



## Office of General Services

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### **OGS ANNOUNCES 2017 SUMMER AT THE PLAZA SUMMER SERIES LINEUP**

#### **Highlights Include July 4 Celebration and NYS Food Festival Featuring The Charlie Daniels Band**

RoAnn Destito, Commissioner, New York State Office of General Services (OGS) today announced the 2017 *Summer At The Plaza* series of free community events that will be presented at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. *Summer at the Plaza* will include family-friendly concerts, movies, and festivals starting June 28.

“Every year thousands of people come to our free Summer At the Plaza events with their families, neighbors, and friends to enjoy great entertainment, delicious food, and the region’s best fireworks show at New York State’s 4th of July Celebration presented by Price Chopper and Market 32,” Commissioner Destito said. “This year’s lineup of concerts, festivals, and movies has something for everyone, and we are grateful to our generous 2017 sponsors whose support makes all this wonderful entertainment possible.”

#### **Capital Concert Series presented by Coors Light**

##### **Wednesday, June 28, 5 – 8 p.m. Reggae Night featuring Freddie McGregor**

Internationally acclaimed Grammy-nominated singer **Freddie McGregor, O.D.**, has made significant contributions to Reggae music and has also helped to shape it with his conscious lyrics and Philly-soul style for more than 50 years. Equally adept as a romantic crooner or as an emissary of strong cultural messaging, his undeniable vocal ability boasts hits such as “Push Come to Shove,” “Africa Here I Come,” “I Was Born A Winner,” “Guantanamo,” “Big Ship, Lock Dem’ Down,” and “Bangarang.”

##### **Wednesday, July 12, 5 – 8 p.m. Sam Roberts Band with special guest Rechorduroys**

The **Sam Roberts Band** is a rock and roll band based out of Montreal, Canada. Roberts says the key to the band’s longevity is their steadfast enthusiasm for sticking to their artistic guns and consistently working to make a better album each time. Released in 2016, the band’s sixth album, “Terraform,” features the lead single, “If You Want It.”

##### **Wednesday, July 19, 5 – 8 p.m. Soul Asylum with special guest Cracker**

**Soul Asylum** has been inspiring its fans with a high level of passion since 1981 when the band, initially known as Loud Fast Rules, formed in Minneapolis. The band’s raucous live sets and early releases, including “Say What You Will,” “Made to Be Broken,” and “While You Were Out,” earned the band a loyal fan base and widespread critical acclaim. The band’s 1992 album

“Grave Dancers Union,” featured the international hits “Black Gold” and “Runaway Train,” which won a 1994 Grammy as Best Rock Song. **Cracker** has been described as a lot of things over the years: alt-rock, Americana, insurgent-country, and have even had the terms punk and classic rock thrown at them. Making music for a quarter of a century, Cracker’s hit songs “Low,” “Euro-Trash Girl,” “Get Off This,” and “Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out With Me” have earned them a worldwide fan base that continues to grow each year.

### **Wednesday, July 26, 5 – 8 p.m. Charles Bradley & His Extraordinaires**

Soul Singer **Charles Bradley’s** star has been on the rise since the release of his widely praised 2011 debut album “No Time For Dreaming.” Bradley has made a name for himself as a riveting live performer and taken his show to venues and festivals across the globe, including Coachella, Glastonbury Festival, and Primavera Sound. Bradley has also performed on famed stages, including the Apollo Theater.

Sponsors of the Capital Concert Series include Coors Light, Druthers IPA, County Waste, CDTA, Albany.com, SEFCU, Monolith Solar, EQX, Hot 99, and PYX 106.

### **Jazz Series presented by Cornerstone at the Plaza**

The Jazz Series is a new addition to the Summer at the Plaza series of events and will feature performances on a stage located between The Egg and the Corning Tower. The viewing area will include Cornerstone at the Plaza’s patio.

### **Wednesday, September 13, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Jazz Night featuring Alex Torres**

**Alex Torres** is a Bronx-born bassist who formed a Latin orchestra in Amsterdam, N.Y. in 1980. Torres performs an original blend of Afro-Caribbean rhythms such as Salsa, Merengue, Cha-cha, Bomba, Plena, and Latin jazz at hundreds of festivals and other events annually.

