

## July is the Time for Outdoor Fests

Riverhead Blues Festival Starts Things Off



Jen Chapin

As the summer heats up, July is often a great time for outdoor music festivals. This month, there are two excellent ones on Long Island.

On the weekend of July 8-9, the 2006 Riverhead Blues Festival will take place in, of all places, Riverhead. The Festival, in its eighth year, has undergone a few changes this year. For one thing, it is scaled down a little—Friday night has been eliminated (it's Saturday and Sunday only) and there seem to be fewer out-of-town artists playing. Also, this year's festival will be held as a fundraiser for the Vail-Leavitt Music Hall, so for the first time, there will be a nominal donation requested from each attendee in exchange for a full weekend pass.

The action will begin on Saturday morning, July 8, and will take place on three different stages: the Main Stage, the Vail-Leavitt Music Hall and Club 91. Saturday's schedule includes local heroes Blue Roots, Joe Vicino and the Smoke Daddy's, Pamela Betti and the Bluebloods, the Hackensack Men, Frank Latore and the King Bees, Bobby Nathan, Hooch and the Bluesicians and Sam Taylor on the Main Stage, followed by featured performers David Maxwell and Little Charlie and the Nightcats on Saturday night. The

Saturday schedule for the Vail-Leavitt includes Keith Harden, MacHooch (Bruce McDonald and Hooch), Gail Storm, Cadillac Moon, Kane Daily, Lex Grey and the Urban Pioneers, Toby Walker and Tommy Keys. The Club 91 stage showcases Who Are Those Guys, Sweet Suzi and the Blues Experience, Doug "Harmonica" McLean, Andre and the Night Hounds, the Dog House Blues Band and the Bennett Harris Band.

Sunday will feature more treats for the blues lover, with Tbone and Franny Mae, the RBS Gospel Choir, Little Cliff and the Cliffangers, Kerry Keamey and the legendary Mose Allison gracing the Main Stage. Sunday's performers at the Vail-Leavitt will include the Alexis P. Suter Band, the Mojos, the American Primitive String Band (featuring K. Holly, Ken "The Rocket" Korb and Dee Harris) and Sunnyland. The Club 91 stage will showcase N.R.G. (New Rhythm Groove), Boom Boom Johnson and the Robert Ross Duo. I strongly suspect a good time will be had by all.

On a completely different note, the third annual Slainte Irish Festival will take place at Shorefront Park in Patchogue on July 14-16. A celebration of Irish heritage, the festival will feature artists, photographers, step dancing, vendors, food, beer and lots of music. Part of the proceeds collected over the course of the weekend will be donated to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Featured performers will include Long Island Celtic rockers Fathom, Eileen Ivers and Black 47 on Friday night, Bangers & Mash, Morningstar, the Makem Brothers with Mickey and Liam Spain, Cherish The Ladies, Fathom and Black 47 on Saturday, and Scythian, Ceili Rain, Andy Cooney, the Young Dubliners, the Prodigals and the Glengary Bhoys on Sunday. It will be like St. Patrick's Day, only in the summer.

On Tuesday, July 11, Jen Chapin will celebrate the release of her latest CD, *Ready*, with a CD release concert at the Boulton Center for the Performing Arts in Bay Shore. Five dollars from each ticket sold will benefit

Long Island Cares, an organization devoted to feeding hungry Long Islanders that was founded by Chapin's famous father, Harry, in 1980. Over the last few years, Ms. Chapin has become quite a celebrated and respected artist in her own right.

*Questions and Answers*, the new CD by Long Island band the Sleeping, was released by Victory Records last month. Here's to hoping they follow in the footsteps of other successful Long Island bands like Taking Back Sunday, Straylight Run and Bayside.

Two very different CDs are dominating my CD player this month. *On the Fringe*, the debut full-length CD by singer/songwriter Deborah Lombardi, marks her growth from a promising young talent to an artist to be reckoned with. On the heavier side of the music spectrum, the self-titled debut by the Blaque Rose Project has also been dominating my listening time, especially their seven-minute opus, "Carry Her Up."

Finally, here are some shows to look forward to in July. On Saturday, July 1, Local 5, Evelyn Red and Silent Generosity will be playing at the Village Pub South in Amityville. On Thursday, July 6, and Thursday, July 20, Lewd Buddha will be performing at the Jones Beach Amphitheater on the Boardwalk. And on Friday, July 7, Buddy Meriam & Back Roads will play an outdoor show at the Bellport Band Shell, while on that same night, Reckoning will be the featured artist at Da Funky Phish in Bay Shore. On Thursday, July 13, the Pisces Unplugged Series will begin at the Pisces Café in Babylon, with Mark Loebel of Vitamin D hosting and Toby Tobias as one of the featured performers. Finally, on July 23, the Good Rats will be appearing in a rare Sunday afternoon show at Anchor's in Mastic Beach, and on Friday, July 28, Grieving For Grace, Ian Bryn, Greener and Pull will play the Vintage Lounge in Levittown.

That's it for this month. To send me information about Long Island's original music scene, please e-mail me at [longislandvibes@hotmail.com](mailto:longislandvibes@hotmail.com).

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