

MUSIC

I need summer, I need music

By Ryan P. Gallagher
music editor
rpg5004@psu.edu

This is it: the last time. The last time my musical words of an indefinable "knowledge" will appear in our *Beacon* this spring. If you enjoyed my work, I appreciate your thoughts. If not, I apologize for our colliding views, but I hope I opened your eyes to something new. Something other than the ordinary music that we're repeatedly exposed to in our pop culture of diminishing value- that was my goal. Now that my time is up, I see one thing in the near future that we can all collectively stop wishing for- it's time to start living the reoccurring dream we all share during the spring semester.

It's summertime people. Summertime, where the daily work pays for our memorable and eventful nights, and the mornings start fresh, leading into the heat of the sun. Of course we all know this, so this isn't actually a news story, but more of a charming preview of summer bliss. And a surreal summer of fun never succeeds without the presence of music, right? I think so, and so do a couple others.

Junior Joshua Miller says that it simply isn't summer without the music. "Oh, it's very important to have music in the summer. Whether it's screwin' around with your friends at night, or workin' out in the sun during the day, it's just always better when there's music." Miller continues to elaborate on why music is more prominent in the summer than any other season. "Music is important all year, but in the summer, for some reason, it just changes your mood. When you put on a 'beach' song it just puts you in that good mood. When you think of summer, you think of the concerts and tailgating- there's always music for that."

It's hard to make an argument that attacks a statement like that. It's true- music exists all year round, there's no rejecting that, however in the summer it plays a role nothing can supplant. Think about it hard. Common summer activities include campfires, the beach, hitting the sauce (come on, it's summertime), running, picnics, festivals (any type, really), "I could go on forever, baby".

The point this list is proving is that each of these

activities is deeply enhanced through the art of music, and that's the way it has always been.

According to producer Daniel J. Levitin, who wrote the book *This Is Your Brain On Music*, music wasn't actually split into two separate classes until about 500 years back. Now, we have music performers and music listeners, but centuries ago proved that music was an actively essential part of each individual's lives. Everyone sang. Everyone danced. No one provided excuses like "oh sorry, I can't sing", or "no, I just can't dance". It was literally the most significant aspect of each and every culture, and modern summers are very reminiscent of these times. We may not individually play the most active role when it comes down to it, but it's constantly there- you cannot run from it.

Senior business major, Brian Woodworth, doesn't quite know how to explain it, but feels that a summer can't exist without a musical presence. "Hanging out, sitting by the campfire with good friends listening to music- I don't know, time just slows down so you can chill out for a while."

The time doesn't slow down enough. The return of classes, or the fear of acquiring our first "real" job cripples the illumination of an ideal summer spent by a crackling fire. For some, like Woodworth, it could be considered the ultimate experience, for others maybe not so much, but whether you're conscious to it or not, music effectively underscores our daily summer routines in ways, that other seasons do not.

If you simply aren't into music, and cannot to relate to what I'm saying, then I have a favor to ask of you. Give music a chance. Give it a chance when you're doing anything and everything this summer. Listen to Creedence Clearwater Revival by the fire. Listen to Bruce Springsteen on a hot, sunny day. Pop on an old Sinatra record when you're enjoying the cool, buzz of a summer's night on the back deck. It could bring out emotions you never thought you had. Take it easy Spring, Summer's arrived and I have to go catch up.

Performers come to Behrend with high hopes of "breaking stereotypes one at a time"

"It's a really cool thing. Some campuses don't let these things go on. It's really sad."

- Randi Driscoll, award winning song writer and diversity advocate



Randi Driscoll played to Behrend students behind the ReedUnion Building on Thursday. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By Chris LaFuria
editor-in-chief
csl5004@psu.edu

It wasn't the free popcorn and free soda that drew me in. It wasn't Randi Driscoll's angelic vibrato that kept me listening. And it wasn't the clear blue sky and sunny Erie weather that led me to stay for hours.

"Break stereotypes, one at a time" was the message, and each performer outside of Bruno's café on Thursday did their part, whether singing, speaking or dancing, in perpetuating a message of hope about diversity.

Driscoll, a diversity advocate and award-winning songwriter, was the first performer to take the stage. Standing behind a keyboard, Driscoll used her songs and elaborate stories to discuss the importance of acceptance.

She is a decorated musician, winning the 2004 Campus Activities Magazine's "Female Performer of the Year" and "Best Small Venue Performer." Her biggest accomplishment does not come in the form of a trophy or award, however. In 1998, she penned the song "What

Matters" in response to the tragic death of Matthew Shepard, who was brutally attacked and murdered by two men.

The Matthew Shepard Foundation, formed to build awareness of eliminating hatred, has used the song as their benefit single. The single has helped raise over \$40,000 and has been featured in many documentaries.

Driscoll spoke about maintaining racial awareness but also credited Penn State Behrend for raising awareness. "It's a really cool thing," she said of Behrend's awareness. "Some campuses don't let these things go on. It's really sad."

Her music has become nationally renowned in recent years. She has played concerts with many famous musicians such as Jason Mraz and Pat Benetar. She says her favorite concert to play was in Walnut Creek which featured such artists as Jackson Browne, Bonnie Raitt and Bruce Hornsby.

