

The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release

emf
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Eastern Music Festival Announces its 2009 EMF*fringe* Series with featured guests Mike Cross and The John Cowan Band

Eastern Music Festival's (EMF) *Fringe* Series, the alternative music sidebar to the long-running and internationally-acclaimed EMF classical festival and school, announced its entire **EMF*fringe*** lineup along with some new features for the 2009 season. According to EMF Board Member and series coordinator, Jeff Yetter, "This season, our sixth annual EMF*fringe*, offers a diverse range of artists while adding extra benefits for ticketholders, all without increased ticket prices."

The season will feature eight events with six shows at Triad Stage (232 S. Elm St.), all at 8pm. The first four concerts will offer general admission seating for \$22 (see ticket information below). Discounts are available for seniors ages 65 and older:

- The hard-rocking **Chris Hicks Band** on Thursday, July 9th.
- Two of 2008's EMF*fringe* sold out groups return – **Steep Canyon Rangers** on Saturday, July 18th and **The Waybacks** on Thursday, July 23rd.
- On Friday, July 24th, **The Larry McCray Band**, led by the eponymous blues-rock guitarist, will make their debut at this year's EMF*fringe*.
- The season will end just as strongly as it starts with two special concerts from EMF*fringe* first-timers-- **The John Cowan Band** on Saturday, July 25th and North Carolina favorite **Mike Cross** on Thursday, July 30th. Single tickets for each of the special events will be \$27. (Note: no discounts or certificates can be used for these events).

The season will be launched at the inaugural **EMFfringe Kick-Off Party Presented by YES! Weekly featuring Holy Ghost Tent Revival** at Natty Greene's Pub & Brewing Co. on Thursday, July 2 at 6:30pm. With no cover, guests can expect great music, appetizers, door prizes and a guaranteed good time. Box office representatives will be on hand for all EMF ticketing needs.

A free EMFfringe concert with **The New Familiars** will be presented in partnership with Music for a Sunday Evening in the Park summer series on Sunday, July 26th at 6pm at Founders Lawn at Guilford College.

EMFfringe is offering two new features this season: Directly following all EMFfringe performances at Triad Stage, ticketholders will receive free entrance with their ticket stub to After Parties held at various downtown Greensboro restaurants and wine bars:

- Following Chris Hicks on July 9th, concertgoers are invited to the UpStage Cabaret at Triad Stage where the Mellow Mushroom will provide food.
- Level 2 (113 S. Elm St) will be the site of the After Party on Thursday, July 9th following the Steep Canyon Rangers concert.
- On July 23rd Rim Tapas and Fine Wine Bar (219 S. Elm St.) will host musical guests Salter Path following The Waybacks concert.
- After The Larry McCray performance, audience members are invited to hear singer, songwriter and acoustic guitarist Bill West (www.billwestmusic.com) perform. The location of this After Party will be announced at a later time.
- Churchill's on Elm (213 S. Elm St.) will provide music and appetizers for guests following the John Cowan Band.
- Sam Frazier (www.myspace.com/samfraziermusic) will perform at the After Party at 223 South Elm restaurant following Mike Cross on Thursday, July 30th.

Eastern Music Festival is offering for the first time a season ticket that includes tickets to all EMFfringe events and After Parties. As with all EMF season tickets, subscribers receive four bonus concert tickets plus free admission into Master Classes and Sunday piano recitals. The bonus concerts are the Northwest Boychoir, Bel Canto High School Choir Festival, EMF Brass Ensemble, and EMF Percussion Ensemble.

Yetter noted, "This is a great opportunity for music lovers to participate in events they might not otherwise attend."

EMFfringe season tickets are on sale now through July 9th and are priced at \$114 or \$109 for seniors. Individual tickets go on sale beginning June 1st.

Eastern Music Festival would like to thank series and EMFfringe event sponsors YES! Weekly, Audio & Light, Print Works Bistro, The Martha and William Murray Foundation, Greensboro Parks and Recreation, and Piedmont Blues Preservation Society plus all of the local restaurants and venues mentioned above hosting After Parties.

Tickets

The Triad Stage Box Office can be reached weekdays from 10am to 6pm locally at 336.272.0160 or toll free at 866.579.TIXX. The box office is conveniently located in downtown Greensboro at 232 S. Elm Street. Single ticket sales will be available online beginning June 1 via www.EasternMusicFestival.org. Service fees for season tickets and online orders will apply. Single ticket prices include service fees and will be the same in advance or at the door.

*Dates, programs, artists, and venues are subject to change.

