

MUSIC PICKS

On Tap takes a look at some of the shows you should be attending this month in and around DC.

MONDAY, MAY 5

Scurvy at the Red & the Black



Check out this NY-based experimental, improvisational, jazzy, funky, eclectic group. With The Cutest Puppy in the World, Chic Nerve and Janet and Anthony. 9:30 p.m. \$8. — Robert Fulton

The Red and the Black: 1212 H Street NE, D.C.; 202-399-3201; www.redandblackbar.com

Nayas at the Velvet Lounge



Not a bad way to celebrate Cinco de Mayo — checking out local Latin/reggae/ska outfit Nayas. Drink specials and DJ sets as well. Doors at 9 p.m. \$8. — Robert Fulton

Velvet Lounge: 915 U St., NW, DC; 202-462-3213; www.velvetlounge.com

TUESDAY, MAY 6

Midnight Juggernauts at the 9:30 Club

Don't miss this indie/psychedelic-like Melbourne-based band. Rolling Stone has likened them to a trippier David Bowie, and Spin named them one of the best acts of '08. \$15. — Robert Fulton

9:30 Club: 815 V St., NW; 202-393-0930; www.930.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

Ozomatli at the State Theatre

One of the funkier live shows you'll ever see, the 10-member, California-based Ozomatli returns to our area to jam. The band fuses hip hop, Latin grooves, world beat, and funk aided by a talented horn section. They're so good, they compel even the most inert DC concertgoer to dance. 8:30 p.m. \$22. — Dana Steinberg

State Theatre: 220 N. Washington, Falls Church, VA; 703-237-0300; www.thestatetheatre.com

FRIDAY, MAY 9

Flight of the Conchords at Lisner Auditorium

Formerly New Zealand's fourth-most popular guitar-based digi-bongo acappella-rap-funk-comedy folk duo — better known as "Flight of the Conchords" — Jemaine Clement and Bret McKenzie had to leave their homeland since this bizarre genre was apparently too competitive back home. Their parody songs are of wooing the ladies with lines like "You're so beautiful, like a tree or a high-class prostitute," or, after being heartbroken, "I'm not crying. It's just been raining... on my face." 7 p.m., 10 p.m. — Alfredo Flores

Lisner Auditorium: 730 21st St., NW, D.C.; 202-994-6800; www.lisner.org

Juniper Lane at Fat Tuesday's

There are three great local bands on the bill so picking one for the headline was pretty much arbitrary. Honor by August, No Second Troy and Juniper Lane have all graced On Tap's pages, cover and/or annual compilation CD in the past. All three feature big, guitar driven anthemic rock songs and all are making noise on the national stage: Juniper Lane and NST have both had tracks featured on ESPN in recent months while Honor By August opened for Bon Jovi at the Verizon Center. 8 p.m. \$23. — James Currie

Fat Tuesdays: 10673 Braddock Road., Fairfax, VA; 703-385-5717; www.fatsfairfax.com

SATURDAY, MAY 10

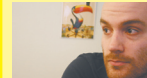
Willy Porter at Jammin' Java



This Midwest acoustic rock singer/songwriter/guitarist is brimming with soul. He improvises quite a bit so every show is unique. Porter's bluesy songs and gorgeous vocals will make you swoon. Bring your date. \$20. — Dana Steinberg

Jammin' Java: 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, VA; 703-255-1566; www.jamminjava.com

Justin Trawick at IOTA Club & Cafe



We're running a big ol' feature story on Mr. Trawick elsewhere in this issue, so, yeah, you can say he's a music pick. Catch him live at IOTA as he releases his new CD, titled, get this, "Live at IOTA." 9 p.m. \$10. — Robert Fulton

IOTA Club & Cafe: 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA; 703-522-8340; www.iotaclubandcafe.com

WEDNESDAY, MAY 14

Matt Keating at St. Elmo's Coffee Pub

Yes, St. Elmo's in Alexandria has some solid live music, including alt-folk-rocker Matt Keating, who is touring in support of his new album, which will be released in July. — Robert Fulton

St. Elmo's Coffee Pub: 2300 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA; 703-739-9268; www.stelmoscoffeepub.com

