

# Eclectic mix of summer tunes

By Rob Thomas  
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So what are the drawbacks to seeing a concert in the summertime?

Well, the person in front of you might be wearing a big floppy summer hat. And you won't have a jacket to put on your seat when you go to the bathroom, so some jerk might be sitting there when you get back. And if you're in Madison, more often than not you're seeing the show indoors.

Aside from that, there's nothing like seeing a show in the balmy months, and Madison's summer calendar of pop music has been shaping up nicely, featuring visits from top country, rock, jazz, world music, blues, and pop acts. Here's a rundown of some of the big shows hitting local stages this summer, and more are likely to be on the way:

- June 8: Bill Frisell and the New Quartet**, Barrymore Theatre: Legendary jazz guitarist Frisell, who dips into other genres like country and soul enough to secure a slot at the Bonnaroo Music Festival, will play a theater show. The show is a "warm-up" for ...
- June 10-11: Marquette Waterfront Festival**, Yahara Place Park: The wonderful and eclectic two-day festival will feature a bevy of music, from local favorites like the Handphibians, Charlemagne and the Kissers to Latin Grammy nominees Locos Por Juana.
- June 11: Spyro Gyra**, Overture Center: A major player in the jazz fusion movement. Spyro Gyra's mix of Latin, pop, reggae and jazz stylings has endured for decades. The group should put on the perfect summertime show in support of the album "Wrapped Up in a Dream."
- June 14: CKY**, Barrymore Theatre: The alt-metal band CKY stands for "Camp Kill Yourself" (delightful!) and got a big leg up in part because drummer Jess Margera's brother is skateboarding "Jackass" Bam Margera.
- June 16: Atmosphere**, Barrymore Theatre: Minneapolis' Atmosphere holds sway over that city's hip-hop scene, with rapper Slug refreshingly funny and unpretentious. Atmosphere will play in Madison in a run-up to the Bonnaroo Music Festival in Tennessee.
- June 16: Toad the Wet Sprocket**, Club Majestic: Former lead singer Glen Phillips has been careful to avoid calling this a "reunion tour," but the members of the '90s pop-rock band will be together and playing hits like "All I Want" for the first time in years. But it's not a reunion tour. Got that?
- June 17: Delbert McClinton**, Barrymore Theatre: The lovably growling Texas singer-songwriter will return as part of the Triple M 15th anniversary summer concert series.
- June 22: Michael Buble**, Veterans Memorial Coliseum at Alliant Energy Center: The Coliseum brings the Gen-Y crooner with the velvet voice to town. Watch your back, Harry Connick Jr.
- June 24: Aimee Mann**, Barrymore Theatre: The Oscar-nominated singer-songwriter ("Magnolia" and the excellent new concept album "The Forgotten Arm") will leave her band at home and play an intimate acoustic show.
- June 27: Seu Jorge**, UW Memorial Union: The Brazilian singer and actor ("The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou"), who was a huge hit at the Union's World Music Festival last fall, returns on his own for what should be a dynamite summer show.
- July 12: Little Feat**, Club Majestic: The batter-dipped Southern blues-rock band remains a top live attraction, and fans will no doubt wish the Majestic had a retractable roof upon hearing good-time tunes like "Let It Roll."
- July 15: Lee Greenwood**, Overture Center: The patriotic country crooner behind the perennial "God Bless the U.S.A." will play the Overture, where he'll likely declare that he's proud to be an American, where at least he knows he's free. Tickets for the show are not.
- July 22: Beth Orton**, Barrymore Theatre: British folk-tronica singer Orton, who has a very strong album in "Comfort of Strangers," makes up her postponed April date. Chris Mills opens the show.
- July 24: Lyle Lovett**, Overture Center: Lovett was last in the Overture Center as part of the Storytellers tour, but now he's returning for a show with his full band, as well as, we assume, a side trip to Mickies Dairy Bar.
- July 28-29: Sugar Maple Traditional Music Festival**, Lake Farm County Park: The third annual festival will bring together all kinds of traditional music, "from Appalachian to zydeco," as the press release puts it. Artists confirmed for this year's event include Louisiana Cajun group Lost Bayou Ramblers, Chicago ragtime group Devil in a Woodpile, and blues artist Guy Davis.
- Aug. 3: Kenny Chesney**, Kohl Center: The former Mr. Renee Zellweger's Web site says the country superstar is playing here on Aug. 3, with tickets going on sale June 3. Hopefully, the sight of thousands of adoring female fans will help ease the post-marital pain.
- Aug. 7: Of Montreal**, Barrymore Theatre: Sunny and effervescent indie popsters Of Montreal will play in support of 2005's "The Sundlandic Twins." They're not actually from Montreal, although an old girlfriend of singer Kevin Barnes' reportedly was.
- Aug. 8: The Ditty Bops**, Barrymore Theatre: Now here's an interesting idea. The delightfully strange duo the Ditty Bops are taking "Take Your Bike to Work Week" to a new level, doing their entire cross-country summer tour by bicycle. Boy, I hope they don't have to carry all their gear in that little basket.
- Aug. 24: Bonnie Raitt**, Overture Center: No official announcement on this one, but Raitt's site says she'll be at Overture Hall this summer, with Keb' Mo' as the opening act, and tickets going on sale June 10. And she's never lied to us before.
- Aug. 25-27: Orton Park Festival**, Orton Park: They're pulling out all the stops for the 40th anniversary festival, featuring music by jazz guitarist Fareded Haque, Chicago Afrobeat Project and blues legend Hubert Sumlin.

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