



Brooks & Dunn, ZZ Top together to open 156th Great Allentown Fair

Country duo, rocking trio take stage on same night

For Immediate Release

Allentown, Pa.—How's this for a concert pairing? Country music's dynamic duo **Brooks & Dunn** is joining forces with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame's trio from Texas **ZZ Top** to kick off The 156th Great Allentown Fair. The show starts at 7 p.m., Tuesday, August 26 on fair preview night.

Tickets for the show will go on sale Saturday, April 19. They are \$65 for standing on the open-air track and reserved seating in the Fair's covered Grandstand.

“When we heard about this blockbuster tour shaping up, we knew we had to have it,” said Fair Marketing Director and Talent Buyer Bonnie Brosious. “More than 70,000 fans have been to Brooks & Dunn and ZZ Top concerts over the years at the fair. Having these two legends together on the Grandstand stage has ‘good time’ written all over it, so we’re letting it rip festival-style, meaning no chairs on the track to increase the venue’s capacity to 14,500. Those desiring a reserved seat can have one in the covered Grandstand,” Brosious detailed.

ZZ Top's endless catalog of hits demonstrate the blues and country roots of rock music, and Brooks & Dunn's flare for guitar driven songs and high energy performance reveal the influence of rock on today's country bands. The two titans of their respective genres have shown enthusiasm for each other's talent teaming up on a CMT televised concert, but this is the first time they will be touring together.

Ronnie Dunn called performing with ZZ Top in 2002 on CMT's “Crossroads,” a monthly series showcasing the intersection of musical genres, a “dream.” Getting their chance to perform ZZ Top hits, Dunn handled lead vocals on "She Loves My Automobile" and Kix Brooks moved to the front mike to belt out "Rough Boy."

ZZ Top infiltrated Brooks & Dunn signature tunes stepping up Billy Gibbons' grungy blues guitar licks on "Boot Scootin' Boogie" and "Hard Workin' Man." During the upcoming tour, each act will perform their own sets.

Brooks & Dunn performed at the fair five times between 1995 and 2003. With the October 2007 release of "Cowboy Town," the duo's 13th album, they continue their tradition of racking up hit after hit single.

The first cut off the new album "Proud of the House We Built" came out in the summer and spent weeks on the country singles charts. Its success was followed up the inspirational "God Must Have Been Busy" that has stayed on the charts throughout the fall and winter. The album contains several more potential singles including "Tequila," a rousing Tex-Mex flavor song with all the ear markings of a classic Brooks & Dunn boot-stomping hit.

The duo started as independent singer-songwriters playing honky tonks until an Arista Records executive introduced them and signed the pair to produce their first album "Brand New Man" in 1991. The title track became first of many to come Brooks & Dunn No. 1 singles, and the album went on to sell six-million copies.

Chart-toppers through the years include "She Used to be Mine," "That Ain't No Way to Go," "She's Not the Cheatin' Kind," "Little Miss Honky Tonk" and "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone." Although they write most of their own material, a 1996 remake of "My Maria" was an exception that spent three weeks at No. 1 and continues to be a concert favorite.

ZZ Top's original members guitarist Billy F. Gibbons, bassist Dusty Hill and drummer Frank Beard have produced their own rowdy-brand of blues-rock for more than 30 years. They first performed at the fair in 1983—the first time lasers were used as a special effect at the fair and the same year that the fledgling MTV embraced the band's video versions of the top singles from its multi-platinum-selling "Eliminator" album.

Singles "Sharp Dressed Man," "Legs" and "Gimme All Your Lovin'," conjure up video images of mini-skirted females, a trademark 1933 red Ford coupe, and the bearded threesome donning sunglasses and blazing guitars in a unison swagger.

The boogie-rock trio returned to the fair in 1997 and 2004 reaching into their bottomless bag of hits including "La Grange," "Cheap Sunglasses," "Tube Snake Boogie," and later cuts "Velcro Fly," "Give It Up" and "Viva Las Vegas."

Tickets for the ZZ Top / Brooks & Dunn concert and the fair's classic Labor Day Demolition Derby will be available starting at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 19 at the Fair Box Office and through Ticketmaster at outlets, over the phone and online.

The fair continues to sell tickets at the aforementioned locations for its previously announced Daughtry, Toby Keith and Jonas Brothers concerts as well as All Day Ride Wristbands for the new Powers Great American Midways carnival at the fair.

For hours, more information and future Fair show announcements call 610-433-7541 or visit the Fair Web site at www.allentownfairpa.org.

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