



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**June 2008**

**Contacts:**

Chris Henderson, Queens Council on the Arts,  
347-505-3017, [chenderson@queenscouncilarts.org](mailto:chenderson@queenscouncilarts.org)  
Sam Rossi, Queens Theatre in the Park  
718-760-0686, [srossi@queentheatre.org](mailto:srossi@queentheatre.org)  
Rachel Gordon, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
212-866-2720, [Rachel.Gordon@oprhp.state.ny.us](mailto:Rachel.Gordon@oprhp.state.ny.us)

**New Summer Free Concert Series *Live At The Gantries*  
To Feature An Array Of Queens Artists**



Noemy Hernandez, Calpulli Danza Mexicana; Alberto Lopez, Calpulli Danza Mexicana; Gabriella Callender, Mahina Movement; Erica De La Rosa, Mahina Movement; Brent Carrier, Vice President, O'Connor Capital Partners; Robin Shumays, Zikrayat; Justin Finley, Bliminal; Rachel Gordon, Regional Director, New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation; Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, Executive Director, Queens Council on the Arts; Mary McNamara, Director of Development, Queens Theatre in the Park; Paul Januszewski, President, Queens West Development Corporation; Santiago Vargas, representative of State Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan; Chris Henderson, Arts Services Director, Queens Council on the Arts

Queens, NY – Celebrating the rich musical and ethnic tapestries of Queens in boisterous style, Live at the Gantries, the borough's newest free summer performance series, will kick off later this month in Long Island City on June 24th.

The free, outdoor performances will feature some of the borough's most celebrated entertainers, from Afro-Brazilian jazz musicians to Japanese punk rockers, with acts for audience members of all ages. Live at the Gantries' nine nights will take place on Tuesdays at 7 o'clock at Gantry Plaza State Park, a 2.5-acre waterside oasis between 49<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> Avenues along the East River. The series will run from June 24<sup>th</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup>.

A press conference was held on **June 17<sup>th</sup> at 11 a.m. at Gantry Plaza State Park** to formally introduce Live at the Gantries. The series is sponsored by The New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Queens Council on the Arts, Queens Theatre in the Park, New York Water Taxi. Live at the Gantries is funded in full by Rockrose Development Corp with additional support from O'Connor Capital Partners.

"Queens Council on the Arts is thrilled to partner with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation, Queens Theatre in the Park, the New York Water Taxi, and Rockrose Development on Live at the Gantries," said Hoong Yee Lee Krakauer, the Executive Director of the Queens Council on the Arts. "These performances will feature some of the borough's very best musicians and dancers in a stunning riverside location. Live at the Gantries is a wonderful addition to the vibrant artistic community of Long Island City."

Carol Ash, the Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, concurred with Krakauer.

"We are exceedingly proud of our state parks in New York City, offering wonderful open space and recreational opportunities," Carol Ash said. "Gantry Plaza State Park is truly a gem, with its spectacular views and unique waterfront location. The summer concert series at Gantry Plaza is a special and unique way for children and families throughout the city to experience the arts together."

Jeffrey Rosenstock, the Executive Director of Queens Theatre in the Park, added: "Queens Theatre in the Park is excited to play a role in building an outdoor summer festival in Gantry Park to assist in providing free concerts and presentations in this most beautiful setting. We hope to create a cultural scene on a beautiful waterfront and serve as a catalyst for future and expanded performances in Long Island City."

This sentiment was shared by Paul Januszewski, President of the Queens West Development Corporation, a subsidiary of the Empire State Development Corporation, which is overseeing Rockrose Development and other firms participating in the neighborhood's development plan.

"The performances from local talent through this new and free summer music series will highlight what makes this borough truly one of a kind," Januszewski said. "Our development of Queens West includes ensuring that this community flourishes and grows. Live at the Gantries will provide an opportunity for our neighbors and visitors to enjoy relaxing summer evenings in one of the most spectacular waterfront locations in the city."

Tom Fox, president of the New York Water Taxi added, "New York Water Taxi is proud to sponsor this event because it lets people experience the joy of music and the majesty of our city's waterways."

From the industrial zone-turned state park, audience members will be able to enjoy breathtaking views of the midtown Manhattan skyline, including the Empire State Building and the United Nations' headquarters. The park boasts four piers, manicured gardens, a mist fountain and the restored, historical gantries that once loaded and unloaded railcar floats and barges.

