



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:  
Kimberly Greene • A Taste of Colorado  
(303) 295-6330 • Kim@ATasteofColorado.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
August 3, 2009

## **A Taste of Colorado Brings Rock to Civic Center Park**

**DENVER** – Fourteen diverse rock bands and singer/songwriters are set to perform on the KBCO World Class Rock Stage at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual A Taste of Colorado. The four-day, free admission, food, music, and entertainment Festival will take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 through Sept. 7, in Downtown Denver's Civic Center Park.

On Friday, Denver favorite **Jessica Sonner**, who is influenced by pop, country, and blues, will kick off the Festival at 11:30 a.m. The **Julia Bryan Band** performs at 3 p.m., delivering a blend of intimate acoustic and fiery pop/rock music. **Johnny Rodriguez y los Diamantes** keeps the tradition of Spanish music alive at 6:45 p.m. with *New Mex Tex*, a mix of Spanish, New Mexican, and Tejano sounds.

Saturday starts off right with **The Catfish Kray Blues Band** taking the stage at 10:30 a.m. **Rob Drabkin**, a singer/songwriter and guitarist who has been compared to John Mayer and Damien Rice, will entertain Festivalgoers at 3 p.m. Classically-trained vocalist **Ayo Awosika** performs at 6:45 p.m., singing a range of soul/folk melodies influenced by jazz legends Ella Fitzgerald and Billie Holiday.

Opening on Sunday at 10:30 a.m., **Megan Burt & The Cure to Love** will mix elements of folk, blues, and rock. **Chris Daniels & The Kings**, a seven-piece horn band that entertains crowds with a mix of R&B, funk, and jump blues, hit the stage at 1:30 p.m. **Chilli Willi**, playing an eclectic mix of original tunes and dance hits, takes the stage at 4:30 p.m. **The Mary Louise Lee Band** performs hit sounds from the '60s to today, including jazz, R&B, and pop, at 6:30 p.m.

**Patrick Emerine** delivers a lively and rousing rendition of contemporary and classic rock favorites on Monday at 10:30 a.m. **Lynn Skinner**, a dynamic jazz/pop vocalist, sings her popular Joni Mitchell tribute at 12:30 p.m. **Jon Romero y Amanecer** perform at 3:30 p.m.; the Latin jazz/rock band has opened for Tito Puente. Closing out the rock portion of the Festival at 5:30 p.m. is the all-vocal, beat-boxing, rock band **Face**.

- More -

In addition to the KBCO World Class Rock Stage, the Main Stage and three other stages located throughout the Festival will serve up a continuous menu of entertainment, featuring country, jazz, blues, and ethnic music and dance groups.

More than 50 of Colorado's favorite food establishments will be selling a wide variety of small portions to full meals, ensuring that there will be something for every palate. The Fine Dining area, sponsored by Sub-Zero and Wolf, will host some of Denver's finest restaurants. The Culinary Showcase features local and nationally-renowned chef demonstrations creating simple, yet elegant meals.

Festivalgoers can shop in more than 250 Marketplace booths for original arts and crafts, home and gift items, furniture, jewelry, imports, and more. Shoppers can also explore the Home & Lifestyles area, which features a variety of exhibitors displaying products and services such as window installation, kitchen remodeling, cookware, basement refinishing, and salons and spas.

There will be plenty of music, magic, clowns, and puppets on the KidzStage, and the KidZone features play equipment and hands-on craft activities. Kids and adults can also enjoy carnival rides and games Saturday through Monday.

In the Festival of Mountain and Plain area, families can learn about the state's pioneer past, nature, and the environment. Featured artisans will demonstrate Navajo weaving and culture, spinning, rug braiding, lace crocheting, felting, instrument-making, and quilting, along with the popular blacksmith demonstration. At the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program exhibit, children can learn about birds and their environment, along with their interactions with humans. Free gold panning and educational materials about dinosaurs, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, and energy production and conservation are available at the Colorado Mining Exhibit.

Sponsors of this year's Festival are: 9NEWS, Aggreko, All Copy Products, American Medical Response, American Satellite – An Authorized DIRECTV Dealer, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Blue Moon, Cascadian Farm, Cold Front Distribution, Coors Light, *The Denver Post*, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Dreyer's Grand Ice Cream, Eldorado Natural Spring Water, Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que, Grand Lodge On Peak 7, Killian's, LÄRABAR, LBA Realty, Levinson Eye Clinic, Microtech-Tel, Mike's Hard Lemonade, Molson, Muir Glen, The Other White Meat Tour, PEPSI, PlayStation, Residence Inn Denver City Center, SOYJOY, Sturgeon Electric, Sub-Zero & Wolf, T-Mobile® Limited Operated by On The Go Wireless, and Travelers Insurance.

Festival hours are Friday, Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Monday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Festival of Mountain and Plain ... A Taste of Colorado is a community celebration that is produced by and benefits Downtown Denver Events, Inc., the Downtown Denver Partnership family's community events non-profit organization. The Festival is an opportunity for people throughout the region to come together to experience and appreciate our diverse cultural traditions, and to learn more about our state's Western heritage. The Festival highlights visual and performing arts in addition to featuring educational programs and culinary demonstrations.

Visit [www.ATasteofColorado.com](http://www.ATasteofColorado.com), [www.facebook.com/ATasteofColorado](http://www.facebook.com/ATasteofColorado), [www.twitter.com/atasteofco](http://www.twitter.com/atasteofco), [www.myspace.com/ATasteofColorado](http://www.myspace.com/ATasteofColorado), or call (303) 295-6330 for more information.

###