



Cities97

BASILICA®
BLOCK PARTY





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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITIES 97 BASILICA BLOCK PARTY BRINGS ROCK AND LOCAL FAVORITES TO DOWNTOWN MINNEAPOLIS

Presented by Michelob Golden Draft Light

MINNEAPOLIS — June 2, 2009 – The Cities 97 Basilica Block Party will mark its 15th year this summer with great music, good food and summer fun on the grounds of The Basilica of Saint Mary. The event takes place on **Friday, July 10** and **Saturday, July 11** from 5:00 p.m.–10:30 p.m. with a special 15th Anniversary celebration **Sunday, July 12** from 10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. With one of the most anticipated lineups in the history of the Block Party, this year’s artists include well-known names among music lovers along with numerous local favorites, making the event a top summer destination for Minnesotans.

Held in the shadow of the treasured landmark, The Basilica Block Party has become one of the Midwest’s premier outdoor music festivals. Also known as “The Party of a Higher Order,” the Cities 97 Basilica Block Party attracts up to 25,000 music fans to 16th Street and Hennepin Avenue each year to help fund the continued renovation of the nation’s first Basilica and further the church’s St. Vincent de Paul community outreach program.

The event features performances by 16 of today’s hottest national and regional acts on three outdoor stages. In addition to great music, partygoers are also able to enjoy tasty food and cold beverages, take tours of The Basilica, and win one of the numerous raffle prizes offered each year. This year’s event will also include four Happy Hour performances, featuring Romantica and Rocket Club on Friday and Tyrone Wells and Tim Mahoney on Saturday beginning at 5 p.m. each night with wine specials from Trincero Family Estates.

Along with the Block Party’s traditional Friday and Saturday evening performances, a third day of music has been added to this year’s lineup in celebration of the event’s 15th Anniversary. Free and open to the public, Sunday will feature nine artists from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., along with many of the Block Party’s best food and beverage vendors. Beyond music, the Sunday event will also include fun, family-friendly activities like homemade soap-making sponsored by Mrs. Meyers cleaning products.

The artist lineup for 2009 includes a bevy of household names, as well as an exciting group of revered local performers:

The Black Crowes join the 2009 Basilica Block Party headlining the Friday night Main Stage. The Black Crowes’ hit singles, “She Talks to Angels” and cover of Otis Redding’s “Hard to Handle,” put

them on the music map in the '90s, and lead singer Chris Robinson's marriage to actress Kate Hudson kept the band in the public eye well into the 2000s. Beyond marriages, The Black Crowes have always had a family focus, however, with Robinson's brother Rich Robinson as a founding member and permanent fixture in the band. With their 70s-era blues-rock style, The Black Crowes are sure to rock Block Party concertgoers of all ages.

Getting the crowd amped up for The Black Crowes will be Nashville-based singer/songwriter **Mat Kearney**. No stranger to the Block Party – Kearney performed on the Main Stage in 2006 – Kearney is most recognized for popular singles “Nothing Left to Lose,” “Breathe In Breathe Out,” and “Undeniable.” Since the explosion of these singles off his 2006 album release, *Nothing Left to Lose*, Kearney has headlined cross-country tours while also opening for John Mayer, Sheryl Crow, and former Block Party headliner The Fray. Kearney's latest release, 2009's *City of Black & White*, allowed him to explore his Motown influences coupled with the powerful impact of early work by U2 and Tom Petty. The album's first single, “Closer to Love,” is sure to be sweeping airwaves and exciting Block Party attendees throughout the summer.

Nashville-based artists collide when singer-songwriter **Erin McCarley** warms the crowd for Mat Kearney and opens the 2009 Basilica Block Party Main Stage on Friday night. With McCarley compared to the likes of Sara Bareilles and Regina Spektor, her debut album, *Love, Save the Empty*, is sure to also resonate with Fiona Apple and Patty Griffin fans – two of McCarley's biggest influences. McCarley's elegantly crafted and deeply melodic style has been featured on MTV's “The Hills,” and the “Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson,” and in the blockbuster movie “He's Just Not that Into You.” While *Love, Save the Empty* doesn't release until fall, Block Party attendees will be some of the first to hear McCarley's album live, expected to make her one of the hottest up-and-coming artists of the summer.

