BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech kicks off a summer of free live concerts June 2—Aug 4

New York debut of The Hallelujah Train, an all-star gospel band featuring Brian Blade, Pastor Brady Blade Sr., and Daniel Lanois

June 2: Zapp
June 9: William Bell and Band featuring John Leventhal
June 16: Mali Music
June 23: The Fat Afro Latin Jazz Cats
June 30: George Gray Groove Coalition featuring Jazzmeia Horn
July 7: The Fatback Band
July 14: King Sunny Ade
July 21: The Hallelujah Train featuring Pastor Brady Blade, Sr., Daniel Lanois, Brian and Brady Blade Jr., and more
July 28: Ladies Sing the Blues starring Catherine Russell, Brianna Thomas, and Charanee Wade
Aug 4: Dee Dee Bridgewater with Theo Crocker

Forest City Ratner Companies is the Presenting Sponsor of BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech

BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech
Thursdays, 12noon—2:00pm, June 2—August 4
Free admission, MetroTech Commons at MetroTech Center
Produced by Danny Kapilian

"New York City's best daytime festival..."—The Village Voice

Brooklyn, NY/May 10, 2016—BAM announces the 2016 BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech. Now in its 22nd year, the festival continues to feature R&B legends alongside groundbreaking emerging artists with 10 free outdoor concerts from June 2 through August 4. This year's lineup features The Hallelujah Train, an all-star gospel band featuring legendary jazz drummer Brian Blade, his father Pastor Brady Blade Sr., and Grammy-winning producer and guitarist Daniel Lanois. The Hallelujah Train is presented in association with Lincoln Center Out of Doors.

Event producer Danny Kapilian says, "The 2016 BAM R&B Festival at Metrotech focuses on groove masters, songwriter masters, and vocal masters. Of course a great groove frequently happens in the course of a great song which may be sung by a killing lead vocalist, so expect lines to blur. Our groove masters include two wildly entertaining 1970s and 1980s legends of funk and disco-soul - Zapp and the Fatback Band. The Afro Latin Jazz Cats bring virtuoso latino grooves and moves. George Gray's Groove Coalition (dig: groove in the title), with acclaimed new star singer Jazzmeia Horn, knows the sweet spot where jazz and R&B criss-crossed in the 1970s and updates that vibe to now. Nigerian guitar genius King Sunny Ade virtually invented a West Africa meets Southern Soul groove and his 1980 smash hit album Juju Music became a best-selling international classic. Our songwriter masters are two artists who are three generations apart. Stax soul original William Bell wrote that if it weren't for bad luck he'd have had no luck at all, but in fact his great composing talent and stage presence have always been there. On the contemporary scene, Mali Music (Jamaal Pollard) is a
composer/performer/producer whose original music was featured in Spike Lee's 2015 film *Chiraq*, and Mali Music was featured on camera in Spike's 2016 Michael Jackson documentary. Our other three concerts feature standout lead vocalists. The Hallelujah Train is a one-of-a-kind gospel performance organized by drummer extraordinaire Brian Blade and starring his father Pastor Brady Blade Sr., a giant of a preacher on lead vocals. The all-star band includes Daniel Lanois and Tony Scher. Ladies Sing The Blues stars three of today's greatest female jazz and blues singers: Catherine Russell, Brianna Thomas, and Charanee Wade. Finally, we close on August 4 with Dee Dee Bridgewater, a living legend of jazz, blues, Broadway, and popular music vocals, and one of the greatest entertainers in the world.

The free lunchtime performances will be held Thursdays at noon at MetroTech Commons, located at the corner of Flatbush and Myrtle Avenues, rain or shine. For more information, call BAM Ticket Services at 718.636.4100 or visit BAM.org.

For press information on the MetroTech R&B Festival, please contact Christian Barclay at cbarclay@BAM.org or 718.724.8044.

**About the artists:**

**Zapp**
Thu, Jun 2, 12noon—2:00pm
The members of Zapp have been playing boisterous, bass-soaked funk together for over four decades, rising to prominence after they were discovered by the legendary George Clinton in the late 1970s. Known for singles like “More Bounce to the Ounce,” “Doo Wa Ditty,” and “I Can Make You Dance,” their performances are as heavy on space-age talkbox distortion as they are on dazzling showmanship.

**William Bell and Band featuring John Leventhal**
Thu, Jun 9, 12noon—2:00pm
Soul icon William Bell is known both as a powerhouse performer and dextrous songwriter, having penned some of the most enduring hits of the influential Stax Records label, including "Born Under a Bad Sign" and “You Don’t Miss Your Water.” At age 76, he’s touring in support of his first album in nearly four decades, an intimate suite that sets his grainy voice loose on everything from mid-tempo grooves to classically Bell ballads.

**Mali Music**
Thu, Jun 16, 12noon—2:00pm
Savannah-based singer-songwriter Mali Music, also known as Jamaal Pollard, exploded onto the R&B scene with his 2014 debut album *Mali Is...*, which earned him a Grammy nomination, followed by the powerful track “Contradiction” for Spike Lee’s 2015 film *Chiraq*. A multi-instrumentalist with staggering range, he draws from hip-hop and neo-soul to build driving, lyrically rich songs onto rock-solid gospel foundations.

