

**SAT., DEC. 20**

**BOB at the State Theatre**

These hard rockers — and 2007 On Tap Featured Artists — headline a benefit show for Children's National Medical Center. I think that says it all. \$12 in advance, \$15 day off. 9 p.m. — *Robert Fulton*

**The State Theatre:** 220 N. Washington St., Falls Church, VA; 703-237-0300; [www.thestatetheatre.com](http://www.thestatetheatre.com)



**SAT., DEC. 20**

**JunkFood at Ned Devine's Herndon**

This On Tap Featured Artist has released their third album and are playing a show in Northern Virginia to celebrate. — *Robert Fulton*

**Ned Devine's Herndon:** 2465 Centreville Road, Herndon, VA; 703-793-7376; [www.neddevines.com](http://www.neddevines.com)



**SUN., DEC. 21**

**The Nine at DC9**

This is a grouping of nine (mostly) local musicians for one holiday show. Acts include Justin Trawick and Laura Tsaggaris, and seven more. All of this for just \$8. That's about 89 cents an act. 7:30 p.m. — *Robert Fulton*

**DC9:** 1940 9th St., NW, D.C.; 202-483-5000; [www.dcnine.com](http://www.dcnine.com)

**THUR., DEC. 23**

**Todd Wright's Sixth Annual Santa Claus-ter-F@%! Spectacular at Jammin' Java**

This all-star show of local talent is a can't miss and promises to sell out fast. In addition to Wright, the concert features such acts as Luke and Daniel Brindley, Shane Hines, Anthony Fiacco, Chelsea Lee, Niki Barr and more. Maybe you'll catch one of these musicians under the mistletoe. \$15. 8 p.m. show. — *Robert Fulton*

**Jammin' Java:** 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, VA; 703-255-1566; [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

**SAT., DEC. 27**

**Fools & Horses at IOTA**

What better way to spend the last Saturday of 2008 than rockin' out to this On Tap Featured Artist? Tickets are just \$10. 9 p.m. — *Robert Fulton*



**IOTA Club & Cafe:** 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, VA; 703-522-8340; [www.iotaclubandcafe.com](http://www.iotaclubandcafe.com)

**SUN., DEC. 28**

**Tom O'Connor CD Release at Jammin' Java**

Be there when Arlington, VA-based singer-songwriter Tom O'Connor releases his debut album, "Frozen in Anticipation." Thanks to his simple guitar plucking, lilting orchestral arrangements and Southern folk vocals, O'Connor's star has been on the rise locally. Backed by a full band, O'Connor's live set is sure to please his growing fan base.

**Jammin' Java:** 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, VA; 703-255-1566; [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

**MON., DEC. 29**

**The Damned at the Black Cat**

From the dirty-yet-melodic punk of "Neat Neat Neat" to the goth-tinged tuneage of "Eloise," The Damned have been smashing it up since before you were born and won't let middle-age stop them anytime soon. Don't forget them on your wish list this year — Santa is dropping them off in D.C. for all the naughty boys and girls! Tickets are \$18 in advance, \$20 at doors. Doors at 8 p.m. — *Lauren Pezzullo*

**Black Cat:** 1811 14th St., NW, D.C.; 202-667-7960; [www.blackcatdc.com](http://www.blackcatdc.com)

**MON., DEC. 29**

**Bliss FM at Jammin' Java**

Bliss FM's Johnny+ and Atom hail from Virginia and since joining forces in 2007, the duo has cultivated something of a following. Their eclectic melding of hip-hop and whatever they feel like throwing into the mix has packed Jammin' Java before — can they do it again? 8 p.m. show, tickets \$10.

**Jammin' Java:** 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, VA; 703-255-1566; [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com)

**THUR., JAN. 1**

**Wu-Tang Clan at the 9:30 Club**

Before RZA became synonymous with rap ingenuity, he was just a boy from the hood — Staten Island to be specific, known in Wu world as Shaolin. RZA called on a battalion of MCs — GZA, Raekwon, Ghostface Killah, Inspectah Deck, Masta Killa, U-God, Method Man and the late Ol' Dirty Bastard — to join his rap family and the Clan was born. RZA and the Wu crew sold millions of records, both collectively and individually, and forever changed the rap industry in the process. Though U-God and Method Man won't be performing with the rest of the clan, six out of nine ain't bad. Be there to "Protect Ya Neck," and see whether or not Wu-Tang Clan still ain't nuthin' ta f' with. Doors 7 p.m., tickets \$50. — *Hilary Crowe*

**The 9:30 Club:** 815 V St., NW, D.C.; 202-265-0930; [www.930.com](http://www.930.com)

**FRI., JAN. 2 and SAT., JAN. 3**

**Gogol Bordello at 9:30 Club**

One of the most diverse and strangely theatrical stage performers in music today, Gogol Bordello is a multi-ethnic Gypsy punk band from New York that finds its inspiration from Gypsy music — its core members are immigrants from Eastern Europe, with Ethiopian (and former member of DC reggae band Zedicus) Thomas Gobena on bass and backup vocals. They specialize in socially driven rock music, but are best known for their stage antics — mosh pit diving, jump kicks and an impressive display of energy. Their latest album, "SUPER TARANTA!" is a sort of gypsy speed metal dub, and ties in perfectly with their mastery of the brutally difficult gypsy two step rhythm (derived from Eastern European ska music) augmented by punk, metal, rap, flamenco, roots, reggae, Italian Spaghetti Western twang, dub and other rich sounds generated by gypsies and rebels across the globe. Doors 8 p.m., tickets \$28. — *Alfredo Flores*

**The 9:30 Club:** 815 V St., NW, D.C.; 202-265-0930; [www.930.com](http://www.930.com)