



THE  
**JUSTICE  
MUSIC PROJECT**  
SOUND JUSTICE FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS

# PRESS KIT

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1. **Various Kitchen Utensils** (2:46), Skybox
2. **Un Pedazo** (4:04), Allá
3. **Shrug It Off** (2:59), Stanley Ross
4. **Grounded** (2:59), Annie Higgins
5. **Viral** (4:59), So Brown
6. **Blue Pill** (6:00), Sub Rosa
7. **Goodbye Little New York** (4:03), Helicopters
8. **The Last Stop** (4:14), The Foster-Walker Complex
9. **Unison** (3:39), Ash in Pensacola
10. **Unkind** (3:11), Rachel Ries
11. **Grenadine** (3:30), Jenny Gillespie
12. **Inside the Mirror** (4:25), Naomi Gongola
13. **TroncoRoca Vientomar** (4:38), Conector
14. **Cadence** (3:35), Jenny Dalton
15. **78 Revolutions** (2:10), El Esqueleto
16. **Sorry** (3:39), The Valley Downs
17. **Jazz Pizzicato** (1:57), Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra

## CD RELEASE & CONCERTS

### CD RELEASE BENEFIT CONCERTS

- July 14      Goose Island
- Jenny Dalton  
El Esqueleto  
Annie Higgins  
Ash in Pensacola  
*Special Guest:* Phistine Verona
- July 20      Martyrs'
- The Foster-Walker Complex  
Skybox  
Helicopters  
Stanley Ross

### BENEFIT CONCERTS

- June 21      Spot 6
- Jenny Gillespie  
El Esqueleto  
Annie Higgins
- August 16      Spot 6
- Pending*
- Others      TBA



## PRESS RELEASE

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June 6, 2006

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Benefit Music Project Brings Indie Sounds to Disability Rights Movement

*Chicago CD Release concerts on July 14 & 20 at Goose Island and Martyrs'*

(CHICAGO) What do Helen Keller, Thrill Jockey Records' Bettina Richards, and 17 indie bands have in common? They are all in the liner notes of a new benefit CD coming out this July to support disability rights in Illinois. Organized by Equip for Equality (EFE), a nonprofit advocacy organization whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities, the **JUSTICE MUSIC PROJECT** (JMP) is a fresh, hip hour-long convergence of independent music submitted by local, national and international performers.

While benefit CDs come and go, few surpass the breadth and quality of the musicians on JMP. There's the soulful folk of Chicago's inimitable Rachel Ries, the retro chamber rock of Ash in Pensacola, the emo-ethnic rhythms of Colombian Hector Buitrago, the bullet-bound Helicopters (in the top 100 of UIC Radio's Hectic But Eclectic rankings) and, to wind up the disc, a pizzicato aperitif of fiddling lawyers from the Chicago Bar Association's Symphony Orchestra.

To help select the final 17 bands from worldwide submissions of over 200 songs, JMP recruited a blue-ribbon panel of music scene execs, including: Paul Farahvar, President & CEO of Shoeshine Boy Productions; Bruce Finkelman, Owner of the Empty Bottle; Sam Hunt, Founder/Co-Editor of Dusted Magazine; Jessica Linker, Owner/President of Pitch Perfect PR; Bettina Richards, Owner/President of Thrill Jockey Records; and Billy Shand, Associate Agent at The Windish Agency, LLC. Each panelists reviewed and scored submissions independently, returning their rankings to EFE for the final tally. JMP provided no restrictions on the type or subject matter of the music and asked only that musicians have a passionate interest in disability rights. Among the winning selections, there are musicians who are also a special

education teacher (Naomi Gongola), a social worker serving individuals with traumatic brain injury (Annie Higgins), a person who experienced disability-related discrimination (Jennifer Boeder of Sub Rosa) and family members of a person with developmental disabilities (Allá).

“Because of the diversity of the disability community, which includes people with mental and physical disabilities as well as of all ethnicities and economic standing, a single rights movement representing this population has been slow to materialize,” says Peter Grosz, EFE Development Director and co-organizer of JMP. “There are over two million individuals in Illinois alone who have disabilities recognized under the ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act]. Often they are not aware of their rights or whether they are being violated.” Equip for Equality and other disability rights organizations have long sought to bring greater public recognition to issues of discrimination, access, independence and inclusion for the disability community. Despite strong laws, serious rights violations against people with disabilities still pervade. Illinois, for instance, is one of the most institutionalizing states in the nation, warehousing thousands of individuals with disabilities who could lead more independent and productive lives in community settings. The disability community overall experiences a 70 percent unemployment rate, fed in large part by such cultural barriers as inadequate access to appropriate education, public transportation and workplace accommodations.

