

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Lara Hughes • Marketing & Communications Supervisor • Media Hotline: 651-288-4321 • Media Email: media@mnstatefair.org

Three Additional Shows Announced for Grandstand Concert Series

April 9, 2019

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

Why Don't We

7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 23

Tickets: \$38 and \$28 (all reserved seating)

On sale: noon Friday, April 12

Trace Adkins & Clint Black with special guest Terri Clark: Hits. Hats. History. Tour

7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aug. 25

Tickets: \$41 and \$31 (all reserved seating)

On sale: 11 a.m. Friday, April 12

Tommy James and the Shondells and Happy Together Tour 2019

7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 26

Tickets: \$31 (all reserved seating)

On sale: 10 a.m. Friday, April 12

Photos: A gallery of high-resolution, downloadable Grandstand photos is available for media use at the following link: <https://www.mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/media-gallery-grandstand-artists/>

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 12. Please note on-sale times. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4427.

In other Grandstand entertainment news, special guest G. Love & Special Sauce has been announced for the Daryl Hall & John Oates' show at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 28; special guests Mavis Staples and Savannah Conley have been announced for The Current's Music On-A-Stick featuring Brandi Carlile show at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 31. Tickets are currently on sale.

About Why Don't We: Since its formation in 2016, Why Don't We haven't stopped. Instead, these five young men—Jonah Marais, Corbyn Besson, Daniel Seavey, Jack Avery, and Zach Herron—have forged ahead at warp speed. Prior to coming together, each member stood out as a performer in his own right. Marais and Besson often livestreamed in-home performances to massive audience as Herron served up viral covers that generated tens of millions of views. Avery built a growing subscriber base on YouTube, and Seavey etched a space in the hearts of viewers on American Idol. They crossed paths during tours and fan engagements in the midst of these burgeoning solo careers. Soon, they found themselves on a group text where the idea of joining forces came up. The collective response: "Why don't we?" Drawing on their respective talents and formidable followings, the group emerged as a phenomenon. Beyond generating more than 300 million YouTube views and 200 million Spotify streams during that period, the quintet released five EPs—*Only The Beginning*, *Something Different*, *Why Don't We Just*, *Invitation* and *A Why Don't We Christmas*. Along with singles such as the 2018 Ed Sheeran-penned single "Trust Fund Baby," this avalanche of music represented an unconventional approach as the group's audience constantly received new music at a record pace. The group sold out its first-ever headline tour throughout North America and followed that up by selling out an even bigger headliner in 2018.

About Trace Adkins: A Nashville icon for more than two decades, Trace Adkins has made his mark on the country music industry, including 11 million albums sold, time-honored hit singles, memorable live performances, GRAMMY® nominations, Country Music Television and Academy of Country Music Awards, nearly 200 million plays on YouTube and a slew of movie and TV roles. Working with some of Nashville's most respected songwriters, Adkins continues to find ways to connect with his fans through music while recording autobiographical songs throughout his career. It's an interesting change of perspective for Adkins, however, when he hits the road for his legendary live gigs. Where the studio offers him unique insight into his current state of mind, onstage, when revisiting his classic songs "You're Gonna Miss This" or "Every Light in the House" nearly every evening, he says he's taken back to earlier moments in his life. With 1 million followers on Spotify and more than 1 billion spins on Pandora (10 million spins per month), the longstanding country icon has yet to lose any of his trademark passion and killer instinct for his craft. The 57-year-old is as fired up as ever to be back on the road this year, taking his music to fans once again.

About Clint Black: Multi-million-selling country icon Clint Black is set to embark on a tour commemorating the 30th anniversary of his groundbreaking debut album *Killin' Time*, which all but altered the landscape of country music. Raised in the suburbs of Houston, Texas, Black surged to superstardom, reaching No. 1 with five consecutive singles from that Triple-Platinum debut album. He followed that with the Triple-Platinum *Put Yourself in My Shoes* and then a string of Platinum and Gold albums throughout the '90s. Black wrote or co-wrote every one of his more than three dozen chart hits, including "A Better Man," "Where Are You Now," "When My Ship Comes In," "A Good Run of Bad Luck," "Summer's Comin'," "Like the Rain" and "Nothin' But the Taillights," part of a catalog that produced 22 No. 1 singles and made him one of the most successful singer-songwriters of the modern era. Along the way, he landed nearly two dozen major awards and nominations, won a GRAMMY® Award, countless Country Music Association Awards, American Music Awards and Academy of Country Music Awards, as well as a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. In 2015, Black released *On Purpose*, his first studio album of new material in nearly a decade.

About Terri Clark: Hailing from Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, Terri Clark got her start by playing for tips at Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, a legendary honky-tonk bar across the alley from Nashville's historic Ryman Auditorium. With more than 5 million albums sold, critically acclaimed international tours and hit singles such as "Better Things to Do," "Poor Poor Pitiful Me," "Girls Lie Too," "Northern Girl" and "I Just Wanna Be Mad," Clark has solidified her place in the history books of country music. In 2018, she was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame. The three-time JUNO Award winner also holds the honor of being the only Canadian female member of the legendary Grand Ole Opry. She has been named Canadian Country Music Association (CCMA) Female Vocalist of the Year five times and has taken home eight CCMA Fans' Choice Awards. In total, Clark has received 19 CCMA Awards.

