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Seldom in history have events like this taken place. We are bringing together country, rock and christian music. People joining forces to make a difference in the lives of those affected by The Station nightclub fire. A one-time chance to see artists sharing the stage. This is an event you can't miss.

*- from the Phoenix Rising Concert Web site*

**FCC Approves Rhode Island PBS Request to  
Simulcast THE STATION FIRE Charity Concert**  
*One-Hour Show Simulcast on Channel 36, Vh1 Classic, Vh1, and MHD*

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND (March 17, 2008) – Rhode Island PBS is proud to announce it received FCC approval yesterday for a special simulcast presentation of a charity concert to benefit The Station nightclub fire survivors and their families. The one-hour television production, **Vh1 Classic Presents: Aftermath - The Station Fire Five Years Later**, airs on **Sunday night, March 23, from 10-11 P.M.**

Rhode Island PBS is broadcasting the show so viewers without cable service can watch highlights of the concert over the air on channel 36. The show will be simulcast on cable's Vh1 Classic, on Vh1, and on MHD: Music High Definition.

By Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules, public television stations are restricted from using their airtime to directly raise funds for organizations other than themselves. Rhode Island PBS had to seek special approval by the FCC to air the concert. In record time, the agency yesterday authorized Rhode Island PBS to simulcast the show. A combination of factors – providing free access to viewers who don't have cable, simulcasting rather than independently airing the one-time program, plus the

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extraordinary content and purpose of the fundraising – seemed to contribute to a quick and affirmative FCC decision. The last time Rhode Island PBS sought a similar FCC waiver was to air the post-9/11 United We Stand fundraiser with the other local television stations.

The "Phoenix Rising" charity concert, held at the Dunkin' Donuts Center on February 25, featured an eclectic mix of classic rock and country music, New England artists and nationally-known acts. Twisted Sister, Winger, and Tesla performed, as did Aaron Lewis of Staind, Eric Martin of Mr. Big, and Carmine Appice from Vanilla Fudge. Country artists taking part included John Rich, Gretchen Wilson, and Dierks Bentley.

The one-hour special created from the concert, **Vh1 Classic Presents: Aftermath - The Station Fire Five Years Later**, will feature highlights of the concert, performances by the artists, as well as appearances by survivors of the tragedy.

The charity event marks the fifth anniversary of The Station Nightclub tragedy in Rhode Island, the fourth largest nightclub fire in U.S. history. On February 20, 2003, 100 lives were lost, 200 others were seriously injured, and 65 children lost one or both parents. Five years later, funds available for the survivors are woefully inadequate. Only 15 survivors of the fire qualified for Social Security benefits, and many are still unable to meet their monthly needs.

All proceeds from ticket sales and charity auctions benefit The Station Family Fund, a non-profit 501 (c)(3) charitable organization founded by survivors of The Station Nightclub fire. The Station Family Fund is committed to providing survivor relief, including costs of ongoing treatment and rehabilitation.

*Now celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, WSBE Rhode Island PBS is owned and operated by the Rhode Island Public Telecommunications Authority, a quasi-public agency of the State of Rhode Island. Rhode Island PBS is a viewer-supported member of the Public Broadcasting Service. Dedicated to lifelong learning, Rhode Island PBS uses the power of commercial-free media to educate, engage, enrich, inspire, and entertain viewers of all ages in Rhode Island, southeastern Massachusetts, and eastern Connecticut. For more information about the programs and services at Rhode Island PBS, visit [www.RIpbs.org](http://www.RIpbs.org).*

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