

CONCERTS in COMFORT

New DVDs bring your favorite performers right to your home

BY JOHN WIRT
Music critic

A quick glance at the summer concert schedules of touring music stars reveals open-air amphitheatres to be frequent stops in much of the United States. The nation's better-known amphitheatres include the scenic Red Rocks Amphitheatre near Denver, Wolf Trap near Washington, D.C., Chicago's Ravinia and Southern California's famous Hollywood Bowl.

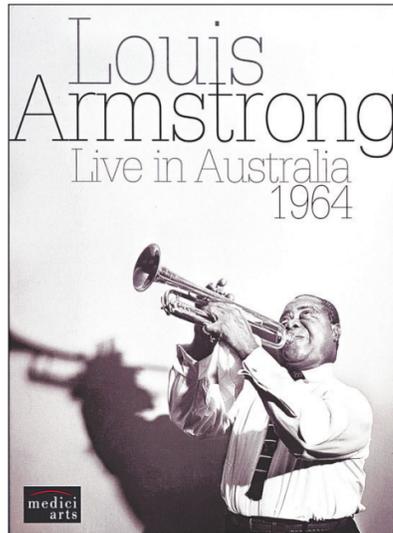
Perhaps due to the Gulf Coast's heat, humidity and volatile climate, amphitheatres are rare in south Louisiana, as are outdoor concert venues in general. Which means summer shed tours, as they're called, rarely reach the region.

And as for indoor summer concerts, the newer, larger Louisiana venues such as the New Orleans Arena, the Cajundome in Lafayette and CenturyTel Center in Bossier City typically are more attractive to major tours than Baton Rouge's smaller, older arenas.

All of which means filmed concerts released by musical performers of all genres and levels of popularity are among the better concert-viewing opportunities for local music lovers. They also can be seen in the cool comfort of home.

Single-, double- and even triple-disc DVD sets also feature a wealth of extras, including backstage footage, interviews, photo galleries and vintage performances.

Many new, recently released and upcoming music DVDs are listed here.



LOUIS ARMSTRONG

Live in Australia 1964

This splendid late-career concert in Australia by New Orleans-born jazz master Louis Armstrong was shot with commendable care. Featuring Armstrong standards "Blueberry Hill," "Basin Street Blues," "When It's Sleepy Time Down South," "Mack the Knife" and "When the Saints Go Marching In," *Live in Australia 1964* is a great document of the gravel-toned singer and trumpeter and his mid-'60s era group, which included long-time drummer Danny Barcelona, show-stopping bassist Arvell Shaw and singer Jewel Brown.

Ironically, Armstrong's 1964 hit "Hello Dolly!" isn't included, perhaps because the world-traveling Armstrong was unaware the record had reached No. 1 in the United States.



MARIAH CAREY

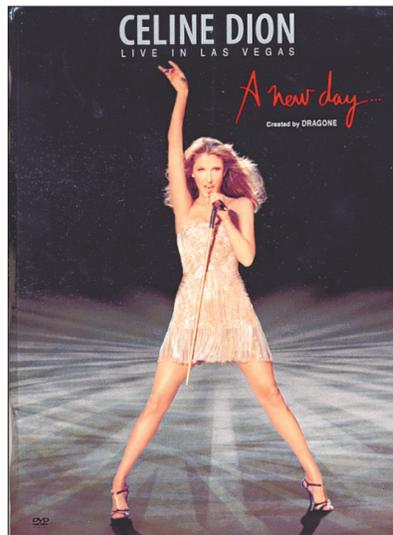
Mariah Carey: The Adventures of Mimi

A three-CD set chronicling Carey's 2006 comeback tour, *The Adventures of Mimi* includes a concert DVD, a tour documentary, a film by Spike Lee and an interactive disc.

MILEY CYRUS

Best of Both Worlds Concert

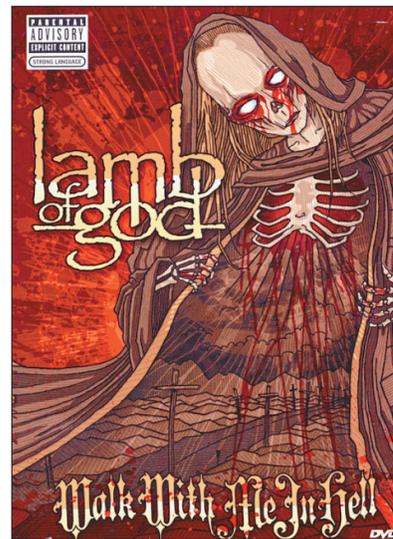
An onstage and backstage look at the popular young star's *Hannah Montana* & *Miley Cyrus: Best of Both Worlds* concert tour. Release date is Aug. 19.



