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JAMAICA PLAIN

Inaugural JP Music Festival to host 20-plus bands with neighborhood ties

Posted by Matt Rocheleau July 13, 2011 02:27 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The first-ever “JP Music Festival” will be held in late August featuring between 20 and 25 musical acts, all of which have direct ties to the neighborhood.

The free, all-ages event is scheduled for Saturday, August 20 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the [Pinebank Baseball Field](#) near Jamaica Pond, event organizers announced.

Each musical act, selected from more than 100 artists who applied to perform, will have at least one member who is a Jamaica Plain resident, festival officials said. Two stages will rotate 15 to 20-minute performances.

The festival’s line-up will be announced in mid-July.

An after-party will be held at [Midway Café](#), from 7 p.m. to 2 a.m. Additional musical acts will perform there.

The event is being organized by a planning committee entirely comprised of Jamaica Plain residents led by songwriter and musician Rick Berlin, Randace Moore, director of JP Centre/South Main Streets, and local promoter and booking agent Shamus Moynihan.

“I recently talked with Shamus about how Cambridge and Somerville both have such amazing music festivals,” Berlin said in an event announcement. “Jamaica Plain has no shortage of talented and diverse musicians, composers, and performers. We wanted to give them—and all the festival goers—the time and place to get together for one incredible day of music each year, to hear each other perform, and celebrate the amazing musical nexus that is Jamaica Plain.”

“Given who lives in JP, we will feature all genres, all ethnicities, all persuasions, all ages, and all outside in one of JP’s great parks,” he added.

Organizers said they are working in conjunction with the city’s parks department and are securing local sponsors to cover event expenses, police details, and clean up.

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The festival will also feature on-site food sales, with proceeds going to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Boston, officials said.

The event has held several fundraisers at local restaurants and businesses, including James's Gate, The Haven, Midway Café, and The Video Underground. More than \$5,000 has been raised thus far and additional event and [online fundraisers](#) are being planned.

The festival's organizing committee recently formed a nonprofit entity, which will manage the event this year and into the future.

"The musicians that live in Jamaica Plain have played all over Boston, the US, and around the world," Moynihan said in the announcement. "Despite the thriving scene that manifests itself in local venues and basement shows, there hasn't been a chance for these artists to get together on a larger scale where the focus is on the music. Our goal with the JP Music Festival is to celebrate the diverse sounds of dozens of our local musicians and focus on how much music means to all of us each and every day."

For more information, visit www.jpmusicfestival.com.

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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