



June 12, 2008

## the must-see and the free

### 2 shows to catch every day of the Jazz Fest

*Troy L. Smith*

Too many shows for your mind to comprehend? Be easy.

Yes, the Rochester International Jazz Festival's 250 performances over nine days is a lot to take in, but we at *insider* have broken things down, day by day, into the the shows you can't miss and the free ones you have no excuse to.

Plus, we catch up with a few of this year's most intriguing artists, who are sure to be highlights at the city's biggest music event of 2008.

#### **Day 1 (Friday, June 13)**

Must-see: **Spam All Stars** (8:30 and 10 p.m. Big Tent; \$20 or Club Pass)

This Miami-based band is so hard to define that the genre they're in is pretty much unknown by most — electronic descarga (electronic jam-session). The instrumental act mixes elements of jazz, hip-hop, funk, Latin, dub and reggae, often improvising while onstage. Go to: [www.spamallstars.com](http://www.spamallstars.com)

Free show: **Blue Vipers of Brooklyn** (7:15 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. Gibbs Street and East Avenue stage)

This band's bluesy swing comes courtesy of four guys from very different places — Brooklyn, Connecticut, Nebraska and Paris. Go to: [www.myspace.com/thebluevipersofbrooklyn](http://www.myspace.com/thebluevipersofbrooklyn)

#### **Day 2 (Saturday, June 14)**

Must-see: **Stephanie McKay** (6:30 and 10 p.m. High Fidelity; \$20 or Club Pass)

McKay is a singer whose voice and sound is reminiscent of decades gone by, only instead of including modern hip-hop beats in her music, as many of her contemporaries (Erykah Badu; Jill Scott) do, McKay draws inspiration from *Shaft*-era funk. It's truly engaging stuff and unlike anything else at this year's fest. Go to: [www.stephaniemckay.com](http://www.stephaniemckay.com)

Free show: **The Buddhahood** (7:15 and 9:15 p.m. Gibbs Street and East Avenue stage)

Following the tragic death of their founder, Tony Cavagnaro, the members of this band — one of Rochester's most popular — are marching on, breaking out their "Worldternative" style at two free shows. Go to: [www.thebuddhahood.com](http://www.thebuddhahood.com)

#### **Day 3 (Sunday, June 15)**

Must-see: **Juliet Lloyd** (6:30 and 10 p.m. High Fidelity; \$20 or Club Pass)

A homegrown artist with a talent worthy of national exposure, this singer/songwriter has been praised by the *Boston Globe*, *Billboard* magazine and Berklee College of Music. Go to: [www.julietlloyd.com](http://www.julietlloyd.com)