CELINE DION

Live In Las Vegas: A New Day

Live In Las Vegas documents the Canadian singing star's long-running Caesars Palace show. The two-CD set features a 90-minute concert, a tribute to Dion's fans and nearly three hours of additional material.



LAMB OF GOD

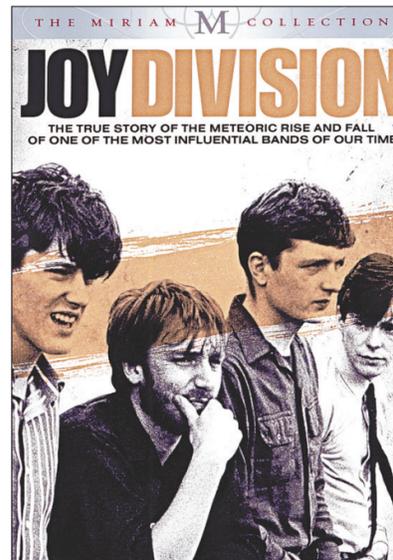
Walk With Me In Hell

The two-disc, all-access *Walk With Me In Hell* spends two years with Richmond, Va., heavy metal band Lamb of God. Disc one, containing loads of performance footage from the band's international touring, essentially is a video diary. Disc two covers the making of the band's recent album, *Sacrament*.

GOSSIP

Gossip: Live In Liverpool

Featuring dynamic front woman Beth Ditto, Gossip, the ferocious rock trio from Portland, Ore., was filmed and recorded last summer in Liverpool, England.



JOY DIVISION

Joy Division

Ian Curtis, singer for Joy Division, the influential post-punk band from Manchester, England, is among music's most tragic figures. His various troubles — a failing marriage, the pressure of Joy Division's exploding fame and epilepsy that prompted him to take a cocktail of debilitating drugs — contributed to the 23-year-old Curtis' suicide in 1980.

This Joy Division documentary, directed by Grant Gee and written by Jon Savage, is much more than a companion piece for last year's big-screen biopic about Curtis. Featuring new interviews with the singer's bandmates and other principal characters in his life, Gee and Savage's revealing, superbly crafted Joy Division film is among the great music documentaries.

JOHN MAYER

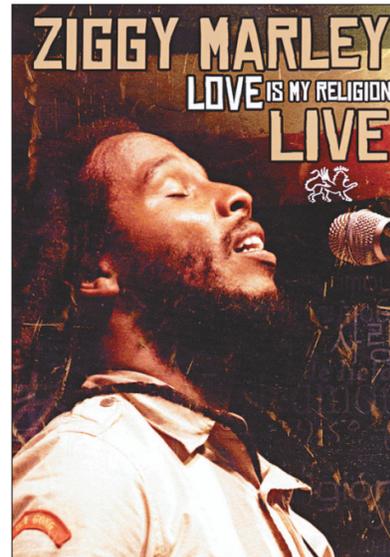
Where The Light Is: John Mayer Live In Los Angeles

Singer-guitarist John Mayer in three distinct sets — acoustic, trio and band — performing last year at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles.

NEW ORDER

Live In Glasgow

At the peak of its power, New Order, a post-punk trio of the '80s, '90s and beyond from Manchester, England, perform for an ecstatic crowd at Scotland's Carling Academy. Filmed in 2006, the concert includes New Order favorites "Blue Monday" and "Bizarre Love Triangle" and an encore of three songs by Joy Division, the band that included New Order's members prior to the 1980 suicide of Joy Division singer Ian Curtis. Disc two features video from New Order's early years.



ZIGGY MARLEY

Love Is My Religion Live

Second-generation reggae star Ziggy Marley and his band perform 19 songs in concert, including "Jammin'" and "Tomorrow People."



