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BACH TO ROCK ANNOUNCES SPRING 2009 B2R BATTLE OF THE BANDS

*Student Bands from Elementary School through High School Showcased At 9:30 Club
Saturday, May 16, 11 am to 3 pm, Sunday, May 17, 10 am to 3 pm and
Saturday June, 6, 3 pm to 6 pm.*

Bethesda, Maryland, May 5, 2009— Jeff Levin, President of Bach to Rock, today announced that the Spring, 2009 B2R Battle of the Bands takes place at the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC. The 4th edition of the B2R Battle of the Bands brings together more than 250 local students enrolled in B2R's Jam Program who showcase their talent and compete for the title.

Due to increased enrollment, this semester's Battle of the Bands is B2R's biggest show ever, spread out over three performances by category, including Elementary (Saturday, May 16), Middle (Sunday, May 17) and High School (Saturday, June 6). There are 62 bands playing both original songs and popular hit singles.

"We see bands in every age group that bring the house down," said Levin. "The judges are always surprised at how professional some of the bands sound. But most importantly everyone is having fun and learning in the process."

B2R's method is based on the knowledge that students learn best when they join together to play the music they like the most. The curriculum uses age-appropriate arrangement of both popular and traditional music, along with such innovations as special instrument tunings to accommodate small hands and the use of professional recording technology to provide students with instant feedback. Students are rewarded with Platinum, Gold and Silver Record plaques as they progress through the levels of B2R's curriculum.

Battling bands are evaluated on musicianship, ensemble precision and stage presence. The winning bands in each category are determined by a panel of judges that includes prominent musicians, educators, DJs and music writers. Winners receive a gold, silver, or bronze-record plaque and a chance to work with a professional audio engineer to record original material in B2R's state-of-the-art recording studios. The winners' performance is also posted and promoted on the B2Rmusic.com website, as well as on B2R's [Facebook](#) and [MySpace](#) pages.

This year's judges include **Greg Szeto**, the Editor in Chief of Aural States, **Valerie Paschall**, the DCist's local music connoisseur, **Patrick Gough**, of area band Imperial China, **Eamon Carrig**, President of FARC records, **Travis Bagwell**, weeknight DJ of DC101, and **Jason Hamacher**, a legend of the DC Punk scene.

Tickets for the Battle of the Bands are \$5/each. They can be purchased at B2R schools or at the 9:30 Club door on the day of the event. The 9:30 Club is located at 815 V Street, NW, in Washington, DC. The Elementary School battle begins at 11am, Middle School at 10 am, and the High School battle will begin at 1pm. Winners will be announced at the end of each event. More information on the Battle of the Bands and on B2R can be found at www.b2rmusic.com

About the Judges

Greg Szeto

Greg is the Editor in Chief of Aural States, Baltimore's premier music blog, founded in 2007. Aural States has been voted Best Local Blog by the Baltimore City Paper.

Valerie Paschall

Valerie writes for local blog The DCist. She has featured several local bands in her "3 Stars" write-ups, and opines on the local live music scene on a weekly basis.

Patrick Gough

Patrick played drums in the Washington, DC-based band Pitchblende, which toured nationally and released three CDs on prominent independent labels. He is currently in the local band Imperial China, set to release its first full-length CD later this year.

Eamon Carrig

Eamon is the President of FARC records and performs in the band Math Panda. In the past, he acquired extensive tour management experience with several prominent bands.

Travis Bagwell

Travis is DC 101's weeknight DJ, and a DC institution. He is originally from Virginia.

Jason Hamacher

Jason was the drummer for the bands Frodus, The Dechahedron, Mancake, and Battery. He has managed several bands, including the Dillinger Escape Plan.

About Bach to Rock

Bach to Rock is a music education program for students of all ages from early childhood through high school and beyond. The B2R system is based on the belief that learning music is fun and students learn best when they play music they enjoy. Weekly ensemble instruction and jam sessions lead to public concerts, Battle of the Bands and recording sessions in B2R's professional recording studios. B2R builds technique, fosters teamwork and enhances self esteem through private lessons, band instruction, and public performance. Schools are located in Bethesda, Maryland, Gaithersburg, Maryland, McLean, Virginia, South Riding, Virginia, and Lansdowne, Virginia. For more information visit www.b2rmusic.com or call 1.877.B2R.8558 (1.877.227.8558).

About the 9:30 Club

Winner of both Billboard's and Pollstar's Nightclub of the Year, the 9:30 Club (www.930.com) is the inimitable place bands aspire to play and music fans love to attend – a destination for locals and people across the country. Gracing the stage have been legends Bob Dylan, Dolly Parton, Al Green, and James Brown; recently discovered acts like The Arctic Monkeys, Wolfmother, Katy Perry and Lily Allen, and arena acts looking for an intimate club play such as Justin Timberlake, the Smashing Pumpkins and Foo Fighters. The 9:30 Club is located at 9th and V streets, NW, Washington, D.C.

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