### **Wednesday, September 20, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Jazz Night featuring Hot Club of Saratoga**

**Hot Club of Saratoga** is the Saratoga-Capital Region’s premier gypsy swing ensemble. Playing a repertoire that reflects the spirit and style originated in the 1930s and kept alive through a long line of gypsy jazz artists since that time. The driving rhythms under dynamic soloing give the Hot Club of Saratoga’s music a life and vibrancy sure to bring a smile and often an irresistible desire to move.

### **Summer at the Plaza 2017 Festivals**

#### **Tuesday, July 4, 3 – 10 p.m.**

#### **New York State’s 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Presented by Price Chopper and Market 32 featuring the United State Air Force Heritage of America Band**

Price Chopper and Market 32 have presented this Albany tradition since our country’s bicentennial celebration in 1976. The annual event features live music and fun for the whole family, including the best fireworks show in the region. Each year, more than 20,000 people gather on the Plaza and in the surrounding neighborhoods to enjoy the day, which includes a naturalization ceremony, dozens of food and craft vendors, activities for kids, and an evening of live entertainment leading up to the big pyrotechnics show.

One of the original Army Air Corps bands, the **United State Airforce Heritage of America Band** has a rich history of inspiring hearts and minds, building and sustaining American patriotism, and enhancing esprit do corps in the United States Air Force. For over 75 years, the

band has represented the Air Force with musical and military distinction, making lasting impressions with their audiences through the universal language of music.

Sponsors include Price Chopper and Market 32, I Love New York, New York Lottery, CDTA, Watkins Glen International, Times Union, and Albany.com.

**Saturday, July 15, Noon – 5 p.m.**

**Kids Day Presented by MVP Health Plans and featuring Meet and Greet with PJ Masks and Storytime performance with Pete the Cat.**

Presented for the first time by MVP Health Plans, Kids Day is this area's "kid-centric" outdoor event. Nowhere else can children enjoy an array of favorites such as live music, the Two by Two Zoo, Touch a Truck, face painting, bounce rides, puppet shows, arts and crafts, balloons, and more all in one place. Don't miss the opportunity to meet **PJ Masks**, everyone's favorite mystery-solving heroes, as they pose with children and families for photos and give super hugs. On the main stage, catch one of today's most popular characters, **Pete the Cat**, in a fun, high-energy, interactive live performance.

Sponsors of Kids Day include MVP Health Plans, New York State of Health, New York 529 College Savings Program, Watkins Glen International, and 99.5 The River.

**Saturday, August 5, 2 – 7 p.m.**

**The Black Arts and Cultural Festival presented by McDonald's featuring Jody Watley and Shalamar Reloaded**

Presented by McDonald's, the Black Arts and Cultural Festival is an updated take on a classic celebration of the traditions and cultural contributions of the black community through music, art, dance, and more. In addition to an exciting lineup of talent on the main stage, the festival will feature a kids zone with family-friendly activities everyone can enjoy.

With her multi-platinum selling genre bending catalog that spans decades into the now over 10 albums: disco, soul, funk, pop, contemporary R&B, hip/hop, jazz, adult contemporary and electronica; the Jody Watley concert experience is vast, rich and always a soulful party. Since her days as the original female lead vocalist of the R&B trio Shalamar, Watley emerged as always ahead of the pop culture curve and has been at the forefront of some of the most groundbreaking trends and movements in modern pop culture, serving as the style template for today's women in contemporary music.

Sponsors include McDonald's, MVP Health Care, New York State of Health, New York's 529 College Savings Program, Mildred Elley, NYS Homes and Community Renewal, and Hot 99.1.

**Wednesday, August 9, 11 a.m. – 9 p.m.**

**New York State Food Festival featuring The Charlie Daniels Band**

With nearly 100 food vendors to choose from, 15,000 people annually flock to the Plaza Food Festival for lunch, dinner, or both. They come for the food and stay for a day of live musical entertainment. The Food Festival showcases New York producers and specialty products, New York State beers, and the popular Empire State Plaza Farmers Market. From his Dove Award-winning gospel albums to his genre-defining Southern rock anthems and his CMA Award-winning country hits, few artists have left a more indelible mark on America's musical landscape than **Charlie Daniels**. An outspoken patriot, beloved mentor to young artists, and still a road

warrior at age 80, Daniels has parlayed his passion for music into a multi-platinum career and a platform to support the military, underprivileged children, and others in need.

Sponsors include New York Lottery, I Love New York, BlueShield of Northeastern NY, Mildred Elley, Times Union, PYX 106, and Albany.com.

