

# The New Crossroads of American Music

Press Release



**Eastern Music Festival**

Gerard Schwarz, Music Director  
Stephanie Cordick, Executive Director

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



Contacts: Ruth Spaulding  
336.333.7450, x32

[Ruth@EasternMusicFestival.org](mailto:Ruth@EasternMusicFestival.org)

Stephanie B. Cordick  
336.333.7450 x24

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SHANA BANANA RETURNS TO EMF*kids*!

*Greensboro, NC*- The highly popular children entertainer **Shana Banana** is back at EMF*kids* for an exciting show entitled *Banana Beach Party USA*, to take place on **Saturday, July 11, 2009 at 10:30am**. Following last year's successful appearance, the singer/songwriter will once again grace the stage with a delightful program focusing on environmental awareness, for children ages two to seven. This summer, Shana Banana will be performing at **Triad Stage** (232 South Elm Street, Greensboro, NC). Tickets may be purchased for \$10 for adults and \$6 for children by calling the EMF Box Office at Triad Stage at 336.272.0160 or 866-579-TIXX, or online at [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

Based in Florida, Shana Smith has a thriving career as a singer/songwriter of music dedicated to the enjoyment and education of young children. Widely known as Shana Banana, her engaging stage presence, lively voice, fantastic video and CD recordings, have earned her numerous awards including the Parents' Choice and NAPPA awards, as well as two first-round Grammy nominations. Shana has performed extensively in festivals and performing arts centers throughout the United States. The versatile artist also taps her musical talents into the genres of jazz, blues and folk music. EMF*kids* is thrilled to have Shana Banana join the festival again this year, with a fun-filled concert for the whole family!

The **EMF*kids*** Program offers exciting, fun and educational opportunities for young children. Designed to foster an interest and understanding of music, day camps and concerts make

learning FUN for all! EMF's educational programs and concerts are sponsored by the Cemala Foundation, the Deluxe Foundation, the Music Academy of North Carolina, and UNCG.

**Tickets:** Triad Stage Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579.TIXX or [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org).

\*a service fee will apply

Discounts are available for full-time students with a valid ID, seniors aged 65 or older, and groups of 10 or more for most performances. Young Artists and EMF*kids* concerts offer family-friendly packages. Please call the box office about packages. This season most discounts will be available at the door. Discounts and gift certificates will not be accepted for concerts designated as special events.

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

### **More about Shana Banana**

What happens when you take a Master's degree in Oceanography? Become a national children's entertainer, of course! After working and teaching on a marine research vessel through the University of South Florida, Shana Smith decided to take a leap of faith and explore her creative talents in singing and songwriting. Shana discovered and developed her incredible joy of writing songs for children first as a touring folk musician when children were in the audience, and then on the grounds of her mother's preschool. Over the years, she became nationally known as "Shana Banana" and earned a reputation as one of today's top children's entertainers, with a voice that still delves into blues, jazz, and folk as well.

Performing at major festivals and performing arts centers across the United States, Shana Banana has earned many prestigious awards along the way, including: two first-round Grammy nominations, Parents' Choice, iParenting, NAPPA, Kids' First Coalition for Quality Children's Media, and, in 2003, she won "Best Children's Song In the Country" by the Just Plain Folks organization. She has performed at the White House, Chicago's Lincoln Park, the Houston Children's Museum, Tampa Bay Performing Arts Center, Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Seattle's Whirligig, the Florida Folk Festival, Merlefest (in honor of Merle Watson), and many more.

Shana Banana continues to develop a variety of live shows, CD's, DVD's, books, study guides, and workshops for teachers, parents, and of course, kids! She is in post-production for her first television show with PBS, to be aired soon, and is releasing both a lullaby CD and a "Beach Party" CD in the Fall of 2008. She also continues her efforts with children's hospitals and outreach programs to assist in her long-term mission of making a positive difference in the lives of children, motivating and cheering them as they grow.

### **More 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 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, Xavier Phillips**, plus many others.

The Festival also produces a popular *EMFfringe* series of alternative programming, featuring everything from Americana to alt country, blues, jazz and gospel with artists such as **Mike Cross, The John Cowan Band, Laurelyn Doseff, Steep Canyon Rangers, Waybacks, The Chris Hicks Band**, blues artist **Larry McCray** and more. *EMFkids* offers camps and concerts with each uniquely designed to foster a love and knowledge for classical and non-classical music. This year's concerts are **Shana Banana** and **Dan Zanes**. *EMFjazz&blues* runs each spring and EMF Fringe on the Fall each autumn. Season tickets on sale through June 27<sup>th</sup> (*EMFfringe* season tickets on sale through July 9<sup>th</sup>); single tickets on sale now. [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org); Box Office 336.272.0160 or 866.579-TIXX.

The 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, National Endowment for the Arts, Southern Arts Federation, WFDD Triad Arts Station, Greensboro's News and Record, Continental Airways, Yes! Weekly, and Piedmont Music Center (Steinway Pianos).

For more information about EMF or its programs, please visit [www.EasternMusicFestival.org](http://www.EasternMusicFestival.org), or call toll free: 1.877.833.6753

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

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