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THE BIG FRESNO FAIR ANNOUNCES FIRST ROUND OF ENTERTAINMENT FOR ITS 2022 TABLE MOUNTAIN CONCERT SERIES LINE-UP

Tickets will go on sale May 17, as part of exclusive Big Fair Fan Club Pre-sale

FRESNO, CALIFORNIA, May 4, 2022...The Big Fresno Fair is excited to announce the first seven shows as part of its 2022 Table Mountain Concert Series in the Paul Paul Theater presented by Modelo and Toyota – Dwight Yoakam; Ice Cube; KMJ's 100th Anniversary Celebration featuring Tower of Power and special guest Paul Rodriguez; Midland; Dana Carvey; Phil Wickham; and Ladies Night Out Featuring Ashanti and Baby Bash.

This is the first round of entertainment announcements with more to follow to fill the 12 nights of the 2022 Big Fresno Fair. These seven concerts will go on sale first to Big Fair Fan (BFF) Club members, the Fair's free email newsletter, as part of an online only pre-sale from Tuesday, May 17 at 10:00 a.m. until Tuesday, May 31 at 11:59 p.m. During this time, any BFF Club member who purchases a Fair concert ticket can also purchase a Fair admission ticket for 50% off; discounted admission and concert tickets must be purchased in the same transaction. Tickets will then go on sale to the general public (online only) beginning Wednesday, June 1 at 10:00 a.m. The Fair's Box Office will open August 15.

BFF Club Members will receive a special password via email on Monday before the pre-sale. Know someone who isn't a part of the BFF Club, but would like to purchase their concert tickets AND receive 50% off Fair admission ahead of time? Tell them to sign up for free at www.FresnoFair.com/BFFClub.

MORE ABOUT THE ENTERTAINMENT

Dwight Yoakam – Wednesday, October 5 | Ticket Prices: \$50, \$40, \$35

Dwight Yoakam has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide, and he is a 21-time nominated, multiple Grammy Award winner. He has 12 gold albums and nine platinum or multi-platinum albums, with five of those albums topping Billboard's Country Albums chart and another 14 landing in the Top 10. Nearly 40 of Yoakam's singles have charted on Billboard, with 14 peaking in the Top 10. In 2013, Yoakam was granted the Artist of the Year award from the Americana Music Association, the most prestigious award offered by the organization and in 2019 was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in the Songwriter/Artist category at the 49th anniversary Gala.

In 2016, Yoakam released his bluegrass album *Swimmin' Pools, Movie Stars...* on Sugar Hill Records. Featuring a band of bluegrass luminaries, this album boasts a collection of reinterpreted favorites from his catalogue, as well as a cover of Prince's "Purple Rain". Produced by nine-time Grammy winner Gary Paczosa (Alison Krauss, Dolly Parton), Jon Randall (songwriter of "Whiskey Lullaby") and Yoakam himself, and mixed by Chris Lord-Alge, this album reflects the love for bluegrass music that Yoakam developed at an early age in Kentucky and that has inspired him for many years thereafter. In 2018, Yoakam released two songs, "Pretty Horses" and "Then Came Monday" (the latter written with Chris Stapleton).

Ice Cube – Thursday, October 6 | Ticket Prices: \$55, \$45, \$35

Ice Cube is an award-winning musician, actor, director, producer, civil rights leader and CEO and co-founder of the BIG3 professional 3-on-3 basketball league. Formerly known for his groundbreaking lyrics





in N.W.A's music, Ice Cube left the group at the peak of its popularity to pursue one of the most successful careers in music history. As a solo recording artist, Ice Cube has sold more than 10 million albums while remaining one of rap's most respected and influential artists and was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2016. Beyond music, Ice Cube is a lifelong civil rights activist and the co-author of the *Contract With Black America*.

More recently, Cube released his first solo album in eight years, *Everything's Corrupt*, his 10th solo album and 18th album overall via Interscope Records in December 2018. *Everything's Corrupt* continues Ice Cube's legacy as one of the most politically outspoken rappers of all time, proving that the power of his voice and vision is stronger than ever.

KMJ's 100th Anniversary Celebration feat. Tower of Power with special guest Paul Rodriguez - Tuesday, October 11

Ticket Prices: \$32, \$22, \$18

KMJ is celebrating their 100th Anniversary at the 2022 Big Fresno Fair! KMJ began broadcasting on March 23, 1922 and is the 38th oldest licensed and continually operated radio station in America.

