

# Jimmy Cliff and Damian Marley rock Vibes! Plus upcoming shows in Danbury, Bethel, Ridgefield and Pawling N.Y.

**Published: 05:35 p.m., Thursday, August 5, 2010**

A young woman at an ice cream concession put it best when she said the festival wasn't just about the music, "it's about the people watching."

Gathering of the Vibes, arguably Connecticut's biggest music event, took place last week from July 29 to Aug. 1 at Seaside Park in Bridgeport. As usual, the festival attracted thousands of jam rockers, '60s refugees, neo-hippies and music fans in general from the Nutmeg State and beyond.

In addition to headlining acts, the festival featured a number of Connecticut bands, including teen rock sensation Kicking Daisies, gypsy swing group Caravan of Thieves and Southern rock singer/songwriter Christopher Robin.

Calling the festival crowd diverse is an understatement. A group of Hasidic Jews grooved to reggae music, while a few feet away a dread-locked young girl of about 6 watched from her father's shoulders. All around were bikini-clad women (and a few men) and impromptu performing artists moving through the crowd doing everything from juggling to singing strange melodies directly in your ear. As you might guess, there were many festival-goers reaching altered states with the help of legal and illegal substances.

On Sunday the festival drew to a close with an awesome tribute to new- and old-school reggae. Legendary reggae artist and new inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Jimmy Cliff took the stage late Sunday afternoon. Dressed in a yellow jumpsuit and baseball cap, the 62-year-old Cliff showed no signs of age as he bounced, spun and danced his way through a joyful, soul-filled set. Cliff's voice was no worse for the wear as he performed many of his most famous hits, including "The Harder They Come," "You Can Get It If You Really Want," and his famed covers of "Wild World" and "I Can See Clearly Now." When he sung his classic war protest song, "Viet Nam," he substituted the word Afghanistan for the original Vietnam.

After Cliff, Bob Marley's son, Damian Marley, took the stage with rapper Nas. The duo performed collaborative songs from their joint (in more ways than one) CD, "Distant Relatives," and had the crowd jumping and pumping fists to the up-tempo fusion of hip-hop and reggae.

If you missed it this year, Vibes is definitely worth checking out next summer. In the meantime, there's a host of outdoor and indoor music events this week to satisfy your musical appetites. Read on to find out where and when.

## VEGA, LARKIN, ASIA AND LANG TO PLAY PLAYHOUSE

The Ridgefield Playhouse will host three shows this week. First will be two singer-songwriter-guitarists, Suzanne Vega and Patty Larkin, entertaining on Saturday at 8 p.m. Vega's hits, "Luka" and "Tom's Diner," show off her poetic genius while Larkin's style is showcased in a soon-to-be-released album of 25 love songs to celebrate her 25 years in show business. Tickets are \$55.

Asia became a supergroup with its first album, "Asia," and now is back with all four founding members (Geoff Downes, John Wetton, Steve Howe and Carl Palmer). The band will play its classics as well as original material from the group's new album, "Omega," on Sunday at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$85 and \$90.

Jonny Lang's phenomenal guitar talent launched his career. The Grammy-winning musician will be in concert at the playhouse on Wednesday at 8 p.m. Special guest is singer/songwriter Sharon Little, whose album of personal songs, "Perfect Time for a Breakdown," has been called brilliant. Tickets are \$90.

Visit [www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org](http://www.ridgefieldplayhouse.org) or call 203-438-5795. The playhouse is at 80 East Ridge in Ridgefield.