

# WHIRL

Semi-Annual  
Event Guide

AUGUST 2008

ANTHONY KIEDIS OF THE  
**RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS**  
PUTS TOGETHER A  
**SIZZLING** CONCERT

FEATURING  
**GNARLS BARKLEY**  
**THE RACONTEURS**  
**THE ROOTS**

PITTSBURGH'S  
**50 Finest**

Singles for the  
CYSTIC FIBROSIS  
FOUNDATION

**BOB DYLAN** DRIVES INTO TOWN  
HEADLINING **AMERICAN EAGLE'S**  
**NEW AMERICAN MUSIC UNION FESTIVAL**

**"Never underestimate the value of pink and peach hues!"**



"Educate the client on what is important — the centerpieces, the stage, all decor should be lit so it becomes an important element in the room. The patterns, colors, intensity, and kind of lighting are so important. There are so many ways to create a special mood. Specialty lighting should be a staple at all events." — *Bonnie Walker-Chirigos, event producer and owner of Creative Affairs/Bonnie Walker Events*

"Light large trusses and create light boxes from fabrics. It can make a world of difference as far as the perception. With all of the new technology, lighting can really wow a crowd." — *Sal Richetti, president of Big Day Entertainment*



"For a formal look, consider custom-made fabric tent liners with backlighting. Also, use large-scale chandeliers for elegance. Specialty lighting is all about creating a mood." — *Dan Skena, president of PartySavvy*



"Budgets can go from the sublime to the ridiculous. Once I hung a single light in a ballroom for gentleman who wanted to propose to his girlfriend. It was very dramatic and cost him about \$50. Conversely, I lit a bat mitzvah with a \$50,000 lighting budget. They purchased a package of robotic lighting that would have rivaled the Trans-Siberian Orchestra. The standard is \$700-\$2,000, and it's so worth it because it's still the least expensive way to transform a space." — *Andy Shick, owner of ADS Lighting and Staging; event designed by Erica DeChicchis, senior event specialist with All Occasions Party Rental*



"LED technology is becoming more and more prevalent because while they are more expensive, the price gap is closing since regular lights run on generators that eat \$5 worth of diesel fuel very fast. Incorporate them around the room, in each structure, on the walls, in the curtains. Changing color tones and patterns will make a space look totally different." — *Wade Shaner, lighting director for Three Rivers Entertainment & Production*

"Every penny that you spend sets the mood. Last year, we lit Bette Midler's appearance for Joe Hardy's birthday bash at Nemaquin Woodland Resort. The whole room was bathed in shades of magenta and mauve. It was so beautiful; it was almost eerie." — *Bonnie Tambellini, owner of Entertainment Unlimited; Matry Mundy, agent on site.*





**Bonnie Walker-Chirigos & Kim Joyce Racan**  
**STUDIO-E ENTERTAINMENT**  
WITH GARY RACAN

The two titans leading studio-e entertainment and representing Gary Racan and the studio-e band could be sisters: They both sport the same sharply cut black suits and crisp white shirts, both have butter blonde hair, and both possess smooth business savvy. They also both serve as cheerleaders for Gary Racan. Last year the tag team traveled with the superstar and the studio-e band to West Virginia for the premiere of *We Are Marshall*. Racan performed, wowing the audience, and the ladies got lucky enough to rub elbows with the film's star, Matthew McConaughey. This year, the entertainment company is earning even more national attention, but Gary has no plans to leave Pittsburgh any time soon. The singer produces and leads a band that performs at some of the city's finest charity fundraisers — including those for the Ladies Hospital Aid Society and Juvenile Diabetes. Billy Hartung, who starred in *Footloose* on Broadway, and Sheena B., who sang with the national group Company B, make up the some of original cast of players that practice in Gary's home studio with the studio-e band each Tuesday, without fail. Mark Smith, Barry Lebin, John Borelli, Mike Scholze, Nelson Harrison, Ron Levy, and Diego Pokropowicz make up the rest of the group. Gary also coaches Protégé, studio-e's other band baby, Wednesday nights. But he has another national project on the horizon that took him to a Nashville to record this year. And a sign he's on the right track? Upon arrival, Gary was assigned a recording space. To the surprise and thrill of his agents, it was "Studio E."