



2010 Iowa Women's Music Festival 17th Anniversary Performer Line-up September 16-18, 2010

2010 Festival Schedule at a glance...

Thursday, September 16, 2010, 8 p.m. – Iowa Women's Music Festival Kick-Off! **Featuring Leslie & the LY's and Bitch with Caroline Smith & the Goodnight Sleeps**

Englert Theatre, 221 E. Washington St., Iowa City

All ages, all tickets general admission \$16.

Tickets are available by calling 319-688-2653 or on-line at www.englert.org.

Friday, September 17, 6:30-10 p.m. – IWMF 17th Anniversary Party & Women's Showcase **Featuring Sarah Cram & the Derelicts, The Vagabonds, Lojo Russo, Armonia, and MORE!**

The Blue Moose Tap House, 211 Iowa Ave., Iowa City

All ages, cover charge at the door; donations to benefit the Iowa Women's Music Festival.

Saturday, September 18, Noon-6 p.m. – 17th Annual IWMF Day Stage in the Park **Featuring emcee Kim-Char Meredith, Rae, Emily Louise, Jenny Kohls, Mary McAdams, Desdama with Carnage, Ruth King, Chris Pureka Band, and JANIS IAN!**

Upper City Park, Iowa City

FREE to attend! Bring lawn chairs or blankets for grass seating. Food and merchandise vendors available.

More info is available at www.prairievoices.net.

Saturday, September 18, 8 p.m. – 17th IWMF Closing Celebration at the Mill **Featuring The State Of, SONiA and disappear fear, and Congress of Starlings**

The Mill Restaurant, 120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City

Cover charge at the door; donations to benefit the Iowa Women's Music Festival.



2010 Festival Specifics...

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Tickets are available by calling 319-688-2653 or on-line at www.englert.org.

The Englert joins forces with the Iowa Women's Music Festival to kick-off this year's festivities with a captivating high-energy show featuring **Leslie & the LY's**, **Bitch**, and **Caroline Smith & the Goodnight Sleeps**! This is the very first time these unique acts will be performing on the same stage together!

Leslie & the LY's, led by Leslie Hall (Mother Gem), are an Ames glam/dance band. They recently returned from a highly successful US tour which saw them crisscrossing the country with their wild and energetic live show. Leslie's wicked artistry and amazing ability to capture an audience is like none other, shadowed only by the glow of her golden pants suit. On the side, Leslie is the operator of what is best described as a "gem sweater museum," where she has amassed 400+ different sweaters bedazzled with gems of all sorts. Leslie models these sweaters on the website gemsweater.com, which has generated such Internet traffic that she made an album (CeWEBrity) just to document it. Always a must-see event, Leslie and the LY's return to the Iowa Women's Music Festival by unprecedented demand to get the weekend party started! Visit www.leslieandthelys.com.





Bitch's musical journey has taken her from classical-violin training in the suburbs to experimental flicks in NYC. After leaving the outskirts of Detroit for the artier charms of Chicago—Bitch's unconventional and outspoken approach to performance caught the attention of a number of indie luminaries. She took fiddling lessons with Andrew Bird, serendipitously stumbled upon future co-conspirator, Animal at acting school, moved to New York to make their own 'theater' (Bitch and Animal) and recorded and toured with Ani DiFranco (who released Bitch and Animal's records on Righteous Babe). Bitch's out-of-the-ordinary message has resonated with a generation of gender non-conformists, attracting the likes of New York theater legend John Cameron Mitchell (Hedwig and the Angry Inch), who tapped her star power for his Cannes Fest favorite, *Shortbus*. She went on to release her first solo album on the legendary Kill Rock Stars label, entitled *Make This/Break This*. Bitch's 2010 release *Blasted!* is an outgrowth of her creative spirit, a real labor of love and her strongest solo album to date. Visit www.bitchmusic.com.



Returning to Iowa City and an impressive fan base, the striking **Caroline Smith** and her Goodnight Sleeps have gained much momentum behind their sharp songwriting and tight dynamics. The hook is Caroline Smith's impressive voice and the anchor is the strength of her nuanced band mates. Their debut record *Backyard Tent Set* is an underrated indie-pop gem. Check out www.myspace.com/carolinesmithmusic.



