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March 5, 2007

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## **MUZAK HEART & SOUL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BATTLE OF THE BANDS COMPETITORS**

### **Eight Local High School "Garage" Bands Gain Priceless Experience, Compete for Prize Packages to Launch Music Industry Careers**

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Charlotte, NC — Rekles Youth, Burning Blind, Funkquistadors, Caspian, The Verge, Axiom, Chris Turnum and Bubonik Funk. These eight bands, fronted by high school students from Mecklenburg and surrounding counties, will take the stage Saturday night in the first-ever Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation Battle of the Bands. Adoring fans will crowd the Neighborhood Theatre in NoDa, local celebrities will judge their 12-minute sets, and the judges and audience members will cast their votes. At the end of the night, three winners will be announced — and every band will be one step closer to realizing their dreams of a career in the music industry.

"Just to be part of the Battle, each band had to complete a pretty rigorous — and educational — process," said Neely Vasher, Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation coordinator. "They had to register their band online, including submitting an online press kit, and audition for a panel of judges. Some came from as far away as Rock Hill, Wingate, and Statesville just to audition. They'll be so much more experienced than many of their peers when they try to break into the competitive music business," said Vasher.

The Battle of the Bands will kick off at 8pm, Saturday March 10, at the Neighborhood Theatre (511 E. 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Charlotte, NC 28205). The top three bands will receive one of three prize packages that will propel students even further along their career paths. First prize includes:

- 16 hours of recording studio time at Gat3 Productions to create a professionally-recorded demo
- A scholarship to [Noise! 2007](#) for all high school members of the band (15 to 17 years old)
- One-year Sonicbids subscription
- One-year Onlinegigs subscription
- One song played within a Muzak program that is heard by over 100 million people every day
- \$100 gift certificate from Sam Ash Music
- One copy of Battle of the Bands Video Production for personal promotional use
- 200 copies of band's demo produced by Muzak for band to distribute or sell

“The mission of the Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation is to expand and redefine the scope of music education,” said president Bob Cauley. “The experience we can offer local high school students through the Battle of the Bands is a huge step towards this goal. These students have a passion for music — and getting the chance to perform and to receive constructive feedback from really knowledgeable music critics is priceless. In that sense, every band is a winner,” said Cauley.

The Battle of the Bands serves another purpose — to raise awareness for the Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation’s Noise! camp. Noise! is a two week camp held every summer in Los Angeles. During Noise!, 32 students ages 15 – 17 gather in L.A. to meet with and learn from dozens of members of the music industry. Noise! participants receive full scholarships to learn about the careers available to them in the music industry from record label producers, music critics, event promoters, artist managers, Audio Architects and other industry insiders.

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After experiencing music industry careers firsthand and making valuable contacts, many Noise! participants go on to exceptional professional accomplishments. Most recently, Noise! graduate Quentin Bethea, a Noise! 2005 alum, received a full scholarship to Berklee College of Music in Boston. He was also selected two years in a row to be one of 24 students to participate in the Gibson/Baldwin Grammy Jazz Ensemble, where he traveled to L.A. for eight days — performing with jazz greats such as Barry Harris, Hank Jones, Oscar Peterson, Kirk Wahlum, Ivan Neville and more. He also attended the 48<sup>th</sup> Annual Grammy’s and performed live at a Grammy after-party, and is set to record at Capitol Recording Studios.

Noise! 2007 will be held July 15 – 27 at California State University Northridge in Los Angeles. To learn more about Noise!, please visit [www.heart.muzak.com](http://www.heart.muzak.com).

The Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation was established in 1998 by Muzak, the world’s leading business music and messaging provider. Muzak believes in the power of music to change lives. The Foundation’s mission is to redefine and expand the scope of music education. Heart & Soul helps students turn their passion for music into real world opportunities — by providing teens with new and exciting programs focused on all aspects of the music business. To learn more about the Muzak Heart & Soul Foundation, please visit [www.heart.muzak.com](http://www.heart.muzak.com).

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**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The competing bands represent a wide geographic area. The breakdown is as follows:

Charlotte:	Bubonik Funk
Fort Mill:	Funkquistadors, Caspian, Chris Turnum & Axiom
Rock Hill:	Burning Blind
Statesville:	The Verge
Wingate:	Rekles Youth