



NEWS RELEASE

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June 27, 2008
For Immediate Release:

OKLAHOMA STATE FAIR LIVE! ANNOUNCES 2008 TALENT LINE UP

OKLAHOMA CITY, June 27, 2008—The nights liven up again at the Oklahoma State Fair LIVE! as this year's State Fair welcomes a gala of musical events to take both the Toyota Stage and Rodeo Stage by storm. The Toyota Stage concerts are free with outside gate admission and the Rodeo concerts are free with a paid rodeo admission ticket.

The musical talents featured this year will cover a variety of music genres and appeal to diverse crowds. From Country to R&B (and everything in between) concert attendees will enjoy the hottest local and national acts that highlight rock, pop and country during this free concert season. In addition, the Oklahoma State Fair LIVE! will host an Elvis Extravaganza, a national Elvis impersonator contest, as well as the Centennial Rodeo Opry.

"We're very proud to offer high caliber free concerts that add such tremendous entertainment value to this year's Fair," said Tim O'Toole, President and General Manager, Oklahoma State Fair. "We're offering such a diverse variety of talent; there is definitely something for everyone."

Amarillo's own Kevin Fowler will take the Toyota Stage on Thursday September, 11. Fowler's success began with the 2000 release of his debut album *Beer, Bait and Ammo* which sold over 30,000 copies. Kevin's signature honky-tonk anthems like "Beer, Bait and Ammo", "Hard Man to Love", "Ain't Drinkin' Anymore", and latest single "Best Mistake I Ever Made" from his CD *Bring It On* will have crowds cheering for more. Outside gate admission to the State Fair, on this day (Opening Day), is only \$1.

The Centennial Rodeo Opry follows on Friday, September 12. This local myriad of musical talent which includes Stephanie Short, Dustin Jones, Howard Barnard, Eric Dysart and others will please fans on the Toyota Stage while furthering the Opry's educational mission of continuing Oklahoma's rich legacy of country and western music through cultivating and developing local talent and performance skills.

On Saturday, September 13, musical sensations Candy Coburn and James Otto will take the Toyota Stage. Candy Coburn, appearing in the afternoon at 3:00 p.m. and then again at 7:30 p.m., will rev things up with her signature green guitar playing hits from her latest CD *Rev It Up*. Fans will enjoy Candy's true-to-life lyrics in new songs including "Rev It Up", "Hall Of Fame" and popular hits including

“Enjoy the Ride” and “It’s Good to Be a Girl”. That night, James Otto will round out the evening with his collective signature of musical genres which include classic rock and southern rock blends. From the soulful “Just Got Started Lovin You” to the muscular “Ain’t Gonna Stop” hits off his latest CD *Sunset Man*, James will leave crowds mesmerized.

Pop and R&B connoisseurs will discover music to their ears with Jordan Pruitt taking Toyota Stage on Sunday, September 14. Last year, Jordan’s debut album *No Ordinary Girl* peaked at Billboard 200 and with 14,000 copies sold during its first week. Fans eagerly await the release of her sophomore album *Permission to Fly* with 15 tracks slated for a July release.

Monday, September 15, Contemporary Christian group Hawk Nelson takes the Toyota Stage. Since 2003, Hawk Nelson has continued to amaze fans with their unique pop rock blends. The 2004 major label release of *Letters to the President* marked a major milestone in the band’s success. Their latest album *Hawk Nelson Is My Friend* will definitely rock the crowds.

In addition, Elvis fans will be all shook up when the Oklahoma State Fair LIVE! plays host to the National Elvis Extravaganza. What usually happens in Vegas will take the Toyota Stage with this national Elvis impersonator contest on Tuesday, September 16 and Wednesday, September 17. This is a regional qualifier for the national “Elvis Idol” contest that will be held later on in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Toyota Stage will be the site of the first-ever “It’s All About the Music: The Festival” featuring Gavin DeGraw. Audiences will be charmed by DeGraw’s unique rock ballads on Thursday, September 18. Smash hits including “I Don’t Want To Be”, “Follow Through” and the title track “Chariot”, from his platinum selling debut album in 2003, have created a whirlwind following. His performance, including songs from his second studio album self-titled *Gavin De Graw*, at the Toyota Stage will be an unforgettable experience.

