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BACH TO ROCK ANNOUNCES JUDGES FOR WINTER 2009 B2R BATTLE OF THE BANDS

*Judges Include Area Musician, Writer and Producer for Contests At 9:30 Club
Saturday, December 19, 11 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, December 20, Noon to 6 pm*

Bethesda, Maryland, Dec 15, 2009— Jeff Levin, Founder of Bach to Rock, today announced that Judges for this season's B2R Battle of the Bands are prominent area musicians, writers and producers Patrick Rainey, Rob 'Kalani' Tifford, Dave Mallan, and Susan Thweatt. The Winter B2r Battle of the Band takes place at the 9:30 Club in Washington, DC. The 5th edition of the B2R Battle of the Bands brings together more than 280 local students enrolled in B2R's Jam Program who will showcase their talent and compete to win the contest.

Due to increased enrollment, this semester's Battle of the Bands is B2R's biggest show ever, spread out over two days by school location. Students from Maryland schools will perform on Saturday, December 19th from 11 am to 6 pm, and students from Virginia schools will perform Sunday, December 20th from Noon to 6 pm. This season there will be 70 bands playing both original songs and popular hit singles.

"This year's judges are going to have a ball," said Levin. "Our bands are better than ever and we know the kids will be rockin' the house all weekend. Judges give feedback to each band following their performance, and we find it really helps the students grow as musicians. Audiences and judges are always surprised at how professionally the B2R bands perform with children who range in age from 8 years old to 18. 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 B2Rs state-of-the-art recording studios. The winners' performance is also posted and promoted on the **B2Rmusic.com** website, as well as on B2Rs **Facebook** and **MySpace** pages.

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. 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

Patrick Rainey

Musician, producer and songwriter, Patrick Rainey is a member of the popular band *The Bridge* which records with Hyena Records. Patrick and the "The Bridge" play about 200 shows a year, have been on 4 national tours, 3 international tours, and have played 30 major music festivals in 5 countries.

Dave Mallen

Dave is a talented producer/engineer, multi-instrumentalist, performing singer/songwriter, film composer, and owner of Innovation Station Music, a music production company and recording studio based in Arlington, VA. Dave founded [Innovation Station Music](http://www.innovationstationmusic.com) several years ago to be an "incubator" for emerging local talent. Dave has produced recordings and provided music business services for dozens of artists from the DC area and beyond, and his work has generated numerous accolades and award-winning songs.

Suzanne Thweatt

Suzanne Thweatt is currently pursuing a second Master's Degree at The New School in New York City. She works for Warner Music Group as the Washington DC/ Baltimore area College Rep. She does publicity, marketing, and sets up promotions for artists when they tour the DC area. Prior to working with Warner Music Group, she was the East Coast Correspondent for British Indie Rock-N-Roll zine Black Velvet Magazine for several years. She wrote CD reviews, concert reviews, interviewed musical artists, photographed artists and penned a column called Rockin' America and attended up to 100 concerts per year.

Rob 'Kalani' Tifford

Rob 'Kalani' Tifford runs Gypsy Eye Records, a local record company that looks to better the relationship between local artists and music fans across the country through increased marketing and licensing of more traditional sounding local music, while also offering artists an opportunity to nurture their musical development in a secure and supportive environment. The label is the creation of four well connected D.C. music fans. Rob has also worked with [ESL Music](http://www.esl-music.com) and [Thievery Corporation](http://www.thievery.com).

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).

CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENT

B2R Battle of the Bands at the 9:30 Club. More than 280 local students ages 8-18, enrolled in B2R's Jam Program play original songs and hit singles and compete for prizes.

Maryland students perform Saturday, December 19th, 11 am - 6 pm, Virginia students perform Sunday, December 20th Noon - 6 pm.

Tickets are \$5. They can be purchased at B2R or on the day of the event at the 9:30 Club, 815 V Street, NW, Washington, DC. Winners are announced at the end of each event. Information at www.b2rmusic.com

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