While The Black Crowes will be rocking the main stage on Friday night, the church stage will be jumping with **The Jayhawks**, the reunion highlight of the summer. A local favorite since their Minneapolis inception in 1985, The Jayhawks will be headlining the Block Party's Church Stage on Friday night. With local influences like Bob Dylan and The Replacements, The Jayhawks have been carving out their signature alt-country sound for nearly 25 years. At their only reunion show of 2009, The Jayhawks are sure to be rocking Block Party-goers with now-legendary singles such as “Waiting for the Sun,” “Blue,” and “Smile,” along with tunes from their 2003 release *Rainy Day Music*, a *Rolling Stone* 4-star album.

Canadian up-and-comer **Serena Ryder** will be setting the stage for The Jayhawks on Friday night with her blend of pop, folk and blues sound. Boasting a three-octave vocal range, Ryder's latest release, *Is It O.K.*, highlights her unique sound on the album's first singles, “Little Bit of Red” and “All for Love.” Having already reached star status in Canada with a 2008 Juno Award for New Artist of the Year, Ryder's U.S. accolades include having “All for Love” featured on ABC's *Private Practice* and opening on Aerosmith's 2007 tour. Block Party attendees are sure to enjoy what may be their first – but certainly not last – experience with this rising singer-songwriter talent.

Counting Crows and The Hold Steady Headline Saturday, July 11

On Saturday night, Basilica Block Party alum **Counting Crows** will take the main stage. With over 20 million albums sold worldwide, Eight Top 5 singles, and four records having broken the Top 5 on the Billboard 200, Counting Crows' success dates back to their 1993 debut release *August And Everything After* and the hit single “Mr. Jones.” Their most recent record, the double album *Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings*, was released to critical and popular acclaim in March 2008. Counting Crows rocked Block Party attendees at a sold-out 2005 show, and if that's any indication of 2009 attendance, fans should plan to buy their tickets early!

Readying the crowd for the Counting Crows is singer-songwriter **Matt Nathanson**. While Matt Nathanson's melodic voice and catching acoustic guitar sounds have just recently drawn him into the mainstream mix, Nathanson's no newcomer to the music scene. In the early '90s, Nathanson got his start in the coffeehouse scene and lived his life as the very model of the modern independent artist, journeying from town to town, captivating audiences with his confessional songs and spontaneous stage banter. Likely best known for his hit single "Come on Get Higher," off 2007's *Some Mad Hope*, Nathanson has opened for Tori Amos, John Mayer, and Basilica Block Party favorites Guster and OAR.

Before Nathanson takes the stage, up-and-comers **Green River Ordinance** will open the night. Led by brothers Jamey and Geoff Ice, who have been performing together since they were 16 and 14 years old, the band also benefits from the music experience of Joshua Wilkerson, whose guitarist-father played with The Beach Boys, Cheap Trick and The Guess Who. After recording their first EP in a church basement, Green River Ordinance experience an upheaval of local support leading them to opening gigs for artists including Bon Jovi, Collective Soul, Third Eye Blind and Sister Hazel. Winner of the 2008 Fort Worth Music Awards "Artist of the Year," Green River Ordinance's 2009 album, *Out of My Hands*, is sure to be a crowd-pleaser on the Block Party stage.

Headlining the Basilica Block Party's Church Stage, local favorite **The Hold Steady** has quickly gained fan following and critical praise for their mix of classic rock styling and "lyrically-dense storytelling." The Hold Steady is sure to bring the creative, signature rock sound that made them *Blender's* 2006 "Band of the Year" and is exemplified on the band's latest release, 2008's *Stay Positive*. Having admired other influential Minneapolis-based bands like Hüsker-Dü, and surprisingly, hip-hop artists like Atmosphere, The Hold Steady "says something worth hearing, displaying gifts for both scope and depth that are all too rare in contemporary rock — indie or mainstream."

Leading off for The Hold Steady is another local darling, rising stars **Tapes 'n Tapes**. Formed at Carleton College in 2003, Tapes 'n Tapes' sound goes beyond standard genres with "refined, catchy rock 'n' roll menagerie ... replete with jagged guitar, spicy melodies and superb rhythm," according to *Alternative Press*. The band's second album, 2008's *Walk it Off*, has skyrocketed their fan following and critical review, thanks in much part to continued music bloggers enthusiasm. Described as "a pleasure that invites listens 'n listens," Basilica Block Party attendees are sure to love this Tapes 'n Tapes/The Hold Steady match-up of local bands gone big coming back to their roots.

