



**For Immediate Release:**  
**Nancy Phares 248.390.7340**

## ***MICHIGAN MUSIC MEGA JAM RETURNS***

### **MONDAY SEPTEMBER 5, 1-4 PM**

### ***At the Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair in Novi***

*Novi, MI:* The Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair is all about celebrating Michigan's great abundance of tremendous resources and famous exports...Agriculture, Automobiles –and MUSIC! The 2016 Fifth Third Bank Michigan State Fair will be open Thursday, September 1- Monday September 5 at the Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave in Novi. Advance Tickets are on sale now at [www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com](http://www.MichiganStateFairLLC.com). The Michigan Music Mega Jam will be Monday, September 5 at 1:00 PM on the Main Stage

The second annual Monday Michigan Mega Jam, presented by **the Metro Times**, will joyfully honor the state's diverse musical legacy--with a multi-genre All-Star Revue. Featuring shining Michigan stars **Thornetta Davis, Jill Jack, Sean Blackman, Brandon Calhoon, Steffanie Christi'an, Yorg Stormrunner, Caleb Gutierrez, Tosha Owens**, plus **2014 Michigan State Fair Superstar Alison Albrecht and 2015 State Fair Superstar Carly Bins**, and hosted by artist/producer **Nadir Omowale**, this phenomenal array of vocalists will be backed by the powerhouse roots and blues band **Saint Cecilia (Brett Lucas, James Simonson, and Todd Glass)** with special guest keyboardist **Chris Codish** of the **Brothers Groove**, and it's all anchored by **DJ Psycho** of the **Detroit Techno Militia!**

"The mission of this All-Star Michigan Jam Band Dream Team performance is to showcase the amazing depth and wide spectrum of Michigan musical talent for the world at large," says Mega Jam producer and host **Nadir Omowale**. "Michigan has a uniquely diverse musical heritage and an incredibly talented music community. Choose any genre. From rock to hip hop to jazz to soul to country to techno, Michigan boasts so many powerful artists, it's challenging to name them all. We want to honor and celebrate an array of these legendary artists and songwriters, through the decades, and also show off some of the best current artists the state has to offer. These same performers also happen to be widely regarded as some of the most talented in the world, in their respective genres."

These glittering artists, each a star in their own musical galaxy, will again be backed by **Saint Cecilia**, the stellar All-Star house band, two of whom also tour the globe with famous Detroit Blues legend Bettye LaVette. The Mega Jam band will perform both original songs and classics by favorite Michigan artists and songwriters, spanning various genres from Motown to Rock to Gospel. Detroit Techno Militia's DJ Psycho will spin all Michigan music before, after and in between!

### ***THORNETTA DAVIS***

Detroit's Queen of the Blues, multi-talented native Detroiter, Thornetta Davis has reigned over Michigan's most attended events for nearly 30 years. This singer-songwriter, recording artist and winner of over 30 Music Awards has recorded with legends Bob Seger and Kid Rock and has electrified audiences world wide with tours to Europe, and has performed Music festivals in Italy, Tunisia, Switzerland, Sweden, France, Canada, Norway and throughout the United States. Thornetta is currently supporting the release of her new CD "Honest Woman".

### ***JILL JACK***

Since 1997 Detroit native Jill Jack has won a total of 38 Detroit Music Awards in every conceivable category that is applicable to a singer-songwriter. Much of this perennial success can be attributed to her charming stage presence and emotive songwriting. She consistently sells out shows throughout the Midwest and has cemented a strong reputation as a headliner at venues and festivals throughout the United States and the United Kingdom.

### ***SEAN BLACKMAN***

Sean Blackman is well known as the premier performer of world music in Detroit. This amazing composer, producer and master of the acoustic nylon string guitar is known for both his show stopping large ensemble musical extravaganzas and for spell-binding intimate duo and solo performances.

### ***BRANDON CALHOON***

Brandon Calhoon is a grass roots rock and soul singer based out of Metro Detroit. Brandon kick-started his career when he became the dark horse favorite on the short lived "RockStar" TV series, "RockStar: INXS." After the TV show, Brandon returned to Michigan where he wrote and recorded several albums. He was consequently nominated for several Detroit Music Awards, including "Best New Artist" and "Best Rock Record." In 2010 his song "Detroit City" was featured on FX's hit TV show "Justified."

In early 2015, Brandon's song "Lost to be Found" was chosen as the theme song for CBS's new show "Battle Creek"...And his song "That's What I'm Talkin' About" has been featured on a local Detroit Chevy dealers commercial.

### ***STEFFANIE CHRISTI'AN***

Rock goddess Steffanie Christi'an is currently on a powerful roll. She's spent years working with Detroit legends like Big Proof, Amp Fiddler, and Jessica Care Moore, and performing around the region with a variety of rock, soul, funk and country bands. But after the release of her debut album, Way Too Much, in 2014, Steffanie's star has begun to rise. Over the past year, she has toured the Southeast and Midwest as a solo artist, toured France as part of the Black Rock Coalition, and rocked stages as part of emcee Talib Kweli's national touring band. She is currently wrapping up her sophomore album entitled, "It's Complicated."

