

Brooklyn  
Academy  
of  
Music

Peter Jay Sharp Building  
30 Lafayette Avenue  
Brooklyn NY 11217—1486  
Telephone: 718.636.4129  
Fax: 718.857.2021  
press@BAM.org

**Communications Department**  
Sandy Sawotka  
Joe Guttridge  
Adriana Leshko  
Sarah Garvey  
Matthew Yeager  
Lauren Morrow



**2011 BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech  
jumpstarts a summer of soul, featuring music superstars  
George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic**

**Free annual outdoor Brooklyn concert series features  
Dionne Farris, Geri Allen and Timeline, the Donald  
Harrison Quintet, Mardi Gras Indians, Cyril Neville, Bobbi  
Humphrey, RAM, Swamp Dogg, Urban Guerilla  
Orchestra, Miles Jaye, José James, and Maxi Priest**

**Free annual outdoor Brooklyn concert series—Thursdays,  
12noon—2pm, June 2 through August 4, at MetroTech Commons**

**First New York Partners Management is the presenting sponsor of  
the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech**

**Brooklyn, NY/April 28, 2011**—BAM announces the 2011 BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech Commons. In its 17<sup>th</sup> year, the festival continues to feature legends of R&B and world music—alongside vibrant and innovative newcomers—headlining ten free outdoor concerts every Thursday at 12noon, June 2 through August 4.

"The 17th season of the BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech kicks off with one of the most legendary and important artists and live entertainers in the history of R&B and funk music, George Clinton and P-Funk," says event producer Danny Kapilian. "We have three fabulous women in recording artist Dionne Farris, jazz great Geri Allen, and smooth jazz star Bobbi Humphrey. There will be a celebration of the HBO series *Treme* with a special New Orleans show. We honor music from Haiti with the big band RAM and celebrate history with the hilarious Swamp Dogg and Philly soul legends the Urban Guerilla Orchestra. José James, one of today's rising stars in jazz and R&B vocals, will join us. And finally, we return to our Jamaican roots once again with a closing concert by Maxi Priest. It will be another new and incredibly fun summer in Downtown Brooklyn."

These lunchtime performances will be held at MetroTech Commons, located at the corner of Flatbush and Myrtle Avenues, rain or shine. For more information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit [BAM.org](http://BAM.org).

For press inquiries, contact Lauren Morrow at 718.636.4129 x 1 or [lmorrow@BAM.org](mailto:lmorrow@BAM.org).

### **BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech**

Thursdays, 12noon—2 pm, June 2—August 4

Free admission, MetroTech Commons at MetroTech Center

Produced by Danny Kapilian

**June 2: George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic**

**June 9: Dionne Farris**

**June 16: Geri Allen and Timeline with special guests Don Byron and Transcendence**

**June 23: A Day in Treme: The Musical Majesty of New Orleans starring the Donald Harrison Quintet, Mardi Gras Indians, and special guest Cyril Neville**

**June 30: Bobbi Humphrey**

**July 7: RAM**

**July 14: Swamp Dogg**

**July 21: Urban Guerilla Orchestra with special guest Miles Jaye**

**July 28: José James**

**August 4: Maxi Priest**

### **About the artists:**

#### **George Clinton & Parliament/Funkadelic**

Thu, Jun 2, 12noon—2pm

One of the most influential names in funk music, George Clinton is the leader of Parliament/Funkadelic (or P-Funk), a collective of wildly talented musicians that have been rocking steady for more than 40 years with hit songs like “Flash Light,” “Mothership Connection,” and “Chocolate City.” In 1997, George Clinton and 15 other members of the group became the largest band yet inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, proving that they are epic in both size and sound.

#### **Dionne Farris**

Thu, Jun 9, 12noon—2pm

Dionne Farris rose to fame after lending her vocals to the 90s hip-hop group Arrested Development and soon became a renowned solo artist with the Grammy Award-nominated hit “I Know.” In 1996, her single “Hopeless” was featured on the *Love Jones* soundtrack. Her forthcoming album, *On Top of the World*, will be released this year.

#### **Geri Allen and Timeline**

Thu, Jun 16, 12noon—2pm

Geri Allen is a world-renowned jazz pianist and composer whose work has been commissioned nationwide. She has collaborated with artists including Ravi Coltrane, Vernon Reid, and the Supremes. Allen is a 2008 Guggenheim Fellow and is currently an associate professor of jazz piano & improvisation studies at the University of Michigan. Allen is joined

by her ensemble, Timeline, which includes bassist Kenny Davis, drummer Kassa Overall, and tap dancer Maurice Chestnut.

**A Day in Treme: The Musical Majesty of New Orleans starring the Donald Harrison Quintet, Mardi Gras Indians, and special guest Cyril Neville**

Thu, Jun 23, 12noon—2pm

New Orleans comes to Brooklyn in this celebration of the HBO series *Treme*. Featuring Donald Harrison (“The King of Noveau Swing”), percussionist and singer Cyril Neville (of the Neville Brothers), and Mardi Gras Indians (carnival revelers and performers who dress in lavish, Native-American-inspired costumes), *A Day in Treme* is a buoyant musical tribute to the Big Easy.

