



# MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

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**Date:** March 8, 2011

What's growing on  
at the Garden!

## MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN ANNOUNCES 2011 WHITAKER MUSIC FESTIVAL CONCERT LINEUP

*Free Summer Evening Concerts Held Wednesdays from June 1 through August 3*

**WHAT:** Whitaker Music Festival 2011 concert series  
**WHEN:** Wednesdays, June 1 through August 3 at 7:30 p.m.  
**WHERE:** Cohen Amphitheater, Missouri Botanical Garden, 4344 Shaw Blvd., south St. Louis  
**COST:** FREE  
**SPONSORS:** Whitaker Foundation  
**INFO:** [www.mobot.org/events/whitaker](http://www.mobot.org/events/whitaker); (314) 577-5100, 1-800-642-8842 toll free

(ST. LOUIS): The **Whitaker Music Festival** returns to the Missouri Botanical Garden for the 18<sup>th</sup> year, offering a ten-week lineup of free Wednesday evening outdoor concerts. Pack a picnic supper and enjoy the beauty of the Garden grounds in summertime bloom as you listen to the grooves and rhythms of an eclectic rotation of artists from week to week. Concerts will be held **Wednesday evenings, June 1 through August 3 at 7:30 p.m.**; free admission begins at 5 p.m. and last entry is at 9 p.m. For more information and a complete concert lineup, visit [www.mobot.org/events/whitaker](http://www.mobot.org/events/whitaker).

This year's artists include:

**June 1** – **Gumbohead**, a St. Louis-based collection of rhythmic rascallions and tuneful tricknologists known for playing the music of New Orleans and southwest Louisiana. *Laissez les bon temps rouler!* (Let the good times roll!)

**June 8** – **Teddy Presberg**, a funky, soulful jazz musician rooted in improvisation and inspired by the moment and audience. Presberg's fresh sound is influenced by such jazz greats as Grant Green and Eddie Harris and other artists including The White Stripes and Beck.

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## **ADD ONE: Whitaker Music Festival**

**June 15** – **Hudson and the Hoo Doo Cats**, a long-time favorite of St. Louis-area swing dance clubs. Their unique combination of swinging blues, 50's rock and roll and rockabilly, and dance music blends in a “jitterbugabilly” sound all their own.

**June 22** – **The Jenny Kavanaugh Band**, appearing in their first Whitaker Music Festival performance with a rip-roaring brand of alt-country that draws from a diverse pool of influences, including classic country, rock, folk, rockabilly, bluegrass and gospel.

**June 29** – **Nigel Mooney**, the first international act to take the Whitaker Music Festival stage. Mooney is widely regarded as Ireland's leading jazz singer and guitarist. A charismatic figure on the Dublin jazz and blues scene in the early 1980's, his Gripewater Blues Band spearheaded the blues movement in Ireland and drew many fans of both jazz and the blues. His first album was released in 2005 to critical acclaim and has become one of Ireland's highest selling albums by a jazz artist.

**July 6** – **Marquise Knox**, a 20-year-old blues prodigy. Knox's debut album, recorded when he was just 16 years old, was nominated for a Blues Music Award for Best New Artist's Debut. His music is rooted in influences from blues giants B.B. King, Lightnin' Hopkins, Muddy Waters and Johnny Lee Hooker.

**July 13** – **Western Satellites**, a mix of western, hillbilly, swing, blues and twang with a “hint of chili powder.” Their own version of Americana blues swing produces a soulful sound and results in evenings filled with excited toe-tapping.

**July 20** – **Billy Peek**, a St. Louis Rock and Roll legend. For nearly 30 years, Peek has rocked, rolled and duck-walked his way through the clubs and lounges of the St. Louis area. An electrifying entertainer, Peek returns to the Whitaker Music Festival by popular demand!

**July 27** – **The Erin Bode Group**, led by St. Louis-area songstress Erin Bode. Since first appearing on the music scene in 2001, Bode has become one of the area's favorite entertainers through delightful vocals and thoughtful arrangements of jazz and pop.

**August 3** – **Pokey LaFarge and the South City Three**, bringing a creative mix of early jazz, string ragtime, country blues and western swing. In the midst of a meteoric rise, the band recently appeared at the 2010 Newport Folk Music Festival, where Spin Magazine labeled the group a “best discovery.”

Whitaker Music Festival concerts will be held outdoors on the lawn of the Cohen Amphitheater, just west of the Climatron<sup>®</sup> dome on the grounds of the Missouri Botanical Garden. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. The concert series is the only time of year

**(more)**

## **ADD TWO: Whitaker Music Festival**

when picnicking is allowed on Garden grounds. Visitors are welcome to bring their own picnic supper, baskets or coolers; no barbecue grills or pets. Picnic fare including brisket sandwiches, hot dogs, cheese and grape plates, sno-cones, chips, cookies, beer, wine and soda are also available for purchase on site. The Garden is a tobacco-free campus; smoking is not allowed anywhere, indoors or outside, and visitors will be asked to extinguish or discard tobacco items. Soliciting is not permitted.

Wednesday evening admission is free after 5 p.m. Music begins at 7:30 p.m. and last entry is at 9 p.m. The Doris I. Schnuck Children's Garden also remains open late until 7 p.m. on concert evenings, with free admission after 5 p.m.

The Missouri Botanical Garden is located at 4344 Shaw Blvd. in south St. Louis, accessible from Interstate 44 at the Vandeventer exit and from Interstate 64 at the Kingshighway North & South exit. Free parking is available on-site and two blocks west at the corner of Shaw and Vandeventer.

For more information, visit [www.mobot.org/events/whitaker](http://www.mobot.org/events/whitaker) or call the recorded hotline at (314) 577-5100. In the event of inclement weather, check the Garden's website, Twitter feed ([www.twitter.com/mobotnews](http://www.twitter.com/mobotnews)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/missouribotanicalgarden](http://www.facebook.com/missouribotanicalgarden)) for immediate concert updates.

The Whitaker Music Festival at the Missouri Botanical Garden is funded by the Whitaker Foundation, which supports St. Louis arts and parks to promote common heritage, celebrate diversity, and encourage vitality within the community.

### **2011 WHITAKER MUSIC FESTIVAL SCHEDULE**

June 1	<b>Gumbohead</b>	<i>A full-blown Mardi Gras party</i>
June 8	<b>Teddy Presberg</b>	<i>Funky, soulful jazz</i>
June 15	<b>Hudson and the Hoo Doo Cats</b>	<i>Swingin' shufflin' blues, rockabilly and dance</i>
June 22	<b>The Jenny Kavanaugh Band</b>	<i>Diverse alt-country</i>
June 29	<b>Nigel Mooney</b>	<i>Ireland's leading jazz singer and guitarist</i>
July 6	<b>Marquise Knox</b>	<i>Blues prodigy</i>
July 13	<b>Western Satellites</b>	<i>Americana blues swing</i>
July 20	<b>Billy Peek</b>	<i>St. Louis' rock and roll legend</i>
July 27	<b>The Erin Bode Group</b>	<i>Jazz and pop</i>
August 3	<b>Pokey LaFarge and the South City Three</b>	<i>Jazz, ragtime, country blues and western swing</i>

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**NOTE: Digital images available by request. Download media materials at [www.mobot.org/press](http://www.mobot.org/press).**