



BIRMINGHAM BOTANICAL GARDENS



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Matthew Mayfield Captivates Audience at First Cocktails in The Gardens

BIRMINGHAM, AL—The third season of Cocktails in The Gardens, presented by smart center Birmingham, got off to an impressive start with more than 800 guests in attendance, more than double last year's average attendance to the series. Birmingham's own indie-music darling, Matthew Mayfield, wowed the jam-packed Hill Garden Thursday, August 13 with songs off his new *Five Chances Remain Hers* EP and fan favorites from 2008's *The Fire* EP, as well as covers from artists like R.E.M. to Kings of Leon. The Gardens Café by Kathy G catered the affair and provided the popular signature drink, Bellinis.

Party-goers ranged from young professionals to garden enthusiasts to those simply looking for a good time and great music. Laurie Kramer of ArtWorks Alabama set up an interactive art studio, allowing guests to add blossoms and other artistic contributions to her peach tree painting. Matthew Mayfield added lyrics to the final product, which will be auctioned off online to raise money for The Gardens.

The theme on September 10 is "Lotus & Lychee Libations" with Todd Simpson & Mojo Child slated to rock The Gardens with stirring blues and southern rock. The White Oaks, known for their unique gospel-inspired indie sound, take the stage October 8 for the seasonally-themed "Apple Barrel Bash", the final Cocktails in The Gardens of the 2009 series.

About Birmingham Botanical Gardens

Birmingham Botanical Gardens is Alabama's largest living museum with over 10,000 different plants in its living collections. The Gardens' 67.5 acres contains over 25 unique gardens, 30+ works of original outdoor sculpture, miles of serene paths and a public horticulture library. The Gardens is open daily and offers free admission.