



## MUSIC FOR THE HEART GOOD TIMES, GOOD TUNES, GREAT CAUSE

For the uninformed or under-informed, sometimes you just have to take to the streets and get your message out there, rousing a chorus for anyone within earshot to hear. And what better way to do it than through microphones and amplifiers?

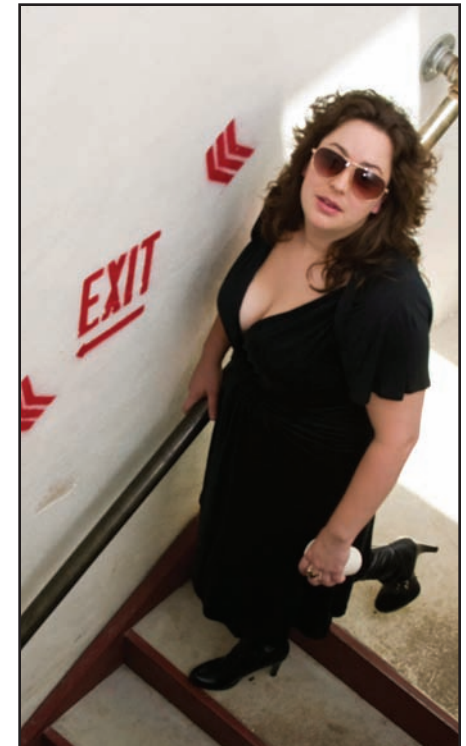
On Oct. 3, the Hear Her Heart campaign, based out of Doylestown Hospital, is teaming up with Puck Live and musicians Kelly Stratton and Courtney Fairchild to put on the first-annual Hear Her Heart Music Festival. The one-day event will feature female-fronted local and nationally touring acts that have played over the past year at Stratton and Fairchild's monthly Women Who Rock showcases at the Doylestown live-music venue. "It's a great arrangement," says Eleanor Wilson, vice president of patient services at Doylestown Hospital. "We can get our message out to more people while helping women artists gain new fans."

Wilson points out that although heart disease in women isn't as high profile an issue as breast cancer, it's a health problem that's on the rise. Adding to the

complications, she says, is that the telltale signs manifest differently in women. "People look for chest pains and numbness, but women often experience nausea and lower- or upper-back pain instead," Wilson explains.

As part of the Hear Her Heart campaign's efforts to raise awareness, the group will have a booth at the festival, promoting wellness along with information on how to spot signs of a heart attack. To accommodate the crowd and local vendors at the show, Puck will be closing Printers Alley to anything but foot traffic. A compilation CD featuring the bands at the festival will also be for sale. All proceeds will be donated to Hear Her Heart.

"For us, this is a celebration of how far we've come and also a giant leap forward," says Fairchild. What started last year as a monthly showcase for local women musicians quickly began attracting female-fronted bands and solo artists from all over the country, Canada and even as far as South Africa. "A lot of musicians who normally play larger venues wanted to play



By Jack Firreno  
 Photos Courtesy of Kelly Stratton  
 and Candace Karch



here," Fairchild adds. "They appreciated what we were doing."

For Stratton, the festival is also a reflection of the community vibe the series has fostered. "We see a lot of the same faces each time, no matter who is playing," she says proudly. "We're grateful that so many people have put their trust in us to put on a great show, and the festival will allow us to give back to the community that has supported us."

Fans of the Women Who Rock series can expect to see other familiar faces on stage as well. Among the performers will be returning artists Mama's Black Sheep, Christie Lenée, Krista Parrish, Suzie Brown and Patty Blee. Fairchild will also be playing, as well as Stratton with her backing-band, the Punch Drunk Boys.

Both Stratton and Fairchild credit the series' friendly atmosphere and open format for its appeal and success. "Courtney [Fairchild] and I are usually walking around talking to people, asking if they need anything. We're like hosts at

a dinner party," Stratton says, with a laugh. The devoted fans also make it easy for Fairchild to take chances when booking acts. "Our only requirement is that a band be female-fronted and knowing people will be there makes the decisions about who to select based on art, not money," she says. "We get to go out on a limb and even host bands whose styles we wouldn't necessarily listen to. The result is always at least one amazing moment at every show."

And while the monthly shows will remain a staple on Puck's schedule, Fairchild is looking forward to not only giving back to the community, but reaching a wider audience as well. "We're hoping the festival will have the same intimacy as a normal showcase," she says. "Only with 10 times as many people." **dt**

The Hear Her Heart Music Festival will take place on Sunday, October 3 from noon to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$5.

Go online at [womenwhorockmusic.com](http://womenwhorockmusic.com)  
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