

RIVER TO RIVER OVERFLOWS WITH MUSIC



WILLIE BREEDING ▶ moved to Brooklyn last year. Originally from Richmond, Ky., Breeding honed his acoustic, country-tinged sound in Nashville and L.A.



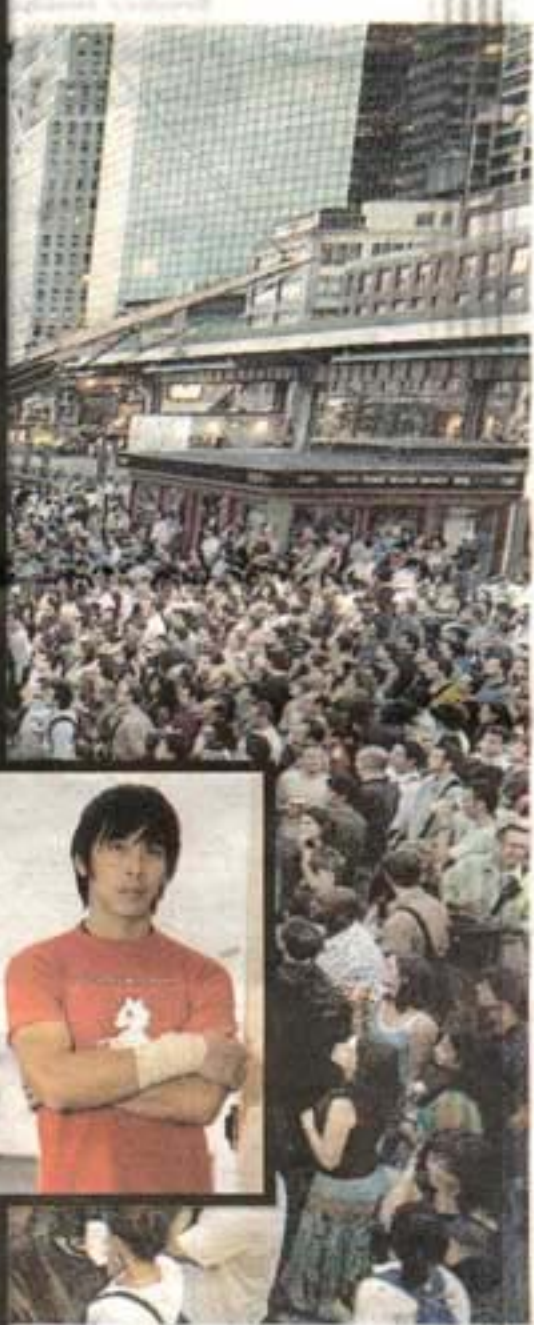
◀ **INGRID MICHAELSON**, from New York, plays a smart fusion of indie pop, folk, and alternative rock. She has a second album, "Girls and Boys," available online.

KHALIL MADYUN ▶ was born in Boston and attended the Berklee College of Music before moving to New York. The R&B singer/songwriter recently released a self-titled EP.



An event at the downtown fest dives into tunes

BY MICHELLE ICAHN



▲ **THE KNUCKLEHEADS** are New York's Spencer White (left) and Michael Hannon, who've also done comedy and whose music has been heard on radio and TV commercials.



▲ **THE ANIMATORS** are Brooklyn's Devon Copley (left) and Alex Wong, who've had their music featured on MTV's "The Real World." Their second CD is titled "Late Night Show."



◀ **HOPE NUNNERY** is an urban folk musician from New York who performs with Steve Tarshis (right). The South Carolina native's first CD, "Wilderness Lounge," is tinged with gospel and the blues.

With television reality shows filled with wannabe singers and dancing tournaments, New Yorkers can find a real live music contest this Saturday at South Street Seaport. In an event at Pier 17, two venues that spotlight emerging artists have created the NewSong New York! competition. Co-sponsored by the River to River Festival and Mountain Stage NewSong Contest, the multi-musician

faceoff will feature performances by 10 regional finalists, including seven from New York City. There'll also be an acoustic performance by Diana Jones, a 2004 NewSong contestant. Each performer is to perform two original works. They'll be judged by a panel that includes River to River Festival executive producer Bill Schreiber and Mountain Stage NewSong Festival director Gar Ragland. The winner will move on to the Mountain Stage NewSong Contest International Finals, to be held in Shepherdstown, W.Va., Aug. 26. The River to River Festival,

which started in 2002, bills itself as the country's largest free arts festival. Its cultural events (including art exhibits, music, dance, tours and panel discussions) are designed to introduce new art and artists to the public. The event was organized to help breathe new life into lower Manhattan after 9/11. It's credited with attracting more than 4 million visitors downtown in the first five years. River to River runs through September. More information is available at www.RivertoRiverNYC.com. For information on the Mountain Stage NewSong Contest, visit www.newsongfestival.com.