The Friday night concert, on the Toyota Stage, has yet to be finalized.

On Friday, September 19 the Rodeo Stage at “Beauty & The Bulls” welcomes country music sensation Miranda Lambert. Miranda’s 2003 debut album *Kerosene* went #1 on country charts earning her various award nominations which included the CMA Horizon Award, the ACM Top New Female Vocalist Award and a Grammy nomination. Fans will cheer to hits like “Kerosene”, “Me and Charlie Talking”, “Famous in a Small Town”, “Gunpowder & Lead” and other songs from her sophomore album *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, which was named “Best Album of the Year” at the recent ACM Awards Show.

Next up on the Toyota Stage is Oklahoma City native Graham Colton. Since the 2004 signing with *Universal*, Graham Colton has enjoyed national success as a result of his tours with Dave Matthews Band, John Mayer, Kelly Clarkson, Maroon 5 and Counting Crows. His latest album with lead track “Best Days” has been featured on *Fox’s* hit show *American Idol* as well as *Opry’s* “The Big Give” and topped the *iTunes* charts. Crowds will rock out to this charismatic, young singer/songwriter.

Rogers, Arkansas native Joe Nichols will take the Rodeo Stage, following the PRCA Rodeo action, on Saturday, September 20. Since the release of his 2002 major label debut album *Man With A Memory*, Joe has created a tremendous following in the country music world with such hits as “The Impossible”, “Brokenheartsville”, “What’s A Guy Gotta Do”. Joe’s 2005 smash hit album *III* won him 4 Grammy nominations. *Real Things*, Joe’s 4th album has produced his current single “It Ain’t No Crime” which is climbing up the country music charts.

Rounding out the 2008 Toyota Stage talent line-up on Sunday September, 21 will be *Eric Burdon and The Animals*. Everyone who experienced the 1960's "British Invasion" with legendary bands that included *The Beatles*, *The Rolling Stones* and *The Dave Clark Five* will remember *Eric Burdon and The Animals* as one of the leading "British Invasion" bands introducing British rock and fashion to an entire generation. *Eric Burdon and The Animals* has generated a worldwide following for over four decades with signature hits that include 15 Top 40 songs including "The House of the Rising Sun", "Don't Let Me Be Misunderstood", "We Gotta Get Out of This Place", "It's My Life", "Don't Bring Me Down" and "Spill The Wine". After a brief disbanding, they've been reunited since the 1990's and will take the Toyota Stage on Sunday afternoon.

Neal McCoy will close out this year's State Fair with an unforgettable show in the Arena, following the afternoon performance of the Rodeo. For nearly two decades, Neal has been a consistent favorite in the country music world with such hits as "Wink", "The Shake", "You Gotta Love That" and "The City Put The Country Back in Me". He topped *The Hot Country Songs* chart in 2005 from his own label *903 Music* with his most recent single "Billy Got His Beer Goggles On". Neal will be a concert favorite with his signature smooth moves and playful lyrics.

"We are excited about our entire talent line-up for 2008" said O'Toole. "This year's Toyota Stage and Rodeo Stage will provide excellent concerts for every type of musical taste."

FREE Concerts on the Toyota Stage

Thursday, September 11 • Kevin Fowler

Friday, September 12 • Centennial Rodeo Opry

Saturday, September 13 • Candy Coburn (2 & 8:00 p.m.) & James Otto (8:00 p.m.)

Sunday, September 14 • Jordan Pruitt

Monday, September 15 • Hawk Nelson

Tuesday, September 16 • National Elvis Extravaganza

Wednesday, September 17 • National Elvis Extravaganza

Thursday, September 18 • "It's All About the Music: The Festival" featuring Gavin DeGraw

Friday, September 19 • TBD

Saturday, September 20 • Graham Colton

Sunday, September 21 • Eric Burdon & The Animals

Oklahoma State Fair LIVE! runs Thursday, September 11 thru Sunday, September 21. Tickets for all 2008 Oklahoma State Fair LIVE! events go on sale Saturday, July 12 at all tickets.com outlets, including the State Fair Arena Box Office, at participating metro-area Homeland Stores in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, online at www.tickets.com or by calling 800-511-1552. Visit us at www.okstatefair.com for more detailed information regarding the 2008 Oklahoma State Fair LIVE!.