Battle of the Bands Contest to Decide Final Two Acts

Once again, the Cities 97 Basilica Block Party is conducting a Battle of the Bands competition to fill the final two spots in the 15-act lineup. Started in 2004 to commemorate the event's previous decade of featuring local artists, the Battle of the Bands contest has given several Minnesota musicians their big break. The contest begins Thursday, May 28 at O'Gara's in St. Paul with four bands competing for the first spot in the finals. The Battle of the Bands continues at GB Leighton's Pickle Park in Fridley on Wednesday, June 3, Trocaderos in Minneapolis on Thursday, June 11 and The Fine Line in Minneapolis on Thursday, June 18. The four qualifying bands will compete on Thursday, June 25 for the two open spots on the 2009 Cities 97 Basilica Block Party's Church Stage back at O'Gara's in St. Paul. Past winners have included Nathan Anderson, Summit Avenue, Holiday, Wannabee Hasbeens, Kalgren and The Humans.

Ticket Information

Single-night tickets for the Block Party are \$35 and two-night passes are \$60 through June 30. After June 30 and at the door, tickets will be \$40 for one night and \$70 for two nights. VIP party tickets start at \$150 per person, and a majority of the VIP ticket price is tax-deductible. VIP ticket holders receive free parking, access to catered food and beverages and can enjoy the party from a private seating area

on The Basilica's west lawn facing the Church Stage. Tickets are available at all metro-area Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 800-745-3000, online at www.basilicablockparty.org or at The Local on 10th Street and Nicollet Mall.

History of The Basilica Block Party

The Basilica Block Party began in 1995 as a fundraiser to help pay for the \$9.5 million structural restoration of The Basilica of Saint Mary, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Proceeds from the event will fund the continued renovation of The Basilica, which recently entailed tuck-pointing the entire church to seal the walls and windows and installing a required sprinkler system in the church's school building. In addition, five percent of all proceeds are designated for the St. Vincent de Paul outreach program to serve those in need.

With more than 60 percent of all Basilica members being under age 40, the Block Party has also proved to be a successful medium for raising awareness of The Basilica and its commitment to the growth and well-being of the community. Rev. Michael J. O'Connell was inspired to launch the event after learning of the "World's Largest Block Party" conducted each year by Old Saint Patrick's Church in Chicago. Since the first Block Party, The Basilica parish has more than doubled from approximately 2,400 households in 1995 to more than 5,800 households today.

Not surprisingly, it takes a lot of work to organize The Basilica Block Party. More than 1,600 volunteers and the planning of 75 committee members make the two-day event possible.

About The Basilica of Saint Mary

Located near the heart of downtown Minneapolis, The Basilica of Saint Mary was completed in 1914 and designated the first Basilica in the United States by Pope Pius XI in 1926. Named to the National Register of Historic Places, The Basilica has been a prominent feature of the Twin Cities skyline for nearly a century. Following decades of severe weather and highway pollution, The Basilica underwent extensive restoration on its roof and dome in 1989. In 2000, The Basilica developed unfinished space in its undercroft, or basement, to expand its community outreach programs, and in 2003 the tuck-pointing to seal the walls and windows began, the trademark stained glass windows were cleaned and repaired, and clear storm windows were added.

The nearly century-old Basilica of Saint Mary is a centrally located, downtown parish whose mission is fourfold: to provide excellence in liturgy, religious education, pastoral care and hospitality; to preach justice and provide emergency relief to the poor; to pursue interfaith relationships; and to contribute to the sacred arts in the community. The parish is marked by hospitality and rich diversity.

The St. Vincent de Paul outreach programs, which are partially funded by the Cities 97 Basilica Block Party, provide shoes and transportation assistance to 250 people every week, as well as food and shelter to nearly 2,500 people each month. Along with these essential services, St. Vincent de Paul currently helps support 398 unemployed adults with training, workshops and job searches.

The Basilica Block Party is sponsored by Cities 97, Michelob Golden Draft Light, Coca-Cola, Toshiba, RBC Dain Rauscher, Comcast, Trincero Family Estates, Sun Country Airlines, Cara Irish Pubs and Wolfgang Puck's Restaurant 20.21.

