



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Page 1 of 1

Hix Brothers Teen Band and Music Showcase feature up-and-coming young musicians

Naperville, Ill. — There aren't too many places for teen musicians to play, but for the past three years, Naper Days has opened up its Main Stage to up-and-coming young bands. This year, the Hix Brothers Teen Band Showcase begins at 11 a.m. Sunday, June 21, on the Main Stage during Naper Days, a family-friendly festival held over Father's Day weekend at Naper Settlement, 523 S. Webster St. For the five members of The New Epidemic, who are freshmen at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, the showcase is a great venue for their music.

"It's a really good experience for teenage bands to come on stage and play," said lead vocalist Connor O'Gorman. "You get on stage and see all the people in the audience – it's an adrenaline rush."

The New Epidemic performs cover songs that range from Van Morrison to Blink 182 and also about a dozen original numbers, written by band members who say their musical inspiration comes from friends and family.

Five other bands will be performing including Bonito Evo, The Fitzjiggles Experience, Scratch n Sniff, Runaway Freight Train, and AKA Foxy. The bands will be followed by the Hix Brothers Teen Band Showcase and the Hix Brothers All-Star Band.

Rick Kasbee, who started the showcase said, "It gives kids an opportunity to be on a large stage and to use the same equipment that Main Stage headliners like The Smithereens and Matthew Sweet used. For kids to have professional staff directing them, it's a pretty cool experience."

The young musicians can get some tips from the veteran performers of Wheelhouse, when they take to the Main Stage at 4 p.m. Sunday. Wheelhouse, Chicago's premier classic rock band, is composed of experienced players from different projects over the past several years. From pop rock, southern rock, heavy rock, light rock, to old rock and new, the band's motto, "Have fun and play well," can apply to young musicians, too.

For more information about Naper Days and the Hix Brothers Teen Band Showcase, visit www.naperdays.org.

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