



STATE OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF GENERAL SERVICES  
RoAnn M. Destito, COMMISSIONER

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JEFFREY OSBORNE TO HEADLINE  
AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY DAY  
PRESENTED BY MCDONALD'S ON AUGUST 2

People Encouraged To Bring Their Own Chairs To The Event

New York State Office of General Services Commissioner RoAnn M. Destito today announced the lineup for New York State's 2014 African American Family Day, presented by McDonalds, which will be held from noon to 7 p.m. on Saturday, August 2 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany. Due to construction seating will not be available on the museum staircase, so people are encouraged to bring their own chairs.

"One of New York's greatest strengths is its diversity, and this event is a great opportunity to come to the Empire State Plaza and celebrate the wonderful traditions, music, art, dance, and food of our state's African American communities," said Commissioner Destito. "We are grateful to McDonald's and all our generous sponsors for helping us put on this special annual family event."

The theme of African American Family Day is family, love, peace, unity and respect.

Headlining this year's event is American funk and R&B musician, songwriter, lyricist, and former lead singer of the band, L.T.D. Jeffrey Osborne. After more than 10 years with L.T.D., Osborne went on to pursue a solo career, which brought him five gold and platinum albums and produced hits such as "Don't You Get So Mad," and "Stay With Me Tonight," and his international hit, "On the Wings of Love."

The event will kick off at noon with an opening ceremony featuring a performance by the Giffen Outreach Community Choir. All the singers, bands, choirs, and other artists will be performing on a unified stage at the north end of the Empire State Plaza concourse. Highlights include performances by:

- **The Chronicles:** Combining jazz, hip hop, funk, soul, and gospel, The Chronicles bring a unique sound that defies classification. Founded by upstate New York horn heavyweights, Bryan Brundige and Jeff Nania in October 2009, The Chronicles have included and continue to feature the most talented up-and-coming musicians in the Capital Region.

- **Wassa Pan Afrika Dance Ensemble:** Founded in 1998, the Wassa Pan Afrika Dance Ensemble are a dynamic group of 20 professional African drummers and dancers who bring excitement and energy to the stories and traditions of Africa. In addition to performing, the ensemble will also teach people traditional African dances.
- **Mojavi featuring Urban Guerilla Theater:** K. Mojavi Wright is the founder and director of Urban Guerrilla Theatre, a poetry/spoken word performance artist group who dedicate their readings and shows to redefining the boundaries of art, performance, comedy, live music, and poetry.
- **J-Live with Boog Brown:** Indie hip hop veteran J-Live first appeared on the underground hip-hop scene in 1995 when he was a freshman English major at the University at Albany.
- **DJ Trumastr:** Held hostage by two turntables and a mic, DJ Trumastr is an international touring DJ based out of Albany. Infused with a rich knowledge of music, this creative innovator spins infectious blends that transcend both cultural and generational boundaries.

**The Capital District Community Voices of Praise Youth Mass Choir, Voices of Faith Women's Community Choir, and winners of the Plaza Lites talent competition will also perform on the main stage.**

In addition to live entertainment, another main attraction of the event is "Destination Heritage" where people can learn about African American history, including the history of families in the Capital Region and the Underground Railroad, gain the tools needed to locate African ancestors living in the Americas, and participate in an interactive drums and dance program.

Activities throughout the day include a children's area with pony rides, face painting, arts and crafts, and bounce rides; Scratch Academy, where kids can learn the technique practiced by hip hop DJs; the NAACP Student Theater Outreach Program, or S.T.O.P., drumming and dance instruction; a silent disco with JAMZ 96.3 where you and your friends can put on a pair of headphones and dance to the music playing in your ears, a demonstration by Austin's School of Spa Technology; an appearance by Ronald McDonald; Eric Thee Illusionist, a roving magician; and JJ Superstar, a stilt walker and juggler.

One of African American Family Day's biggest draws is the amazing food our vendors will be serving, including Jamaican and other Caribbean cuisine, the chicken, fish, and ribs prepared by local churches, and desserts to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth.

### **Performance Schedule**

12:00	Opening Ceremony with performance by the Giffen Outreach Community Choir
12:10	Gospel – Community Youth Mass Choir
12:30	Plaza Lites Division 1 (8 to 12-year-olds) hip hop dance team Team Infinity
12:40	Gospel – Capital District Community Voices of Praise Mass Choir
1:05	Plaza Lites Division 2 (13 to 18-year-olds) hip hop dance team New Day Krew
1:10	Gospel – Voices of Faith Women's Community Choir
1:35	Plaza Lites Division 3 (18 and older) liturgical dance team Nu Vision
1:50	Wassa Pan Afrika Dance Ensemble
2:20	Mojavi featuring Urban Guerilla Theater
2:35	DJ Trumastr
3:15	Mojavi featuring Urban Guerilla Theater
3:25	J-Live with Boog Brown
4:15	Mojavi featuring Urban Guerilla Theater
4:40	The Chronicles
5:20	Audience cha-cha slide dance mix

6:00

Jeffrey Osborne

Free parking will be available in the East Garage off Madison Avenue, and \$5 parking in the visitor or V-lot under the plaza. For event updates, people can follow @plazaevents on Twitter or call (518) 474-0549.

Ground rules for all Summer at the Plaza events can be found online at [www.ogs.ny.gov](http://www.ogs.ny.gov), and no alcoholic beverages, coolers (defined as rigid insulated containers), or glass containers of any kind; animals or pets (excludes ADA-defined service animals) will be allowed.

In addition to presenting sponsor, McDonald's, other sponsors include SONYMA, nystateofhealth, NY's 529 College Savings Program, United Healthcare, Albany.com, Price Chopper, Holiday Inn Express, Austin's School of Spa Technology, Metroland, and JAMZ 96.3.

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