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The Blue Moose Tap House, 211 Iowa Ave., Iowa City

All ages, cover charge at the door; donations to benefit the Iowa Women's Music Festival.

In this event, the IWMF celebrates number 17 and honors the best of women in music in Iowa with a variety-spiced evening of performers from around the state and beyond.

Eastern Iowa favorite **Sarah Cram** has a long-time love affair with audiences. She's a weaver of passionate, acoustic, love songs that branch country-folk and rock and have mass appeal. Cram, a Cedar Rapids singer-songwriter, describes her music as "adult contemporary with sass." Drawing comparisons to Lucinda Williams, Norah Jones and Sheryl Crow, Cram is known for her strong distinct vocals and her ability to be achingly heartfelt with a lively rock-n-roll attitude. Cram performs with her band The Derelicts. Visit www.myspace.com/sarahcram.



Iowa City trio **The Vagabonds** formed in 2009. Singer-songwriters Sarah Mannix and Sam Blickhan recognized in each other a kindred musical spirit and thought it might be fun to collaborate. Soon after they began, they asked Kate Truscello to join on violin. They got more than they bargained for when Kate's voice turned out to be a perfect fit, and now all three lend their voices to most Vagabonds songs. The Vagabonds offer a mixture of bluegrass, country, rock, and indie folk, combining old folk standards with original music that entwines the best of music's past and present. Outdoors or in, amplified or unplugged, The Vagabonds always offer good times and great music. For more, check out www.myspace.com/mygoditsthevagabonds.



From sweet folk to raw rock to aggressive funk, Davenport songstress **Lojo Russo** has built her career on playing outside the box. Russo's enormous stage energy, powerful voice and percussive playing style belie her small frame. Her band history reflects her style of music - a little bit of everything. Russo's played bass in a psychedelic jam band, mandolin in a Celtic group and guitar in every kind of funk, folk, jazz, and rock combination you can imagine. Through it all she combines her sense of music with her sense of humor. Sometimes outrageous, sometimes intense, always original. IWMF knows her best as a true friend of the festival and one of the most hard-working and crowd-pleasing performers in Iowa. Visit www.lojorusso.com for more on this one-of-a-kind musician.



Inspired by their work and friendship in Hersong, the Quad Cities women's choral group, **Armonia** brings together the beautiful harmonies and instrumental talent of five women to create music with a velvety blend of vocals, edgy acoustic and electric guitars, rock 'n' roll bass, and Cuban and African inspired rhythms. Armonia performs both familiar and original music, featuring Pamela Kennerly Ignatius on vocals, Susan Medinger on vocals, Carla Hall on guitar and vocals, Cindy Beal on bass and vocals, and Robin Orgeron on percussion and guitar. Visit Armonia on Facebook!

A Suzuki-trained violinist from age of 5, **Natalie Brown** picked up mandolin, bagpipes, guitar, bass, viola, cello, dobro, accordion, banjo, piano, chinese er-hu, and others along the way to make her one of the most well-rounded multi-instrumentalists playing in Iowa today. Natalie is one of Eastern Iowa's most consummate, prolific and proactive musicians, performing in numerous bands (The Trollies, the Mayflies), with numerous local and regional musicians (Nikki Lunden, Craig Erickson), leading the way in the promotion and advancement of local music, and training future musicians of Iowa. Living and breathing the beautiful music she makes, Natalie works her "day job" as the orchestra director for a local Cedar Rapids high school and is a certified Suzuki violin instructor and mandolin teacher. Natalie recently earned her Master's degree in Music Education from the University of Northern Iowa. Also versed in music recording and other technical aspects of music making, Natalie is currently recording her new CD "Contemplations" at Rivertown Recording in Cedar Rapids. A self-described "Classically trained ~ funk rock folk blues Celtic jammin' violinist," Natalie has been found on various stages around Iowa and the Midwest jamming with nearly everyone. She will be leading the charge as show coordinator when Iowa women take the stage at the Blue Moose for this awesome women's showcase. If you love the show, thank Natalie! For more about Natalie, see <http://nataliebrownvliolin.webs.com/>.



