



Revolution Number "Nines"

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Greater Lowell's new music festival packs a punch with diverse headliners



By Nick Tsui

A 20-acre Devens athletic field is about to become home to a giant mash-up of hippies, hipsters, tech geeks, cinephiles, artists, culture vultures and music fanatics — and that's exactly what the organizers of [The Nines Festival](#) are hoping for.

New England's newest festival launches Aug. 10 at Willard Field and will deliver a diverse lineup of nationally touring and emerging artists including Delta Spirit, Explosions in the Sky, Kid Koala, Shuggie Otis and [Walk Off The Earth](#), along with comedy, art installations, exhibits, interactive art projects, crafts, food and more.

This close-to-home mutli-festival (about a 15 minute drive from Lowell) is the brainchild of Ayer-based [3Rivers Arts](#) and offers a playlist worth getting excited about.



Explosion In The Sky

Austin, Texas indie-rockers [Explosions in the Sky](#) are almost purely instrumental and known for sprawling, epic songs that build and evolve. Their music has been featured in several TV series and movies, and is heavily spread throughout the soundtrack of the 2004 football movie *Friday Night Lights*.

Son of the legendary John Otis, [Shuggie Otis](#) is a legend in his own right. When he released his debut *Here Comes Shuggie Otis* in 1969, B.B. King called Shuggie his “favorite new guitarist.” More than 40 years after he lit up the scene as a teenage blues guitar prodigy, the R&B musician is back with a new album, *Wings of Love*. Shuggie (a nickname given to him by his mom) has collaborated with everyone from Etta James to Frank Zappa and has been sampled by OutKast and Beyonce. Probably his best known song, “Strawberry Letter 23,” was recorded by Quincy Jones and reached No. 1 on the R&B charts.



Shuggie Otis

The raucous San Diego band [Delta Spirit](#) mixes blues, country and roots-rock and has played just about every big name festival and late night talk show since their 2008 break-out release, *Ode To Sunshine* that scored big with hit singles like "People C'Mon" and "People Turn Around," which was featured on an a season 2 episode of *Sons of Anarchy*. Their song "Running" was also featured in the last season of AMC's popular zombie apocolypse sereis *The Walking Dead*.

Canadian [DJ Kid Koala](#) has become well known for big turntables, fast hands and scratching vinyl records to create a unique sound that melds hip-hop's golden age to New Orleans blues. He has released four solo albums, his most recent being 2012's "12 bit Blues," has written two graphic novels and collaborated with Gorillaz, Deltron 3030, The Slew and toured with the likes of Radiohead, the Beastie Boys, DJ Shadow and A Tribe called Quest. Koala, whose real name is Eric San, has also contributed scores for the movies *Shaun of the Dead*, *Scott Pilgrim vs. The World* and *Looper*.

"Our mission is to bring attention to the breadth of artistic talent in our region, bring top- tier bands to our area and build on this year after year," says Monica Hinojos, Executive Director of Ayer-based 3Rivers Arts and co-producer of The Nines. "We want to introduce audiences to Central Massachusetts as a hub of artistic talent, and hopefully, a regular summer tour stop for their favorite bands. Our vision is for a happy side-effect of The Nines to be a cultural and economic boost for the area as well."



Kid Koala

There is also a 45-minute set up for grabs for a local band. The Nines wants artists to submit their electronic press kit through [Sonicbids](#). The deadline for entries is July 18 at 11:59 p.m. Click [here](#) to submit.

Music at The Nines will be heard on two stages with no overlapping sets unlike many larger festivals, which means attendees won't have to choose between two or more acts. A mix of the area's top-notch comedians will also take up residency at the "Stitch" tent, curated by [The Comedy Studio](#) of Cambridge.

Early bird and VIP tickets including premier parking, fast-lane entry and access to the private Cloud 9 lounge, arts garden, complimentary beverages, an official 2013 poster and more are available on [Ticketmaster](#) while supplies last.

You may not want to miss out on this summer music and arts fest. When visiting The Nines' website, you can almost imagine what the Lollapalooza or Bonaroo web page looked like in the first year — before becoming the monster productions they are today.

The Nines is a presentation of [3Rivers Arts](#) in association with [Great Northeast Productions](#). For more information, visit the official [Nines Festival](#) web site: www.theninesfestival.com and follow The Nines on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).