



VELVET UNDERGROUND: Sounds like it's going to be a rockin' weekend

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Miami is becoming a real artist's colony lately. First we get Art Basel, and now, the first-ever Miami Music Festival, a three-day gathering of artists created in the likeness of Austin's famous South By Southwest and featuring a slew of performances by musicians of all genres at places like Transit Lounge and Tobacco Road.

Best of all, many of the music showcases aren't solely reserved for conventioners. BMI's Pop Rock Showcase at Transit Lounge on Friday has a sizeable program featuring several buzzworthy bands: Alexander, Alex Cuba, Jacob Jeffries, Awesome New Republic, Fancy Me Yet and Mirror Pal. Shows start at 8 p.m. and go until 2:30 a.m. Entry is free for registered festival attendees but only \$10 if you don't have a fancy nametag. For more events and schedules go to www.miamimusicfestival.org.

Adding to what's already shaping up to be a pretty melodic weekend is the Friends of the New World Symphony's annual holiday fundraising event at the Lincoln Theatre on Saturday, AMPED! Not typically a place for headbanging, the theater will be transformed into a rocker's paradise with music and video showcase featuring 800 NWS fellows performing everything from Radiohead and Aphex Twin to Guns 'N' Roses, Led Zeppelin and the Doors. After the performance everyone can party like a rock star with open bar, food, and music until the wee hours. Tickets are free for members of the organization and \$50 for non members. Show begins at 9 p.m.; party follows until 2 a.m. To purchase tickets, email Stacey.Glassman@nws.edu or call 305-428-6732.

The Junior League of Miami is also throwing a big fundraiser, Miami Magic, from 7 p.m.-midnight Friday at the Four Seasons. Revelers will be treated to wine and cheese pairings, buffet dinner and champagne dessert party with live music. Honorees include chef and child nutrition advocate Michelle Bernstein, breast cancer activist Andrea Ivory and classroom crusader James Rosenberg. Proceeds benefit assorted projects of the JLM. Tickets range from \$125 for the wine and cheese party, \$75 for the dessert and champagne party or \$250 for the whole shebang. For more information go to www.jlmiami.org.

After all the partying, consider stopping by Wicked Wednesdays at 1160 Hair, 1160 Kane Concourse, where from 3-9 p.m. every other hump day, you can get free drinks, food, entertainment and specials on assorted salon services as well.

Or maybe you're already New Year's Eve ready. If so, we have some early announcements. The party everyone's talking about is the one at the Fontainebleau, where Lady Gaga signed on to host and perform after her sold-out show earlier that night at the James L. Knight Center. The poolside event starts at 9 p.m. with DJ David Berrie warming up the crowd. Tickets don't come cheap to this spectacle, ranging from \$375 general admission (includes open bar) to \$35,000 for what we hope is at least a lap dance from the Lady herself. For more info, go to www.newyears.com or call 877-854-4389.

At Cameo's NYE party, Canadian rapper and Rolling Stone's 2009 Artist to Watch Drake performs. General admission, which includes open bar from 9 p.m. to midnight, is \$200 for guys, \$50 for gals. Tickets are available at www.wantickets.com.

Mansion's got Greek-Swedish DJ, producer and one-third of Swedish House Mafia Steve Angello for New Year's Eve. General admission for guys (\$200) and girls (\$75) includes open bar from 9 to midnight. Tickets are at www.wantickets.com.

Last but not least (for now anyway): New Year's Eve at the W South Beach features performances by Kid Cudi with a "musical interlude by John Legend." Open bar from 9 p.m. until midnight. General admission is \$300 for men; for ladies, \$75. Tickets at www.wantickets.com.

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