**Saturday, September 18, Noon-6 p.m. – 17th Annual IWMF Day Stage in the Park
Featuring emcee Kim-Char Meredith, Rae, Emily Louise, Jenny Kohls, Mary McAdams,
Desdamona with Carnage, Ruth King, Chris Pureka Band, and JANIS IAN!**

Upper City Park, Iowa City

FREE to attend! Bring lawn chairs or blankets for grass seating. Food and merchandise vendors will be available, and an Iowa Shares silent auction will be held. Pets welcome. Family-friendly! This event will be ASL sign language interpreted. More info is available at www.prairievoices.net or by calling 319-335-1486.

STAGE LINEUP

Emcee	Kim-Char Meredith
12:05 p.m.	Singer-Songwriter Round-Robin with Rae, Emily Louise and Jenny Kohls
1:00 p.m.	Mary McAdams
1:55 p.m.	Desdamona with Carnage
2:50 p.m.	Ruth King
3:50 p.m.	Chris Pureka Band
4:50 p.m.	JANIS IAN

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: KIM-CHAR MEREDITH

Prairie Voices Productions' is thrilled to announce that our great friend, unwavering supporter, and powerhouse performer **KIM-CHAR MEREDITH** will return to Iowa City for the third year to host the 17th Anniversary Iowa Women's Music Festival. A strong supporter of independent musicians and the arts, Kim-Char hosted women in music showcases in her native Hawaii and currently produces shows in the Chicago area. She also hosts her own Internet radio station at SpiritRiseRadio.com. As a shining star in her own right, Kim-Char unleashes infectious energy wherever she goes! She has the chops to have opened for Melissa Etheridge in Honolulu, and the stage presence to captivate audiences of any size. So, sit back, relax, and let Kim-Char take you on the ride that is IWMF at 17. Visit www.kimchar.com for more on this wonderful artist and charismatic presenter.



12:05 p.m.: Singer-Songwriter Round-Robin with Rae, Emily Louise and Jenny Kohls



Iowa is lucky to have a myriad of great women musicians of all ages all over the state, and the IWMF strives to showcase this great talent every year. This year, IWMF features three up-and-coming performers in the local music scene, each having diverse performing experience from Des Moines to Iowa City and throughout the region. **Rae Fehring** (known on the stage simply as "Rae") is well known for her work with musical partner Jennae (Jenny) Kohls in the popular

Central Iowa band The Honeybees, which Rae co-founded with Jenny in October 2007. Rae recorded her first EP (Faders Up) for The Honeybees before the end of winter, and it was released in the fall of 2008. Rae hasn't looked back since. Naming both Iowa City and Des Moines as her hometown, Rae spends much of her time touring the state and Midwest region and picking up new fans with each stop. Recently, she's been labeled as a solo artist but enjoys adding Honeybees band members to her show at every opportunity,



including original band member Jenny Kohls. **Jenny Kohls**, like Rae, performs on the IWMF stage for the first time this year. In addition to supporting Honeybees shows, Jenny is currently a member of Des Moines bands Bovine Eyes and Kiriko. Under the name Bovine Eyes, Jenny is currently releasing her first album, "Whiskey Nights & Bright Lights." **Emily Louise** (Frerichs) returns to the IWMF after a well-received set on the 2007 stage. An Orange City, Iowa native, Emily developed her love of performance in high school musicals, choral groups, and her school's award-winning jazz band. She's developed into a crowd-pleasing singer and songwriter and is a requested performer at many Iowa City events. Emily will be completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Iowa this year. Visit www.myspace.com/thbfan, www.myspace.com/bovineeyes and www.myspace.com/emilyatiowa.



1 p.m.: Mary McAdams

Mary McAdams is a Des Moines-based singer, songwriter and educator who gives back to her art and community. Mary runs Ritual Café's evening Open mic, which provides space for new songwriters and performers to develop their skills. Mary has been on the Iowa Arts Council's Performing Artist Roster since 2005 and is an active teaching artist with Metro Arts Alliance. She teaches songwriting in K-8 schools with an emphasis on underserved populations and schools that have lost their arts programming. Mary's artistic mission includes building a strong and acclaimed songwriting community in Des Moines. As a performer, she is sure to please even the most discerning audiences. Her music is a gorgeously-crafted mix of folk and Americana blended with blues. She performs at music festivals, art festivals, coffeehouses, farmer's markets, and for community groups and schools, locally and around the U.S. Mary has performed at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival and the 2010 Access Film-Music Showcase in Park City, UT. She was a finalist in the Minnesota Folk Festival "New Folk Songwriting Contest" in 2002 and 2005. Learn more about Mary at www.marymcadams.com.



