



July 2, 2010

Common Ground Music Festival and Best Buy partner with MSU Community Music School's Rock Camp

Contact: Amanda Darche
MSU Community Music School
(517) 355-7661, ext. 16, adarche@msu.edu

EAST LANSING, Mich. –Among all of the big names performing at the Common Ground Music Festival this summer are a few local bands comprised of area middle and high school students. The teens are participants in the MSU Community Music School's Rock Camp, which runs July 12-16. During the camp, the students will form their own bands and prepare for this ultimate gig.

The Rock Camp, made possible by partnerships from the Common Ground Music Festival and Best Buy, is in its second year. The size of the camp has more than doubled due to tremendous interest from the community.

“The camp had an original capacity of 32 students. It was full in early May, but we kept a waiting list and it just kept growing. When the waiting list reached 32 students, we knew that we needed to offer a second session of the camp,” said Jaime DeMott, associate director of the MSU Community Music School. “We now have a morning section and an afternoon section of the camp.”

Grand Rapids-based band, The Outer Vibe, is leading the camp and sharing the Common Ground stage with the campers for its second year. The five-member band will help the campers improve their technique and teach the teens about creating, performing in, and promoting their own rock bands.

“We’re fortunate to be part of such a great project, and the students never cease to impress us with their abilities and ambition,” said Lisa Kacos, who plays trumpet and keyboard in The Outer Vibe. “Music is our career and it’s rewarding for us to see the excited kids perform on stage and the proud parents smiling in the audience at the end-of-camp concert.”

The Rock Camp is a half-day camp with morning and afternoon sections. It is geared toward students ages 12-18 with some experience playing the guitar, drums, keyboard, bass, or vocals. The Rock Camp Common Ground performance will be at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, July 16, at the Sand Bar Stage, which is located near the Grand Avenue-Saginaw Street intersection in Lansing.

Common Ground Music Festival and Best Buy partner with MSU Community Music School's Rock Camp

For more information, contact the Community Music School at (517) 355-7661 or visit www.cms.msu.edu. To learn more about The Outer Vibe, visit www.theoutervibe.com. For festival information, contact the festival office at (517) 267-1502 or visit www.commongroundfest.com.

###

Common Ground Music Festival is a seven-day celebration including nightly concerts, a variety of fun family entertainment, and an assortment of food vendors. Anyone interested in volunteering at Common Ground Music Festival can contact the festival office at (517) 267-1502, ext. 202. For more detailed information about Common Ground Music Festival, log on to the official web site at www.commongroundfest.com.

Founded in 1993, the Community Music School (CMS) is the outreach division of the MSU College of Music. The mission of CMS is to provide comprehensive music education – quality instruction, related music services, and educational programs – for interested individuals of all ages and levels with financial assistance for those in need.