THURSDAY MAY 15

Serj Tankian at 9:30 Club

System of a Down front man Serj Tankian made waves with his politically outspoken solo album, "Elect The Dead." There's no doubt Tankian is a genius, with lyrics that make you laugh out loud at their absurdity and then seriously think about the message behind it all. Political messages aside, Tankian puts on one hell of a show that you won't want to miss. Tickets are \$25 and the show starts at 7:30 p.m. — Adaora Otiji

9:30 Club: 815 V St., NW; 202-393-0930; www.930.com

Black Light Dance Party at DC9

Dance to the oldies-but-goodies and all the stuff that came afterwards at DC 9's new take on the classic dance party. DJs will be spinning music favorites by famous black artists and artists that have been influenced by them, saluting the legacy of black musicians. Tickets are \$5 and the party starts at 9:30 p.m. — Adaora Otiji

DC9: 1940 9th St. NW, D.C.; 202-483-5000; www.dcnine.com

FRIDAY, MAY 16

Lucky Day at IOTA Club & Cafe

This female-fronted, local pop-rock quartet is hosting CD release parties in several cities this month celebrating the May release of their second album, "Rise and Fall." You'll love their melodious sound, ably led by Victoria Patchen's sweet vocals. Come support them at their hometown show. 9 p.m. \$10. — Dana Steinberg

IOTA Club & Cafe: 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA; 703-522-8340; www.iotaclubandcafe.com

Local H at the Rock and Roll Hotel

If you grew up in the '90s you may not know Local H by name, but their song "Bound For the Floor" defined a generation. The Chicago band is still going strong after all these years and making good music. Whether you're eager to relive the good old days or just listen to something pleasing definitely check out this concert. Show starts at 9:30 p.m. and tickets are \$14. — Adaora Otiji

Rock and Roll Hotel: 1353 H St. NE, D.C.; 202-388-ROCK; www.rockandrollhoteldc.com

The Steeldrivers w/ Cornmeal at The Birchmere

If any current bluegrass band has potential to cross over into the mainstream it's The Steeldrivers. That's not because they water down their sound. Not hardly. Instead, these guys (and a gal) find the high lonesome sound, bring it lowdown and make it rock. The Steeldrivers' stunning debut is full of epic songwriting, gritty, bluesy vocals, and lots of lightning picking. All that's missing is the moonshine. 7:30 p.m. \$20. — Michael Coleman

The Birchmere: 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA; 703-549-7500; www.birchmere.com

SATURDAY, MAY 17

Junior League at the Black Cat



It's always a rollicking sweet good time when these bluegrassers — and On Tap featured artists — bring their unique sounds to the Black Cat main stage. With folk musician and fellow local John Bustine. Fun starts at 9 p.m. Just \$10. — Robert Fulton

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

1Well Launch Party Featuring No Second Troy at the Gibson Showroom

1Well is a new entrepreneurial non-profit whose supporters are helping poor communities



break the cycle of poverty through water, education, agricultural and other life sustaining infrastructure projects. All proceeds at this party — featuring On Tap featured artists No Second Troy — will support 1Well. From 8 to 11 p.m. \$25 minimum donation. Get tickets in advance at www.1well.org. — Robert Fulton

Gibson Showroom: 709 G Street NW, D.C.; 202-518-6189

The Speaks at the 9:30 Club



This just in — the Speaks kick ass. OK, not breaking news — these local rockers are one of the best, most accomplished bands around. Don't miss this On Tap featured artist as they headline a Saturday evening at the 9:30 Club. Definitely worth the \$12. 6 p.m. doors open — Robert Fulton

9:30 Club: 815 V St., NW; 202-393-0930; www.930.com

MONDAY, MAY 19

TAB the Band at the Hard Rock Café

Unabashed three-chord rock and a raw sound that could slide into the rotation on a classic rock station without missing a beat. Perhaps that shouldn't be surprising considering frontmen Adrian and Tony Perry's old man Joe is in little band called Aerosmith. On tracks like "Paid For" they exhibit a punk swagger worthy of all of the "The" bands that seemed to dominate the airwaves a couple of years ago (see Strokes, Whitestripes, et. al.). Benefits the Susan G. Komen Foundation. 9 p.m. — James Currie

Hard Rock Café: 999 E St., NW, Washington, D.C.; 202-737-7625; www.hardrock.com