

# MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

## NEWS RELEASE

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### Niall Horan to Headline Opening Night of 2018 Grandstand Concert Series

September 15, 2017

St. Paul, Minn. – Niall Horan is the first show confirmed for the 2018 Grandstand Concert Series sponsored by Sleep Number. He will perform opening night of the 2018 Minnesota State Fair. Show details are as follows:

**Niall Horan: Flicker World Tour 2018 with special guest Maren Morris**

7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23

Tickets: \$59 and \$49 (all reserved seating)

On sale: 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 22

**Photos:** A gallery of high-resolution, downloadable Grandstand photos is available for media use at the following link:  
[http://gallery.mnstatefair.org/media/18\\_GS/index.html](http://gallery.mnstatefair.org/media/18_GS/index.html)

Tickets will be available through Etix at [etix.com](http://etix.com) or by calling (800) 514-3849. In addition, tickets may be purchased at the State Fairgrounds Ticket Office during a limited-time opening from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 22. For additional State Fair ticket information, call (651) 288-4427.

*About Niall Horan:* After smashing success as part of the U.K.-based band One Direction, Niall Horan is making a name for himself by releasing solo work with a new, unique sound. Ahead of his anticipated debut album, he released the single “Slow Hands,” which went to No. 1 in 44 countries and has a distinctly catchy stomp-and-clap beat and chorus. He is currently working on and writing for that album, where he is accompanying himself on piano and guitar and taking inspiration from his favorite artists such as Fleetwood Mac, The Eagles, The Lumineers and James Bay. Hailing from Ireland, Horan released his first solo single “This Town” in fall 2016, and since then, streams of the song have surpassed 350 million worldwide.

*About Maren Morris:* Texas-born, Nashville-dwelling Maren Morris has had no shortage of success in recent years, and it was kicked off by the smash hit “My Church” off her self-titled EP released in 2015. The single hit No. 5 on the U.S. Hot Country chart and was certified Platinum. That success led to a Grammy Award for Best Country Solo Performance and the 2016 release of *Hero*, which reached No. 1 on the U.S. Country chart. Other hits off that album include “80s Mercedes,” “Drunk Girls Don’t Cry” and “Once.” Her songwriting chops have been featured on the hit television show “Nashville,” and she’s penned lyrics for Tim McGraw, Kelly Clarkson and more. Her impressive honesty and soul-bearing lyrics coupled with her bluesy belting make her one of country music’s biggest rising stars.

Additional Grandstand artists will be announced periodically between now and next year’s fair. State Fair fans and music enthusiasts are encouraged to sign up for the State Fair’s e-news at [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) to receive concert announcements before tickets go on sale.

A Fireworks Spectacular, sponsored by Mazda, follows all Grandstand shows, weather permitting.

*About the Minnesota State Fair:* The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world, attracting nearly 2 million visitors annually. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is always 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Visit [mnstatefair.org](http://mnstatefair.org) for more information. The 2018 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3.

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