

By Dan DeLuca
INQUIRER MUSIC CRITIC

Between a calendar of multi-act festivals and single-name attractions, it's going to be a busy summer concert season, outdoors and in.

Besides the shows highlighted below, there are several fests worthy of attention — from the Metallica-headlined Orion + More fest in Atlantic City on June 23 and 24 to the free Global Fusion fest on the Great Plaza at Penn's Landing, whose R&B headliners include Estelle, Melanie Fiona, and Marsha Ambrosius.

The parade of marquee headliners coming through includes rapper Nicki Minaj and country star Miranda Lambert at Susquehanna Bank Center (the former Friday, the latter Saturday), cowboy hat-wearing bros Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw at Lincoln Financial Field on June 16, Roger Waters' *The Wall* on July 14 at Citizens Bank Park and Coldplay at the Wells Fargo Center on July 5 and 6.

On a more intimate scale, here's a handful: Richard Lloyd of Television at Milkboy Philly on June 7; former Ween



**SIGUR RÓS
MANN JULY 29-30**



**NORAH JONES
MANN JUNE 28**

singer Aaron Freeman at World Cafe Live on June 21; Swedish-New Orleansian one-woman band Theresa Anderson at the Tin Angel, June 15; Purling Hiss at Johnny Brenda's on June 26; and Low Cut Connie and Wussy on Aug. 10 at the North Star Bar. Also, there's a new Morgan's Pier spot on the site of the old Rock Lobster, where Bleeding Rainbow will play June 9 and bands will be playing every Saturday.

Roots Picnic

In its fifth year, the wide-ranging Festival Pier event, hosted by Philadelphia and the world's greatest live hip-hop band, expands to two days, Saturday and Sunday. This year's event has serious old-school hip-hop cred with De La Soul and Rakim, state-of-the-art dance music cred with Diplo, Major Lazer, and a DJ set by James Murphy of LCD Soundsystem, femme alt-rock cred with Tune-Yards and St. Vincent, and new-school hip-hop cred with Wale and Kid Cudi. Plus, the band that no one dares follow on stage: the Roots themselves. Information: www.livenation.com.

Drake

Drake's come a long way since playing Jimmy Brooks on *Degrassi: The Next Generation*. The sometimes melancholy Canadian hip-hop heartthrob got plenty of respect for his 2011 sophomore release, *Take Care*, and plenty of not-quite-earned Marvin Gaye comparisons to boot. He's at the Susquehanna Bank Center on June 9, and speculation is running amok that he'll also be added to the Budweiser Made in America lineup on Labor Day weekend. Information: www.livenation.com.

Sigur Rós

The Icelandic art-rock band Sigur Rós make strangely enveloping ambient music that seems ideally suited to a midsummer night's eve. The band's transfixing new album, *Valtari*, marks a return after a four-year hiatus, and the group will be 11 members strong for their two dates, July 29 and 30, at the new outdoor Skyline Stage on top of the hill at the Mann Center for the Performing Arts. Information: www.manncenter.org.

Jill Scott

Jilly from Philly's Summer Block Party



**JANELLE MONAÉ
MADE IN AMERICA
SEPT. 1-2**

ANDREW ZAEH

COVER STORY SHINING STARS BIG-NAME ACTS AND MUSIC FESTIVALS WILL ADD THEIR GLOW TO PHILLY'S SUMMER SCENE.

Roper



**JC BROOKS & THE UPTOWN SOUND
Xponential Music Festival
JULY 21**

is becoming an annual event. This summer, the North Philly R&B singer and poet, still touring behind last year's *The Light of the Sun*, is bringing it to Fairmount Park June 23, with stylist soul man Kem and Will Smith's better half, DJ Jazzy Jeff, also on the bill. Information: www.manncenter.org.

Norah Jones

Ten years apart, Norah Jones has made the two essential albums of her career. Back in 2002, the ingenue debuted with the Grammy-grabbing, mega-million-selling, cool jazz sultry country *Come Away With Me*, and after tweaking that formula on a series of subsequent releases with mixed results, she's got her groove back with the new *Little Broken Hearts*. The collaboration with producer Danger Mouse adds synthesizers to the mix and tweaks her sound ever so slightly on her best batch of songs in years. Jones plays the Mann on June 28. Information: www.manncenter.org.

Appel Farm

There's a strong lineup for the Appel Farm Music & Arts Festival in Elmer, N.J. Blues powerhouse the Tedeschi Trucks



**RADIOHEAD
SUSQUEHANNA
BANK CENTER
JUNE 13**

Band, featuring guitarist Susan Tedeschi and her axman husband Derek Trucks, tops the bill, along with modern African American jug band Carolina Chocolate Drops, Laurel Canyon rockers Dawes, country rock songwriting veteran Rodney Crowell, and Nickel Creek fiddle player Sara Watkins. It hap-

pens Saturday at Appel Farm. Information: www.appelfarm.org.

Radiohead

Thom Yorke and his Oxford, England, beautiful music-making band are finally winding their way around the U.S. to Camden on their tour behind 2011's *The King of Limbs*. Their songs are not groundbreaking by Radiohead standards, but it's still a pretty darn good eighth studio album. Expect to be transported June 13 at the Susquehanna Bank Center. Information: www.livenation.com.

Wilco, Avett Brothers, Dr. Dog at the Xponential Music Festival

This year, the WXPn-FM Xponential Music Festival is expanding. There will still be a weekend's worth of action at Wiggins Park in Camden with estimable acts like JC Brooks & the Uptown Sound, JT McPherson, Kathleen Edwards, Sonic Youth's Lee Ranaldo, and a trio of local bands with militaristic names: the War on Drugs, Work Drugs, and Good Old War. On the Saturday night, however, the fest moves next door to the Susquehanna Bank Center, with Wilco, the Avett Brothers, and Philly's own Dr.

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