



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Akron's Lock 3 Celebrates 10<sup>th</sup> Season Downtown of Music, Festivals, Community Events**

Akron, Ohio (May 15, 2012) - The City of Akron's Lock 3 amphitheater opens its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary season with its first *Rock the Lock* concert May 25 on the Akron General Stage. The familiar downtown venue that has hosted 1.6 million people since its opening in 2003 has announced a 2012 season with more than 30 concert nights, five festival weekends, and 35 community fund-raising events.

"We are pleased to provide our residents and visitors with a summer full of music and affordable fun," says Mayor Don Plusquellic. "This ten-year tradition has made family-friendly entertainment available to everyone in our community."

Again this year, Lock 3 will offer fifteen free Friday Night “Rock the Lock” concerts with thirty different bands sponsored by WONE, and twelve *Lock 3 Live!* Saturday concerts featuring nine national artists.

Gates open for all concerts at 6 pm. The Local Band Showcase starts at 7 pm each night, with headliners at 8:30 pm.

### ***Rock the Lock Fridays***

For the 8<sup>th</sup> season, WONE brings the nation’s best tribute bands to Lock 3, opening Memorial Day weekend with “Hollywood Nights - the Bob Seger Experience.” Season tributes include the music of Bon Jovi, Billy Joel, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Chicago and other well-known artists. A detour from rock and roll Fridays will occur on the weekend celebrating the opening of the Ohio-Erie Canal Towpath through Summit County when “Broken Road *A Tribute to Rascal Flats*” takes the Lock 3 stage on Friday, July 6. All Rock the Lock concerts have free admission.

### ***Lock 3 Live! Saturdays***

National touring groups are back in the Lock 3 schedule every Saturday night beginning June 23 when Roseanne Cash and her band bring a little country to Downtown Akron.

“Audiences told us they wanted us to bring in more national acts again this season,” says Akron Deputy Mayor Dave Lieberth. “We have tried to respond by scheduling a real diversity of legacy acts in the music business on Saturdays.” Saturday night admission is \$10, except for festival weekends.

Other Saturday concerts include:

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|---------|---|
| June 30 | Old School Soul featuring Morris Day and the Time   |
| July 7  | Arlo Guthrie, a Family Reunion featuring Abe, Cathy, Annie, Sarah Lee, and Johnny, celebrating the Woody Guthrie Centennial . Patrons can earn free tickets by walking the Towpath Trail.<br>See <a href="http://www.ohioeriecanal.org">www.ohioeriecanal.org</a> |
| July 21 | The Buckingham  |
| July 28 | Smooth Jazz, featuring Pieces of a Dream and Walter Beasley   |

August 4        SOS Band  
August 11      Taj Mahal  
August 25      The Family Stone  
September 1   Herman's Hermits Starring Peter Noone. Lock 3's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be celebrated, with special giveaways and surprises.

### **Summer Festival Lineup**

Lock 3 expands its gates into South Main Street for the region's best music and food festivals, which in 2012 include:

**July 2-3-4:** The *Rib, White & Blue* Festival with eight barbeque chefs from Ohio, Texas, the Carolinas and Missouri. This will be the 37<sup>th</sup> year that Akron has celebrated the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday with food, fireworks, and music. The Akron Symphony Orchestra returns with a 4<sup>th</sup> of July pops concert of American classics, featuring trumpet soloist Byron Stripling of the Columbus Jazz Orchestra, who played the lead in the musical, "Satchmo."

**July 13-14-15:** The 65<sup>th</sup> annual Italian-American Societies Festival sponsored by Akron area Italian organizations with authentic food and music.

**July 28:** *Blues & Brews*. For the 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Akron's Thirsty Dog Brewery hosts 75 regional breweries with 175 styles of craft-made beers. Brewers Circle, 12 pm – 2 pm. Beer Tasting, 2 pm – 6 pm. [www.bluesnbrews.org](http://www.bluesnbrews.org).

**August 18-19:** The 7<sup>th</sup> annual National Hamburger Festival

**September 8:** The inaugural Global Village Festival, sponsored by International Institute, ASIA, Inc., Akron International Friends and United Way of Summit County

**September 14-15:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Summit County Hibernians Irish Heritage Festival

### **Special Events**

Lock 3's first Saturday night event of the season, June 16, showcases Akron singer-songwriter Ryan Humbert and the release of his "analog album for the digital age," *Sometimes The Game Plays You*, for the benefit of the Akron-Canton Regional Food Bank.

