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**NEWPORT YACHTING CENTER ANNOUNCES  
GRAMMY AWARD-WINNING HEADLINERS TO LEAD  
SNAPPLE SUNSET MUSIC SERIES INTO ITS SECOND DECADE**

NEWPORT, RI, April 14, 2008 -- The Newport Yachting Center announced an eclectic mix of talented musicians to headline this summer's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Snapple Sunset Music Series at a press conference held today at The Mooring Seafood Kitchen and Bar on Sayer's Wharf in Newport. Tickets for the six concerts, scheduled throughout the summer instead of a more concentrated format implemented in the past, are currently available for purchase on-line at [www.newportfestivals.com](http://www.newportfestivals.com) (except tickets for the Melissa Etheridge concert which go on sale next Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup>) by using the Center's new, "print tickets at home" ClicknPrint ticketing system. In addition, those interested in tickets can call the Newport Yachting Center Box Office at (401) 846-1600, Ext. 3 which will now also be open for walk-up sales during the season, seven days a week, starting May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Michele Maker Palmieri, General Manager of the Newport Yachting Center, announced the headliners for the 2008 Snapple Sunset Music Series, partial proceeds of which will benefit the Autism Project of Rhode Island. The headliners, dates and ticket prices are:

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>TICKET PRICES</b>
<b>Sat., June 14</b>	<b>Boz Scaggs</b>	<b>\$60 in advance/\$68 day of show</b>
<b>Opening Act: TBD. Festival Stage: Frank Romanelli.</b>		

After paying his musical dues and appearing on The Steve Miller Band's first two albums, *Children of the Future* and *Sailor*, Boz Scaggs achieved instant stardom in 1976 when he recorded his smash album, *Silk Degrees*. The album reached #2 on the United

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States charts and produced three hit singles: "Lowdown", "Lido Shuffle", and "What Can I Say". Scaggs followed up that success with two Top 20 hits, "Breakdown Dead Ahead" and "Jojo" off his *Middle Man* album in 1980. Other hits included the Urban Cowboy movie soundtrack, "Look What You've Done to Me" in 1981 and the Top 40 "Heart of Mine" from his 1988 *Other Roads* album. In 2003, Scaggs released the album, *But Beautiful*, a collection of jazz standards that debuted at #1 on the jazz charts and then released a popular DVD and Live CD in 2004. His latest album release is entitled, *The Hits*.

<b>DATE</b>	<b>PERFORMER</b>	<b>TICKET PRICES</b>
<b>Sun., July 6</b>	<b>Melissa Etheridge</b>	<b>\$95 in advance/\$105 day of show</b>
	<b>In a Special Festival Performance</b>	<b>Festival Stage: TBD.</b>

The Academy and Grammy Award winning singer-songwriter and musician, Melissa Etheridge's is best known for her bluesy vocal style and riveting stage presence. Her popularity started to build with such memorable originals as "Bring Me Some Water" and "Ain't It Heavy," for which she won a Grammy in 1992. Etheridge hit her commercial and artistic stride with her fourth album, *Yes I Am*, which featured the massive Top Ten hits, "I'm the Only One" and "Come to My Window," a searing song of longing that brought Etheridge her second Grammy Award for Best Female Rock Performance. In 1995, Etheridge issued her highest charting album, *Your Little Secret*, which was distinguished by the hit single, "I Want to Come Over." Her success that year led to Etheridge receiving the Songwriter of the Year honor at the ASCAP Pop Awards in 1996.

Etheridge continued to write, record and tour throughout the late 1990s and into the new millennium. In February 2007, she celebrated a career milestone by winning the "Best Song" category at the Academy Awards for "I Need to Wake Up," written for the Al Gore documentary on global warming, *An Inconvenient Truth*. In April 2007, Etheridge received the distinguished ASCAP Founders Award honoring her enduring status as one of the greatest all-time female rock icons. Her ninth studio album and latest release is entitled, *The Awakening*.

<b>Monday, July 7</b>	<b>The Plain White T's</b>	<b>\$35 in advance/\$40 day of show</b>
	<b>with mae and the Kung Fu Girls.</b>	<b>Festival Stage: TBD.</b>

For almost a decade, the high energy Plain White T's and its lead vocalist, Tom Higgenson, have played to packed audiences craving that perfect pop-punk punch. Their journey, which began in a small, suburban Chicago basement playing covers, has taken the band on the Warped Tour, the 2006 Nintendo Fusion Tour with Hawthorne Heights and The Young Wild Things Tour with Fall Out Boy. But it was their heartfelt, acoustic-tinged tune, "Hey There Delilah" that cemented their status as hit-makers. Hollywood Records re-released the tune on the album *Every Second Counts* in 2007 and it rose to #1 in the United States for two weeks running. The single soon charted in Australia, Asia and Europe as well. The band's next album will be released in November 2008.

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**Friday, July 11                      Jimmie Vaughan                      \$25 in advance/\$30 day of show**  
**Opening Act: TBD. Festival Stage: Jimmy Town Juke.**

Jimmie Vaughan is far more than just one of the greatest and most respected guitarists in the world of popular music. As *Guitar Player Magazine* notes, "He is a virtual deity--a living legend." After playing clubs in and around Dallas, Texas, Vaughan founded The Fabulous Thunderbirds with Kim Wilson in the mid 1970s. He recorded eight albums with the band, including *Tuff Enuff* which went Platinum and *Wrap It Up*, received two Grammy nominations and is credited with bringing the blues back into the pop charts. Prior to leaving the group in 1990, Vaughan joined up with his brother Stevie to record the popular *Family Style*, an album that reflected their deep musical roots and maturing artistic sophistication.

