

What's the word? Fabulous Thunderbirds!

ANNAPOLIS — The summer music schedule is starting to heat up at the Rams Head On Stage. A number of major national acts are gearing up to make a stop at the Rams Head.

Here are a few of the highlights:

- Legendary blues outfit the Fabulous Thunderbirds stop by for two shows July 1 and 2. For the past 25 years, The Fabulous Thunderbirds have been the quintessential American band. The group's distinctive and powerful sound, influenced by a diversity of musical styles, morphed into a unique musical hybrid via such barn burners as "Tuff Enuff" and "Wrap It Up." The group now features original member Kim Wilson and keyboardist Gene Taylor of Blasters fame.

- A former co-founder of the Thunderbirds and guitarist extraordinaire, Jimmy Vaughan, comes to the Rams Head with his Tilt-A-Whirl Band July 5. The older brother of the late Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimmie Vaughan was one of the leading Austin guitarists of the late 1970s and '80s, responsible for opening the national market up for gritty roadhouse blues and R&B. Influenced by guitarists like Freddie King, B.B. King, and Albert King (but not, with apologies to Bill Kirchen, *The King*), Vaughan developed a tough, lean sound that became

one of the most recognizable sounds of '70s and '80s blues and blues-rock.

- Pop culture icon David Cassidy, of Partridge Family fame, makes a very rare club appearance at the Rams Head July 15. Cassidy, best known for his hit "I Think I love You," will perform two shows.

- July 16, two of smooth jazz's most extraordinary talents come together to perform for one special evening. Pianist David Benoit joins forces with the Rippingtons for what promises to be an unforgettable evening of jazz.

- The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band makes its annual trip to the Rams Head Sunday, July 25. Featuring all the original members, including John McEuen and Jim Ibbotson, fans can expect to hear at least a handful of songs from the group's landmark *Will The Circle Be Unbroken* trilogy.

- Folk singer Dar Williams returns to the Rams Head for two shows Aug. 11.

- Pop rocker Edwin McCain plays an acoustic show Aug. 17. McCain is best known for his hit "I'll Be."

- Marshall Crenshaw plays two shows at the Rams Head, with a full electric band for the first time, Aug. 27 and 28.

For more information, or to purchase tickets, log on to www.ramsheadtavern.com.



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