Proceeds from the Justice Music Project support the programs of Equip for Equality, which provides direct legal and advocacy services throughout Illinois to more than 5,000 people with disabilities and their families each year. (Through resale arrangements, organizers are also exploring ways to support peer disability organizations throughout the country.) EFE is the only legal advocacy organization in the state to serve people with all types of disabilities on issues ranging from school segregation to job discrimination, from abuse and neglect to transportation access, as well as to provide investigation services and public policy advocacy. EFE, an independent, nonprofit organization, also has unique federally mandated powers to pursue and investigate disability related issues in public and private institutions, including hospitals, nursing homes and schools.

The CD will be available at JMP benefit concerts, online at [www.equipforequality.org/jmp](http://www.equipforequality.org/jmp), through other organizations serving people with disabilities, and at various retail outlets including Reckless Records, Metropolis Café, Women & Children First Bookstore, and Marakesh Café.

CD release parties will kick off in Chicago on July 14<sup>th</sup> at Goose Island Brewery (3535 N Clark Street) and July 20<sup>th</sup> at Martyrs’ (3855 N Lincoln Avenue).

*Equip for Equality is an independent, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to advance the rights of children and adults with disabilities through self-advocacy assistance, disability rights education, legal services, public policy initiatives, and investigations. EFE’s website at [www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org) provides extensive information on its services and programs.*

## Allá

[www.estiempo.net](http://www.estiempo.net)



Chicago's Allá is the creation of producer Jorge Ledezma, his brother Angel Ledezma, and chanteuse Lupe Martinez. Recorded over four and half years in six different studios in two different continents using over a dozen studios musicians, THIS IS the new ambitious psychedelic pop sound of Latin music. Allá takes sonic cues and production tricks from the Brazilian Tropicalia movement, Motown & R&B, the German krautrock experiments of the early 70's, the lush romantic harmonies of

traditional Mexican Trio music and the Brain Wilson & Phil Spector Wall of Sound symphonic pop nuggets of the '60s. Allá sounds everything and nothing like their forebears.

## Ash in Pensacola

[www.ashinpensacola.com](http://www.ashinpensacola.com)



Having recently released their debut full-length album entitled "When We First Met," Ash in Pensacola is ready to take it to the next level. A taut quartet comprised of guitar, cello, vocals and drums, Chicago based AiP pools folk rock style with chamber-pop savvy to create a solid repertoire. Each member of Ash

in Pensacola brings both their prominent influences and individual style - Kenneth Pritchard: a self taught guitarist who has been performing in groups since age fifteen and who acts as the group's sole songwriter, Seth Gruenwald: a classically trained cellist and composer who serves as both the bassist and string arranger, Matt Roan: a prolific rock drummer in the music community who joined the group after being recruited to fill in for a single performance, and Melinda (Mindi) Maneck: whose perfect pitch and influences ranging from Aretha Franklin to Kelly Clarkson finds just the right niche to complete the band.

## The Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra

The Chicago Bar Association Symphony Orchestra (CBASO), with Maestro David L. Katz, is a 50-piece symphony orchestra affiliated with the Chicago Bar Association. Its membership comes from the Chicago Legal Community. CBASO is now in its 20th year and will be celebrating that anniversary with a special performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony at the Navy Pier Grand Ballroom on September 16, 2006. In accordance with the charitable mission of the CBA, the 20th Anniversary concert net proceeds will go to the Sing To Live Community Chorus (providing support through music for those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer).

## Conector

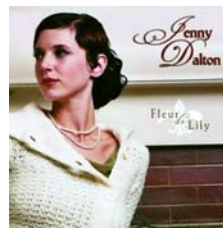
[www.conector.com](http://www.conector.com)



A solo project of Hector Buitrago, "Conector" connects musicians, ideas, and paths resulting in a potent inner perspective of contemporary spirituality. Hector's is best known for his band Aterciopelados, a collaboration with vocalist/guitarist Andrea Echeverri. Aterciopelados has recorded eight albums since they originally teamed up in Bogota, Colombia, in the early '90s as "Delia y los Aminoacidos."