1:55 p.m.: Desdamona with Carnage



Desdamona is an international, award-winning singer, spoken word and Hip Hop artist who has taken her distinct lyrics, sound and artistic stylings to audiences from Minnesota to Hawaii, from Puerto Rico to Germany, gracing some of Hip Hop and poetry's most illustrious stages. Desdamona is one of the founders of B Girl Be, the first international festival, which celebrates women in Hip Hop. She was a featured performer at the We B*Girlz Festival in Berlin, Germany (2008), the SheRock Festival (2008), and was a Minnesota Music Awards featured performer (2005). Desdamona won the award for Best Spoken Word Artist from the MN Music Awards five consecutive years. Desdamona was a featured artist on the SummerJam Tour (2007) with legendary Grammy Award winning artists Sly & Robbie. She and beatbox partner Carnage (as Ill Chemistry) also headlined The 2nd Nature Tour (2008). Desdamona released her first formal recording *The Ledge* in 2005. In 2007, she released *The Source*, which ranked as high as number 10 on the Hip Hop charts. Another artist who gives back to her community, Desdamona has worked in over 200 schools throughout the

Midwest, conducting workshops and as artist in residence. She's worked with more than 10,000 students in public, private and alternative schools as well as colleges and universities. She has also worked in residencies and workshops in Stillwater Prison, Shakopee Prison, Red Wing Juvenile Facility and the Juvenile Detention Center in Minneapolis MN. For more on this amazing artist, visit www.myspace.com/desdamona.

2:50 p.m.: Ruth King

Ruth King is a songwriter, singer, and musician of rousing original Acoustic Blues music who has a standing weekly gig (for the past 9 years!) at the House of Blues in Downtown Disney, Orlando, playing to audiences of 300 to 2000 people. She has performed her music and made her living as an entertainer for the past 31 years. Besides being hugely popular in her residence state of Florida, Ruth tours the U.S. to play for festivals and colleges and is actively involved in the recording and music industry. Ruth is a voting member of National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences (the organization that selects Grammy winners). Ruth has four original CDs to her credit and most recently released #4 in December 2009 entitled "Ain't Gonna Feel Bad About It." She's currently attempting to get her music on the Ellen Degeneres show in response to Ellen's call for an "Anthem for her World Domination Quest of: laugh. dance. conquer." So if anyone has an "in," she'll gladly take it! To see her video application to the Ellen show, visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ESlvQwEqoT4>. For everything else Ruth King, go to www.ruthkingblues.com.



3:50 p.m.: Chris Pureka Band



Chris Pureka is a breath of fresh air in an age of fleeting success and temporary notions. That is, she's something real that's here to stay. April 2010 marked the release of her third CD, *How I Learned To See In The Dark*, which is quickly garnering praise from critics and music lovers alike. The CD shows off what fans have come to love in her live shows: her distinct earthy vocals, beautiful melodies, stunning guitar work, and engaging image-laden lyrics. With her 2004 debut LP, *Driving North*, Pureka started a career as a touring troubadour and began building an impressive fan base from the ground up: a cult following that started in her native New England and steadily grew to a national level. Fans and critics alike

were drawn to the signature voice that somehow makes heartbreak sound desirable and her acute attention to lyrical detail, while others lauded her aptitude for crafting guitar parts that speak for themselves. The Boston Globe raved that "[she] is such a gifted guitar player and singer that you have to listen to each song twice, once for her guitar playing and again for her passionate lyrics about love, loss and hope." With her 2006 follow-up, *Dryland*, Pureka further expanded on the emotional topography she charted earlier in her career by continuing to tour extensively, playing 200+ shows a year and gathering supporters city by city, show by show and fan by fan. This year Chris will take touring to the next level by adding a full backing band to her incredible live show. Chris has been coming through Iowa every year or two, proving to get better and better every year while building a larger and more devoted fan base with each pass. This year at IWMF, fans and new listeners will be treated to the full band, and those "in the know" are really looking forward to it. Visit www.chrispureka.com.

