

FREE JAZZ

That lyric that runs “the best things in life are free?” Pure poetic license.

Some things are free, of course. Like pollen, mosquitoes and head colds. But most of the time, the good stuff (concert or theater tickets, nice shoes, a beach house and four-star restaurants) will cost you plenty.

But as the rule-proving exception, WaFoo, the semi-Japanese jazz band, will play for *free* tomorrow. Wafoo, which is developing a following since its 2004 local debut, is a six-member ensemble that combines traditional jazz formulas, Japanese jazz and traditional Japanese music for a completely original hybrid.

The group’s 2004 Island debut was hailed in an Advance music review: “Wa-Foo’s amalgam of jazz and Japanese traditional elements is very, very easy to love.”

Wafoo (the name means “wind of Japan”) has been working on a seasonal suite. The spring and summer sections will debut tomorrow at 8 p.m. in St. Peter’s R.C. Church, St. Marks Pl., New Brighton.

Part of the score is composed and charted, but there are sections for solo and multiple improvisation, according to bassist Kazuo Nakamura. The other players are Yuuki Koike, flute and alto sax; Masashi Sonoda, guitar; Yutaka Uchida, drums; Sanae Asai, vocals and calligraphy, and Ippei Ichimaru, bass.

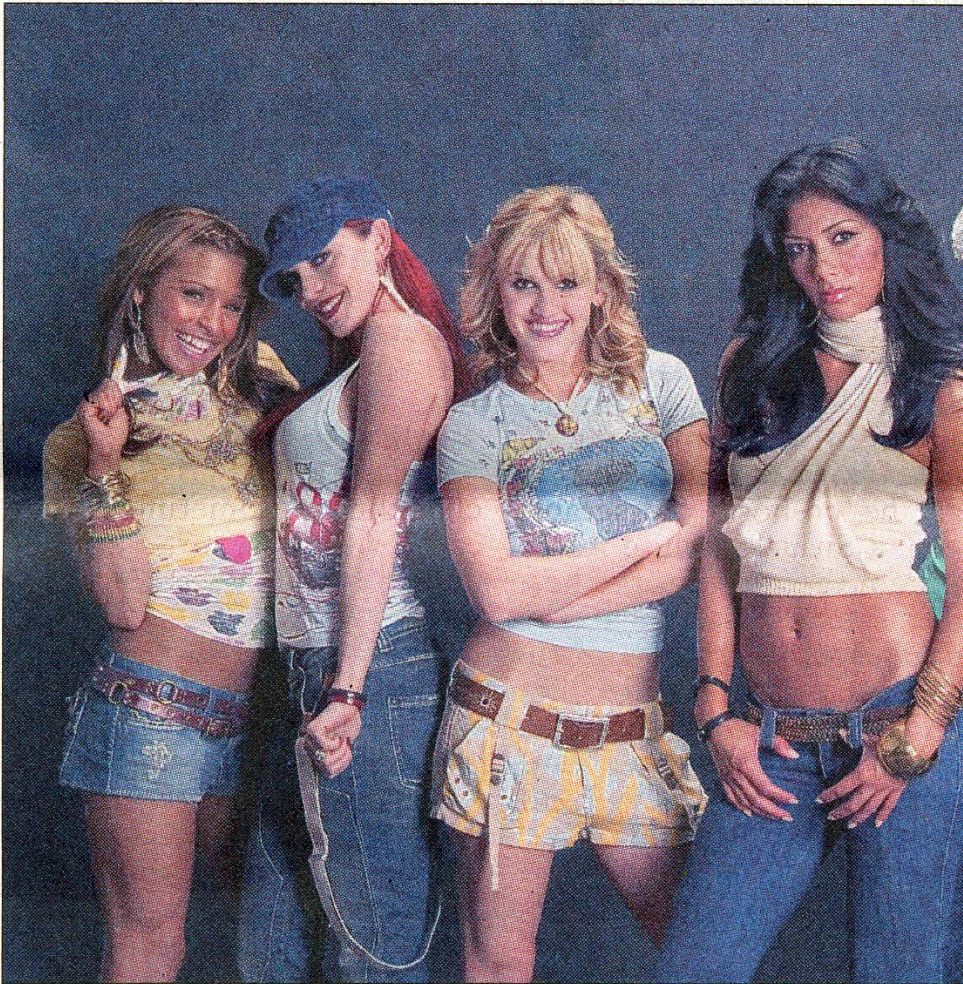
“WaFoo Spring Concert” is made possible by a Encore Grant from the Council on the Art & Humanities for Staten Island (COAHSI). wafoo.info.

—MICHAEL J. FRESSOLA

NOVEL ROMANCE



Dominic Chianese (Uncle Junior on HBO’s “The Sopranos”) croons “Italian



The Pussycat Dolls are, from left, Melody Thornton, Carmit Bachar, Ashley Sutta and Kimberly Wyatt. Hasbro Inc. has canned plans for a line of dolls

a regular, tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. She’s often heard at Martini Red in Stapleton and in such Manhattan venues such as The Knitting Factory, CBGB’s Gallery, Bar 169, The Sidewalk Cafe, Kenny’s Castaways and Pianos.

She’ll also perform June 4 at The Trash Bar, 256 Grand St., Brooklyn (Williamsburg) and at Summerfest in Milwaukee, Wis., on July 1. Both CDs

