



Friday Cheers 2008

- Who:** Approximately 40,000 Richmonders
What: Richmond's only **free** summer concert series
When: Eight Fridays, May 9-June 27
Where: Brown's Island on downtown Richmond's historic James River

Venture Richmond's **free** signature summer concert series, Friday Cheers, presented by Coors Light and Yuengling, is back on Brown's Island for the 24th season and promises to feature some of the nation's hottest touring acts, along with some regional favorites.

The Friday series kicks off May 9 and continues through June 27 from 6-9:30 p.m. All events are on Brown's Island along downtown Richmond's historic riverfront. Friday Cheers will offer eight concerts and brings in a variety of performers that may only be in the region once this summer.

The Line-up

May 9

Easy Star All-Stars with Trumystic

From its inception in 1996, Easy Star Records has been at the forefront of a growing revolution in reggae music. Easy Star evolved from an idea hatched by four friends into a vibrant independent record company that has been called "...one of the most important reggae labels in America today." [Full Watts, 9/98] Easy Star has helped foster this renewed interest in Jamaican music, and can now be rightfully considered one of the leaders in the modern reggae industry.

In February 2003, Easy Star released the now classic [Dub Side of the Moon](#) project, which is a song-by-song reggae recreation of the classic Pink Floyd album Dark Side of the Moon. The album has sold more than 100,000 copies and spent more than 200 weeks on the Billboard charts. The live version of the album has been selling out shows all over the U.S., Europe, South America, the Middle East and beyond since 2004.

May 16

Carbon Leaf with Moossa

Carbon Leaf is a rock band with many influences. Visit [BIOSPHERE](#) for more biographical information.

May 23

Sam Bush with The Whiskey Rebellion

Though he admits a certain discomfort with the moniker “King of Newgrass,” Sam Bush has more than earned it. Bush is the cofounder and leader of the seminal progressive bluegrass band, New Grass Revival for 18 years during the 1970s and ’80s. He may not be the only person responsible for newgrass — the wild bluegrass stepchild that features rock’n’ roll grooves and extended virtuosic jams, but since New Grass Revival’s dissolution in 1989, he has certainly been one of the most brilliant of newgrass’s many bright lights. He helped create newgrass music almost 35 years ago, but Laps in Seven is evidence that he’s still as vital a presence on the acoustic music scene as ever. He’s still making new sounds, rocking out on great songs, and pushing the bar higher for the legions of his protégés, fans and friends.

May 30

Arrested Development with Crucial Elements

The group describes their sound as “Life Music.” A.D. respects women, and promotes family, spirituality and male responsibility. They are about consciousness, the earth, African self determination and love. They define themselves as hip-hop artists but also “just artists.” They are dancers, vocalists, turntablists, drummers and everything in between. Arrested Development is and has always been a communal music community with any number of talented members on board – a family reunion but more musical.

June 6

Dr. Dog with The Palominos

Dr. Dog has been creating music in various incarnations for four years. Although Dr. Dog has as many as 20 honorary “members” who have assisted in various (mostly spiritual) capacities through the years, the core of the band consists of five musicians. The standard instrumentation includes two guitars, bass, drums, keyboard and three part harmonies. The Beach Boys, Beatles, Tom Waits, David Bowie and Neil Young are cited as influences, along with Pavement, Palace Brothers, R. Stevie Moore and Roy Wood.

June 13

Dirty Dozen Brass Band with Southside Funk

The Dirty Dozen Brass Band is a New Orleans, La., brass band. The ensemble was established in 1977 by Benny Jones together with members of the Tornado Brass Band. The Dirty Dozen revolutionized the New Orleans brass band style by incorporating funk and bebop into the

traditional New Orleans style, and have been a major influence on the majority of New Orleans brass bands since.

June 20

Jason Isbell and the 400 Unit with Mozely Rose

Jason Isbell may still be young, but he's packed an enormous amount of musical experience into his 28 years. Growing up in a family of musicians, he absorbed everything he heard and began channeling it into guitar at age six and piano by age 12. For the past six years, Isbell was one of three front men for the critically acclaimed Drive-By Truckers (DBT) — and although fans may have been shocked by his leaving the band in April, once you hear his solo debut *Sirens of the Ditch* (which was co-produced by Isbell and DBT's Patterson Hood) it will only confirm that Isbell has his own unique voice.

June 27

Spam Allstars with Farm Vegas

DJ Le Spam and the Spam Allstars blend improvisational electronic elements and turntables with Latin, funk, hip-hop and dub to create a sound that is unique — an electronic descarga.

Friday Cheers

Presented by: Coors Light and Yuengling

Sponsored by: Mix 103.7, 96.5 The Planet, K95, Y101, Style Weekly, Plan 9 Music, BlackFinn, Pepsi, James River Cellars, Crowne Plaza

Produced by: Venture Richmond