4:50 p.m.: JANIS IAN

Who are the great songwriters in America today? Ask any student of the form, and **Janis Ian** will be counted among them. Her songs are well known: from “Jesse”, a song recorded by so many others that few remember Ian wrote it; to “Stars”, possibly the best song ever written about the life of a performer, recorded by artists as diverse as Mel Torme and Cher; to the seminal “At Seventeen”, a song that brought Janis five Grammy nominations (the most any solo female artist had ever garnered) in 1975, and which is now reaching its third generation of listeners (and which has become the theme of the 17th Anniversary Iowa Women’s Music Festival!). Ian is a formidable talent, a force of nature. Ella Fitzgerald called her “The best young singer in America”.



Chet Atkins said “Singer? You ought to hear that girl play guitar; she gives me a run for my money!” Reviewers have called her live performances “overwhelming to the spirit and soul”, and “drenched with such passion, the audience feels they’ve been swept up in a hurricane.” The glowing reviews come as no surprise to Ian’s loyal fan base, who give her website a stunning quarter million hits per year – even though she hasn’t had a top twenty record here in three decades. But 2008 sees a double-whammy: *Society’s Child: My Autobiography*, released in North America by Tarcher/Penguin, has already gotten stellar reviews; *O Magazine* called it “Hugely readable” and recommended it as one of 27 “must-reads” this summer. *Mojo Magazine* gives it a four star review, and *Booklist* a starred review that ends with “painfully candid, and hard to put down.” The accompanying double CD-set, *Best of Janis Ian: The Autobiography Collection*, contains 31 tracks, and is the first “best of” Janis has ever released in North America.

For the record, Ian was born April 7, 1951, and started playing the piano at two. Far from being a child prodigy on that instrument, she hated scales and studying, and switched to guitar at age ten. Her first song was written at twelve and recorded on her first album for Verve-Folkways in 1965, which also featured her first hit, *Society’s Child*. The song ignited controversy from coast to coast, resulting in the burning of a radio station, the firing of disc jockeys who played it, and a generation hungering for the truth finally having a female songwriter to stand beside Bob Dylan. Ian took a break at the age of eighteen, retiring to Philadelphia for three years “to find out if I had it in me to be a good songwriter, or if I should just go to school and become a veterinarian.” She returned with the stunning “Stars” album in 1973, and went on to cover the decade with number one records worldwide. In 1983, after ten unbroken years of making records and touring, Ian took an unprecedented nine year hiatus from the visible music world, studying acting with the legendary Stella Adler and “in general, learning how to be a person”. During that period, she married and divorced, suffered two emergency surgeries, lost all her savings and home to an unscrupulous business manager, and moved to Nashville, TN in 1988 “penniless, in debt, and hungry to write”. She returned to the music business with 1992’s “Breaking Silence”, which garnered her ninth Grammy nomination.

“It was good to start young,” says Ian. “It was good to learn, early on, that what matters is the music. I got most of my big mistakes over with before I was twenty-one. When people say ‘Didn’t you miss having a teenage life?’ I just say ‘I only know the life I lived. I was a teenager, working. A hundred years ago, no one would have thought anything of it. At least I got to do something I loved! I could have been working in a factory, or a day job where every day is the same thing, day in and day out. Instead, I got to deal with everything from doing coke with Jimi Hendrix to death threats. I lived an entire life in my teen years, and I don’t regret a second of it.” Find more info at www.janisian.com.



Saturday, September 18, 8 p.m. – 17th IWMF Closing Celebration at the Mill

Featuring The State Of, SONiA and disappear fear, and Congress of Starlings

The Mill Restaurant, 120 E. Burlington St., Iowa City

Cover charge at the door; donations to benefit the Iowa Women’s Music Festival.



