

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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Life Tour Featuring Boy George and Culture Club, The B-52s and Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey Announced for 2018 Grandstand Concert Series

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St. Paul, Minn. – An additional evening of entertainment is confirmed for the 2018 Grandstand Concert Series sponsored by Sleep Number. Show details are as follows:

Life Tour featuring Boy George and Culture Club, The B-52s and Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey

6:30 p.m. Monday, Sept. 3

Tickets: \$45, \$35 (all reserved seating)

On sale: 10 a.m. Friday, March 23

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

Tickets will be available through Etix at 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 noon on Friday, March 23. For additional State Fair ticket information, call (651) 288-4427.

About Boy George and Culture Club: Formed in 1981 in London, England, synth-pop band Culture Club is composed of lead vocalist Boy George, Roy Hay, Mikey Craig and Jon Moss. The iconic group has sold more than 50 million albums and 100 million singles worldwide. International hits include “Do You Really Want to Hurt Me,” “Time (Clock of the Heart),” “Karma Chameleon” and many more. The group’s second album, *Colour by Numbers*, sold more than 10 million copies worldwide and is considered by *Rolling Stone* to be one of the 100 best albums of the 1980s. “Karma Chameleon” became the biggest-selling single of 1983, and in 1984, Culture Club won a Grammy award for Best New Artist. Instrumental in new wave music and a massive part of the British rock invasion in the ‘80s, Boy George and Culture Club tour the globe performing their genre-bending smash hits.

About The B-52s: It is well known that the B-52s are The World’s Greatest Party Band. And nearly 40 years and more than 20 million albums into their career, there can be no doubt as to why they remain one of rock music’s most beloved and enduring bands. Any mystery concerning the band’s longevity and ongoing appeal is immediately solved when exposed to a B-52s concert experience. From groundbreaking songs like “Rock Lobster,” “Dance This Mess Around” and “Private Idaho,” to chart-topping hits like “Love Shack” and “Roam” and “Deadbeat Club,” to their thrilling reemergence on the pop scene with their 2008 CD *Funplex*, the B-52s’ unforgettable dance-rock tunes start a party every time their music begins.

Formed on an October night in 1976 following drinks at an Athens, GA, Chinese restaurant, the band played their first gig at a friend’s house on Valentine’s Day 1977. Naming themselves after Southern slang for exaggerated ‘bouffant’ hairdos, the newly-christened B-52s (Fred Schneider, Kate Pierson, Keith Strickland, Cindy Wilson and Ricky Wilson) began weekend road trips to New York City for gigs at CBGB’s and a handful of other venues. Before long, their thrift store aesthetic and genre-defying songs were the talk of the post-punk underground. A record deal soon followed and their self-titled debut disc, produced by Chris Blackwell, sold more than 500,000 copies on the strength of their first singles, the garage rock party classic “Rock Lobster,” and “52 Girls.” The B-52s began to attract fans far beyond the punk clubs of the Lower East Side — galvanizing the pop world with their ‘stream-of-consciousness’ approach to songwriting and outrageous performance. They had clearly tapped into a growing audience for new music that was much larger than anyone could have anticipated.

As they take their party-music revolution into the 21st century the B-52s show no signs of slowing down, serving up their own unique blend of music and showmanship to millions of fans around the world.

About Thompson Twins’ Tom Bailey: Formed in 1977 in the United Kingdom, Thompson Twins are known for its new wave, synth-pop sound. The group’s first No. 1 hit in the U.S. was “In The Name of Love” off the album *Set*. The band continued its international success in 1983 with “Lies” and “Love On Your Side,” which was their first U.K. Top 10 single. Further top hits that year included “We Are Detective” and “Watching,” followed by “Hold Me Now.” That smash hit became the band’s biggest seller and reached No. 3 in the U.S. 1984’s *Into the Gap* sold 5 million copies worldwide, and the group continued to release albums and

hit singles throughout the '80s. Tom Bailey, Thompson Twins' original lead vocalist and bassist, tours internationally performing the band's iconic songs.

The following 2018 Minnesota State Fair Grandstand shows have already been announced: Niall Horan: Flicker World Tour 2018 with special guest Maren Morris (Thursday, Aug. 23), Sugarland: Still The Same 2018 Tour with special guests Frankie Ballard and Lindsay Ell (Friday, Aug. 24), The Beach Boys with special guest The Righteous Brothers (Monday, Aug. 27), Good Vibes with Jason Mraz and Brett Dennen (Tuesday, Aug. 28) and truTV Impractical Jokers Starring The Tenderloins (Thursday, Aug. 30). Additional Grandstand artists will be announced periodically throughout the next several months. State Fair fans and music enthusiasts are encouraged to sign up for the State Fair's e-news at 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 for more information. The 2018 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 23 - Labor Day, Sept. 3.

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