

## 2012 Rochester Summer Fest Artist Bios



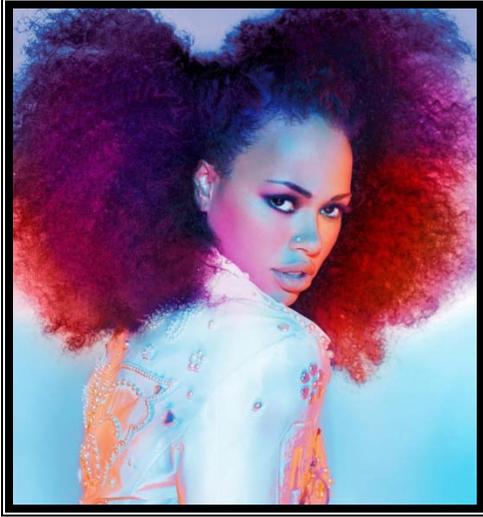
### Bobby V

Artist Homepage | [www.bobbyvmusic.com](http://www.bobbyvmusic.com)

As an R&B crowd pleaser for more than 10 years, Bobby V was first introduced as a member of the 90's group Mista. This crooner recently released his fourth album titled, "Fly on the wall." Lending his vocals in a collaborative effort with such artist as, Lil' Wayne, and Timberland. Bobby V is a major player in the industry. He is responsible for such hits as, "Slow down," "Pimping all over the world" and "Turn the page."

A graduate of Clark Atlanta University, with a degree in Mass Communications, Bobby V is currently signed to EMI record label. The 32-year old singer is said to have been inspired by Michael Jackson, Tony! Toni! Tone!, Marvin Gaye and the Isley Brothers. In addition to singing and songwriting, Bobby is the founder of the Bobby V Foundation. His organization was created to assist urban students inside and outside of the classroom.

Bobby V earned multi-platinum status with the record selling success of vocals along with award-winning artist, Ludacris. He was the first R&B singer to be signed by the Atlanta-based record label, Disturbing tha Peace Records.



## Elle Varner

Artist Homepage | [www.ellevarner.com](http://www.ellevarner.com)

Bursting onto the scene with bright colors and sounds alike, Elle Varner has created a refreshing presence and melodic tunes you won't soon forget. Her inaugural album, "Perfectly Imperfect," is creating immense commercial success. Her singles, "Only want to give it to you," "Refill" and "So fly" marry creativity and musicality producing originality the music scene has been missing.

The Los Angeles native is a product of musically inclined parents, who were both songwriters. At an early age, she would often spend time in the recording studio. Her exposure to the process of song writing gave her a one-up on the play of words. The (now) resident of New York has been featured as a co-host of BET's 106 & Park. Elle, who is signed to MBK Entertainment/RCA Records, was one of the first artists to be spotlighted on BET's Music Matters. Because of her love for the arts, Elle can also be accredited with playing the piano, flute, drums and bass.

During her time as a student at NYU, Elle was accepted the Clive Davis Department of Recorded Music. In 2008 Varner graduated and was awarded the title, "most likely to get signed" and "most likely to win a Grammy."

Recently noted as one of Vibe Magazine's "Hottest celebrities under 30," the 23-year old has a career that is set to take her to the top. The songs from Elle's debut album can be described as vibrant with doses of stand-out emotion.



## Melanie Fiona

Artist Homepage | [www.melaniefiona.com](http://www.melaniefiona.com)

This Grammy nominated songstress came on the scene with her smash hit, "It kills me." Her songs resonate with those who have experienced the many facets of being in love. Her single "4 a.m." and "Fool for You" a duet with Cee-Lo Green both earned her time on the billboard charts. "The MF Life," Melanie's much anticipated sophomore album is creating quite the buzz, as it is sure to deliver a blend of sultry, maturity and vocals that won't disappoint.

The native of Toronto Canada now spends her time in Los Angeles, California. Signed to Jay-Z's label Roc Nation, Fiona has been called one of 2009's breakout artists. She has been featured on The Ellen DeGeneres show, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon and Regis and Kelly. Her first single topped the Billboard's R&B/Hip Hop chart for nine weeks and earned her the recognition of 2010's Best R&B Female Vocal Performers.

Melanie Fiona has toured with such mega artists as Alicia Keys and Kanye West. She was one of the few vocalists to be featured on BET's Rising Icons. To further validate her success as a singer/songwriter, Fiona was named iTunes Best New R&B Artist of 2009, Best New Artist at the 2010 Soul Train Music Awards. Her collective effort in the song "Wake Up Everybody," with John Legend gained a nomination at the 2011 Grammy's for Best Rap/Song collaboration.