In 1993, Vaughan's friend Eric Clapton invited him to open a series of 16 special concerts at London's Royal Albert Hall. After a warm reception, Jimmie recorded his first solo album, *Strange Pleasure*, which debuted at #1 on the Billboard Heatseeker chart and received a Grammy nomination for Best Blues Album. His next album, 1998's *Out There*, solidified Vaughan's status as a solo artist, thanks to a Grammy nomination for Best Rock Instrumental Performance for the song "Ironic Twist". Known for his deceptively simple yet complex style, he has made guest appearances on such albums as B.B. King and Eric Clapton's *Riding With The King*, Bob Dylan's *Under The Red Sky*, Willie Nelson's *Milk Cow Blues*, Carlos Santana's *Havana Moon*. Blues giant, Buddy Guy, once proclaimed: "He's unbeatable when it comes to the blues. He just plays it like it's supposed to be played." Vaughan's fourth and latest solo release is *On the Jimmy Reed Highway*.

**Sat., July 12                      Indigo Girls                      \$35 in advance/\$40 day of show**  
**Opening Act: TBD. Festival Stage: Emily Smith & Synergy.**

Twenty years after they began releasing records as the Indigo Girls, Amy Ray and Emily Saliers have politely declined the opportunity to mellow with age. The devoted environmental and social-justice activists and lifelong music-industry mavericks got there start in the Athens, Georgia college rock scene which included R.E.M. and The Georgia Satellites. Their first major-label release in 1988, also titled *Indigo Girls*, charted at #22 and their first hit "Closer To Fine" went Platinum and won the Grammy Award for Best Contemporary Folk Recording. They were also nominated for Best New Artist.

The duo took off from there as their second release, *Nomads Indians Saints*, went Gold in 1991 and contained the hit song "Hammer and a Nail", a #12 Modern Rock track. The 1992 album, *Rites of Passage* was an enormous success, featuring "Galileo," the duo's first top 10 Modern Rock track. This was followed by *Swamp Ophelia* which went Platinum in 1996, topping out at #9 on the Billboard album chart. *Shaming of the Sun* appeared in 1997 and debuted at #7 on the Billboard charts, driven by the duo's high

profile contribution to the Lilith Fair music festival tour. *Despite Our Differences*, is the Indigo Girls' 10th and latest studio album.

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**Thur., Aug. 21 John Hiatt & the Ageless Beauties \$30 in adv./\$35 day of show  
Special Guest: TBD. Festival Stage: Marc Douglas Berardo.**

Known as one of America's finest singer-songwriter musicians, John Hiatt burst onto the music scene in 1974 after Three Dog Night recorded his song "Sure As I'm Sitting Here" and it became a Top 40 hit. Eleven Grammy nominations later, artists from Eric Clapton and Elvis Costello to Bob Dylan have covered his songs. Most notably, Rosanne Cash took his tune, "The Way We Make A Broken Heart" all the way to #1 on the United States country charts in 1987; Bonnie Raitt brought "Thing Called Love" to #11 on the United States charts in 1989; and Jeff Healy covered "Angel Eyes" and took it to the Top 5 of the Billboard Hot 100 also in 1989. Hiatt's twenty album releases include: *Slow Turning* in 1988 which featured a Top Ten Mainstream Rock Tracks chart single for the title track; the Grammy nominated *Walk On* in 1995; and *Crossing Muddy Waters* in 2000 which was nominated for a Grammy award for Best Contemporary Folk Album. Recently inducted into Nashville's Music City Walk of Fame, Hiatt's new album, entitled *Same Old Man*, will be released next month.

"Melissa Etheridge is arguably the biggest act we've ever had at the festival and Boz Scaggs, Indigo Girls, Jimmie Vaughan and John Hiatt certainly meet our criteria of booking the highest quality entertainment to satisfy a variety of musical tastes – from pop to folk, blues and rock," said Palmieri. "We're also looking forward to enjoying The Plain White T's who have a loyal following of fans a lot younger than me!"

The Newport Yachting Center is located on the waterfront in the heart of historic, downtown Newport off America's Cup Avenue. **For each night the gates will open at 5:30 p.m. with music starting on the Festival Stage at 6:00 p.m., the opening act/special guest at 7:00 and the headliner beginning at approximately 8:00 p.m. The exceptions are as follows: The gates will open at 5:00 p.m. for the Melissa Etheridge concert with the Festival Stage acts also beginning at 5:00 p.m. Etheridge will begin on the Main Stage at 7:00 p.m. The triple bill featuring the Plain White T's will start at 7:00 p.m. as there is no opening act. The Festival Stage act will still begin at 6:00 and the gates will open at 5:30 p.m.**

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In addition to Snapple, the Series' other major sponsors are Miller Brewing Company, Dunkin' Donuts, Sovereign Bank, Captain Morgan, Cardi's Furniture, Cape Cod Potato Chips, The Matlet Group and the Newport Marriott. The Newport Marriott will also have an on-site presence, conducting a raffle with proceeds benefiting the Children's Miracle Network and the Boys & Girls Club.

For more information, please contact Michele Maker Palmieri, Festival Director at the Newport Yachting Center, 4 Commercial Wharf in Newport, at (401) 846-1600, Ext. 222.

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*In addition to the Snapple Sunset Music Series, Newport Waterfront Festivals also produces the Schweppes Great Chowder Cook-Off, the Taste of Rhode Island, Newport Waterfront Irish Festival and the International Oktoberfest. The festivals take place along the waterfront at the Newport Yachting Center on America's Cup Avenue in historic downtown Newport. For more information please call 401-846-1600 or visit us online at [newportfestivals.com](http://newportfestivals.com).*