## Jenny Dalton

[www.jennydalton.com](http://www.jennydalton.com)



Minneapolis based Jenny Dalton has just released her debut CD, Fleur de Lily, featuring talented musicians including members of Cloud Cult. Her sound is often compared to Tori Amos, and her LP is filled with ethereal vocals, moody piano, and epic rock ballads.

## The Foster-Walker Complex

[www.thefosterwalkercomplex.com](http://www.thefosterwalkercomplex.com)



The Foster-Walker Complex is a Chicago-based rock band. Their music is smart, expertly constructed indie pop, each song clearly demonstrates the fact the boys know how to write a damn good song. They released their first full length album in January 2006 with acclaimed Chicago producer Matt Allison (of Alkaline Trio and Uncle Tupelo Fame), and with this new record in hand; they are eagerly poised to take the world by storm.

The band saw its inception in early 2004, when the band played its first gig at a fundraiser party in an apartment near Northwestern University. This took off from there- in just a few short months, the band had already made its way to the stages of several prominent Chicago venues, and started performing with both local and nationally renowned acts, including Gavin DeGraw, The Wailers, The Changes, The M's, Duenow, Univeristy, Miggs, Toby Lightman, Bumpus, Mer, The Lawrence Arms, Augustana, The Damnells and Colossal.

## Jenny Gillespie

[www.jennygillespiemusic.com](http://www.jennygillespiemusic.com)



Jenny Gillespie is a singer/song writer based in Chicago, IL. She recorded her first EP, *Love and Ammunition* in Austin, TX. A recipient of a Michener Fellowship in Writing at the University of Texas, she is also a published poet. She has performed at various venues in Chicago including Uncommon Ground, The Pontiac, Martyr's, and Bad Dog Tavern, as well as the Living Room and C-Note in NYC.

## Naomi Gongola

[www.omwardbound.com](http://www.omwardbound.com)



With her passionate vocals, eclectic style, inspiring lyrics, and heartfelt performance, Naomi's music has the ability to reach out beyond borders and bridge the gaps we sometimes feel between each other, ourselves, and our natural world. Awarded by ASCAP for her efforts in songwriting, Naomi's focus has always been on learning and her debut album,

*LIFE LIVES*, is testament to her spirit. "I sing to inspire beauty," Naomi states when asked why she embarked on producing her first album, "and beauty is what happens when we are not judging ourselves. I wanted to make something beautiful that was out of my mind's control...something that only my heart could create." A major source of inspiration for Naomi has been found in her band, The Courteous Rudeboys, a driving force of raw rhythm. The band brings a blend of styles that compliment Naomi's songwriting and instigate booty-shaking.

## Helicopters

[www.ilovehelicopters.com](http://www.ilovehelicopters.com)



When Helicopters took time off from the road in 2003, the goal was irrefutably clear: write, fall in love with, break up with, destroy, build anew, polish, apologize to and ultimately put to bed enough

songs to comprise their first full-length offering. That day has arrived. Helicopters: *How to Fake Fall Asleep*. Transcending the guitar-based rock of their past, Helicopters have driven into the land of electronic pop and come out the other side quite interesting to categorize: too rock to be The Postal Service, too pop to be Beck, too modern to be 80's, too happy to be Radiohead.

## El Esqueleto

[www.myspace.com/elesqueleto](http://www.myspace.com/elesqueleto)



El Esqueleto began performing in March of 2006 out of admiration for the songwriting legacy created and inspired by the American experience. A solo musician and aspiring folk troubadour, Esqueleto got involved with the Justice Music Project to assist in spreading the mission of Equip for Equality. His contribution to the JMP compilation is from his forthcoming studio release *La Lucha Continua*.

## Annie Higgins

[www.anniehiggins.com](http://www.anniehiggins.com)



Born and raised in Chicago, Annie Higgins returns home to share her music with the city she feels most at home in. She just recently returned from living and touring the west coast, headlining such venues as *The Acoustic Playhouse* (Lost Angeles), *Jay's Upstairs* (Missoula, Montana), and *The Gypsy Den* (Orange County). Her style is simple and melodic, reminiscent of such influences as Carol King, Joni Mitchell, and Cat Stevens. Whether she is playing the piano or the guitar, she has the ability to intrigue an audience with unexpected song content.

