

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Additional Evenings of Entertainment Announced for 2018 Grandstand Concert Series

April 9, 2018

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

Earth, Wind & Fire with special guest Sinbad

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 26

Tickets: \$49, \$39 (all reserved seating)

On sale: Noon Friday, April 13

311 & The Offspring with special guest Gym Class Heroes: Never-Ending Summer Tour

7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 31

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

On sale: 10 a.m. Friday, April 13

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 1 p.m. on Friday, April 13. For additional State Fair ticket information, call (651) 288-4427.

About Earth, Wind & Fire: Earth, Wind & Fire, one of the world's top-selling musical groups of all time, was formed in Chicago in 1969. With a signature sound and a groove as deep as the soul of the planet, the band's legendary journey has set the standard for music of all genres and made a profound and lasting impact on popular culture. One of the most important, innovative and commercially invincible contemporary forces of the 20th century, Earth, Wind & Fire has released 23 albums, recorded eight No. 1 R&B singles and eight Double Platinum Top 10 pop albums, and sold more than 100 million albums worldwide. The group has nine Grammy awards, been inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, and earned achievements from ASCAP, NAACP and the BET Awards. Top hits from one of the most influential groups of the century include "September," "Boogie Wonderland" and "Let's Groove."

About Sinbad: Comedian David Adkins, known as Sinbad, was born in Michigan and began his stand-up comic career on "Star Search," on which he made it to the finals. After that, he got his television start in 1987 on "A Different World." In 1990, he did his first HBO comedy special called "Sinbad: Brain Damaged." Following that, he made a number of appearances in films and television shows, including *Houseguest*, *Good Burger*, *First Kid*, *Jingle All The Way* and *It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia*.

About 311: 311 was formed in 1990 in Omaha, Neb., by singer/guitarist Nick Hexum, singer S.A. Martinez, guitarist Tim Mahoney, drummer Chad Sexton and bassist P-Nut. The band now resides in Southern California. 311 mix rock, rap, reggae and funk into their own unique hybrid sound and have developed a reputation as one of the most entertaining and dynamic live bands in the U.S. 311 has sold more than 9 million albums in the U.S. alone. 311's last 10 consecutive albums reached the Top 10 on the *Billboard* Top 200 Album Charts, and they've had nine Top 10 radio hits, including three that went to No. 1. Their list of hits includes "Down," "All Mixed Up," "Amber," "Love Song," "Come Original," "Beautiful Disaster," "Don't Tread On Me," "Hey You" and "Sunset In July." 311's celebratory live shows and incessant touring schedule have earned them a massive grassroots following nationwide.

About The Offspring: Formed in 1984, punk-rock band The Offspring met as Orange County, Calif., high school classmates. The group released its self-titled debut album in 1989, and in 1992, released its second album, *Ignition*, which sold more than 1 million albums worldwide. 1994's *Smash* featured the hits "Come Out and Play (Keep 'Em Separated)," "Self Esteem" and "Gotta Get Away." This album sold more than 11 million copies worldwide – the most ever for a band on an indie label. Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, The Offspring continued to release music, including hits "Pretty Fly (for a White Guy)" and "The Kids Aren't Alright." The group continues to release new music and tour internationally.

About Gym Class Heroes: Gym Class Heroes broke into the scene in 2005 with their debut *The Papercut Chronicles*, a classic coming-of-age album that spawned the Platinum, record-setting Top 40 No. 1 single "Cupid's Chokehold/Breakfast in America." *Papercut* served up a fresh, new palette for hip-hop: live instruments, slyly humorous lyrics and eerie melodies that illuminated rapper Travie McCoy's dark, personal subject matter. Since then, Gym Class Heroes has established themselves as one of the most exciting bands in pop music, topping the radio charts with hit singles, touring the world, making countless national television appearances, and winning multiple music awards, including the MTV VMA for Best New Artist in 2007.

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), truTV Impractical Jokers Starring The Tenderloins (Thursday, Aug. 30) and Life Tour featuring Boy George and Culture Club, The B-52s and Thompson Twins' Tom Bailey (Monday, Sept. 3). Additional Grandstand artists will be announced periodically throughout the next couple 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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