Friday, July 10

Main Stage

The Black Crowes
Matt Kearney
Erin McCarley

Church Stage

The Jayhawks
Serena Ryder
Battle of the Bands Winner

Sunday, July 12

15th Anniversary Celebration

Church Stage

The Sweet Colleens
Filipino Singers
Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers
Megonia
Minnesota Police Pipe Band
4Given
Richard Lopez and Café con Crema
The Okee Dokee Brothers
Basilica Cathedral Choir

Saturday, July 11

Main Stage

Counting Crows
Matt Nathanson
Green River Ordinance

Church Stage

The Hold Steady
Tapes 'n Tapes
Battle of the Bands Winner



2009 CITIES 97 BASILICA BLOCK PARTY

Presented by Michelob Golden Draft Light

ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP

FRIDAY, JULY 10 – MAIN STAGE

The Black Crowes

Chris Robinson (lead vocals); Rich Robinson (guitar); Steve Gorman (drums); Sven Pipien (bass); Adam MacDougall (keyboard); Luther Dickinson (guitar)

The Black Crowes join the 2009 Basilica Block Party headlining the Friday night Main Stage. The Crowes' hit singles, "She Talks to Angels" and cover of Otis Redding's "Hard to Handle," put them on the music map in the '90s, and lead singer Chris Robinson's marriage to actress Kate Hudson kept the band in the public eye (for more than just music) well into the 2000s. But beyond marriages the Black Crowes have always had a family focus, however, with Robinson's brother Rich Robinson as a founding member and permanent fixture in the band. With their 70s-era blues-rock style and notable influences – including Led Zeppelin, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Creedence Clearwater Revival – The Black Crowes are sure to rock Block Party concertgoers of all ages.

More at: <http://www.blackcrowes.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/theblackcrowes>

Mat Kearney

(vocals/guitar/keyboard)

Getting the crowd amped up for The Black Crowes will be Nashville-based singer/songwriter Mat Kearney. No stranger to the Block Party – Kearney performed on the Main Stage in 2006 – Kearney is most recognized for popular singles "Nothing Left to Lose," "Breathe In Breathe Out," and "Undeniable." Since the explosion of these singles off his 2006 album release, *Nothing Left to Lose*, Kearney has headlined cross-country tours while also opening for John Mayer, Sheryl Crow, and former Block Party headliner The Fray. Kearney's latest release, 2009's *City of Black & White*, allowed him to explore his Motown influences coupled with the powerful impact of early work by U2 and Tom Petty. The album's first single, "Closer to Love," is sure to be sweeping airwaves and exciting Block Party attendees throughout the summer.

More at: <http://www.matkearney.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/matkearney>

Erin McCarley

(vocals, guitar)

Nashville-based artists collide when singer-songwriter Erin McCarley warms the crowd for Mat Kearney and opens the 2009 Basilica Block Party Main Stage on Friday night. With McCarley compared to the likes of Sara Bareilles and Regina Spektor, her debut album, *Love, Save the Empty*, is sure to also resonate with Fiona Apple and Patty Griffin fans – two of McCarley's biggest influences. McCarley's elegantly crafted and deeply melodic style has been featured on MTV's "The Hills," and the "Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson," and in the blockbuster movie

"He's Just Not that Into You." She'll also be re-joining Mat Kearney on the road later this summer, as well as Paolo Nutini in late July. While *Love, Save the Empty* doesn't release until fall, Block Party attendees will be some of the first to hear McCarley's album live, expected to make her one of the hottest up-and-coming artists of the summer.

More at: <http://www.erinmccarley.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/erinmccarley>

FRIDAY, JULY 10 – CHURCH STAGE

The Jayhawks

Gary Louris (vocals/guitar); Mark Olson (bass); Marc Perlman (guitar); Norm Rogers (drums)

A local favorite since their Minneapolis inception in 1985, The Jayhawks will be headlining the Block Party's Church Stage on Friday night. With local influences like Bob Dylan and The Replacements, The Jayhawks have been carving out their signature alt-country sound for nearly 25 years. At their only reunion show of 2009, The Jayhawks are sure to be rocking Block Party-goers with now-legendary singles such as "Waiting for the Sun," "Blue," and "Smile," along with tunes from their 2003 release *Rainy Day Music*, a *Rolling Stone* 4-star album. "To me, this record sounds like everything, yet nothing we've ever done before," says frontman Gary Louris. For fans who've yet to experience *Rainy Day Music* live, the Block Party promises to be the perfect venue to take in the best of everything The Jayhawks have done before – and everything they're doing new.

