

MINNESOTA STATE FAIR

NEWS RELEASE

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The Black Keys: Dropout Boogie Tour with special guest The Velvetears Announced for 2023 Grandstand Concert Series

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St. Paul, Minn. – The Black Keys: Dropout Boogie Tour with special guest The Velvetears is confirmed for the 2023 Grandstand Concert Series sponsored by Sleep Number. Visit mnstatefair.org/grandstand/ for Grandstand information. Show details are as follows:

The Black Keys: Dropout Boogie Tour with special guest The Velvetears

7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24

Tickets: \$69, \$91, \$101, \$159 (all reserved seating)

On sale: 10 a.m. Friday, May 5

Media Photos: A gallery of high-resolution Grandstand photos is available for media use at: mnstatefair.org/get-involved/media/media-gallery-grandstand-artists/

Tickets are available through Etix at etix.com or by calling 800-514-3849. For additional State Fair ticket information, call 651-288-4427. Please note that the State Fairgrounds Ticket Office will not be open for in-person sales. Currently, tickets will be sold online and by phone only.

About The Black Keys: For more than 20 years, childhood friends Dan Auerbach and Patrick Carney have come together in settings ranging from musty midwestern basements to expensive Hollywood multitrack facilities to the kind of custom-built space where their remarkable album “Dropout Boogie” was recorded, and there has been one constant: When these two musicians get in a room together with no distractions besides their instruments, the songs instantly emerge. Recorded at Auerbach’s Nashville studio, Easy Eye Sound, “Dropout Boogie” is the best execution yet of The Black Keys’ finest instincts: a 10-track testament to the enduring power of their signature brand of elemental blues rock. Whether it’s the electrifying jolt of lead single “Wild Child,” the guttural stomp of “It Ain’t Over” or the hypnotic blues groove of “Good Love (feat. Billy F Gibbons),” “Dropout Boogie” exudes a sense of ease and the confidence to mix new ideas with classic impulses. The latest album follows the band’s 2021 Grammy-nominated “Delta Kream,” a project that renewed their faith in their chemistry, although the duo has always prided themselves on the ability to work together instinctively. “Delta Kream” was the band’s fifth consecutive Top 10 debut on the Billboard 200 and scored career peaks in several countries, as well as earning a Grammy nomination for Best Contemporary Blues Album. It may be pure coincidence that the release of “Dropout Boogie” on May 13, 2022, came one day before the 20th anniversary of The Black Keys’ debut album, “The Big Come Up,” but the symbolism isn’t lost on Carney and Auerbach. Auerbach says: “When I sit down and play with Pat, I’m instantly transported to a basement in Akron. And it’s a really good feeling. It’s the natural chemistry Pat and I have. Being in a band this long is a testament to that. It was a real gift that we were given.” Carney agrees: “After 20 years of making music together, we’ve made an album that we think is one of our best, and we had more fun making it than any of the others.” theblackkeys.com

About The Velvetears: The Velvetears, a primal rock trio from the mountains of Boulder, Colo., and made up of singer/guitarist Demi Demitro and drummers Baby Pottersmith and Jonny Fig, unveiled their debut album, “Nightmare Daydream,” in October 2021. Produced by Grammy Award-winning artist Dan Auerbach, the record is the long-awaited first statement from a band that formed in 2014 and has been carefully honing its sound and identity ever

since. “Charmer And The Snake” was the record’s first single. Growing up in Boulder, Demitro rebelled through her guitar, practicing up to nine hours a day and neglecting schoolwork to develop a playing style that is heavy but agile, theatrical but nuanced, grounded in rock history but wholly idiosyncratic. With Pottersmith and Fig playing on a conjoined drum set, the band developed a reputation for its rip-roaring performances. Clips of the band’s live shows and DIY videos made it to Auerbach, who invited them to his studio in Nashville to produce “Nightmare Daydream.” “I instantly dug them,” says Auerbach. “They’re amazing live, and their videos are so creative. And they just sound so powerful. Any time you doubletrack drums on a record, it’s going to sound heavy. Then you put that together with this baritone guitar player who is so unique, and it’s bombastic. There’s nothing like them.” *thevelveteers.com*

The following 2023 Grandstand shows have already been announced with tickets on sale: THE CHICKS: World Tour 2023 with special guest Wild Rivers (Aug. 25); Keith Urban with special guest Lindsay Ell (Aug. 26); Boyz II Men and Chaka Khan (Aug. 27); Happy Together Tour 2023 featuring The Turtles, Little Anthony, Gary Puckett & The Union Gap, The Vogues, The Classics IV and The Cowsills (Aug. 28); Brandi Carlile (Aug. 29); Yung Gravy with special guest bbno\$ (Aug. 30); DURAN DURAN: FUTURE PAST with special guests Bastille and Nile Rodgers & CHIC (Aug. 31); The Current’s Music On-A-Stick featuring The Hold Steady with special guests Bob Mould Band and Dillinger Four (Sept. 2); 50th Annual MSF Amateur Talent Contest Finals (Sept. 3 – free); and Blippi: The Wonderful World Tour (Sept. 4).

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

Pre-fair discount admission tickets are currently on sale for the 2023 Great Minnesota Get-Together. Visit mnstatefair.org/tickets/admission-tickets/ for more information.

The Minnesota State Fair is one of the largest and best-attended expositions in the world. Showcasing Minnesota’s finest agriculture, art and industry, the Great Minnesota Get-Together is 12 Days of Fun Ending Labor Day. Follow along on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok @mnstatefair for year-round Minnesota State Fair updates. The 2023 Minnesota State Fair will run Aug. 24 through Labor Day, Sept. 4. Visit mnstatefair.org for more information.

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