## Manhattans featuring Gerald Aston & Blue Lovett

Artist Homepage | [www.kissandsaygoodbye.com](http://www.kissandsaygoodbye.com)

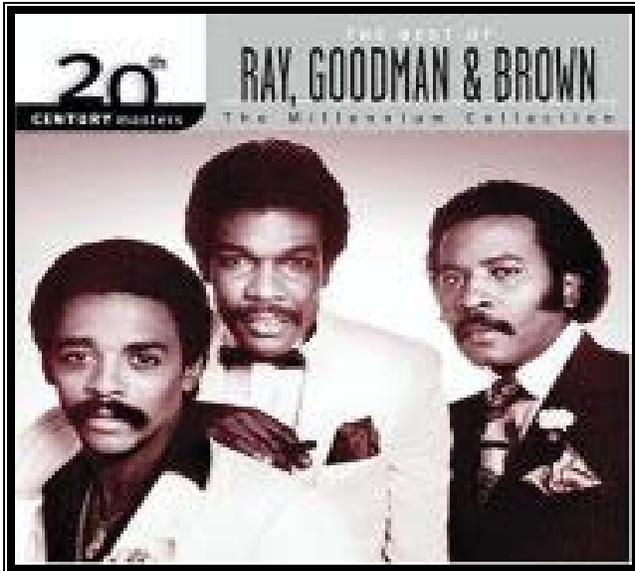
Inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame, this group has stood the test of time. Formed in the 1960's, their Philly style harmonies have produced such hits as, "Kiss and Say Good-Bye", "Shining Star," and "One Life to Live." Because of their success in the industry, they were featured as musical guest at the inaugural ball of President Jimmy Carter.

Originally signed to Carnival Records in the mid 1960's, the style of the group's vocalist Gerald Aston was modeled after the late Sam Cooke. The troupe gained national success after being signed to Starday/King Records. Their single "A Million to One," was followed by a string of hits. The Manhattans are known for their poetic introductions to their songs.

In the mid 80's the band took Regina Belle, a female vocalist to asset the groups performances. Belle contributed to two albums within a two year span.

The Manhattans went on to accomplish individual projects in the late 1980's and reunited in 1993 to begin touring together again.

In 1999, the group was inducted into the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame, and continues to attract audiences young and old alike.



## Ray, Goodman & Brown (formerly known as The Moments)

Artist Homepage | [www.facebook.com/pages/Ray-Goodman-and-Brown](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ray-Goodman-and-Brown)

Noted as soul singers from the 1960's & 70's, this group is legendary for such hits as "Special Lady," "Love on a Two-Way Street," and "Look at Me (I'm in Love)." Known for their effortless blend of vocals, this group formerly known as The Moments continues to deliver unforgettable performances. Their polished sound prompted Grammy-Award winner Alicia Keys to team up with the group to record the 2003 hit single, "You Don't Know My Name."

The group originated in Washington, D.C. using the name, The Moments. The group's first major hit, "Not on the Outside," reached #13 on the R&B chart and #57 on the Billboard Hot 100. The group was once booked exclusively by Herb Hamlett, after moving to Rochester, New York.

In 1979, the Moments were credited for having 27 hits on the R&B charts. After leaving Stang Record label, the group no longer went by their original name. From then on they were known as Ray, Goodman & Brown.

The group released two albums of new and re-mastered material in 2002 and 2003. After adding two new members to the group, they continue to attract fans who appreciate pure soul music today.



## Monica

[Artist Homepage | www.monica.com](http://www.monica.com)

Because of her success in music and films, this 17 year veteran of the industry has been stamped a superstar. As a Grammy Award recipient, her chart topping singles are countless. Her voice was introduced to the world with her first single, "Don't Take it Personal." Her first duet with singer Brandy "The Boy is Mine" spent 13 weeks in the #1 Billboard spot. She has since gone on to record several albums including her latest, "New Life." Her teamwork with music industry heavy hitters, Jermaine Dupri, Byran Michael-Cox and Rodney Jerkins have aided in her music reigning supreme.

At the tender age of 14, Monica captured the attention of the world with her unprecedented vocal ability. Her stage presence resembled that of a seasoned veteran. A resident of Atlanta, Georgia, Monica gained international stardom in 1998. Monica was featured on the 1996 song track, Space Jam which hit #2 on the Billboard chart.

In 2009, BET produced and aired a reality TV show, titled "Still Standing," starring Monica. The show captured both Monica's personal and professional life and she focused on creating a successful fifth album.

Her latest project has not left fans unsatisfied. Staying true to herself, the album "New Life," with RCA Records has an array of R&B ballads including a new duet titled, "It All Belongs to Me," with fellow artist Brandy. The two were recently featured on ABC's Good Morning America as a part of their music series.



## Robin Thicke

Artist Homepage | [www.Robinthicke.com](http://www.Robinthicke.com)

This artist can easily be called the break-out artist of the decade. His rhythmic tunes are matched with sensational vocals which have drawn in millions of fans. The Los Angeles singer started his career writing for the likes of Michael Jackson, Usher and Mary J. Blige.

Signed to Interscope Records, with Jimmy Iovine, Thicke released his debut album in 2003 titled, "It's a Beautiful World." His mainstream success came with his sophomore album, "The Evolution of Robin Thicke." With such hits as, "Lost Without You," the singer/songwriter had become a bona fide double platinum selling artist. In 2007 Robin toured with Beyoncé, creating an international following.

Thicke has been nominated for numerous music awards including, BET's "Best Male R&B Artist", MTV's "Best Male Artist of the Year," and The American Music Awards, "Favorite Breakthrough Artist."

In 2008 his album titled, "Something Else" was released and charted #3 on the Billboard 200. Shortly after the release of the 2008 album, Robin Thicke went on tour with Mary J. Blige. Robin has since given his fans two more albums, "Sex Therapy" and "Love After War." Both albums have been wildly successful, as Thicke has redefined the look of R&B.

At the 51<sup>st</sup> Grammy Award Show, Thicke was a featured performer.

Robin Thicke is the son of actor, Alan Thicke. He is married to actress Paula Patton, who has also been featured in several of his videos.

Currently, Thicke can be seen on the ABC show "Duets," where he coaches unsigned artists.