

STATE OF NEW YORK  
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## **OGS ANNOUNCES AT THE PLAZA SUMMER CONCERTS AND FESTIVALS**

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner John C. Egan today announced the 2009 ***At The Plaza*** summer schedule of free concerts and festivals that will be presented at the Empire State Plaza in Albany.

Commissioner John C. Egan was joined at the noon time event today by Mona Golub, the Vice President of Public Relations at Price Chopper, the title sponsor of *Price Chopper's Fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> and Fireworks Festival*, an annual Capital region tradition.

"OGS is pleased to again host this wonderful free summer series starting with the spectacular Fourth of July festival," Commissioner Egan said. "This family-oriented concert series offers music and good times for people of all ages. I wish to thank all of our community sponsors for their support and for helping OGS to continue its popular seasonal offerings in the shadow of the state Capitol. Their financial and programmatic support is essential to our collective success."

"Price Chopper is thrilled to offer up our 33rd installment of the Fabulous Fourth and Fireworks on the Plaza - the single largest and best attended event of the year," said Mona Golub of Price Chopper. "This year's theme, "Come Together" shines a light on the diversity of our community uniting to celebrate quality of life and the freedoms we share."

This year's line-up has something for everyone in the family with free events such as GE's Kids Day, featuring Playhouse Disney favorite Choo Choo Soul; the popular Food Festival featuring the spirited Soul Session and sixties era Cowsills; and African American Family Day featuring the Chi-Lites.

**The 2009 *At The Plaza* summer schedule is as follows:**

**Price Chopper's Fabulous 4<sup>th</sup> and Fireworks Festival**  
**Featuring Al Jarreau**  
**Saturday, July 4**  
**3 p.m. - 10 p.m.**

An Albany tradition, this annual holiday event features live music with Hill Billy Horns, Flame, flamenco virtuoso Maria Zemantauski and Five time Grammy Award winner, jazz and R & B superstar, Al Jarreau. There will be fun for the whole family including

games, giveaways, great food and craft vendors, and of course the best fireworks show in the region!

### **At the Plaza Food Festival**

**Wednesday, July 8**

**11 a.m. - 9 p.m.**

They say variety is the spice of life and you'll find it at the Food Festival - featuring the sounds of The Cowsills, the soul-stirring Soul Session with Garland Nelson, rising singer songwriter Kyle Vincent, local, acoustic favorites the Stray Dogs and lunchtime music with DJ Shawn Gillie. This **At the Plaza** favorite features a Farmer's Market, Pride of New York vendors, and specialty vendors serving up your lunch and dinner treats.

### **GE's Kids Day with Choo Choo Soul**

**Sunday, July 12**

**Noon - 5 p.m.**

The next stop is the Empire State Plaza, with Choo Choo Soul driving the train. Get the little ones on board with musical artist Genevieve Goings, as she sings contemporary, kid-friendly hip-hop songs about the ABC's and 123s, and more. Magician Tim Wenk will dazzle with his amazing sleight of hand tricks and hilarious jokes. "Maximum Destruction" the futuristic SUV from the USHRA Monster Jam series -- and rival of the notorious "Grave Digger" -- will be on display too. Don't miss the bounce rides, arts and crafts and the ultra-cool GE Science Emporium.

### **Country Music Night featuring Steve Azar, With special guests Candy Coburn and Loose Cannon**

**Wednesday, July 15**

**5 p.m. - 9 p.m.**

Grab your cowboy hats and sing along with radio phenomenon, Steve Azar, who launched a radio phenomenon with "I Don't Have To Be Me ('Till Monday)." Now performing songs from his new record, *Indianola*, he's returning to his Mississippi Delta roots, paced by the exciting, rocking single "You Don't Know a Thing." From the moment she hits the Plaza stage, you'll get the sense that Candy Coburn is not your run of the mill singer. She's a Celebrity Ambassador for "Susan G. Komen for the Cure" and her current release "Pink Warrior" has become the anthem the fight against breast cancer.

### **African American Family Day featuring The Chi-Lites**

**Saturday, August 1**

**Noon - 7 p.m.**

With special guests Shaun Mykals, Stage Left, Geri Howard-Dewitt and Jazz Mobile's Jimmy Owens, the annual African-American Family Day celebration is dedicated to embodying Five Community Principles -family, love, peace, unity, and respect. This year OGS welcomes the Chicago-based, smooth soul vocals of the Chi-Lites, digitally independent artist, Shaun Mykals, and the hard bop jazz leader Jimmy Owens.

**Hannaford Hispanic Heritage Celebration, with special guests Soñando**

**Saturday, September 19**

**3 p.m. - 8 p.m.**

Hola Amigos! Clear the dance floor for the Hudson Valley's premier Latin band, Soñando, fueled by a fiery rhythm section and high-octane horns. Join in with us and the Capital Region Latino Parade as we kick off Hispanic Heritage Month at the Plaza.

***All of the At The Plaza*** events are **FREE** at the Empire State Plaza, Madison Ave., Albany. Free parking in the East Garage is also available.

For more information on any of the above listed events call the OGS Special Events Office **toll free** at 1-(877) 659-4ESP or **visit our website at** [www.empirestateplaza.org](http://www.empirestateplaza.org).