



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**POPULAR MUSIC OFFERINGS AT FIRST NIGHT 2010:  
ROCK, JAZZ, WORLD, ROOTS**

*Note: The complete press kit for First Night Boston 2010, including program guide and images can be viewed at <http://www.firstnight.org/PressRoom/Default.aspx>*

(BOSTON) First Night Boston is the country's oldest and largest New Year's arts celebration. On Dec. 31, 2009 from 1 p.m. to midnight, First Night presents a day-long festival of art, music, dance, ice sculpture, fireworks and more. First Night is an alcohol-free event that welcomes children, families and revelers of all ages to celebrate community and unity through the arts. First Night Boston offers a wide array of popular music this year. Most performances occur twice and last 45 minutes. For complete schedules including updates, please visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org).

**Anat Cohen (Jazz/World)**

**WGBH 89.7 FM and Berklee College of Music present live national "Toast of the Nation" broadcast**

Berklee Performance Center, 7:45 (live broadcast) and 9:30 p.m.

First Night partners with Berklee College of Music and WGBH 89.7 FM to present a special show with Berklee alumni **Anat Cohen**, to be broadcast live in Boston on 89.7 and across the country as part of NPR's annual New Year's Eve broadcast "Toast of the Nation." Idiomatically conversant with modern and traditional jazz, classical music, Brazilian choro, Argentine tango, and an expansive timeline of Afro-Cuban styles, Tel Aviv-born Cohen has established herself as one of the primary voices of her generation on both the tenor saxophone and clarinet.

**Andre Ward and Friends (Jazz)**

Hynes Convention Center Ballroom, 8 and 9:45 p.m.

Take a seasoned musician who can play the soprano, alto and tenor saxophone with skilled ease and passion and mix in varied elements of gospel, jazz, R & B and you have Boston's own Chicago-born, Berklee trained Andre Ward. An accomplished purveyor of smooth jazz, Ward was the musical director for Freddie Jackson and has toured with Teena Marie, Will Downing, The Bobby Jones Gospel Group, The Four Tops, The O'Jays and Dizzy Gillespie.

**Ben Powell Quartet (Jazz)**

Berklee Performance Center, 6:30 p.m.

A brilliant young violinist, Berklee grad Ben Powell has already lived a couple of musical lifetimes during his 23 years, and in some ways he is just getting started. His recent debut CD *Light* shows just what a creative and swinging jazz violinist he is at this early stage. This will be his First Night debut.

**Black Taxi (Rock)**

Copley Square, Boston Public Library steps, 10—midnight

Sounding like a Tarantino film in stereo, Black Taxi seduces with the seediness of a pulp fiction novel; a decaying sideshow that's as sexy as it is punk rock. Lyrics paint woozy pictures of Kerouacian misadventures, featuring a rotating cast. A cavalier concoction of carnival trumpets, swaggering bass lines and smoldering guitar, Black Taxi plays like a vintage spaghetti western dressed up in neon lights...the soundtrack to that desert road trip you should have taken back when your girlfriend dumped you. (Part of the WBZ-TV Midnight Countdown).

**Boston Jazz Voices (Jazz)**

CityPlace in the Transportation Building, 10 p.m.

An a cappella chorus of 18 voices performs harmonically complex arrangements made famous by The Singers Unlimited.

**Boston Saxophone Quartet (Jazz)**

CityPlace in the Transportation Building, 6 and 7:30 p.m.

The Boston Saxophone Quartet will perform works from music students in the Boston Public schools –winners of the 2009 First Night composition competition now in its sixth year.

**Buffalo Tom (Rock)**

Orpheum Theatre, 10—11 p.m.

One of the biggest Boston band's of the 90's, and still vital now, Buffalo Tom makes its First Night debut. The trio will play some of their best-known hits, like "Taillights Fade," "Birdbrain," and "Soda Jerk." (Presented by 92.5 The River.)

**Cirkestra (Rock)**

Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, 9:30—11 p.m.

Cirkestra is a circus music group formed by former circus clown Peter Bufano. They've accompanied Circus Smirkus and the Bindlestiff Circus, and players in the group have performed individually with Ringling Bros. Barnum and Bailey, Big Apple Circus, and Kinoshita Circus. They have composed four original circus scores. The original tunes have gypsy, klezmer, and jazz influence.

**Chris Brokaw & Geoff Farina (Rock/Roots)**

Emmanuel Church, 9:30 p.m.

