

# MUSIC

## Bonnaroo Festival lineup released

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### The Event

Many music fans and environment conservationists come together each year for Bonnaroo, the annual celebration of music, wildlife, and biodiversity. This year, the hacky-sack-playing, Frisbee tossing, hygiene-neglecting pseudo-hippies have compiled a list of performers for this year's gala.

While maintaining the theme of diversity, the administration of the festival has selected a rather large variety of musical acts. In attendance this year will be such acts as Pearl Jam, Metallica, Kanye West, Jack Johnson, Ben Folds, The Raconteurs, My Morning Jacket, Death Cab for Cutie, and many more.

Metallica drummer Lars Ulrich says that it is no surprise that his band was selected for the venue. "It's all about variety," he said. "The fact that this is starting in America is great. The fact that we've been asked to be part of it is so natural and obvious. This was one of those no-brainers."

The festivities take place in Manchester, Tenn. from June 12-15 on Manchester farm. It is the culmination of the top musical talent in the nation infused with important environmentalist information and comedians as well.

### The Cause

The festival is more than just the revival of the 60s counterculture gone awry, submerged in a surreal drug-induced three-day long high. According to the Bonnaroo website, the purpose of the event is far more than that. It is about raising people's awareness of important issues, via music celebration and perpetual awareness. "The future of our planet is a big deal for Bonnaroo and it should be for you, too," as stated in the website. "We need all of our fans at Bonnaroo to help counteract global warming and the devastation of our environment through conservation; reduced and sustainable living; and the preservation of our natural resources, wildlife, and biodiversity."

### The Music

Aside from all of the environmental issues, the stage is where the real issues will unfold. The announcement of the lineup coincides with many various award nominations, new releases, and new projects.

Kanye West, a newcomer to the lineup, leads this year's Grammy nominees with eight nominations. West is among the few hip-hop artists set for this year's bill. Joining West in Tennessee is Lupe Fiasco and Talib Kweli.

Many artists for the summer event have released new albums over the past few weeks. Most noteworthy is Jack Johnson, whose most recent album *Sleep Through the Static*, was released on Feb. 5. While maintaining his loyal crew of surfing cronies, Johnson has expanded to include many more music fans.

Rilo Kiley, led by the beautiful and talented Jenny Lewis, will also be playing this year's Bonnaroo. Their most recent album *Under the Blacklight*, is the album-long tale of heartbreak and stale relationships. Lewis' long, drawn-out orgasmic moans should make a noise on stage.

Longtime marijuana advocate Willie Nelson, whose album *Moment of Forever* was produced by Buddy Cannon and Kenny Chesney, will be on stage during the event. His take on Dave Matthews Band's "Gravedigger" and Dylan's "Gotta Serve Somebody" will surely be as big as the hit Willie will be taking on stage.

B.B. King, longtime blues musician, will make a stop in Erie before the journey down to Tennessee. On Mar. 14, King will take on Erie's Warner Theatre. His annual trip to western PA will be immediately followed by his trek to the south.

In the midst of the musicians, we find some comedic relief from such acts as Jeneane Garofalo, Jim Norton and David Cross.

### The Picks

While many of the aforementioned artists will put on quite the show at Bonnaroo, there are some bands and musicians that make the \$200-ish price for admission.

My Morning Jacket, who has become popular with their live performances, will hit the stage in June. Their most recent live album *Okonokos* was recorded in November of 2005 and release on CD and DVD. Jim James' creativity and soothing-yodel of a voice will resonate with the hippie crowd.

When MMJ makes too big of a crowd, the concert crews can rely on Iron & Wine and Jose Gonzalez to calm down the audiences with their soft guitar and whispered lyrics. Although

rather faint in volume, their lyrical wizardry helped see to it that their albums had commercial success. Iron & Wine's *The Shepherd's Dog* spent many months in 2007 on the College Radio Charts. Gonzalez's *In Our Nature* has become his most popular release to date.

There are the popular bands and then there are the personal favorites. The three acts that are worth my money and time are The Avett Brothers, Drive-By Truckers and Mason Jennings.

The Avett Brothers, this decade's version of genuine grass-roots bluegrass mixed with 90s sentimental lyrics is the perfect blend of sound and poetry. The three-piece should rock the crowd deep into a chemical coma.

Drive-By Truckers, this year's sleeper for early album of the year, will bring their pseudo-red state southern rock to the frontier of creativity. Their most recent album *Brighter Than Creation's Dark*, was mixed and mastered to be played on vinyl records.

Finally, Mason Jennings, Hawaii-born and Pittsburgh-raised, has my personal endorsement for MVM, Most Valuable Musician.

His album *Boneclouds* is a tribute to original songwriting and genuine music performers. His song "Be Here Now" should ring out throughout the state of Tennessee.

### The Reason

Whether you're the music type or the Green Peace advocate, you should be able to find a reason to celebrate the summer's pinnacle event. Bonnaroo will prove to be the modern-day Woodstock, with more talent and less STDs. So pack up your RVs, your backpack full of hopefully-legal paraphernalia, make sure your hacky sack is full of beans, and get to Tennessee in June.

Bonnaroo is scheduled for June 12-15 and will be taking place in Manchester, Tenn. on Manchester Farm.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Above: An overhead shot of the annual Bonnaroo Music Festival, where thousands travel across the country to enjoy several days of music.

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## National Music News in Brief

By Ryan P. Gallagher  
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*Scorsese reveals his latest, the charts are shifting, and the Grateful Dead opened for Barack Obama.. wait what?*

Martin Scorsese has captured music on film once again with his latest documentary featuring the Rolling Stones entitled *Shine a Light*. The film's premiere opened the Berlin International Film Festival on Feb. 6 with Scorsese and the Stones in attendance.

Scorsese's ability to make music documentaries was made obvious by his 2004 documentary *No Direction Home* about singer/songwriter Bob Dylan. Scorsese is now allegedly looking at footage for his next project featuring the late Beatle George Harrison.

Alicia Key's album, *As I Am*, is back on top of the charts selling 61,257 copies to beat out the *Juno* soundtrack which held the No. 1 one spot proudly for one week.

The *Juno* soundtrack was bumped down to No. 2 while the Mars Volta's latest *Bedlam in Goliath* has shot up the the No. 3 slot.

Also climbing into the top 10 this week was Bullet For My Valentine's *Scream Aim Fire* at four and the 2008 *Grammys Nominees* compilation at five.

The Grateful Dead reunited briefly on Jan. 4 at the Warner Theater in San Francisco, Ca for Barack Obama's presidential campaign rally. The Dead had not spoken in "years and years" but were quoted allegedly saying "we knew instinctively, intuitively that we were all together on this."

Obama felt that this was an effective way to bring everyone together, and although has never attended a Dead concert, is said to indeed possess the music of the Dead on his iPod.

It is unsure if theband has any plans to continue their music career, however they enjoyed this rally immensely.

## Weekly Musical Trivia for the Behrend Beacon

What is the most aired video in the history of MTV?

- A. "Thriller" Michael Jackson
- B. "Sledgehammer" Peter Gabriel
- C. "I Don't Want to Miss a Thing" Aerosmith
- D. "One Headlight" The Wallflowers

Answer to last week's question: B. Adam Schlesinger