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MSU Community Music School and Common Ground Music Festival partner for Rock Camp

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

EAST LANSING, Mich. –Among 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 11-15. During the camp, the students will form their own bands and prepare for this ultimate gig.

The Rock Camp is in its third year and is made possible by a partnership with the Common Ground Music Festival. The size of the camp has doubled since its first year due to tremendous interest from the community.

“The first Rock Camp had only 27 participants. Right now, we have 51 enrolled and will continue to add campers leading up to the camp,” said Jaime DeMott, associate director of the MSU Community Music School. “We have a morning section and an afternoon section of the camp to ensure that the campers all receive enough individual attention. All of the campers will perform at Common Ground.”

Grand Rapids-based band, The Outer Vibe, is leading the camp and will take the Common Ground stage after the campers have performed. 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 Common Ground performance will be at 5:30 p.m. on Fri., July 15.

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Michigan State University Community Music School

841-B Timberlane Street • East Lansing, MI 48823 • Phone: 517-355-7661 • Web: cms.msu.edu

The outreach division of the MSU College of Music

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.

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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 website 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.