Artist Bios

- There was a time when only a handful of students and alumni in Chapel Hill, NC showed up faithfully when entertainer **Mike Cross** played a local club. Now, thirteen albums, numerous network radio and television appearances, and hundreds of concerts later, things are rapidly changing. Whether he is appearing at Symphony Hall in Boston or an outdoor music festival in California, people across the country look forward to seeing their favorite fiddling storyteller and sharing the fun with friends. "*People who like rock . . . folk, jazz and country like Mike Cross!*" -- WQDR Radio, Raleigh, NC www.mikecross.com
- "**The Voice of New Grass.**" True innovators defy easy categorization and **John Cowan** is the ultimate innovator. His ability to move easily between music styles and blend and bend genres into creative new forms has made him one of the most significant voices in acoustic music over the past thirty years. Cowan rose to fame as the lead singer for **New Grass Revival** with his band mates **Sam Bush, Bela Fleck, and Pat Flynn**. www.johncowan.com
- **Chris Hicks** has been brandishing his style of rock and roll since his teens. Whether it was in his early groups – Legacy, the Fresh Figs, and Loose Change – or with southern rock legends the **Outlaws** and the **Marshall Tucker Band**... or as a solo artist, *The Hitman* has captivated audiences with his compelling songwriting, netherworld vocals, arena echoing axmanship, and his freight train harmonica playing. www.chrishicksband.com
- Named 2006 Gibson Artist of the Year, **Larry McCray** is one of a handful of talented young blues performers leading the genre across boundaries and into the new century. McCray's savage blues-rock guitar and warm, soulful vocals have drawn attention worldwide. He has performed with **Dickey Betts, The Allman Brothers Band, Warren Haynes, and Gov't Mule**. www.larrymccrayband.com
- Back by popular demand after selling out at EMFfringe 2008, this Asheville, NC band has built a reputation as an engaging acoustic quintet seasoned by constant touring. Before being nominated for two International Bluegrass Music awards in 2008, including Album of the Year for Lovin' Pretty Women, **Steep Canyon Rangers** were named Emerging Artist of the Year in 2006 at the IBMA awards ceremony in Nashville, TN. The group has been regularly featured on the **Grand Ole Opry**, as well as major U.S. Bluegrass and Americana music festivals such as **MerleFest, Telluride, GreyFox, DelFest, and RockyGrass**. www.steepcanyon.com
- A return engagement for this four-piece group that sold out in 2008, but no two shows are ever the same. Hailing from the San Francisco Bay area, **The Waybacks** are an uninhibited, unpredictable, and eclectic band. Their full arsenal of acoustic and electric instruments is infused with bluegrass, Memphis soul, honky-tonk, Parisian swing, classical music vintage blues pop, and much more. You may know them from their tour days with **Grateful Dead** founder **Bob Weir**. www.waybacks.com
- From the foothills of Appalachia, a new musical combo has appeared; grown from seeds of the folk, blues, and bluegrass found abundant in the Carolinas, yet shaped by the undeniable power of rock and roll. Known as **The New Familiars**, these five gentlemen combine an amazing passion for harmony with multi-instrumental talent and unusual storytelling abilities. www.myspace.com/thenewfamiliar
- **Holy Ghost Tent Revival:** "*The (band) play a fantastically entertaining mixture of dirty jazz, roots country/bluegrass, big band and rock that can only be described as explosively intoxicating. The kind of "explosive" that one of those people shot from a cannon perhaps feels.*" -- Matthew Godbey, *The Post & Courier* www.myspace.com/hgtr

About Eastern Music Festival

Now in its 48th year, the Eastern Music Festival & School is recognized for its prodigious contributions to the field of American music and its commitment to nurturing talented American and international

youth through a collaborative learning process. The program brings together a cross-section of America's most sought-after artists with pre-professional students in a five-week schedule, from June 27 through August 1, of 100 concerts and music-related events. Music Director Gerard Schwarz heads a distinguished list of participating artists scheduled for 2009, including **Peter Serkin, Sarah Chang, Horacio Gutiérrez, Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg, and Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit www.easternmusicfestival.org, or call toll-free: 1-877-833-6753.

The entire 2009 Eastern Music Festival season is sponsored in part by the United Arts Council of Greater Greensboro, the North Carolina Arts Council, Lincoln Financial Foundation, Yes! Weekly, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

The Eastern Music Festival's mission is to promote musical enrichment, excellence, professional collaboration, innovation and diversity through a nationally-recognized teaching program, music festival, concerts and other programs which will enhance the quality of life, health and vitality of our region.

EMF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

All contributions are tax deductible to the full extent allowed by law.

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