artist and with a variety of partners. All of his 1960's recordings are reissued on CD: *Blues, Rags and Hollers*; *Lots More Blues Rags and Hollers*; and *The Return of Koerner, Ray & Glover*, (cornerstones of the blues revivalist era, recorded with Dave Ray and Tony Glover), and *Running, Jumping, Standing Still*, (a blend of jug band, psychedelic R&B and folk-blues, with Willie Murphy). His musical career has taken him to stages throughout North America and Europe. He has entertained and influenced several generations of musicians. Spider John Koerner is one of America's truest musical originals and one of the greatest practitioners of the traditional song.

[www.myspace.com/officialspiderjohnkoerner](http://www.myspace.com/officialspiderjohnkoerner)

## PAPA JOHN KOLSTAD AND CLINT HOOVER

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Acoustic Stage 7:30pm**

Blues legend Papa John Kolstad's Gibson guitar dates back to 1935 and when it sings, it moans the old stories of hobos hopping empty trains, grandparents recalling slow dances in dusky bars, a man's first glass of self-made moonshine. Teaming up with Harmonica ace Clint Hoover, the duo swings through early blues, ragtime, bluegrass, and jug-band based tunes guaranteed to bring a smile. [www.myspace.com/papajohnkolstad](http://www.myspace.com/papajohnkolstad)

## LUKE WALLRICH

**SUN. SEPT. 13 Acoustic Stage 6:00pm**

Luke Anthony Wallrich, a native of Burnsville, is a recent graduate of the University of Minnesota Duluth's Opera Performance Program. Recently he has performed the roles of Pistola in Verdi's *Falstaff*, UMD Opera Theater, and Benoit in Puccini's *La bohème*, Duluth Festival Opera. Wallrich looks forward to upcoming engagements with The Minnesota Opera and a return to Opera on the James, Lynchburg VA, in the spring. Currently Wallrich studies voice with George Smith. He will be accompanied on piano by Pam Sohriakoff.

## MOORE BY FOUR

**SAT. SEPT. 12 Main Stage 4:00pm**

Moore By Four has been one of the most popular vocal ensembles in the Twin Cities for the past two decades. The members, Sanford Moore, Yolande Bruce, Ginger Commodore, Connie Evingson and Dennis Spears are often on the calendars of local clubs fronting their own bands. Moore By Four appearances are not nearly as

common. They have shared the stage with Harry Connick, Jr. and the late Joe Williams, Carmen MacRae, Sarah Vaughan and Dizzy Gillespie. Special appearances have included performances for the US Olympic Committee, Super Bowl, Minnesota Twins, Vikings and Timberwolves, as well as President and Mrs. Clinton, Mikhail and Raisa Gorbachev, Vaclav Havel and the King and Queen of Sweden. [www.myspace.com/moorebyfour](http://www.myspace.com/moorebyfour)

## DAN "DADDY SQUEEZE" NEWTON

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Acoustic Stage 6:00pm**

Dan "Daddy Squeeze" Newton has been playing offbeat accordion music since 1987, when he won the Nebraska State Accordion Contest at the Czech Festival in Wilber, Ne. He has used the squeeze box for playing all kinds of music not normally associated with free-reed instruments, as well as standard accordion material. His forays into previously uncharted squeeze box territories include blues, Renaissance, Appalachian, ragtime and reggae. Daddy Squeeze also enjoys mixing up styles and genres that don't generally seem compatible. *Music out of context*, or *Ethno-clectic Bop* is the result of his gender-bending experiments with Celtic, Tex-Mex, Creole, blues, jazz, Scandinavian, polka and pop music. He has appeared on recordings by The Proclaimers, Son Volt, Prudence Johnson, Peter Ostroushko, Garrison Keillor, Pat Donohue, Peter Mayer, Ann Reed, Bill Isles, Mick Sterling, and Neal & Leandra, among others. [www.daddysqueeze.com](http://www.daddysqueeze.com)

## ROMANTICA

**SAT. SEPT. 12 Main Stage 8:30pm**

Romantica plays lush, richly orchestrated pop-folk made rural by twangy pedal steel. Led by an Irishman, the music contains references to Ireland but is placed firmly in the rich musical traditions of American country and folk music. Romantica's 2007 sophomore album, *America*, has won numerous accolades, including two awards from the International Songwriting Competition. PASTE Magazine gave the album 4 Stars and ranked it #58 on their list of the "TOP 100 ALBUMS of 2007." *The Onion*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune* and *City Pages* have all called *America* one of the "Best Local Albums of 2007." Romantica has recently performed with Ryan Adams and Sara Watkins (of Nickel Creek), toured with Carrie Rodriguez, showcased at SxSW and The Americana Music Conference and their music has been added to the in-flight music on Sun Country Airlines flights as part of their MN Music Campaign. Romantica is planning to release their 3rd album in early 2010. *America* is available via [www.myspace.com/romantica](http://www.myspace.com/romantica), [www.romanticamusic.com](http://www.romanticamusic.com) and iTunes.

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## **STORY CITY**

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Main Stage 3:30pm**

From the first sounds to the last chord, Story City takes you on a musical journey that is as distinctive as it is artistic. Prepare to experience a band that will remind you music is melodic, vibrant, and complex at the same time. In this decidedly American Classical/Jazz genre, there is a reason not many groups attempt its performance. In three words: it's incredibly difficult. Story City was put together to explore the music of jazz guitarist Pat Metheny and the late saxophone great Michael Brecker. The ensemble has now expanded its reach to include the Yellowjackets and most importantly, original compositions all their own. A wide variety of musical styles has been pursued by these composers in their conscious effort to promote, advance, and develop original musical voices. The music is so complex that its performance takes an incredible commitment and technique in its execution. Each member of the group was chosen because they possess this level of dedication to their instrument and to the music. Specifically through this perspective, Story City ushers in its own new thoughts, ideas, and concepts to this ever-changing musical force we know as Jazz.

## **THE WARBLERS WITH CHRIS OSGOOD, DAVE AHL, AND BRIAN ROESSLER**

**FRI. SEPT. 11 Main Stage 5:00pm**

Chris Osgood, a highly respected musician, educator and arts leader, is Vice President of Organizational Development at McNally Smith College of Music. Chris first came to prominence in the Twin Cities music scene as guitarist of The Suicide Commandos. This pioneering punk rock band was founded in 1975 by Osgood and went on to tour nationally and record for Phonogram and Twin/Tone Records through the late 1970s. He has won multiple Minnesota Music Awards, including "Rock Guitarist of the Year" and "Man of the Year." The Warblers are an acoustic trio composed of Chris Osgood, Dave Ahl and Brian Roessler.