Her first release, *All These Things*, was a fifteen song album which gained her notoriety in some of the Los Angeles music circles. In L.A., Annie hooked up with producer Ian Christian Nickus to cut *The Chamber Music EP*. She is currently performing and songwriting in Chicago.

## Rachel Ries

[www.rachelries.com](http://www.rachelries.com)



Daughter of Mennonite missionaries, raised in Zaire and Freeman, SD, Rachel Ries performs "Prairie Swing & City Folk." Classically trained in voice, piano, violin and viola, Ries marries sophisticated, vintage musicality to smart lyrics. Like Andrew Bird and Eric McKeown, Ries has developed an urban cult following based on a fresh approach to musical forms of the '20s

and '30s. Recorded analog on vintage microphones, her vocals recall Billie Holiday and early Maria Mulduar, with a self-taught guitar style reminiscent of Mississippi John Hurt. With an adventurous ear for melody and a voice flexible enough to accomplish it, Ries' songs range from the romantic simplicity of jazz standards to the distilled intensity of poet Anne Sexton. Now twenty-six and a Chicago resident, Ms. Ries has performed her music from Seattle to Brooklyn, Texas to Toronto, Chicago to the UK and back. She currently tours solo, with Vermont's Anais Mitchell, and the Tin Pan Caravan, an eclectic songwriters-in-the-round. In the summer of 2005, Waterbug Records released Ries' second full-length, *For You Only*.

## Skybox

[www.myspace.com/skybox](http://www.myspace.com/skybox)



Hailing from Chicago Illinois, the five-piece Indie/Pop group known as Skybox has managed to attract a lot of attention for themselves. Their phenomenal debut LP, *Arco Iris*, was recorded by Jamie Woolford of The Stereo and mastered by Jason Livermore (Rise Against, The Ataris, MxPx), bringing them a growing national audience and airplay on independent and college stations. Having already shared the stage with The Honorary Title, Jack's Mannequin, The Format, Wak-

ing Ashland, Steel Train, Reubens Accomplice, Dios Malos, Mellowdrone, and many others, Skybox is scheduled to complete a nationwide tour in support of their upcoming album. Perhaps it is because of their utterly unique and catchy sound, their entertaining live shows, or their down-to-earth demeanor, but whatever the case may be, people everywhere are falling in love with Skybox.

## So Brown

[www.sobrown.net](http://www.sobrown.net)

Influenced equally by Russian orchestral works, obscure punk bands, the grinding of heavy machinery and curious looks in the eyes of passer-bys, so brown weaves layers of instruments and sounds into a thick fabric of haunting song. so lives in rural Alabama.

## Stanley Ross

[www.stanleyross.com](http://www.stanleyross.com)



Stanley Ross (moniker) is from Bismarck, North Dakota, but is currently helping out friends in Chicago by playing bass for Devin Davis as well as Love Story in Blood Red. The past couple years has seen regional shows, one west-coast tour, and an appearance in Ireland. The "bands played with" list includes Br. Danielson, Elf Power, Mark Mallman, King Kong, and Okkervil River. The Devin Davis produced EP "Nelsonian" is now

available. There's another lo-fi EP in the can, and a split single out on Nodak Records.

## Sub Rosa

[www.myspace.com/subrosachicago](http://www.myspace.com/subrosachicago)



With the songs that blend Britpop, sixties folk, and lo-fi rock, Chicago's Sub Rosa serves up the agony and the ecstasy of pop music. On their first LP, *Slings & Arrows*, the band layers gorgeous vocal melodies and reverberated guitar over a framework of cathartic, emotional

pop. Singer/guitarist Jennifer Boeder's haunting, ethereal voice has drawn comparisons to Tracey Thorn, Beth Orton, and Dolores O' Riordan; her lyrics recall the dark introspection of Nico during her Chelsea Girl era. Multi-instrumentalist, DJ, and producer Jesse Hozeny made a name for himself as the explosive drummer for Chicago shoegaze band Tracer, whose influence is clearly felt on *Slings & Arrows*. The album is truly DIY- Hozeny recorded the entire album without once entering an actual recording studio, making it instead in his apartment, friends' basements, and rehearsal spaces.