More at: <http://www.thejayhawks.net> and <http://www.myspace.com/thejayhawks>

Serena Ryder

(vocals, guitar)

Canadian up-and-comer Serena Ryder will be setting the stage for The Jayhawks on Friday night with her blend of pop, folk and blues sound. Boasting a three-octave vocal range, Ryder's latest release, *Is It O.K.*, highlights her unique sound on the album's first singles, "Little Bit of Red" and "All for Love." Having already reached star status in Canada with a 2008 Juno Award for New Artist of the Year, Ryder's U.S. accolades include having "All for Love" featured on ABC's *Private Practice* and opening on Aerosmith's 2007 tour. Block Party attendees are sure to enjoy what may be their first – but certainly not last – experience with this rising singer-songwriter talent.

More at: <http://www.serenaryder.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/serenaryder>

Battle of the Bands Winner (TBA)

SATURDAY, JULY 11 – MAIN STAGE

Counting Crows

Adam Duritz (vocals); David Bryson (guitar); Charles Gillingham (keyboards); Dan Vickrey (guitar); Jim Bogois (drums); Millard Powers (current touring bassist)

With over 20 million albums sold worldwide, Eight Top 5 singles, and four records having broken the Top 5 on the Billboard 200, Counting Crows' success dates back to their 1993 debut release *August And Everything After* and the hit single "Mr. Jones." In 2004, the band released their first

ever "Best Of" set, *Films about Ghosts*, which featured songs from every phase of the Counting Crows' recording career. Their most recent record, the double album *Saturday Nights & Sunday Mornings*, was released to critical and popular acclaim in March 2008. The album presents a duality in form and content: *Saturday Nights* tracks dissolution and disintegration into madness and *Sunday Mornings* shows the attempt at redemption that follows. Counting Crows rocked Block Party attendees at a sold-out 2005 show, and if that's any indication of 2009 attendance, fans should plan to buy their tickets early!

More at: <http://www.countingcrows.com/> and <http://www.myspace.com/countingcrows>

Matt Nathanson

(vocals, guitar)

While Matt Nathanson's melodic voice and catching acoustic guitar sounds have just recently drawn him into the mainstream mix, Nathanson's no newcomer to the music scene. After relocating to San Francisco in the early '90s, Nathanson got his start in the coffeehouse scene and lived his life as the very model of the modern independent artist, journeying from town to town, captivating audiences with his confessional songs and spontaneous stage banter. His hard work early on paid off – Nathanson's devoted fan base spends hours commuting to his performances nationwide. Likely best known for his hit single "Come on Get Higher," off 2007's *Some Mad Hope*, Nathanson has opened for Tori Amos, John Mayer, and Basilica Block Party favorites Guster and OAR.

More at: <http://www.mattnathanson.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/mattnathanson>

Green River Ordinance

Josh Jenkins (vocals, guitar, piano); Geoff Ice (bass); Jamey Ice (guitar); Joshua Wilkerson (guitar); Denton Hunker (drums)

Before Nathanson takes the stage, up-and-comers **Green River Ordinance** will open the night. Led by brothers Jamey and Geoff Ice, who have been performing together since they were 16 and 14 years old, the band also benefits from the music experience of Joshua Wilkerson, whose guitarist-father played with The Beach Boys, Cheap Trick and The Guess Who. Green River Ordinance's band mates have ebbed and flowed over time, always with the Ice brothers at the helm, but has recently solidified with the current lineup's love of group songwriting. After recording their first EP in a church basement, Green River Ordinance experience an upheaval of local support leading them to opening gigs for artists including Bon Jovi, Collective Soul, Tonic, Third Eye Blind and Sister Hazel. Winner of the 2008 Fort Worth Music Awards "Artist of the Year," Green River Ordinance's 2009 album, *Out of My Hands*, is sure to be a crowd-pleaser on the Block Party stage.