For over 50 years, Tower of Power has delivered the best in funk and soul music. Originally a soul band called "The Motowns" consisting of members Emilio Castillo, (the late) Rocco and "Doc" Kupka, the group went on to change their name to Tower of Power, writing songs for *East Bay Grease*, which defined their sound and landed them with Warner Brothers. *Bump City*, their 1972 debut for the label, was a hit on both the Billboard 200 and the R&B Albums chart, and netted them the hits "You're Still A Young Man" and "Down to the Nightclub." The 70s were a boom period with radio classics such as "So Very Hard To Go" and "What Is Hip?". Castillo says their love of the stage is the same today as it was back in 1968. Tower's window-rattling grooves and raucous party spirit has been a balm for the soul throughout their half-century existence, but the release of *50 Years of Funk & Soul: Live at the Fox Theater* couldn't arrive at a better time.

The band has long since surpassed Castillo's modest aspirations, traveling the world, enjoying hit singles on their own and backing legendary artists including Otis Redding, Elton John, Santana, the Grateful Dead, John Lee Hooker, Aerosmith, Bonnie Raitt, and countless others. In the process they've defined an "Oakland soul" sound as instantly recognizable as those from Castillo's hometown, Detroit, as well as inspirations like Memphis and Philadelphia.

Longtime comedian, Paul Rodriguez, has been making audiences laugh all over the world - in both Spanish and English - for nearly three decades with his unique brand of humor that is a perfect blend of his Latin heritage, the American dream and his undeniable universal appeal. Rodriguez is both an actor and comedian, appearing in over 45 films and countless television series and comedy specials. Rodriguez has continued to be involved with various charitable civic and educational organizations like the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, Juvenile Diabetes Foundation, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and The Leukemia Society. Rodriguez was honored with the Humanitarian of the Year Award by the City of Fresno for his tireless work on behalf of water conservation. As Chairman of the California Latino Water Coalition Rodriguez was one of the driving forces behind the California Water Bond Measure coming into fruition.

Midland - Wednesday, October 12 | Ticket Prices: \$50, \$40, \$35

Academy of Country Music Award winner group Midland, from Dripping Springs, Texas features lead vocalist Mark Wystrach, guitarist/vocalist Jess Carson and bass player/vocalist Cameron Duddy. Since releasing their debut album *On the Rocks* in 2017, Midland's blend of '70s country-rock song structures





and tightly stacked harmonies - with a dose of country traditionalism thrown in for good measure - have brought the group two Top 5 hits on Billboard's Country Airplay chart ("Drinkin' Problem" and "Burn Out"); the No. 1 position on Billboard's Top Country Album Sales chart for their sophomore album *Let It Roll* (Big Machine Records) and earned praise from outlets such as Rolling Stone, Variety, NPR and Entertainment Weekly. Midland's 2x Platinum-certified chart-topping debut song "Drinkin' Problem" earned the band their first Grammy Awards nomination for Best Country Song and Best Country Duo/Group Performance; the hit single also garnered over 152 million views on YouTube to date. Midland was named New Vocal Group of the Year at the 2018 ACM Awards and was nominated for Vocal Group of the Year at the 2020 CMA Awards. In March 2021, Midland released the documentary film *The Sonic Ranch*, which detailed their origin and first recording session at the Sonic Ranch studio in Tornillo, Texas. In July 2021, Midland released *The Last Resort*, a five-song collection and the title of their tour.

Dana Carvey – Thursday, October 13 | Ticket Prices: \$42, \$32, \$22

One of *Saturday Night Live's* (SNL) talented alumni, comedian Dana Carvey joined the show in 1986, and was a catalyst for SNL's soar in popularity. With his sharp, quicksilver characters and uncanny ability to exaggerate dead-on impersonations from George Bush and Ross Perot to Johnny Carson and Regis Philbin, Carvey became the darling of the SNL for six solid seasons. During this time, he created some of the show's most memorable characters, including "Church Lady," "Garth" of Wayne & Garth fame, Grumpy Old Man and bodybuilding "Hans" of Hans & Franz notoriety.

Carvey is a six-time Emmy nominated, Primetime Emmy-award winning actor and comedian, who made his feature film debut in *This Is Spinal Tap*, and other earlier works including *Racing With The Moon*, *One of the Group*, *Tough Guys* and the comedy, *Opportunity Knocks*. His most successful film came in tandem with Mike Myers in which the duo recreated their memorable "party-on" dudes Wayne and Garth from the famous SNL sketches. *Wayne's World* (1992) and its sequel *Wayne's World 2* (1993) were box-office smashes. In 2016, Carvey appeared in USA Network's comedic half series, *First Impressions*, which featured amateur impressionists competing against each other in a weekly battle of celebrity impressions with Carvey mentoring each contestant. Most recently, Dana Carvey lent his voice for these animated movie series, *Hotel Transylvania* and *Secret Life of Pets*. Still, his true brilliance is captured best on the live comedy stage.