## The Valley Downs

[www.thevalleydowns.com](http://www.thevalleydowns.com)



The Valley Downs main songwriter and bassist, Mike Galassini has long been involved with Illinois Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health (IFF): a not-for-profit organization to support families of children with emotional, behavioral, and/or other mental disorders. Recent Band Review from The Valley Downs recent shows in the UK Gig Guide Artist Profile, Liverpool, UK: Together just a short while, this emerging indie rock band has already played shows in New York, Los Angeles, Nashville and in Liverpool at the world famous Cavern, along with numerous live shows in its hometown, Chicago.

Fronted by singer Marianne Shimkus, the band features an eclectic group of songs written by bassist Mike G. Their energetic live performances always seem to leave the audience waiting for more. Working with Chicago based producer George Langis (Smashing Pumpkins, Lucky Boys Confusion), the band is set to release their debut five-song EP, Behemoth.



# PANELISTS & OTHER JMP ARTISTS

## **PANELIST Paul A. Farahvar**

is President and CEO of Shoeshine Boy Productions, Inc., an Artist and Band Management Company that also serves as a consultant, booking agency, promotions department, and an events coordinator. Primarily an artist oriented organization, SBP focuses on developing and promoting the talents of an artist or band. Understanding that hundreds of thousands of bands exist (most of which are "unsigned"), SBP maintains a practical approach for the artist by helping them learn about the music industry so they may build a thriving career. Paul A. Farahvar, is a licensed attorney in the State of Illinois and can also serve as a contract negotiator for an artist or band in need of representation or contract review.

## **PANELIST Bruce Finkelman**

is owner of the Empty Bottle, a Chicago haven for alternative music and culture.

## **PANELIST Sam Hunt**

is the co-founder and co-editor of Dusted Magazine ([www.dustedmagazine.com](http://www.dustedmagazine.com)), an online magazine that focuses on below-the-radar, cutting edge music from around the world. Dusted Magazine runs reviews and features, along with weekly charts compiled from top 30s submitted by approximately 40 handpicked college-affiliated/independent stations in the US and Canada. It has been noted in the New York Times, featured in the East Bay Express, the Chicago Reader, and The Wire. Sam also writes about music for ReadyMade Magazine.

## **PANELIST Jessica Linker**

is the owner of Pitch Perfect PR ([www.pitchperfectpr.com](http://www.pitchperfectpr.com)), a public relations company raising awareness of music and other arts through creative press campaigns designed for print, online, broadcast, and visual media. The company represents artists across a diverse spectrum of ideas and styles, all of whom are committed to maintaining integrity and individuality in their work. Prior to starting Pitch Perfect PR, Jessica Linker handled public relations for Thrill Jockey Records and affiliate marketing/partner relations for RollingStone.com.

## **PANELIST Bettina Richards**

is president of internationally acclaimed Thrill Jockey Records, a label that includes such bands and musicians as David Byrne, Tortoise, The Sea and Cake, Bobby Conn, Radian, Chicago Underground Duo, and others.

## **PANELIST Billy Shand**

is an associate agent at the Windish Agency, formed in 2004, which represents bands and musicians for bookings in the US, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Asia and Latin America. Artists include Jose Gonzalez, Juana Molina, and Psapp.

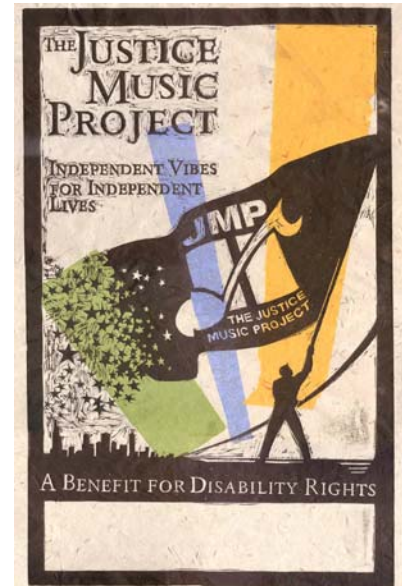
## **MASTERING ENGINEER Danny Leak**

is a Chicago guitarist and was a studio mainstay in the 60s and 70s. An in-demand session player while still in his teens, Danny eventually expanded his talents to become a much sought-after live sound and studio recording guru.