Elaine Penn was the second performer of the afternoon. Penn took

a completely different approach to her performance. Not only is she a singer and songwriter, but she is also a speaker, physical trainer and performer.

She has had many titles over the years, including Director of Special Projects, Chief Fundraiser and Executive Producer, Director of Campus Recreation and Assistant Volleyball Coach. Five of her documentaries have gone on to win awards.

After attaining her Bachelor's Degree from Greensboro College, she got her Master's from UNC Wilmington. As an undergrad, she was a very successful athlete, having the honor of being elected into the Greensboro College Sports Hall of Fame in 1996.

After a shocking speech about the harmful effects of stereotyping, Penn played her most touching song of the day. The song, "Make a Difference," referred to Alex Scott, the 8-year-old neuroblastoma sufferer and cancer advocate who turned heads with her lemonade

stand that helped raise money for cancer. Penn used Scott, who tragically died in mid-2004, as a song-writing inspiration.

While her musical performance, consisting of just her own vocals playing her acoustic guitar, was exceptional, she lost a little bit of her luster with her long explanations. Nonetheless, everyone who attended and listened intently was forever touched by her words.

The last performer was a Native American hula-hoop dancer with a direct message. Kevin Locke used his dancing and his hula-hoops to discuss the necessary harmony that is needed to live with nature. He emphasized that everyone and everything is a part of nature.

While the performances didn't stand out musically, the messages are what made the day worthwhile. Although artists such as Driscoll, Locke and Penn cannot change the entire world with one song or dance, their efforts are just another way to start "breaking stereotypes one at a time."

National Music News in Brief by Matthew Schwabenbauer - mjs5387@psu.edu

*For the first time in years, all four members of Jane's Addiction reunited in Los Angeles on Wednesday to perform at the inaugural NME (New Musical Express) Awards USA at the El Rey Theater. The group was honored as the first American band to receive the "Godlike Genius Award for Extraordinary Services to Music." The reunion was a total surprise, due to bassist Eric Avery regularly turning down offers for a reunion. He almost declined the NME performance as well, but changed his mind at the last minute, stating the performance was about "honoring the past instead of trying to recreate it."

*The University of California Santa Cruz

will be receiving a gift that even the most pacifistic hippy would fight a war over: the entire archives of The Grateful Dead. In addition to the rock legend's musical archives, the University will also be housing memorabilia and correspondence from the Dead that has been accumulating for decades.

*After a slow 2007, Beck fans have much to look forward to in 2008. Besides the follow-up to his last record, *The Information*, the pop-art rocker has announced tour dates. After playing some European festivals in June and July, Beck will be returning in August for a stretch through the US, including headlining the Hollywood Bowl in September which also features appearances

from Spoon and MGMT.

*Boston cabaret duo The Dresden Dolls will be releasing a follow-up EP/B-side collection to their 2006 record, *Yes, Virginia...* The new record, titled *No, Virginia...* contains four new songs, demos, unreleased cuts, B-sides and songs originally only available on compilations.

*Former frontman for the Jam and the Style Council, Paul Weller will be releasing his ninth studio album, *22 Dreams*, in the US on June 24. *22 Dreams* sees Weller collaborating with some of the biggest names in Brit-rock, including Noel Gallagher and Gem Archer of Oasis, and former Blur guitarist Graham Coxon.

Top Five Summertime Tunes by the Behrend Beacon Editing Staff

Scott Muska	Chris Brown	Chris LaFuria	Andy McLachlan	M. Schwabenbauer	Ryan P. Gallagher	Lenny Smith
5. The Eagles - "Tequila Sunrise"	5. The Isley Brothers - "Summer Breeze"	5. Don Henley - "Boys of Summer"	5. Dave Clark Five - "Because"	5. Comeback Kid - "Partners in Crime"	5. Bruce Springsteen - "Thunder Road"	5. Jimmy Buffet - "Margaritaville"
4. Don Henley - "Boys of Summer"	4. Eddie Cochran - "Summertime Blues"	4. Roger Miller - "King of the Road"	4. 311 - "Amber"	4. Ever We Fall - "Youth Like Tigers"	4. Frank Sinatra - "Summer Wind"	4. Kenny Chesney - "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems"
3. John Travolta feat. Olivia Newton John - "Summer Lovin'"	3. The Lovin' Spoonful - "Summer in the City"	3. Chuck Berry - "No Particular Place to Go"	3. Sublime - "What I Got"	3. Cassino - "American Low"	3. Led Zeppelin - "Going to California"	3. Kenny Chesney - "Beer in Mexico"
2. Brand New - "Soco Amaretto Lime"	2. The Grateful Dead - "Morning Dew"	2. The Velvet Underground - "Who Loves the Sun?"	2. Mungo Jerry - "In the Summertime"	2. The Get Up Kids - "Campfire Kansas"	2. Modest Mouse - "The World at Large"	2. Brad Paisley - "Mud on the Tires"
1. Vega Boys - "Sex On the Beach"	1. The Beatles - "Here Comes the Sun"	1. John Travolta feat. Oliva Newton John - "Summer Lovin'"	1. Seals & Crofts - "Summer Breeze"	1. Brand New - "Soco Ameretto Lime"	1. The Get Up Kids - "Campfire Kansas"	1. Kenny Chesney - "Summertime"