### ***YORG STORMRUNNER***

Lead vocalist/songwriter/multi-instrumentalist/arranger/producer Yorg Stormrunner has been a fixture on the Detroit music scene for many years. He spent ten years in the popular band Bump, touring nearly all the continental US (46 states) and opening for legendary bands such as The Black Crowes, Umphrey's McGee, Hanson, The Samples, Chad Valley, Karl Denson and many more.

Recently, Yorg was the winner of the 2015 Detroit Music Awards' Best Electronic/Dance Single with his electronic project FLASHCLASH, and he has launched a career as producer/CEO of his own record label. He works as a staff writer/arranger/producer for Yessian Music in the metro Detroit area, and is an actor as well, with several film credits to his name.

### ***CALEB GUTIERREZ***

Southwest Detroit's own Caleb Gutierrez is one of the hottest male singing artists in the Motor City. We have heard the Latin soul shouter's distinctive voice resonating throughout the concert halls and nightclubs of Detroit as the popular lead singer of The Infatuations. But now Caleb has chosen to embark on a solo career that promises even more excitement from this talented performer.

### ***TOSHA OWENS***

For years, Detroit's Tosha Owens has performed at Michigan's top nightclubs with artists like Jim McCarty, Belita Woods, Michael Hampton, SRC, Bobby Murray and more. Now she is stepping out with her own band, and the four 2014 Detroit Music Awards on her mantel illustrate that she is moving in the right direction! Tosha is currently in the studio recording her debut album, which promises to showcase her powerful voice and songwriting. Ms. Owens has a longtime following of dedicated fans and new admirers. Why? Because Tosha delivers a unique sound and performance quite unlike any other singer.

### ***ALISON ALBRECHT***

Born and raised in the suburbs of Detroit, 16 year-old Alison Albrecht has been singing for as long as anyone can remember. In the 5th grade she performed at New York's famous Birdland Jazz Club. At 11 she sang her original songs at the Bluebird Cafe in Nashville. Then in 2014 at the age of 14, she won the very first Michigan State Fair Superstar competition where she stunned the judges with her impressive vocal abilities and a songwriting style that is wise beyond her years. Now with the release of her self-titled debut EP, and another EP on the way, Alison is a young veteran, ready to take the music world - and her junior year of high school - by storm.

### ***CARLY BINS***

Ever since her earliest stage performance as a 6-year-old singing in her elementary school's talent show, 2015 State Fair Superstar Carly Bins has lived to perform. Now almost 17 and a metro Detroit high school senior, Carly is an accomplished singer-songwriter with a voice that has been described as a powerful meld of Colbie Caillat, Melissa Etheridge and Taylor Swift. Her striking look and confident stage presence lead many to believe she's far more mature than her actual age. Her debut EP, **3 A.M.**, produced by Chuck Alkazian and Nadir Omowale at Pearl Sound Studios, was released this past spring to strong reviews. Carly has spent summer 2016 playing venues and festivals across the Midwest, including Electric Forest and LaureLive.

### ***THE BAND: SAINT CECILIA***

A few years ago, Detroit heavy hitters Brett Lucas, James Simonson and Todd Glass formed Saint Cecilia, a funky, bluesy Detroit rock 'n' roll power trio. They play around the city when they aren't out touring the world with people like **Bettye Lavette, The Orbitsuns, and The Muggs**. For the Mega Jam they will be joined by stellar keyboardist **Chris Codish** whose work with his own groups The Chris Codish Trio and **The Brothers Groove**, as well as his production work with the late great **Johnnie Bassett** made him one of the top players in town.

### ***THE DJ: Dezi Magby aka DJ PSYCHO***

Flint native DJ Psycho (Dezi Magby) is an artist who poses a challenge to describe adequately at any given moment. He's a DJ that can play any genre you can imagine--a musician, a part-time festival organizer, plus the depth of his music knowledge is incredible. 35 years in the game will earn anyone some stripes! From his days in the early 80's as guitarist and co-composer in Your'z Truly to his current position as Groove Sergeant in the award winning Detroit Techno Militia, DJ Psycho has not only the skills to pay the bills, but the heart to play the part.

### ***THE HOST/PRODUCER: NADIR OMOWALE***

A Tennessee native, but Michigan resident since 1999, Nadir Omowale has won 13 Detroit Music Awards for his own unique brand of funk, rock and soul music. He has also produced, recorded and mixed a variety of projects in many different genres including techno, traditional jazz, alt-country, hard rock, funk, blues and soul for artists like **Jessica Care Moore, Underground Resistance, The Reverend Ortheia Barnes, The Infatuations, Paul Miles, Joe Jaber, Steffanie Christi'an, Alison Albrecht** and more. He is widely admired in the music community for his genre melding skills, electrifying stage presence and stellar producer's ear.



From left: Thornetta Davis, Caleb Gutierrez, Jill Jack, Dezi Magby (aka DJ Psycho), Steffanie Christi'an, Brandon Calhoon, Alison Albrecht, Yorg Stormrunner, Brett Lucas, Nadir Omowale, Chris Codish, James Simonson, Sean Blackman, Tosha Owens, Todd Glass.

**For hi-res images, interviews or in-studio performances, please contact Nancy Phares, 248.390.7340  
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