

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brienna Schuette • Marketing and Communications Manager • (651) 288-4452 • brienna.schuette@mnstatefair.org

State Fair's Free 2009 Entertainment Lineup Announced

More than \$550,000 in Free Entertainment

May 27, 2009

MINNESOTA STATE FAIRGROUNDS--The Minnesota State Fair's free entertainment lineup features more than 100 acts--all free with the price of admission. In addition to musical genres from Americana to Zydeco, the schedule includes comedy, magic, dance, lumberjacks, skateboarding and BMX, stories of the outdoors and more.

To the Bandshell Tonight! Series on the Leinie Lodge Stage, the fair welcomes ABBAMANIA, a tribute to ABBA; The Original Wailers, made up of Bob Marley's band members; Minneapolis pop-rock group Quietdrive; Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, whose high-energy funk-rock show mesmerized fair guests in 2008; classic horn-based rock band Blood, Sweat & Tears; and western & comedy legends Riders In The Sky.

Other popular free acts performing at the 2009 fair include: country up-and-comers Joey & Rory; the Barbary Coast Dixieland Show Band, rockabilly artist Deke Dickerson; bluegrass band Monroe Crossing; high-energy rockers the White Iron Band; African-jazz group Yawo; R & B artists Paul Cebal Tomorrow Sound; hard-driving string band Pert' Near Sandstone; vintage-swing group Café Accordion Orchestra; Americana band The Front Porch Swingin' Liquor Pigs; comedian Sean Emery and nationally-known a cappella group Tonic Sol-Fa.

New in 2009, ShenaniGuns! Comedy Wild West Show will raise a ruckus when a Texas town comes to life near Heritage Square. This free adventure features slapstick fun for families and runs three times daily.

Free entertainment venues at the fair include: Leinie Lodge Bandshell, The North Woods (sponsored by Cal Spas of Minnesota), The X-Zone (sponsored by Coca-Cola), International Bazaar Stage (sponsored by Summit Brewing Co.), Family Fair Stage at Baldwin Park (sponsored by Green Mill Restaurant), Heritage Square Stage (sponsored by August Schell Brewing Co.), and Ramberg Senior Center Stage.

Three upcoming Grandstand on-sale dates remain. On sale this Saturday, May 30: **O.A.R.** with special guests **Slightly Stoopid** and **Brett Dennen** (Sept. 2) and **REO Speedwagon** and **STYX** with special guest **38 Special** (Sept. 5). On sale Saturday, June 6: **Jason Aldean with special guest The Eli Young Band** (Aug. 28) and **A Prairie Home Companion** with **Garrison Keillor** (Sept. 4). On sale Saturday, June 13: **Randy Travis** with special guest **Joe Nichols** (Sept. 1).

Tickets are available through Ticketmaster at 800-745-3000, www.ticketmaster.com or any Midwest Ticketmaster Center. For State Fair Box Office or mail order information, please call (651) 288-4427.

The entire lineup of Grandstand and free entertainment artists is available at www.mnstatefair.org.

The 2009 Minnesota State Fair runs Thursday, Aug. 27 through Labor Day, Sept. 7.

1265 Snelling Avenue N. • St. Paul, MN 55108 • (651) 288-4400 • FAX (651) 642-2440 • TTY (651) 642-2372
E-mail: fairinfo@mnstatefair.org • Web: www.mnstatefair.org