**Bobbi Humphrey**

Thu, Jun 30, 12noon—2pm

The first female artist signed to Blue Note Records, flutist Bobbi Humphrey is known for seamlessly fusing jazz and pop elements within her music. She has worked with legends like Duke Ellington and Stevie Wonder, and was voted “Best Flutist” for three consecutive years in *Ebony* magazine’s Reader’s Poll. Humphrey started her own label, Paradise Sounds Records, on which she released her latest album, *Passion Flute*.

**RAM**

Thu, Jul 7, 12noon—2pm

Voodoo rhythms and rock ‘n’ roll come together in the music of Haitian band RAM. Named for its founder, songwriter, and lead vocalist Richard A. Morse, RAM crafts politically charged songs in Haitian Creole, French, and English. RAM has recorded five albums since its formation in 1990, and one of its songs, “Ibo Lele (Dreams Come True),” was featured on the soundtrack for the 1993 film *Philadelphia*.

**Swamp Dogg**

Thu, Jul 14, 12noon—2pm

Called a “one-of-a-kind musical genius” by *Entertainment Weekly*, Swamp Dogg is a Southern soul singer who has been writing and producing songs for more than 50 years. He has worked with artists including Irma Thomas, Dee Dee Warwick, and Z.Z. Hill, and his 2009 album *Give ‘em as Little As You Can...As Often As You Have To...or...A Tribute to Rock ‘n’ Roll*, includes covers of artists from the Beatles to Bob Marley.

**Urban Guerilla Orchestra with special guest Miles Jaye**

Thu, Jul 21, 12noon—2pm

Members of the Urban Guerilla Orchestra have performed with legends including Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Patti LaBelle, and the Temptations, just to name a few. At MetroTech, they are joined by singer, songwriter, and violinist Miles Jaye, who has worked with numerous jazz legends and was a member of the Village People.

**José James**

Thu, Jul 28, 12noon—2pm

With smooth lyrics, an entrancing voice, and cool instrumentals, José James effortlessly blends R&B and jazz, creating sexy, sophisticated music. He has released three albums, including his most recent, *For All We Know*, a collaboration with Jef Neve, for which he received both the Edison Award and L'Académie du Jazz Grand Prix for Best Vocal Jazz Album of 2010.

### **Maxi Priest**

Thu, Aug 4, 12noon—2pm

UK reggae singer Maxi Priest effortlessly folds elements of pop music into his reggae sound. His self-titled debut album in 1988 solidified his status as one of the top British reggae singers, and his follow-up album, *Bonafide*, included the hit single “Close to You,” which hit #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 Singles chart. Priest has worked with artists including Shaggy, Beres Hammond, and Roberta Flack, and he continues to record.

For press information, contact Lauren Morrow at 718.636.4129 x1 or [lmorrow@BAM.org](mailto:lmorrow@BAM.org).

### Credits

First New York Partners Management is the presenting sponsor of the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech.

BAM thanks its many donors and sponsors, including: The Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, The Leona M. & Harry B. Helmsley Charitable Trust, Bank of America, Estate of Richard B. Fisher, The Shubert Foundation, Inc., The Norman & Rosita Winston Foundation, Inc., The Starr Foundation, Time Warner Inc., Carnegie Corporation of New York, JPMorgan Chase, Henry and Lucy Moses Fund, Inc., Forest City Ratner Companies, The Skirball Foundation, and Friends of BAM and BAM Cinema Club. Sovereign Bank is the BAM Marquee sponsor. Yamaha is the official piano for BAM. R/GA is the BAM.org sponsor. New York Marriott at the Brooklyn Bridge is the official hotel for BAM.

### Directions

MetroTech Center is situated in the Civic Center / Borough Hall area of Downtown Brooklyn. The BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech concert stage is located on the lawn at MetroTech Commons.

### **By Subway:**

2, 3 to Hoyt Street and walk two blocks north on Bridge Street  
2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall station and walk five blocks east  
R to Lawrence Street Station  
A, C, F to Jay Street / Borough Hall, exit at Myrtle Promenade.

### **By Bus:**

The B25, B26, B38, B41, B45, B51, B52, B54, B61, B63, B67, and B75 all stop within a three-block radius of MetroTech Center.

### **By Car:**

Public parking is available at One and Two MetroTech Center. The entrance to Parking Lot P is on Lawrence and Bridge Streets between Willoughby Street and the Myrtle Promenade or at The Gallery at MetroTech. The entrance to the Parking Lot is at the intersection of Flatbush, Willoughby, and Gold Streets.

Please call 718.636.4100 or visit [www.BAM.org](http://www.BAM.org) for more information about the BAM Rhythm & Blues Festival at MetroTech.

# # #