About Tommy James and the Shondells: "Crystal Blue Persuasion," "Crimson and Clover," "Mony Mony," "I Think We're Alone Now," "Draggin' the Line," "Hanky Panky," "Sweet Cherry Wine," "Three Times in Love" and "Mirage" are just a few of his many hits. In addition, Tommy James has racked up 23 Gold records, nine Platinum albums, more than 100 million records sold worldwide and 32 *Billboard* Hot 100 Chart hits. Many artists around the world have covered and continue to cover his songs, including Prince, Bruce Springsteen, Joan Jett, Billy Idol, Kelly Clarkson, R.E.M., Dolly Parton, Carlos Santana, Cher, Tom Jones, and the Boston Pops. Tommy's music can be heard in 55 films, 39 television shows and numerous commercials. Most recently, the film *Finding Steve McQueen* with Forest Whitaker will feature four of Tommy's songs. BMI lauded Tommy for his success with the presentation of five "Million-Air" awards for his music being played more than 21 million times on air. Tommy's critically acclaimed autobiography, *Me, The Mob and The Music*, is on Rolling Stone's Top 25 Best Music Memoirs List and is now in production for a major motion picture with producer Barbara Defina, whose credits include *Goodfellas*, *Casino*, *Cape Fear*, *Color of Money*, *Age of Innocence* and *Silence*. The screenplay is written by Matthew Stone, whose credits include *Intolerable Cruelty*, *Man of the House* and *Big Trouble*. Tommy now has his own show on SiriusXM Satellite Radio's '60s on 6 channel: "Gettin' Together with Tommy James" every Sunday evening from 5-8 p.m. Tommy is an inductee of the prestigious New Jersey Hall of Fame, and his life-size hologram can be viewed at the Hall of Fame exhibit in Newark Airport. He was also given the Pittsburgh Legend award and was voted the Jukebox Artist of the Year by the Amusement & Music Operators Association of New York. Now entering his 51st year in the music business, he just finished his new album, *ALIVE!*, which will be released this month. Tommy continues to tour around the country!

About Happy Together: The Happy Together Tour 2019 features The Turtles; Chuck Negron, formerly of Three Dog Night; Gary Puckett & The Union Gap; The Buckingham; The Classics IV; and The Cowsills. Some of the most

popular bands and performers of the '60s and '70s, these groups collectively produced many hit singles, including "Happy Together," "One," "Young Girl," "Kind of a Drag," "Spooky," and "The Rain, The Park & Other Things" respectively.

About G. Love & Special Sauce: Garrett "G. Love" Dutton, Jeffrey "The Houseman" Clemens and Jimmy "Jazz" Prescott are celebrating their 25th year as touring and recording artists. With more than 15 records released, this pioneering band has been an influence to artists such as Jack White, Jack Johnson, The Avett Brothers, Slightly Stoopid and many more. With their signature blend of Delta Blues, hip-hop, funk, rock & roll and jazz, The Special Sauce have literally created their own funky stew of American music. Expect a high-energy mashup of funky beats and songs written from the front porch to get the world smiling and dancing to the positive message of love and the blues.

About Mavis Staples: Rock & Roll Hall of Famer and Kennedy Center Honoree Mavis Staples began her career singing with the groundbreaking family group, the Staple Sisters, in 1950. When she graduated from high school, the group started touring and rose from popularity in the gospel world to become a central part of the soundtrack to the protest movement of the 1960s. The Staple Singers' expressions of strength and empowerment earned the group a GRAMMY® Lifetime Achievement Award in 2005. Mavis Staples would go on to record two albums produced by Prince and work with Bob Dylan, Ray Charles and George Jones. In 2017, she was inducted into the Blues Hall of Fame, and in 2018 received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Arts Awards. Her spectacular 12th studio album and first full-length collaboration with multi-GRAMMY® Award-winner Ben Harper, *We Get By*, delivers roof-raising performances with both a youthful vigor and a commanding maturity.

About Savannah Conley: Emerging singer-songwriter Savannah Conley was born and raised just outside Nashville. Influenced by musical parents – her father was a guitarist and her mother a background singer – she has been performing since the age 7. Now 21, Conley recently released her EP *Twenty-Twenty*, featuring the stand-out track "All I Wanted." *Twenty-Twenty* was produced by GRAMMY® Award-winning producer Dave Cobb (Chris Stapleton, Sturgill Simpson, Anderson East) and is Conley's first release in partnership with Cobb's Low Country Sound imprint at Elektra Records. *Twenty-Twenty* received critical acclaim from the likes of Rolling Stone who referred to the release as an "emotionally rich collection of tracks full of moody instrumentation and whip-smart lines." Rolling Stone also named Conley one of their "Artists You Need To Know" in March of this year.

The following 2019 Grandstand shows have already been announced: **Hootie & the Blowfish: Group Therapy Tour with special guest Barenaked Ladies** (Thursday, Aug. 22); **"Weird Al" Yankovic Strings Attached Tour** (Tuesday, Aug. 27); **Daryl Hall & John Oates with special guest G. Love & Special Sauce** (Wednesday, Aug. 28); **Lionel Richie** (Friday, Aug. 30); **The Current's Music On-A-Stick featuring Brandi Carlile with special guests Mavis Staples and Savannah Conley** (Saturday, Aug. 31) and **MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals** (Sunday, Sept. 1). Additional Grandstand artists will be announced periodically between now and this year's fair. 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.

The Nightly 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 more than 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 2019 Minnesota State Fair runs Aug. 22 - Labor Day, Sept. 2.

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