## EVENT SCHEDULE:

### **June 24 - Corina Bartra, Afro-Brazilian Jazz**

Corina Bartra is a vocalist-percussionist who has studied rhythms from around the world and incorporated various influences into her music. She is known for blending original jazz compositions with the rich, magical traditions of Afro-Peruvian and Brazilian music.

### **July 1 - The F# Miners, Irish Traditional Music**

The F# Miners have been playing together for two years influenced by the likes of Planxty and The Bothy Band. Instrument line-up consists of uilleann pipes, whistles, bodhran, banjo and guitar. They play every Thursday at Maguire's Pub in Woodside.

### **July 8 - Blue Pipa, Chinese Folk Music**

Along with her accompanying musicians, Min Xiao-Fen of Blue Pipa is renown for her exploration of traditional and modern music from all cultures. Famed for her virtuosity and fluid style on the pipa, she has recorded and performed with Björk.

### **July 15 – Bliminal, Indie Rock**

A self-described “band of vagabonds that gathers together to exchange thoughts of radical sound,” the Astoria-based group lists among its influences Pavement, The Darkside and Sergio Leone.

### **July 22 – Calpulli Mexican Dance, Traditional Mexican Dance**

Calpulli celebrates the rich regional traditions of Mexico by telling stories through colorful dance pieces. Their fresh, vital repertoire honors not just Mexico's past, but also the lives of its emigrants in the United States. The performance-based program will include didactic information and interactive exercises for the young and young at heart.

### **July 29 - York College Summer Big Band**

The student jazz ensemble performs annually at the CUNY Jazz Festival at City College and was featured in Weltreisen on the German television station ARD in April 2006. The members of the workshop perform regularly throughout the borough.

### **August 5 - Mahina Movement, Folk, Rock and Rhymes**

Drawing on their African-American, Chicana and Tongan heritages, the members of this threesome fuse folk, blues, hip hop, poetry and dance in their performances. Through their music, they aim to address social and political injustices.

August 12- No event scheduled.

### **August 19 - Zikrayat, Arabic Music and Belly Dancers**

This Long Island City-based ensemble considers improvisation a critical element of their performances. With a classical Takht lineup of oud, nay, violin, qanun, riqq and tabla, in addition to folk instruments like buzuq, mizmar and rababa, Zikrayat captures the original spirit of Arabic music. The group's dancers focus on authentic Egyptian Raqs Sharqi.

### **August 26 - Noirceur and Uzuhi, Punk**

Flushing-based Uzuhi is known as the Japanese acoustic punk rock band. Uzuhi means Sun in Japanese, a name chosen because of the band's strong belief that music has no borders. Fellow punk rockers Noirceur describe themselves as wanting to let everyone know they're around playing original songs and having fun.

## **DIRECTIONS TO GANTRY PLAZA STATE PARK:**

Via New York Water Taxi:

Take the New York Water Taxi from either the West 44th Street, Chelsea Piers, Greenwich Village, World Financial Center, Battery Park, South Street Seaport, Fulton Ferry Landing or East 34<sup>th</sup> Street piers to Hunter's Point. Exit the Water Taxi Beach parking lot to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Make a left on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Make a left on 50<sup>th</sup> Avenue towards the city until you reach the river.

By subway, take the No. 7 train to the Vernon Blvd.-Jackson Ave. Station. Walk on 50th Avenue to the East River. The park is in front of the Citylights Building.

By car from the Queensboro Bridge or Queens Boulevard, turn south on 21<sup>st</sup> Street. Turn right on Jackson Avenue. Make another right on 48th Avenue and a left at the Citylights Building. Make a final right on 49th Avenue. (No street parking available at the park itself.)

*For more information about this series visit [www.queenscouncilarts.org/liveatthegantries](http://www.queenscouncilarts.org/liveatthegantries)*

*For more information on Queens Council on the Arts visit [www.queenscouncilarts.org](http://www.queenscouncilarts.org).*

*For more information on Queens Theatre in the Park visit [www.queenstheatre.org](http://www.queenstheatre.org)*

*For more information on the New York State Parks Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historical Preservation visit [www.nysparks.state.ny.us](http://www.nysparks.state.ny.us)*

*For more information on the New York Water Taxi visit [www.nywatertaxi.com](http://www.nywatertaxi.com)*

*For more information on Rockrose Development visit [www.rockrosenyc.com](http://www.rockrosenyc.com)*

# # #

*The mission of the Queens Council on the Arts is to foster and develop the arts in Queens County and to support arts organizations and individual artists in presenting their cultural diversity for the benefit of the community.*