More at: <http://www.greenriverordinance.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/gro>

SATURDAY, JULY 11 – CHURCH STAGE

The Hold Steady

Craig Finn (vocals, guitar); Tad Kubler (guitar); Franz Nicolay (keyboard, vocals, harmonica, accordion); Galen Polivka (bass); Bobby Drake (drums)

Since their 2004 debut, local favorite The Hold Steady has quickly gained fan following and critical esteem for their mix of classic rock styling and "lyrically-dense storytelling." Headlining the Basilica Block Party's Church Stage, The Hold Steady is sure to bring the creative, signature

rock sound that made them *Blender's* 2006 "Band of the Year" and is exemplified on the band's latest release, 2008's *Stay Positive*. Having admired other influential Minneapolis-based bands like Hüsker-Dü, and surprisingly, hip-hop artists like Atmosphere, The Hold Steady "says something worth hearing, displaying gifts for both scope and depth that are all too rare in contemporary rock — indie or mainstream."

More at: <http://www.theholdsteady.net> and <http://www.myspace.com/theholdsteady>

Tapes 'n Tapes

Josh Grier (Tapes 1); Jeremy Hanson (Tapes 2); Matt Kretzman ('n); Erik Appelwick ('n)

Leading off for The Hold Steady is another local favorite, rising stars Tapes 'n Tapes. Formed at Carleton College in 2003, Tapes 'n Tapes' sound goes beyond standard genres with "refined, catchy rock 'n' roll menagerie ... replete with jagged guitar, spicy melodies and superb rhythm," according to *Alternative Press*. The band's second album, 2008's *Walk it Off*, has skyrocketed their fan following and critical review, thanks in much part to continued music bloggers enthusiasm. Described as "a pleasure that invites listens 'n listens," Basilica Block Party attendees are sure to love this Tapes 'n Tapes/The Hold Steady match-up of local bands gone big coming back to their roots.

More at: <http://www.tapesntapes.com> and <http://www.myspace.com/tapesntapes>

Battle of the Bands Winner (TBA)

SUNDAY, JULY 12 – CHURCH STAGE

15th Anniversary Celebration

The Sweet Colleens – <http://www.sweetcolleens.com>

Filipino Singers

Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers – <http://www.rincenachroi.com>

Megonia

Minneapolis Police Pipe Band – <http://www.mppb.org>

4Given – <http://www.myspace.com/4givenwebsite>

Richard Lopez and Café con Crema

The Okee Dokee Brothers – <http://okeedokey.org>

Basilica Cathedral Choir – <http://www.mary.org>



2009 CITIES 97 BASILICA BLOCK PARTY BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Cities 97 Basilica Block Party was conceived in 1993, sparked by a Chicago Tribune headline touting 53 newlywed couples who initially met at the “World’s Largest Block Party” thrown by the Windy City’s Old Saint Patrick’s Church. Intrigued by the headline, Basilica rector Rev. Michael J. O’Connell conceptualized a similar event at The Basilica of Saint Mary in Minneapolis. The first Basilica Block Party was in 1995.

Begun as a fund-raiser to pay for the \$9.5 million structural restoration of the historical landmark, The Basilica Block Party continues to help fund its ongoing restoration with 5 percent of its proceeds designated for the St. Vincent de Paul outreach program to serve those in need. Now celebrating its 15th anniversary, The Basilica Block Party has become a Minnesota summer tradition, drawing an estimated 25,000 people each year during the two-day celebration of community, great music and summer fun.

Located near the heart of downtown Minneapolis, construction began on The Basilica of Saint Mary in 1907. When completed in 1914, it became the first Basilica in the United States, designated as such by Pope Pius XI in 1926. It also has been named to the National Register of Historic Places.

The nearly century-old Basilica of Saint Mary, internationally renowned for its beauty and acoustics, has been host to such groups as the Vienna Boys Choir, Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Westminster Abbey Choir, Rose Ensemble, Minnesota Sinfonia, Minnesota Orchestra and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra.

More than just a place of worship, The Basilica of Saint Mary serves the Twin Cities on multiple levels. The Basilica’s St. Vincent de Paul program helps those in the community who are in need and looking for ways to become self-sufficient. In 2008, the program served over 20,000 members of the community by providing housing, transportation, shoes, identification documents and advocacy and referral services. In addition, the Basilica is home to Meals on Wheels, Alcoholics Anonymous and special Adopt-A-Family programs for the holidays.