Now as an industry veteran and one of its leading engineers, Danny has recorded everything from Hip Hop to Hard Rock, Country to Classical to Gospel and has several engineering, gold record awards, and Grammy nominations to his credit. Platinum artists he has worked with include Kanye West, Janet Jackson, Sting, Hank Williams, Jr., Candlebox, Willie Nelson, Stevie Wonder, Dennis DeYoung, Ramsey Lewis, and New Edition among others. Danny is founder of Urban Guerrilla Engineers in Chicago.

## **ILLUSTRATOR Joseph Taylor**

produced the JMP man that waves his flag across the project. Joe, a master woodcutter and designer, also created a limited edition of collector posters for JMP that are available at concerts and other events.





## JMP MUSICIAN BLOG ENTRIES

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### **Naomi & The Courteous Rudeboys**

Thank you so very much for your efforts, in not only spreading the awareness of this injustice, but also for using music as a tool to further the cause and bring justice to the people.

I am a special needs teacher as well as a singer/songwriter...Naomi Gongola. I am also from the Chicago area originally and am so appalled that this is, and has, been happening!

I will be submitting my song, Inside the Mirror, because it's message is that everyone comes from the same place, and if we hurt one person, not only are we hurting the whole, but we our equally hurting ourselves...

Strength and guidance to you!!! Your profile is so very moving and engaging, i am confident this project is in very capable hands...

Respect~

Naomi

### **Skybox**

Everyone in Arizona, if you are in a band or know of a band you should check out [www.myspace.com/justicemusicproject](http://www.myspace.com/justicemusicproject). They are trying to raise money in order to provide [advocacy services for] disabled people. This is a very important cause to Skybox and it should be important to everyone. Please everyone reading this either go to the JMP myspace or their website and even if you can't donate a song please contribute some money to this project. Making a difference in peoples lives is well worth it.

Tim

### **Allá**

We would like to be involved in the benefit CD, as the subject of disability rights hits home for me. I have two brothers the oldest Angel ( who is in the group Allá ) and our youngest brother Mauricio is a 23 year old who is mentally handicapped and lives at home with me and my family. He needs 24 hour care, so we'd love to help and make people aware.

Mauricio my little brother is also a lover of music The Beatles especially. If we could we'd like to submit some photos and a short paragraph along with our submission, this cause is very personal to us because my family and I deal with it every single day.

Adios

Jorge

### **Annie Higgins**

Thanks for finding me. I am a social work major, music minor, and have worked to fight against discrimination at places like Dept. of Education, Office of Civil Rights, so you can imagine how excited I am about what you guys are doing. Let me know if I can do anything else for you. I am sending in an ep with three songs for consideration that I recorded with a great producer named Ian Christian Nickus. He produced the band Lifehouse. I also have worked with a Smashing Pumpkins/Billy Corgan producer named Bjorn Thorsrud, and was recently played on XRT a couple of times...

Take care,

Annie Higgins



# CD INSERT PANELS



## THE JUSTICE MUSIC PROJECT

is an Equip for Equality initiative. Equip for Equality is an independent nonprofit organization whose mission is to advance the human and civil rights of children and adults with disabilities. For more information about our programs and disability rights issues, visit us at [www.equipforequality.org](http://www.equipforequality.org). Tel: (800) 537-2632, TTY: (800) 610-2779

### SPECIAL THANKS TO

**JMP ORGANIZERS** Peter Grosz, Lisa Di Lorenzo **JMP VOLUNTEERS** Jason Steele, Samantha Serafin, Brad Schwartz **JMP MUSIC PANELISTS** Paul Farahvar, President of Shoeshine Boy Productions, [www.shoeshineboyproductions.com](http://www.shoeshineboyproductions.com); Bruce Finkelman, Owner of the Empty Bottle, [www.emptybottle.com](http://www.emptybottle.com); Sam Hunt, Co-Founder/Co-Editor of Dusted Magazine, [www.dustedmagazine.com](http://www.dustedmagazine.com); Jessica Linker, Owner/President of Pitch Perfect PR, [www.pitchperfectpr.com](http://www.pitchperfectpr.com); Bettina Richards, Owner/President of Thrill Jockey Records, [www.thrilljockey.com](http://www.thrilljockey.com); Billy Shand, The Windish Agency, LLC, [www.windishagency.com](http://www.windishagency.com) **JMP MASTERING ENGINEER** Danny Leake of Urban Guerrilla Engineers, [www.urban-guerrilla-engineers.com](http://www.urban-guerrilla-engineers.com) **JMP GRAPHIC ARTISTS** Joseph Taylor, woodcutter extraordinaire / creator of the JMP man, [www.joetaylorart.com](http://www.joetaylorart.com); DesignScout, CD layout, [www.designscout.tv](http://www.designscout.tv)

