

Rock Against Cancer tm



-bringing the healing power of music to children battling cancer

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**ROCK AGAINST CANCER TO HOST “PLAY IT FORWARD”
BENEFIT CONCERT ON THE GREEN AT SOUTHERN VILLAGE**

Concert on September 23 to Include Lineup of Well-Known Local Bands

CHAPEL HILL, NC... Rock Against Cancer (RAC) will recognize **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month (September)** by hosting its 1st Annual **“Play it Forward”** benefit concert on Saturday, September 23 on the Green at Southern Village from 5 to 11 p.m. Community organizations that serve kids with cancer and their families (Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Cornucopia House, Compassionate Friends, The Optimist Club of Chapel Hill and Hot Topic Foundation) will participate in this event establishing a *‘festival of healing’*.

The outdoor amphitheater at Southern Village in Chapel Hill will come alive with performances by four popular local bands, the Capital City Girls Choir, 12-year old Isaac Akers on fiddle, food and drink and a healing tent for cancer patients and their families. Tickets for the concert are \$20 and \$10 for students and can be purchased on-line at www.rockagainstcancer.org, or at School Kids Records (Raleigh and Chapel Hill locations) or at the event.

Bands scheduled to perform include Southern Village’s own Union Jack and Chapel Hill favorites The High and Mighties (formerly 40 Ounces), The Old Ceremony and Joceifus Rifle.

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Rock Against Cancer (RAC) is a nonprofit organization providing innovative opportunities for children and teens with cancer to use music for emotional support. Core programs include **"Stars Night Out,"** teens with cancer meet artists, receive personal photographs, autographs, and enjoy special concert seating. **"Gifts from the Heart"** serves children unable to leave the hospital by providing gift packages from artists including CDs and CD players, autographed band photographs and/or T-shirts. The **"School of Rock"** gives children the opportunity to create, perform and record their own compositions.

"The most frightening words I have ever heard in my life were, 'I'm sorry, but I was right, your son has leukemia.'" The journey that began when Lisa White heard these words inspired her to found Rock Against Cancer in December 1999. Her son Gabriel was diagnosed with leukemia at age two. Gabe, with the help of his family, endured 38 months of chemotherapy, spinal taps, bone marrow biopsies, blood transfusions and fear. Music was a source of healing and solace during long hours in waiting rooms, in hospital rooms, and in their home.

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Band Bios:

Headlining the event will be **The Old Ceremony**, a pop-noir musical association from Chapel Hill, led by songwriter/raconteur Django Haskins (International Orange, Django & the Regulars). On Tap magazine author Joel Sparks called The Old Ceremony a *"dark, rich blend of rock that is...like a cornucopia of nuts and candy going into an outrageous new Ben & Jerry's flavor."* (January 19, 2006) The Old Ceremony includes pianist James Wallace, bassist Matt Brandau (Sankofa, Remix Project), drummer Dan Hall (Countdown Quartet), vibes/organist Mark Simonsen (Jackie O. Pillbox), Violinists Gabriele Pelli and Daniel Hart, Jil Christensen on accordion, and cellist Josh Starmer. They are joined by a rotating cast of musical luminaries which have included Vamsi Tadepalli on sax, Will Caviness on trumpet, and Harmony Keeney on vocals.

Joceifus Rifle has been building a strong and dedicated fan base in North Carolina since 2003. Fronted by former Athens, GA music veteran Matty Russo (Mishap, Zuko), the quartet mixes acoustic and electric guitars, piano, and mandolin along with a tight rhythm section. The soulful vocal harmonies created by Russo and Matthew Bergenn (lead guitar, piano, mandolin) give their songs an upbeat vibe. Joceifus Rifle completed their second EP with notable Raleigh producer Dick Hodgins in March 2005. They are currently in Georgia recording a new CD to be released in Fall 2006. Along with an already busy tour schedule, Joceifus Rifle was named the "2006 House Band" for 100.7 The River in January.

The High and Mighties are a popular ska band that formerly went by the name of 40 ounces. Their driving rhythms and horns, sax, guitars are not to be missed!