

# MAYDAY PARADE



## Stanislaus County Fair 2026 Artist Announcement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Turlock, CA – March 3, 2026 — Elder Emos, this one’s for you! **Mayday Parade** hits the **Modelo Variety Free Stage** at the **Stanislaus County Fair on Friday, July 17, 2026**, bringing their iconic sound and crowd-favorite songs for a must-see concert! *All concerts on the Modelo Variety Free Stage are a part of the Black Oak Casino & Resort Concert Series, will begin nightly at 8:30 PM, and are FREE with paid Fair admission!*

### About Mayday Parade:

There’s a lot for MAYDAY PARADE to celebrate these days. The Tallahassee, Florida-formed quintet recently wrapped a career-defining tour marking two decades together, one that saw more than 70,000 fans pack sold-out venues to celebrate their storied catalog. They performed a triumphant main-stage set at the 30th anniversary of the Vans Warped Tour, a full-circle moment for a band that made their name selling self-released CDs in those same sweltering parking lots nearly 20 years ago. Their landmark debut LP, *A Lesson In Romanticism*, turned 18, still beloved for its iconic singles like the platinum-certified “Jamie All Over” and gold-certified “Miserable At Best.” And the group released *Sweet*, the first in a self-released three-album series that reaffirmed just how vital and creatively energized Mayday Parade still remains.

Now, on *SAD*, the second installment in that trilogy, the band – vocalist Derek Sanders, guitarists Alex Garcia and Brooks Betts, bassist Jeremy Lenzo and drummer Jake Bundrick – continue diving deeper into the emotional nuance that’s defined their most captivating albums, blending aching sentimentality with melodic urgency as only they can. Once again produced by longtime collaborators Zack Odom and Kenneth Mount, *Sad* sees Mayday Parade stripping back some of the tempo that colored *Sweet* in favor of more deliberate grooves, more introspection, and a sharpened focus on mood and space.

“I think we try to approach every album in the context of what we’ve done in the past, especially for a project like this” Lenzo says. “But at the same time, you try to stay open-minded and allow whatever surprises might happen.”

True to form, the band’s musical choices here reflect a thoughtful twist on the sound that’s made them synonymous with the emo and pop-punk genres: “It’s Not All Bad” chugs along with the charm and anthemic bliss of classic Weezer; first single “Under My Sweater” bobs on the back of Bundrick and Lenzo’s rock-solid rhythm section; falsetto chorus lifts the gentle “One Day A Time” into the upper echelon of Mayday’s balladry; “Promises” mourns the loss of a beloved pet with heartbreaking vulnerability; and the reflective “I Miss The 90s” finds Sanders nostalgic not for flashy pop-culture hallmarks of his youth, but the fleeting feelings of innocence and emotional safety that once colored a simpler time.

Elsewhere, “Breakup Song” melds a breezy musical bed with devastating lyrics (“I feel like my goal is to write depressing songs that make people happy,” Sanders says with a laugh), building on an idea the singer had been sitting on dating back to his teenage years that Garcia brought to life, while the album-closing “I Must Obey The Inscrutable Exhortations Of My Soul” begins with an explosive 45-second burst of tightly wound punk energy before unfurling into one of the most epic moments in the band’s discography. It’s a multi-part suite that threads together everything *Sad* stands for: ambition, resonance, and the freedom to push beyond expectations.

“I had the thought that I wanted to write a song and give it to our manager and tell him to only ever release it after I was dead,” Sanders says. “It started as a joke, nothing super serious, but the more I sat with it, the more I realized it could be the first section of a song that went in a couple different directions. The first part’s a little more playful and fun, and the second part is more serious and emotional. I loved the idea of the journey of this song.”



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**The mission of the Stanislaus County Fair is to provide a family and community-oriented experience promoting agriculture, entertainment, and technology.**



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