

Editor's Picks

BY CARLA JEAN WHITLEY

Alison Krauss & Union Station

APRIL 5, 8 P.M. "Paper Airplane" is Alison Krauss' first album of all-new recordings with Union Station since 2004's "Lonely Runs Both Ways."

BJCC Concert Hall | \$42.50-\$57.50 | 800-745-3000 | ticketmaster.com

LeAnn Rimes

APRIL 7, 8 P.M. She burst onto the American country music scene as a teenager and has matured into a songwriter and vocalist of considerable depth. Now Lee Ann Rimes appears with the Alabama Symphony Orchestra.

Samford University Wright Center | \$17-\$80 | 205-975-2787 | alabamasymphony.org

Spring Plant Sale

APRIL 12-15 APRIL 12, 5:30-6:30 P.M. Preview party (\$45 advance, \$50 at the door).

APRIL 12, 6:30-8:30 P.M. Members-only sale. **APRIL 13, 6-8 P.M.** Junior Board event Tunes 'n Blooms, a new opportunity for younger patrons to shop the sale and mingle amid a soundtrack provided by a Birmingham musician. (\$15 nonmembers; \$10 members)

APRIL 13-14, 9 A.M.-5 P.M. AND APRIL 15, 11 A.M.-3 P.M. Public sale. Proceeds support the Birmingham Botanical Gardens.

Former Mazer's, Homewood | Free, except special events | 205-414-3965 | bbgardens.org

Alice in Wonderland

APRIL 13, 7:30 P.M.; APRIL 14, 2:30 AND 7:30 P.M.; APRIL 15, 2:30 P.M. This world premiere features the Alabama Symphony Orchestra with family friendly choreography by Associate Artistic Director and Resident Choreographer Roger Van Fleteren and score by Alabama Ballet Music Director Les Fillmer, plus fanciful costumes and scenery.

Samford University Wright Center | \$30-\$55 | 205-975-2787 | alabamaballet.org

Girls Inc. Cajun Cook-Off

APRIL 14, 11 A.M.-3 P.M. Enjoy Cajun favorites including gumbo, etouffee, jambalaya, red beans and rice. Live music from the Swamp Poppas and kids activities.

Linn Park | \$20 advance; \$25 day of event; \$5 children 4-10; free to children 3 and younger | 205-599-5683 | bhamcajuncookoff.com

Lebanese Food and Cultural Festival

APRIL 20-21, 10 A.M.-9 P.M. Authentic food including kibbee, grape leaves, tabouleh, grilled chicken, homous and baklava. Children will perform Lebanese dances Friday evening and Saturday, music nightly from 6 to 9 p.m. Daytime church tours and other cultural events.

St. Elias Maronite Church, Southside | Free | 205-521-8402 | stelias.org

Spring Walking Tour Series: Morris Avenue

APRIL 21, 9:30 A.M.-NOON Vulcan Park and Museum's 2012 Spring Walking Tour Series offers a fun way to experience the history and architectural beauty of Birmingham's neighborhoods and districts. Step into the shoes of the architects, visionaries, socialites and entrepreneurs who sparked the magic in the city. Philip Morris is the series curator.

Morris Avenue | \$12; \$10 Vulcan Park members | 205-933-1409 ext. 30 | visitvulcan.com

BBVA Compass Magic City Art Connection

APRIL 27-29, 10 A.M.-6 P.M. This award-winning festival celebrates its 29th anniversary with its blast of fresh talent, sights, sounds and aromas, drawing from a pool of artists who have been recognized locally, regionally and nationally in visual and performance art, food and wine, dance and music. 200-plus juried artists, interactive art workshops and activities for kids, Corks & Chefs (\$25 advance, \$30 at the door).

Linn Park | Free | 205-595-6306 | magiccityart.com

Tour de Blue: Cycling For Prostate Cancer Awareness

APRIL 28, 8 A.M. This bicycle ride benefits the Urology Health Foundation, which provides free prostate cancer screenings to men in Alabama, especially in underserved areas. There are three options (60, 75, and 100 miles). The terrain is rolling with several challenging climbs.

Birmingham Bicycle Company | \$40 | 205-445-0117 | urologyhealthfoundation.org

