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THE BIG E ANNOUNCES LATEST COURT OF HONOR STAGE ENTERTAINMENT  
Jesse McCartney, Rainere Martin in The Donna Summer Experience,  
The Yardbirds, Exile and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

The Big E announces five additional concerts to take place on the Court of Honor Stage, sponsored by *Mattress Firm*, at the 2020 Fair, Sept. 18-Oct. 4. All shows are free with Big E admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The stage is located in front of the iconic Coliseum.

Concerts include:

**Jesse McCartney, Sept. 18, 8pm**

American singer, songwriter and actor, Jesse McCartney, of “Beautiful Soul” fame, quickly made his way from boy band Pop star to serious working artist when he co-wrote the Grammy Award-winning single “Bleeding Love” with Ryan Tedder, performed by Leona Lewis. The international mega-hit was Grammy-nominated for Record of the Year, reached No. 1 in 35 countries, and became the best-selling single of 2008 worldwide. After two singles released in 2018-2019, Jesse released his single and music video "Yours" this spring to give fans their first look at his upcoming album.

**Rainere Martin in The Donna Summer Experience, Sept. 21-22, 3pm**

With an early focus on R&B ballads, an appreciation for the art and craft of performers of all eras, and a desire to find her right niche, Rainere Martin’s early explorations had her performing in theater, music videos, motion pictures and television. However, it was the musical pulse of the 70’s and the era’s great headliner Donna Summer that stuck in her memory. She explains, “It was a realization that I just didn’t sing Donna’s songs, I felt them. Her performances to date have been electrifying audiences with her uncanny resemblance to Donna’s style, grace, energy, and of course, voice. She has become a sought after entertainer for a variety of social and corporate events, and her appearance on the nationwide TV show, “Showtime At The Apollo,” earned her a standing ovation.

**The Yardbirds, Sept. 21-22, 8pm**

The Yardbirds are more than a Rock band; they are an institution, which, in the brief period from 1963 to 1968, made an indelible mark on the “Shapes of Things” to come. To the casual music fan, The Yardbirds are best known as the band that honed the skills of future “guitar gods” Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck and Jimmy Page; and for their slew of chart hits, including “For Your Love,” “Heart Full of Soul” and “I’m A Man.” Led by core



members and songwriters Jim J McCarty (drums), Chris Dreja (rhythm guitar/bass) and the late Keith Relf (vocals/harmonica), the band's experimental explorations also provided the crucial link between British R&B, Psychedelic Rock and Heavy Metal, while pioneering the use of innovations like fuzz tone, feedback and distortion. Even their 1968 break-up set the stage for Rock 'n Roll's future, leading Jimmy Page to form the New Yardbirds, later re-christened Led Zeppelin. Reuniting decades later, McCarty and Dreja brought The Yardbirds boldly in to the 21st Century with the release of the acclaimed CD, *Birdland*, which featured guest appearances from the likes of Brian May, Joe Satriani, Slash and Steve Vai. Additionally, the band commemorated their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with the release of their live DVD, *Making Tracks*, in 2013. Today's touring lineup includes: singer/harpist/percussionist, Myke Scavone; guitarist/singer, John Idan; drummer, Jim McCarty; guitarist Godfrey Townsend; and bassist, Kenny Aaronson.

### **Exile, Sept. 23-24, 3pm**

Exile, formed in 1963 looking to play small clubs in Richmond, Kentucky, managed to top both the Pop and Country charts during their more than 55-year career. Their most successful hit, "Kiss You All Over," spent four weeks at the top of Billboard's pop chart in 1978 and was used in the 1996 Adam Sandler movie "Happy Gilmore" and in the 2006 film "Employee of the Month." They have toured with acts including Aerosmith, Fleetwood Mac and The Oak Ridge Boys. During the group's run on the Country charts, Exile has successfully had ten No. 1 singles including "I Don't Want To Be A Memory" and "Give Me One More Chance." The five original Exile members re-formed in 2008 and continue to tour today.

### **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Sept. 23, 8pm**

Together for more than 26 years, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy has appeared in concert venues across the world, sold millions of records, and had their music appear in hundreds of movies and television shows. With sold out concerts from the Hollywood Bowl to Lincoln Center, appearances with many of the nation's finest symphony orchestras, and television appearances ranging from Dancing with the Stars to Superbowl XXXIII, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy continues its decades-long mission to celebrate and revitalize Jazz and Swing music, America's original art form, and bring joy to audiences around the world.

Look for more concert announcements soon at [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com). The 2020 Big E takes place Sept. 18-Oct. 4 in West Springfield, Mass. Stay up to date with all Fair happenings by finding us on Facebook, following us on Twitter and Instagram or joining our mailing list at [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com).