**The Fat Afro Latin Jazz Cats**
Thu, Jun 23, 12noon—2:00pm
This all-star youth orchestra comprises gifted young musicians from across the five boroughs. Helmed by Grammy-winning composer and bandleader Arturo O’Farrill, the Fat Afro Latin Jazz Cats deliver highly danceable classics from the big band Latin jazz repertory, including works by Tito Puente, Machito, and Chico O’Farrill.
George Gray Groove Coalition featuring Jazzmeia Horn
Thu, Jun 30, 12noon—2:00pm
Baltimore-based drummer George Gray is a versatile beat-making machine, having toured with the likes of Stevie Wonder; Earth, Wind & Fire; Cassandra Wilson; Chuck Berry; Abdullah Ibrahim; and Janet Jackson. Singer Jazzmeia Horn won the 2015 Thelonious Monk Institute International Jazz Competition, channeling the best of Betty Carter and Sarah Vaughn. At MetroTech, they unite with like-minded denizens of the groove for an afternoon of funk and soul in the sunshine.

The Fatback Band
Thu, Jul 7, 12noon—2:00pm
This seminal New York City funk and disco band, now in its fourth decade of performing, is responsible for driving hits like “Backstrokin’,” “Gotta Get My Hands on Some (Money),” and “King Tim III (Personality Jock),” which is considered by many to be the first-ever rap recording. Legendary drummer Bill “Fatback” Curtis is the group’s indomitable leader, propelling horns, guitar, bass, and background vocals with “street funk” beats inspired by rhythms from New Orleans and the Caribbean alike.

King Sunny Ade
Thu, Jul 14, 12noon—2:00pm
King Sunny Ade is the undisputed king of juju, the high-energy, highly danceable hybrid of Western pop and traditional African music with roots in the guitar tradition of Nigeria. Boasting a diverse roster of collaborators including Youssou N’Dour and Stevie Wonder, Ade has also been an influence on Talking Heads and David Bowie. He comes to MetroTech as part of his first North American tour in eight years.

The Hallelujah Train featuring Pastor Brady Blade Sr., Daniel Lanois, Brian and Brady Blade Jr., and more
Thu, Jul 21, 12noon—2:00pm
Co-presented with Lincoln Center Out of Doors
Called “the most imaginatively supple drummer in jazz” (The New York Times), drummer Brian Blade (Wayne Shorter, Joni Mitchell), began playing at Shreveport’s Zion Baptist Church, where his father — the spine-shaking Pastor Brady Blade, Sr. — has presided for over 50 years. For the Hallelujah Train, the sanctuary moves to the stage with Grammy-winning producer-guitarist Daniel Lanois (Bob Dylan, U2, Peter Gabriel), and special guests joining for a live gospel project like no other.

Ladies Sing the Blues featuring Catherine Russell, Charenee Wade, and Brianna Thomas
Thu, Jul 28, 12noon—2:00pm
Jazz diva Catherine Russell, a staple at Jazz at Lincoln Center, is joined by vocalists Brianna Thomas and Charenee Wade to pay impassioned tribute to the great female blues singers of the 1920s: Bessie Smith, Mamie Smith, Ma Rainey, and Ethel Waters. Backed by a seven-piece band, led by pianist Mark Shane, the trio delves into the catalog of 1920s and 30s legends.

Dee Dee Bridgewater with Theo Croker
Thu, Aug 4, 12noon—2:00pm
Legendary entertainer Dee Dee Bridgewater has won a great many things, among them: three Grammy Awards for her work as a jazz vocalist, a Tony Award for her role in The Wiz on Broadway, and the hearts and ears of a nation as the host of NPR’s JazzSet. At MetroTech she is joined by celebrated trumpeter and composer Theo Croker, who is blazing his own sensational path while honoring the legacy of his grandfather, jazz icon Doc Cheatham.
Credits
Forest City Ratner Companies is the Presenting Sponsor of The R&B Festival at Metro Tech.

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Directions
MetroTech Center is situated in the Civic Center / Borough Hall area of Downtown Brooklyn. The BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech concert stage is located on the lawn at MetroTech Commons.

By Subway:
2, 3 to Hoyt Street and walk two blocks north on Bridge Street
2, 3, 4, 5 to Borough Hall station and walk five blocks east
R to Lawrence Street Station
A, C, F to Jay Street/MetroTech, exit at Myrtle Promenade.

By Bus:
The B25, B26, B38, B41, B45, B51, B52, B54, B61, B63, B67, and B75 all stop within a three-block radius of MetroTech Center.

By Car:
Public parking is available at One and Two MetroTech Center. The entrance to Parking Lot P is on Lawrence and Bridge Streets between Willoughby Street and the Myrtle Promenade or at The Gallery at MetroTech. The entrance to the Parking Lot is at the intersection of Flatbush, Willoughby, and Gold Streets.

Please call 718.636.4100 or visit www.BAM.org for more information about the BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech.

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