Phil Wickham – Friday, October 14 | Ticket Prices: \$32, \$22, \$18

Since his self-titled debut in 2006, Phil Wickham has emerged as a leader in the modern worship movement, capturing countless songs that have been sung in churches all around the world. His Gold-certified single, "This Is Amazing Grace," was his first career No. 1, holding the top spot on the charts for 13 consecutive weeks and was named Billboard's No. 1 "Christian Airplay Song of the Year" in 2014 and BMI's "Christian Song of the Year" in 2015, while the anthemic "Living Hope" earned him a GMA Dove Award for "Worship Recorded Song of the Year" in 2019. Combining a strong sense of artistic vision with emotive lyrics, his discography now includes eight full-length projects, multiple Christmas releases and a series of popular Singalong records that capture Wickham's songs doing what they were always meant to do—giving people language to sing to God.

Ladies Night Out feat; Ashanti and Baby Bash – Saturday, October 15 | Ticket Prices: \$50, \$40, \$35

Grammy Award-winning singer and songwriter, actor and author, Ashanti burst onto the music scene in 2002 with her smash hit, self-titled debut album, *Ashanti*. It landed the No. 1 spot on both the Billboard's Top 200 and R&B album charts, selling an astounding 504,593 units in its first week. This set a SoundScan record as the most albums sold by any debut female artist in the chart's history and granted her a spot in the *Guinness Book of World Records*. Over the span of her 20-year career, Ashanti has released six studio albums and received a number of illustrious rewards including eight Billboard





Awards, a Grammy, two American Music Awards, two Soul Train Awards and six ASCAP Awards. She has reigned at the top as one of Billboard's "Top Females of the Decade (2000-2010)" and continues to break Billboard records having a Hot 100 entry every decade in the 2000s, 2010s and 2020s. As a philanthropist, Ashanti is the Ambassador for the Jumpstart Reading Program and became the "Youth of the Year" Ambassador for the Boys and Girls Club of America in 2009 and was inducted in its Hall of Fame. On April 7, 2022, Ashanti received a Star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame for her countless contributions to music and recording.

Baby Bash released his first album *Savage Dreams* in 2001, which was followed by his sophomore album *On the Cool* (2002). In 2003, he signed a contract with Universal Records where he then released his first major album, *The Smokin Newpew*, which ranked 48 on the Billboard 200 and received Gold certification by RIAA. The album included the single "Suga Suga" (alongside Frankie J), which peaked at No. 7 on the Billboard Hot 100. In 2005, *Super Saucy* was released, preceded by the lead single "Baby, I'm Back" (featuring Akon). *Cyclone* followed in 2007, with its title single (featuring T-Pain) and its follow-up, "What Is It" (featuring Sean Kingston), also finding success on the Billboard charts. He continues to tour and write lyrics for singers such as Paula DeAnda, Jennifer Hudson and Frankie J.

About The Big Fresno Fair:

The Big Fresno Fair, founded in 1884, is the fourth largest fair in the state of California and represents the 21st District Agricultural Association. More than 600,000 people from throughout the State visit The Big Fresno Fair each year making it the largest annual event in the Central Valley. Members of the Board of Directors include: Chuck Riojas, President; Terry Gonsalves, Vice President; Gary Cahil, Secretary/Treasurer; Linda Mae Balakian Hunsucker; Frank Flores; Jerry Pacheco; Annalisa Perea; and Lawrence Salinas. Deputy Managers, Stacy Rianda and Lauri King oversee the daily operations of the Fair. The 2022 Big Fresno Fair will run October 5-16. Visit www.FresnoFair.com for more information.

Resources:

Big Fresno Fair Logo & Artist Publicity Photos | <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/egdzk03LEB>

Dwight Yoakam | www.dwightyoakam.com

Ice Cube | www.icecube.com

Tower of Power | www.towerofpower.com

Midland | www.midlandofficial.com

Dana Carvey | www.danacarvey.com

Phil Wickham | www.philwickham.com

Ashanti | www.ashantithisisme.com

Baby Bash | www.solo.to/babybash

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