The State Of is a Miami, Florida based female duo featuring Steph Taylor’s edgy piano/synth playing and Nabedi Osorio’s electronic-like live drumming. Their dark pop sensibility is reminiscent of artists ranging from the Eurythmics and Bjork to Radiohead and the Police. Taylor’s style of playing is often percussive and dark where Osorio’s drumming is melodic and steadfast and when coupled, they create a dynamic sound larger than what’s expected out of two people. With a plethora of new material, The State Of is currently on tour to showcase songs from the duo’s upcoming album, Day

Of Abandon, which has tracks that vary from live drum and bass beats met with melodic piano movements to guitar driven rock songs, all reflecting that dark, haunting sound that the State Of is notorious for capturing. The State Of comes off of a recent tour opening for Bitch (who is playing the IWWMF on Thursday night) that has won the women lots of new fans across the U.S. Check out www.myspace.com/thestateofmusic.

The Iowa Women's Music Festival is proud to welcome **SONiA and disappear fear** to our stage for the first time in 2010! Disappear Fear was born when sisters SONiA and Cindy began a musical partnership, an acoustic folk-pop duo that then grew into a band in 1988. When fans began requesting their albums in stores in towns across America, they formed their own label disappear records and began distributing thru Best Buy, Tower Records, and mom and pop stores everywhere. The sisters signed a publishing deal with Carlin Music and released three of their own CDs before signing with Philo/Rounder Records in 1994, and with Warner-Chappell Music, Nashville. After releasing two more albums with Rounder, Cindy chose full time motherhood and SONiA began to experiment with an expanded palette of musical influences, including blues and country music, which led to three solo albums. When Cindy joined SONiA in the studio again for the third CD, SONiA began once again performing with her band disappear fear.



SONiA and disappear fear have gained a devoted fan base in countries around the world with songs ranging from reggae to folk rock. They have sold over 500,000 albums and continue to gain new fans every year as they perform at festivals, venues, and colleges around the world. Their powerful honesty touches the hearts and minds of people of all social and ethnic backgrounds, underpinned as they are by the simple belief that people are people and love is love. SONiA and disappear fear's touring takes them from Jerusalem to Lawrence Kansas, Woodford Folk Festival in Australia, Montana Jazz and Blues Festival in Fiji and Waihiki Island, Blues to Bop Festival in Lugano Switzerland to Kerrville in Texas. They have performed at major events for 20 years including the March on Washington for Woman and the Concert for Peace at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, DC with Peter, Paul and Mary (2003). SONiA ended her Australia tour in 2008 at the Sydney Opera House.



SONiA's newest CD, "Blood, Bones and Baltimore," is a return to her Baltimore roots and features all new songs with the exceptions of a longtime fan favorite "Biggest Baddest Heart" that SONiA has only previously played or recorded live and a Woody Guthrie tune "Worried Man Blues". The album, described as blues Americana, is a vast departure from the award winning and Grammy-nominated world-music album "Tango" which featured songs in Hebrew, Arabic and Spanish as well as English. The Blood, Bones and Baltimore release tour will take SONiA across the U.S., then to Germany and Holland, and back to U.S. and Canada

before picking up the summer festival circuit from Oklahoma to Toronto in Australia, including our very own Iowa City in 2010. For more about SONiA and disappear fear, visit www.soniadf.com.

Known primarily for gorgeous vocal harmonies and stellar songwriting, **Congress of Starlings**, fronted by the duo of Andrea Bunch and Aerin Tedesco, do not settle for the standard folk stasis of guitar and voice. Instead they employ a wide palette of sounds and instruments from Aerin's ever-present tenor guitar to Andrea's computer generated tones. Their live show ranges from traditional acoustic folk to laptop tinged anti-folk and back again. Add in a full band, and you get a rich, full-bodied, even intense sound that is going to rock the stage of the Iowa Women's Music Festival in 2010. The duo released their first collaborative album ALBEDO in November 2006 that set them apart as some of the most creative song weavers to come out of Chicago. A Congress of Starlings' show will be diverse and varied from the first song to the last. The duo's past appearance at the National Women's Music Festival was described as "music that swings from thunderous electronic rants to breathtaking acoustic ballads". The duo first captured Iowa audiences when they played the 2004 Iowa Women's Music Fest as simply Aerin and Andrea. Despite the name change, IWWMF audiences will be back for more and will be pleasantly surprised at how far the women have come since then. Check out www.congressofstarlings.com.



For more info about the Iowa Women's Music Festival including how to donate, get involved in planning, or sign up as a vendor, visit www.prairievoices.net, call 319-335-1486, or e-mail festival@prairievoices.net.