Indie rock luminaries Chris Brokaw (The New Year, Come) and Geoff Farina (Karate, Secret Stars, Glorytellers) perform pre-WWII country blues songs on acoustic guitars and vocals, from their forthcoming CD *The Angel's Message To Me*. (Sponsored by AAA Southern New England.)

**Drew O'Doherty (Rock)**

Emmanuel Church, 7:30 p.m.

You'll be "immediately drawn in by his gentle acoustic playing, his warm voice, and his somber songs that evoked a little (Mark) Eitzel, a little Springsteen, a little (Jeff) Tweedy. Some lyrics may have come from his past, some told the sad yet beautiful tales of others, but all were both intimate and captivating," according to Bradley's Almanac. (Sponsored by AAA Southern New England.)

**Either/Orchestra (Jazz)**

Boston Public Library Rabb Hall, 7:30 and 8:45 p.m.

This Cambridge-based 10-piece jazz ensemble combines the agility and freedom of a jazz combo, the raw power and subtle coloring of a jazz orchestra and the deep grooves of Afro-Latin music. Inspired by the diverse history of jazz and enamored of the power of popular music and dance rhythms, the E/O is not a tribute band or a neo-classical museum piece. Building upon their deep respect for the audience, the E/O takes listeners on an exciting ride from America to the Caribbean and Africa and leaves them hungry for more.

**Ellis Paul (Folk/Children's)**

Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, 3:30 and 4:45 p.m.

Noted folk singer/songwriter Ellis Paul performs selections from his Parents' Choice Award –winning *The Dragonfly Races*, his collection of music for kids and people who have kids. Traditional folk themes of world peace and harmony resonate with immediacy, but are delivered with a gentle touch. (Part of the FedEx Family Festival. Also supported by *The Boston Parents Paper*)

**The Fatal Flaw (Rock)**

Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common, 10 p.m.—midnight

Boston's The Fatal Flaw has been gaining momentum with a playful juxtaposition of biting cynicism and shameless pop sensibility earning them distinction as a Band Worth Watching. Engaging, energetic, and thought-provoking, The Fatal Flaw captivates each successive audience they face, presenting some of rock's catchiest songs with a brutally honest worldview.

**Guthrie Family Show (Roots/Children's)**

Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, 1 and 2:15 p.m.

Enjoy the next generation of Guthrie's. Sarah Lee Guthrie, granddaughter of Woody, along with songwriter and husband Johnny Irion, and some Guthrie kids perform songs from their new recording *Go Wagaloo* (Smithsonian Folkways). The CD features playful recordings of traditional and new songs, including three songs with Woody Guthrie lyrics never before put to music. (Part of the FedEx Family Festival. Also supported by *The Boston Parents Paper*)

**Intransitive Recordings (Rock/Experimental)**

Hynes Convention Center Room 309, 7:30—11 p.m.

Perennial First Night faves Intransitive Recordings have programmed another night of their signature electronic and improvised music. This year, featured artists include Skeletons Out, Kyle Bobby Dunn, Oneohtrix Point Never, Jessica Rylan and Heathen Shame. For complete artist info, visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org).

**Jenny Dee and the Deelinquents (Rock/Soul)**

Park Plaza Terrace Room, 7:30, 8:45 and 10 p.m.

Enjoy the 60's girl-group Stax and Motown rock and soul sound of the Boston-based Jenny Dee and the Deelinquents.

**John Hollenbeck's Claudia Quintet (Jazz)**

First Church in Boston, 9 p.m.

Composer/drummer/arranger John Hollenbeck, who was nominated for a Grammy, brings his New York-based ensemble to First Night. They explore the edge of innovative jazz without alienating the mainstream, proving that genre-defying music can be for everyone.

**Jordan Valentine and the Sunday Saints (Rock/Soul)**

Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common, 7:30—9:30 p.m.

Boston-based Jordan Valentine & the Sunday Saints resurrect the raw rhythms of 60s R&B, southern soul and New Orleans funk, recalling a time when songs were alive, beats blew your mind and a horn line could make all hell break loose.

**Kristin Hersh (Rock)**

Emmanuel Church, 8:30 and 10:30 p.m.

Kristin Hersh has been performing since 1981, as a founding member of seminal band Throwing Muses, and later as a solo artist. Hersh's music is known for its chords, sonic treatments, and a vocal style ranging from softly melodic singing to impassioned screaming. Some of her signature contributions to popular music include addressing the complexities of life through impressionistic, lyrics about everyday feelings and varying mental states. (Sponsored by AAA Southern New England.)