The St. Vincent de Paul program also provides shoes and transportation assistance to 250 people every week, as well as food and shelter to more than 2,500 people every month. Along with these essential services, the program currently supports 398 unemployed adults with training, workshops and job searches.

Basilica of Saint Mary parishioners reside in more than 330 zip codes, with approximately 5,800 households giving the parish a rich diversity of age, ethnic, racial, social and economic backgrounds. It draws approximately 100,000 people from all over the Twin Cities and beyond each year for weddings, funerals, baptisms and Christmas and Easter Masses.

The Basilica of Saint Mary’s mission is fourfold: to provide excellence in liturgy, religious education, pastoral care and hospitality; to preach justice and provide emergency relief to the poor; to pursue interfaith relationships; and to contribute to the sacred arts in this community. It is a place of help, hope, unconditional love and inspiration because of the help of so many volunteers. Each year volunteers contribute approximately 80,000 hours of their time by serving in Basilica ministries.

The Basilica’s doors are open at least 85 hours every week offering a place of peace and prayer for all who visit. There are more than 25 opportunities to pray and worship together each week. And, each year The Basilica celebrates over 800 liturgies and sacramental celebrations with more than 250,000 people.

Since the first Block Party in 1995, The Basilica parish has more than doubled in size, from approximately 2,400 families in 1995 to more than 5,800 today, including dozens of couples who met at The Basilica Block Party and later married. With more than 60 percent of all Basilica members being under age 40, the Block Party has proved to be a successful medium for raising awareness of The Basilica and its commitment to the growth and well-being of Minneapolis.



2009 CITIES 97 BASILICA BLOCK PARTY

Presented by Michelob Golden Draft Light

FACT SHEET

- WHEN:** Friday, July 10 and Saturday, July 11, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. each night
Sunday, July 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- WHERE:** The Basilica of Saint Mary Grounds, Hennepin Avenue at 16th Street, Downtown Minneapolis
- ENTERTAINMENT:** Counting Crows, The Black Crowes, The Hold Steady, The Jayhawks, Tapes 'n Tapes, Matt Nathanson and Mat Kearney will headline the 25 bands performing at the three-day event.

Friday, July 10

Main Stage

The Black Crowes
Mat Kearney
Erin McCarley

Church Stage

The Jayhawks
Serena Ryder
Battle of the Bands Winner

Sun Country Stage

Romantica
Rocket Club

Saturday, July 11

Main Stage

Counting Crows
Matt Nathanson
Green River Ordinance

Church Stage

The Hold Steady
Tapes 'n Tapes
Battle of the Bands Winner

Sun Country Stage

Tim Mahoney
Tyrone Wells

Sunday, July 12:

15th Anniversary Celebration

Church Stage

The Sweet Colleens
Filipino Singers
Rince na Chroi Irish Dancers
Megonia
Minnesota Police Pipe Band
4Given
Richard Lopez & Café con
Crema
The Okee Dokee Brothers
Basilica Cathedral Choir

- TICKETS:** Tickets for the 2009 Cities 97 Basilica Block Party are now on sale. Single-night tickets are \$35 and two-night passes are \$60 through June 30. Tickets purchased at the door or after June 30 will be \$40 for one night and \$70 for two nights. Tickets are also available at all metro-area Ticketmaster locations, by phone at 800.745.3000, online at www.basilicablockparty.org, or at The Local at 10th St. and Nicollet Mall.

ABOUT THE BASILICA BLOCK PARTY:

The Basilica Block Party began in 1995 as a fund-raiser to pay for the \$9.5 million structural restoration of The Basilica of Saint Mary, listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Proceeds from the event fund the continued renovation of The Basilica. Five percent of proceeds have been designated for the St. Vincent de Paul outreach program to serve those in need. The program provides shoes and transportation assistance to 250 people every week, as well as food and shelter to over 2,500 people each month. Along with these essential services, the program supports 398 unemployed adults annually with training and job searches.

The goal of the Basilica Block Party is to promote the spirit of volunteerism and community. More than 25,000 people gather annually in the presence of the historic Basilica of Saint Mary and surrounding blocks to celebrate community, great music and summer fun.