Thirty-five community events have been scheduled for Lock 3 in 2012. The next event features area police departments who will compete with their trained dogs in the "K-9 Challenge" May 19.

Since 2003, over \$1 million has been raised for the charities which have used Lock 3 as a home base for fundraisers.

### **Local Band Showcase**

“Lock 3 has been the place where local bands vie for exposure to large audiences,” says Akron Deputy Mayor Dave Lieberth. (The Black Keys played Lock 3 in 2004! ) “Our audiences told us last year that they want us to give more attention to musicians that come from northeast Ohio.”

Local and regional musicians are featured at every Lock 3 concert during the 7 pm – 8 pm Showcase, and in 2012, the “Akron Area’s Best Bands will Compete for Cash,” through balloting that will take place during every concert. At the end of the season, eight local bands that have performed at Lock 3 during the season will share \$5,000 in prizes, sponsored by Mike’s Hard Lemonade and Cayman Jack Margaritas.

Lock 3 audiences can vote for their favorite band between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm during any Lock 3 concert by purchasing a beverage and receiving a ballot. (One ballot per beverage.) Ballots will be collected each night and tabulated. On Saturday, September 1 at 8:30 pm eight finalists will be announced. From the finalists, voters will be asked to select their favorite at the [www.lock3live.com](http://www.lock3live.com) website between September 2 and Sunday, September 9. Winners will be announced on the Tim & Kristi show on WONE, Monday, September 10. Finalists are assured of winning a prize:

Runners-up (4)	\$250 each
3 <sup>rd</sup> place(2)	\$500
2 <sup>nd</sup> place	\$1,000
1 <sup>st</sup> place	\$2,000

### **Lock 4's LockBottom Blues & Jazz Club**

For the third year, the city will host eight free concerts on Wednesdays at the *LockBottom Blues & Jazz Club*, featuring local artists performing in the Peroni Beer Garden at Lock 4 on Bowery Street.

This year’s lineup includes:

July 18: Frankie Starr  
July 25: The Stingers  
August 1: Wanda Hunt  
August 8: Horns & Things  
August 15: The Jack Schantz Sextet  
August 22: Peggy Coyle Trio  
August 29: Dan Wilson Group  
September 5: Blue Lunch

### **Lock 3 Farmers Market**

*The Market at Lock 3* began in 2008 and is a unique outdoor producers-only market managed by Downtown Akron Partnership. It will be held every Friday, July 13 - September 28, 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Downtown workers and visitors can enjoy fresh and local produce, specialty food items, fresh baked goods, and home-crafted gifts.

Market visitors can sign up for a free Everyday Health program, sponsored by SummaCare, and receive weekly recipe cards, featuring tips for buying and preparing produce. The city operates a free trolley on South Main Street Fridays during the same hours.

### **Sponsors and Foundation Underwriting Keep Concerts Free and Low Price**

“We would be unable to offer these activities without the financial support we receive from our local foundations and businesses,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “Lock 3 has become the place for our people to enjoy quality entertainment and engage with the wider community.”

Again in 2012, the John S. And James L. Knight Foundation is underwriting a significant portion of the costs of Lock 3. Other sponsors include Akron General, the University of Akron, Tramonte Distributing, Coca Cola, Hitchcock-Fleming, Miller’s Rentals, G. Stephens, Inc., and Lee Hyder & Associates.

### **Lock 3 History**

Since 2003, Lock 3 has hosted over 1.6 million visitors, with over 500 musical performances. Over 200 special community events have raised over \$1 million for charities.

2012 also marks the Tenth Anniversary of Lock 3's partner events - the Akron History Exhibit and Toy Marble Museum at Lock 3; and the *Lock 3 Summer Arts Experience*, through which over 450 Akron high school arts apprentices have produced works of public art for Downtown and Akron neighborhoods.

More than 265,000 people visited Lock 3 in 2011, for summer and winter events.

Complete concert and event information will be posted as it becomes available at [www.lock3live.com](http://www.lock3live.com). For hi-res photos, or to schedule interviews, contact Maria Nagel, Lock 3 Marketing Director, at [maria\\_nagel1@yahoo.com](mailto:maria_nagel1@yahoo.com) or 330.441.2493.

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