THE JUSTICE MUSIC PROJECT  
SOUND JUSTICE FOR DISABILITY RIGHTS



"A MOVEMENT'S ON THE RISE! A TIDE IS RISING AND REACHING NEW SHORES OF OPPORTUNITY AND JUSTICE. IT'S AN OCEAN OF HUMANITY, OF ALL AGES, ETHNICITIES AND WALKS OF LIFE. MAKE WAY! NO BARRIER WILL GO UNVANQUISHED."

With a lively disregard for form and tenor, popular music has always fanned the flames of history's great movements. In the late 1700s, Mozart's opera Marriage of Figaro shared credit with the more popular protest song "La Marseillaise" for coalescing and inspiring French revolutionary forces. Bob Dylan and a motley group of sixties songwriters vivified the civil rights and anti-war movements with a crazy quilt of sounds - from folk to funk. Songs of revolution can be full of spit and ire, but they can also be the quiet call, the catchy melody, the rhythm itself of change. As Joan Baez crooned: "Come round by my side and I'll sing you a song. I'll sing it so softly, it'll do no one wrong."

The JUSTICE MUSIC PROJECT honors the diversity of voice, form and origin of this, its first CD. The disc's creative richness exemplifies that of the disability community, whose individuals come from all quarters of society and whose barriers to equality, inclusiveness and independence - three signature struggles for people with disabilities - are as varied as life itself. A couple

songs on this album directly address issues of these struggles: Naomi Gongola's "Inside the Mirror" speaks to an equality of spirit that drives our compassion and goodness, and Annie Higgins' "Grounded" is an elegy to personal emancipation.

The bands on this disc came to know the Project through an open request for songs of any genre and subject matter. They were chosen from a pool of over 200 entries, received from across the United States, Europe and South America. The album materialized at the nexus of two central conditions: first, that the contributors have an abiding passion to advance the human and civil rights of people with disabilities, and second, that the music be good. This album contains the work of incredibly talented musicians both with and without disabilities, musicians who are attorneys, a special education teacher, a social worker helping individuals with traumatic brain injury, and family members of people with disabilities. It is indeed an eclectic compilation, and, as one advance listener said, "The songs will blow you away." The collective effort of these 17 bands is not to create a single anthem for the disability rights movement but to build a stage on which others will join. So, while we hope the songs lift your soul, we also hope the album raises your awareness.

Visit the JUSTICE MUSIC PROJECT website at [www.equipforequality.org/jmp](http://www.equipforequality.org/jmp) to learn more about these musicians, about disability rights and about what you can do to get involved.

-PG



**1. VARIOUS KITCHEN UTENSILS (2:46), SKYBOX**  
from *Arco Iris* (© 2006 Skyboxmusic)  
[www.myspace.com/skybox](http://www.myspace.com/skybox)

**2. UN PEDAZO (4:04), ALLÁ**  
Dedicated to our parents and Mauricio Ledezma. Allá appear courtesy of minty fresh.  
(© yosoymusica (BMI) (p) 2006, minty fresh) [www.estiempo.net](http://www.estiempo.net) and  
[www.mintyfresh.com](http://www.mintyfresh.com)

**3. SHRUG IT OFF (2:59), STANLEY ROSS**  
from *The Nelsonian* (© 2006 ASCAP/Stamley Ross/Paid To Sleep)  
[www.stanleyross.com](http://www.stanleyross.com)

**4. GROUNDED (2:59), ANNIE HIGGINS**  
from *The Chamber Music* (© 2005 Annie Higgins)  
[www.anniehiggins.com](http://www.anniehiggins.com)

**5. VIRAL (4:59), SO BROWN**  
from *so* (© 2005 So Brown)  
[www.sobrown.net](http://www.sobrown.net)

**6. BLUE PILL (6:00), SUB ROSA**  
from *Slings & Arrows* (© 2006 and courtesy Blue Rose Records)  
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