

The Washington Post

Printed using recycled fiber

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2009

JOHN KELLY'S WASHINGTON

Inaugural Downbeat

For musicians in Washington's cover bands, the only thing worse than playing an official inaugural ball is not playing one. And unfortunately for that hardy fraternity of tuxedoed keyboard players, guitarists, drummers, horn sections and their slinky dress-wearing chick singers, Obamanaugural will largely feature out-of-town talent.

There are big names, of course — **Jack Johnson** at the Obama Home States Ball, **Sheryl Crow** at the Midwestern Ball — but those acts aren't expected to pump out the high-powered dance music (“Cel-uh-brate good times, *come on!*”). That's why planners hire Top 40 bands. The Home States Ball is bringing in a band from a home state: the **Don Cagen** Orchestra from Illinois. The Midwestern Ball is importing actual Midwesterners: the Fabulous Motown Revue from St. Louis. Other bands are coming from Pennsylvania and Georgia.