

MONDAY, JANUARY 19

"Let Freedom Ring" Martin Luther King Memorial Concert at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

This musical celebration hosted by Georgetown University and the Kennedy Center is part of a free daily performance series on the Millennium Stage. Headlining the event will be the Queen of Soul, Aretha Franklin, as well as hip-hop violin duo Nuttin' But Stringz and the Let Freedom Ring Choir, directed by Rev. Nolan Williams, Jr. Mistress of Ceremonies for this event is WUSA's own Andrea Roane. Free tickets will handed out at the center, one per person, in front of the concert hall starting at 4 p.m. The event is to celebrate the work and legacy of slain activist Martin Luther King, Jr. Prior to the concert, a live taping will begin at 1 p.m. for "The Oprah Winfrey Show's Inauguration Celebration," as the talk-show hostess from Chicago will be in the city for Inauguration Day. Tickets for Oprah's show taping, however, are no longer available. Starts at 6 p.m. Free. — Jason Walsh

The Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: 2700 F St. NW, Washington, D.C.; 800-444-1324; www.kennedy-center.org

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

Low Stars with members of Counting Crows —"Crow Stars" History shall be made and music will be played. West Coast-style, laidback folk-rockers The Low Stars team up with two members of the Counting Crows to present The Crow-Stars at the 4th All American Ball. \$300 ticket includes food, drinks and live entertainment. 8 p.m. — Schelby Sweeney

All American Ball: Westin, 1400 M St. NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-429-1700; www.allamericanball.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Vic Chesnutt and Elf Power at the Black Cat

The Athens, Georgia singer-songwriter, who was discovered by Michael Stipe of R.E.M., is bringing his near quarter-of-a-century career of acoustic folk to the Black Cat. Tragically, Chestnutt was partially paralyzed by an automobile accident when he was 18. Chesnutt continued to write and play music, and was discovered by Stipe. He's never let his passion for music be silenced by his continued struggle with his medical condition. Indie rockers Elf Power will be supporting Chesnutt on his return to D.C. Starts at 9 p.m. \$12. — Jason Walsh

Black Cat: 1811 14th St. NW, D.C.; 202-667-4490;

www.blackcatdc.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

Super Diamond at Ram's Head Tavern

Who knew you'd grow up to love those Neil Diamond records your parents used to play? You just can't beat a beers-up singalong to "Sweet Caroline." This tribute band embodies Diamond and his tunes so thoroughly that it transcends creepy homage to light-hearted croon

fest. All the classic hits, \$42.8 p.m. — Schelby Sweeney **Ram's Head Tavern:** 33 West St., Annapolis, MD.; 410-268-4545; www. ramsheadtavern.com

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

Yo! Majesty at the Black Cat One of the Top 11 new bands of 2008 and among the "25 most exciting artists in America right now" according to NME magazine, Yo! Majesty — produced by United Kingdom's electro group HardfeelingsUK — is a funkdafied female hip-hop duo from Tampa, Fla., fresh off their first full release "Futuristically Speaking...Never Be Afraid."The title is appropriate since MC's Shunda K and Jewel B never show fear, spitting out punchy, lyricdriven tracks — most notably in "F***ed Up," "Buy Love," and "Don't Let Go." Although they've been around since 2000 after

Shunda met the gospel-singing



Jewel at a club, they caught national attention with their performance at South by Southwest in 2007. — Alfredo Flores

Black Cat: 1811 14th St. NW, D.C.; 202-667-4490; www.blackcatdc.com

SUNDAY, JAN. 25 — WIN TIX AT WWW.ONTAPONLINE.COM/CONTESTS Reel Big Fish, One Pin Short, Streetlight Manifesto and Tip the Van at the 9:30 Club

Huntington Beach ska/punk kings are coming back east for some more easy skanking fun. Horns and steady beats will be dropping dancehall style in this blend of Orange County street rock and Jamaican-influenced roots rhythms. Reel Big Fish is bringing Streetlight Manifesto from East Brunswick, N.J., the Connecticut ladies from Tip the Van, and One Pin Short from Las Vegas to the party. Supporting their soon-to-be released seventh studio album, "Fame, Fortune, and Fornication," the band hopes fans will break out their dancing shoes and get ready for the beat. Starts at 6:30 p.m. \$25. — Jason Walsh

9:30 Club: 815 V St. NW, D.C.; 202-265-0930; www.930.com

JAN. 27-29 — WIN TIX AT WWW.ONTAPONLINE.COM/CONTESTS

Thievery Corporation at the 9:30 Club

D.C.'s own electronic dub duo will be taking their experimental progressive sounds for a three-night run at the 9:30 Club. Known for their global political themes and explosive live show, Thievery Corporation is supporting its first album in three years, "Radio Retaliation." Though it's a three-night engagement, tickets are selling out quickly. Starts at 7 p.m. \$40. — Jason Walsh

9:30 Club: 815 V St. NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-265-0930; www.930.com

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

"Dancing with the Stars Tour" at the Verizon Center

The fourth season's all-star cast will bring its moves to D.C. at the end of the month. Celebrities Toni Braxton, Lance Bass, Maurice Green and Marlee Matlin will be joined by professional dancers Karina Smirnoff, Derek Hough and Edyta Silwinska for a night of movement and music. The show's popularity had fans glued to their televisions in the final episodes and they have now taken the act on the road in a choreographed performance of perfection. Starts at 7:30 p.m. \$52.50-\$225. — Jason Walsh

Verizon Center: 601 F St. NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-628-3200; www.verizoncenter.com