

# CONCERT OF COLORS

Annual festival offers music from Ray Charles to steel drums

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Ian Ferguson remembers his homeland Jamaica whenever he plays the steel drums with his band mates from the Uprizin' Steel Pan Band.

Ferguson's mind drifts back the tropical island where he played barefoot in the fresh air whenever the band performs Calypso, Reggae, Jamaican Rap and even classic operatic pieces.

The Southfield man loves Jamaica, steel drums, singing and performing with Uprizin'. His music makes him happy. The band is playing July 19-21 at the 10th annual Free Concert of Colors at Detroit's Chene Park.

All sorts of world music from Aztec to Indian to R&B's Ray Charles can be heard there.



Performing: Ray Charles is the superstar at Concert of Colors.

Ready to play: Uprizin' is a steel drum band with members from Southfield, Detroit and Trinidad. They'll play Calypso, Reggae, Jamaican Rap and more at the Concert of Colors next week at Detroit's Chene Park.

Uprizin' embraces the festival. "Our music encompasses all cultures. Everyone is really welcome to come together and have a good time," Ferguson said. Arguably the hottest steel drum band in metro-Detroit, Uprizin' performs throughout metro-Detroit and the Concert of Colors is one of the highlights. It will play on the Rhythm Stage at 4:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The festival theme is to bring communities together through free music and cultural understanding—a philosophy that Uprizin' believes in. The friendly on-stage personalities of each band member seem to relax crowds and draw people to the dance floor. Ferguson proudly talks about his band members from throughout the world and their upcoming CD this summer. Uprizin's musical director, leader, tenor and double tenor is Lyndon Soranzo who is from Trinidad and currently resides in Detroit. Sharon Gordon, also from Trinidad is the formally trained pianist who plays bass in the band. Detroit's Matthew Earl Lemons is a self-taught drummer who is also skilled in blues, salsa and jazz. Also from Detroit is Maxwell, the band's percussionist who also creates solo music.

R&B legend Ray Charles will perform Saturday night. Native American folk singer Buffy Sainte-Marie writer of (Love lift us up) Where We Belong will be there too. Other bands include: African jazz



Songwriter: Buffy Sainte-Marie, who wrote the Academy Award-winning song "Up Where We Belong" from the movie Officer and a Gentleman will also perform.

trumpet player and freedom fighter Hugh Masakela; the Latin band Ozomatli; Middle Eastern Rocker Rachid Taha; Barbados Caribbean band Square One; Afro-Cuban/hip-hop/funk music Yerba Buena and Indian artist Trichy Sankaran of Delhi and more.

Besides the main stage, there will be a rhythm stage and children's arts and crafts activity area that celebrates diversity. On Saturday a Samba Clinic will be held by Eric Paton for adults. If you miss Uprizin' at Concert of Colors you can see them perform during the evenings at the Belleville Grill on July 20, August 1, 25, 28 and 29th. They also will perform in the evening at St. Clair Shores Beach Grill on Aug. 1. On July 18, 25 and August 8, 15 and 22 the band will perform at Detroit's Omni River Place and at the Greentown Casino on August 7.

## Concert of Colors Schedule

The Concert of Colors celebrates its 10 year anniversary this year of bringing communities and ethnic groups together through music and understanding. This year's festival is Friday July 19 through Sunday July 21 at Detroit's Chene Park on the river. The event is free.

The following is the schedule, subject to change: Mainstage

- Friday July 19**
  - **Billy Sainte-Marie:** 6-7 p.m.  
From Canada, U.S. and Cree. Academy-award winning songwriter and Sesame Street musician. She also works with Native American cultural program Cradleboard Teaching Project to raise the self-esteem of children living on reservations. Her music has been recorded by Elvis, Barbara Streisand and more.
  - **Ozomatli:** 7:30-8:30 p.m.  
U.S. This band grew up hard on the tough neighborhoods of LA, climbed its way through it and today has a Black-Chicano-Cuban-Jewish-Filipino crew committed to social change and community building. Their music is Afro-Latin occasionally mixed with dub, hip-hop and more.
  - **Femi Kuti:** 9-10:15 p.m.  
From Nigeria. He performs Afro-beat music inspired by his famous father Fela Anikulapo-Kuti. Femi will perform his 18-piece band known for funky, jazzy, heavily percussive sounds.
- Saturday, July 20**
  - **Soul Rhythms & Special Guests:** 2-3 p.m.
  - **Susie Ibarra:** 3:30-4:40  
Philippines. Avant-garde drumming style blending a love of jazz, teenage interest in punk rock, traditional Philippine music and tobas.
  - **Jazz trumpet, Afro-pop, R&B and disco.** Also a pianist and singer. His music merges jazz, rock, funk and pop. Masakele was part of Paul Simon's Graceland tour.
  - **TABA:** 6:30-7:30 p.m.
  - **Carl Craig & Kevin Saunderson:** 8-10 p.m.  
U.S. Detroit, New York, DJ. Musicians. Saunderson is an originator of Detroit techno. Craig is globally respected for breaking musical barriers, and selected by Rolling Stone as one of the

Top 40 Influential Musicians of 2001. He was a creator of the DEMF — Detroit Electronic Music Fest.

### Sunday, July 21

- **Amadou et Mariam:** 2-3 p.m.  
Mali. Amadou Bagayoko went blind at 15. He turned to music as an escape. Today he's married to Mariam Doumbia who went blind at the young age 5. Together they perform 70s pop, electric blues, Cuban rhythm, reggae and have become a popular Ivory Coast duet. He on guitar, she on lead vocals.
- **Yerba Buena:** 3:30-4:30 p.m.  
Cuba, Venezuela, U.S. Afro-Cuban, hip-hop funk, Latin alternative with a firm Cuban foundation. A big 12-piece rhythm band including horns and percussion. Some compare them to War, or the Fugees.
- **Rachid Taha:** 5-6 p.m.  
Algeria. Influenced by Arabic master Dahmane El Harhehi and also The Beatles, the Stones, the Clash and Sex Pistols. Taha is a singer who also works with percussion blending New Orleans swam funk, Arab strings and drums.
- **Square One:** 6:30-7:45 p.m.  
Barbados. One of the most dynamic bands in the Caribbean. Soca music.
- **Ray Charles:** 8:30-10:15 p.m.  
R&B, Jazz, Blues and Rock superstar

### Rhythm Stage

- Saturday**
  - **Native American Pow Wow:** 2:30-3:30 p.m.
  - **Repercussions:** 4-5 p.m.
  - **Kamall Amen Ra:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.
  - **Glen Velez:** 7-8 p.m.
  - **Samba Clinic & Celebration with Eric Paton:** 8:35-9:15 p.m.
- Sunday**
  - **Trichy Sankaran:** 2:30-3:30 p.m.  
India. Accomplished drums, internationally known.
  - **Uprizin' Steel Pan Band:** 4:30-5:30 p.m.  
Detroit, Jamaica, Trinidad. Steel drum, Calypso, Reggae.
  - **Susie Ibarra:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.  
See above
  - **Drumminity Community Drum Circle w/Lori Fithian:** 8:15-9:15 p.m.

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