### **Saturday, September 23, 5 – 10 p.m.**

#### **Hispanic Heritage Celebration** (Performers to be announced)

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month with this tribute to Latin culture. Rich in tradition, the Hispanic community comes together in the Empire State Plaza Convention Center for a colorful pageantry of live music, dance, food, and family friendly activities.

Sponsors include BlueShield of Northeastern NY, New York's 529 College Savings Program, AllOverAlbany.com, and Times Union.

### **Capitol Park After Dark Movie Series**

Outdoor movie nights return to Albany on three Wednesdays in August, featuring films suitable for the entire family in West Capitol Park.

- **“Key Largo,” Wednesday, August 16, 8 p.m.**  
John Huston co-wrote and compellingly directs this film of Maxwell Anderson's 1939 play with a searing Academy Award-winning performance by Claire Trevor as Rocco's gold-hearted, boozy girlfriend. In Huston's hands, it becomes a powerful, sweltering classic. A hurricane swells outside, but it's nothing compared to the storm within the hotel at *Key Largo*. There, sadistic mobster Johnny Rocco (Edward G. Robinson) holes up — and holds at gunpoint hotel owner Nora Temple (Lauren Bacall), her invalid father-in-law (Lionel Barrymore) and ex-GI Frank McCloud (Humphrey Bogart). McCloud's the one man capable of standing up against the belligerent Rocco. But the postwar world's realities may have taken all the fight out of him.
- **“Rear Window,” Wednesday, August 23, 8 p.m.**  
None of Hitchcock's films has ever given a clearer view of his genius for suspense than “Rear Window.” When professional photographer L.B. “Jeff” Jeffries (James Stewart) is confined to a wheelchair with a broken leg, he becomes obsessed with watching the private dramas of his neighbors play out across the courtyard. When he suspects a salesman may have murdered his nagging wife, Jeffries enlists the help of his glamorous socialite girlfriend (Grace Kelly) to investigate the highly suspicious chain of events... Events that ultimately lead to one of the most memorable and gripping endings in all of film history.
- **“Annie,” Wednesday, August 30, 8 p.m.**  
“Annie” is the story of a plucky, red-haired girl who dreams of life outside her dreary orphanage. One day, Annie (Aileen Quinn) is chosen to stay for one week with the famous billionaire “Daddy” Warbucks (Albert Finney). One week turns into many, and the only person standing in the way of Annie's fun is Miss Hannigan, the gin-soaked ruler of the orphanage (played to hilarious perfection by Carol Burnett). Will Miss Hannigan's zany attempts to kidnap the irrepressible Annie succeed? Enjoy all the unforgettable songs from this 1982 release, including “It's A Hard Knock Life” and “Tomorrow.”

### **Made in the Shade of The Egg**

The annual Made in the Shade performance series takes place at noon on the outdoor stage near the main entrance to The Egg on the Empire State Plaza.

**June 7: New Breed Brass Band**, performing contemporary New Orleans jazz.

**June 14: Kat Wright** performing new school R&B.

**June 21: Orkesta Mendoza**, performing indie mambo.

**June 28: The Big Takeover**, performing Jamaican reggae with American soul.

**July 5: Adam Ezra Group**, performing contemporary indie-folk-rock.

**July 12: Beg, Steal or Borrow**, performing bluegrass and newgrass.

**July 19: Joe Louis Walker**, performing electric blues.

**July 26: Ajkun Ballet Theatre**, performing classical & contemporary.

**August 2: Incendio**, performing flamenco fusion.

**August 9: The Soul Rebels**, performing pop tunes marching band style.

**August 16: Roosevelt Dime**, performing modern Americana.

**August 23: The Sweetback Sisters**, performing honky-tonk harmony.

**August 30: Ellen Sinopoli Dance Company**, performing modern dance.

All of the Summer *At The Plaza* events are FREE. During weeknight At the Plaza events, free parking in the East Garage begins at 4 p.m. Paid parking is also available at the visitor or V lot underneath the plaza.

No alcoholic beverages, coolers (defined as rigid insulated containers), or glass containers of any kind; animals or pets (excludes ADA-defined service animals) will be allowed. Alcohol will be served by vendors to adults with proper identification.

For event updates and additional information on opening acts, people can follow @plazaevents on Twitter, visit Empire State Plaza on facebook, or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information, including ground rules, visit our website at [www.empirestateplaza.org](http://www.empirestateplaza.org).

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