



ROOTS ROCK SOCIETY

Dubuque ... And All That Jazz, 6-9 p.m. Sept. 2, Town Clock Plaza

Rockin' roots

BY MEGAN GLOSS
of River Stages

There's still time to end the summer on a high note. Dubuque ... And All That Jazz's final concert in the hit summer series concludes Sept. 2, with newcomers the Roots Rock Society taking the stage from 6 to 9 p.m.

Food and beverages begin at 5 from area vendors.

Admission is free.

Awarded Best Entertainer of 2003 by the Chicago Music Awards, the Roots Rock Society was formed in 1986.

The group blends its energetic live show with reggae, calypso, soul, zouk and other rhythms of the African Diaspora.

The Chicago Tribune's TV Metromix has hailed the group as "Chicago legends" and a

"premier reggae band" for its "root soul."

Critics also have named the group the "nation's best."

The group's 2003 CD release of "Riddim to Riddim" reached an audience of one million through television and radio performances and various press coverage.

A follow-up CD, "Again," reached more than 200 radio stations worldwide.

The group's live performances include vibrant instrumentation, exotic rhythms and lyrics performed in English, with Spanish and French accents.

Roots Rock Society has shared the stage with L.L. Cool J, Earth, Wind and Fire, K.C. and the Sunshine Band, Dave Matthews, Third World, Burning Spear, Mighty Sparrow, Youssou N' Dour, Ritchie Havens and Toots and the Maytals.

In addition, the group was selected to perform at Roger Ebert's birthday party on Lake Michigan. Wesley Snipes, while filming "U.S. Marshals," played congas with the group during a Chicago performance. Mark Curry, of "Hangin' With Mr. Cooper" fame, opened for Roots Rock Society at a showcase for the NACA National Conference for Colleges in Indianapolis.

The group has performed at a variety of theaters, colleges, corporate events, festivals, private parties, museums and churches throughout the world.

The group has a strong commitment to professionalism and conducts performance workshops on black culture music in inner cities and in the suburbs.

The group also gives aid to education, the needy, the homeless and promotes peace.