VAN MORRISON

Under Review: 1964-1974

Having previously covered Joy Division, the Smiths and many others, Britain's *Under Review* series of documentaries-critical evaluations turns to Celtic soul man Van Morrison. The disc follows Morrison from his mid-'60s garage-rock period with them through the groundbreaking solo albums *Astral Weeks*, *Moondance* and *Tupelo Honey*. Songs include "Brown Eyed Girl," "Domino" and "Wild Night."

RINGO STARR

Ringo Starr & His All Star Band Live 2006
Starr leads the 2006 edition of his All Star Band in this two-hour-plus DVD.

NINA SIMONE

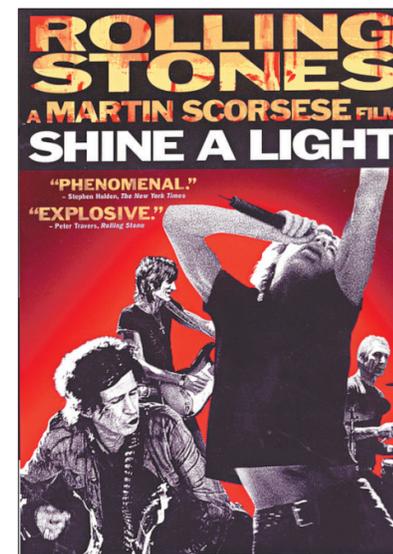
To Be Free: The Nina Simone Story

This three-disc box set, to be released Sept. 16, features a two-CD retrospective of the eclectic and ever soulful vocalist's recording career plus a 23-minute DVD containing music and interviews.

ZZ TOP

Live From Texas

The long-running rock trio performs in concert in its home state of Texas. Bonus material includes the band members telling their history over a poker game.



THE ROLLING STONES

Shine A Light

Martin Scorsese, director of the classic concert film, *The Last Waltz*, captured the venerable bad boys of rock 'n' roll in 2006 during two nights of concerts at New York City's Beacon Theatre. Guests Jack White, Buddy Guy and Christina Aguilera join the band on stage.

SHARON SHANNON

Live At Dolans

A master of the diatonic, or button-style, accordion, Ireland's Sharon Shannon joins a large band of similarly high-spirited musicians and guest stars at Dolans Warehouse in Limerick. Despite the many players and singers who fill the stage, the seated, smiling Shannon and her quick-fingered, genre-spanning virtuosity steal the show.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

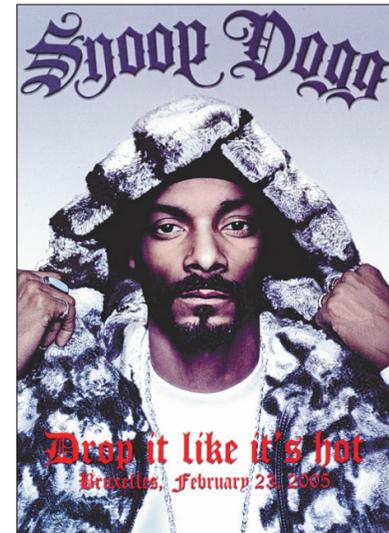
Body and Soul: The Legends of Soul Live

This compilation of in-concert performances features James Brown, Gladys Knight, Jerry Butler, Tyrone Davis, Ben E. King and Billy Preston.

VARIOUS ARTISTS

Africa Unite: A Celebration of Bob Marley's Vision

A concert-documentary film, *Africa Unite* follows the Marley family, including Ziggy Marley, during the family's 2005 trip to Ethiopia.



SNOOP DOGG

Drop It Like It's Hot

Rap star Snoop Dogg and crew, including special guest The Game, perform for a huge concert crowd in Brussels, Belgium. The show features Snoop favorites "Gin & Juice," "What's My Name?" and title track "Drop It Like It's Hot."



JOE STRUMMER

Joe Strummer: The Future is Unwritten

As a member of the Clash, Joe Strummer was among punk rock's most successful and influential pioneers. A singer-songwriter with eclectic musical taste, he transcended the great yet limited musical possibilities of such peers as the Ramones, for instance, by adding reggae, Motown, Latin and other world-music styles to the music of the Clash and his subsequent solo career.

Director Julien Temple's documentary manages to be an affectionate portrait of Strummer, who died of heart disease at 50 in 2002, without descending into the hagiography of so many of those fawning public television music documentaries.