**The Lyres (Rock)**

Orpheum Theatre, 7:30—8:30 p.m.

The Boston garage pioneers, led by megalomaniac Jeff "Monoman" Conolly, make their First Night debut, playing their Farfisa-driven trash-rock, including beloved hits like "What a Girl Can't Do" and "Help You Ann." (Presented by 92.5 The River.)

**Nadav Remez Quintet (Jazz/World)**

Boston Public Library Rabb Hall, 10 and 11 p.m.

Nadav Remez is an Israeli guitarist and composer, now based in Boston. Currently attending New England Conservatory, Nadav has recorded and performed throughout the United States and Israel as both a leader and a sideman. *Sponsored by the Consulate General of Israel to New England*

**The Neats (Rock)**

Orpheum Theatre, 8:45—9:45 p.m.

Celebrating the recent reissue of almost their early recordings, *Neats 1981-84*, the legendary 80's Boston favorites, who emerged from the same stylistic movement that begat bands like REM, the Dream Syndicate and the Feelies, make a rare reunion appearance, performing hits like "Red and Grey" and "Six." (Presented by 92.5 The River.)

### **The Painted Lights (Rock)**

Hynes Convention Center Room 207, 8—9 p.m.

The Painted Lights were formed when solo singer-songwriter Brendan Little paired with guitarist Brion Regan to help design a fuller sound. The band has been successful at combining introspective melodies with upbeat driving rock since drummer Ross Lohr and bass player Odell Lafaver joined in early 2009. Since then, they have been honing their live act around Boston and preparing the release of their debut EP *Fighting Fires*.

### **Los Sugar Kings (World)**

Hynes Convention Center Auditorium, 7:30—9 p.m.

Los Sugar Kings is a Boston-based quartet known for their energetic live performances and high level of musicianship. In their world, respect is paid in spades to the traditions and forefathers of Afro-Cuban Son, Salsa and Rumba-Flamenco but the sound is very new, danceable, diverse and infectious.

### **Virago (Rock/World)**

CityPlace in the Transportation Building, 8:45 p.m.

Virago is a high-energy guitar and percussion duet consisting of musicians/composers Amy Schindler and Maire Tashjian. Their music has an edgy rock sound with elements of blues and samba.

### **Walter Sickert and the Army of Broken Toys (Rock)**

Hynes Convention Center Hall A, 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

Comparing their music to the melodies of Rasputina with the performances of Marilyn Manson and the presence of Johnny Cash, Walter Sickert's shows can range from loud with theatrical visuals to stripped-down acoustic sets. Framing their songs around love, betrayal and heartbreak, the band says their music is for anyone who has ever been broken.

### **Winterbloom (Folk)**

Hynes Convention Center, Room 207

Singer-songwriters Antje Duvekot, Anne Heaton, Meg Hutchinson and Natalia Zukerman present a new holiday show. They perform new arrangements of traditional holiday songs alongside their own originals, and special seasonal songs written just for this project. The show incorporates elements of their unique backgrounds - German, American, Jewish, Unitarian, Christian, Northeastern, Midwestern, Urban, Rural, Religious, Secular, Academic, etc. Witty, intimate, thoughtful, and fun.

In addition to these and other great events, First Night will also feature **Japanese Anime; Kaiju Big Battel; Bollywood Film;** five ice sculptures; **The Metro Boston First Night Grand Procession; The FedEx Family Festival; Boston Family Fireworks** presented by Mayor Menino and The Mugar Foundation; the traditional **midnight fireworks over Boston Harbor** sponsored by Cape Dairy; and a midnight countdown with WBZ-TV's Jack Williams and Lisa Hughes at Copley Square. For a complete listing, visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org).

All First Night outdoor events are free, though supported by sales of the First Night button (artwork by Ekua Holmes), which is the ticket for admission to all indoor events. Buttons are \$18 (children under 4 admitted free) and are available at Boston-area Shaw's and Star Markets, Tedeschi's, Store 24, Au Bon Pain and dozens of other locations. For a complete list of advance sale locations or to buy buttons online, visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org). Buttons are available at a special web price of \$15 at [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org) through Dec. 26. For more information, visit [www.firstnight.org](http://www.firstnight.org).

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