



Toby Keith coming to 156th Great Allentown Fair

Multi-award winning Country singer Fair's first announced headliner

Allentown, Pa.— Country singer Toby Keith is the first headliner announced for the 156th Great Allentown Fair. As part of his tour to support a new album due out in April, the two-time Country music “Entertainer of the Year” will make a stop at the fair on Friday, August 29.

Tickets for the show will go on sale Saturday, March 1 at 10 a.m. They are \$59 and \$49 and include fair admission when purchased before the day of the show.

Keith was honing his music skills playing honky-tonks in Oklahoma and Texas in the ‘80s and early ‘90s when a record company executive caught a show and signed Keith to his first recording deal. “Should’ve Been a Cowboy,” the first single off of his self-titled debut album, shot to No. 1 on Billboard’s Country charts and the album was certified platinum in 1993.

He followed up the rest of the decade with a string of successful albums—“Boomtown,” “Blue Moon,” “Dream Walkin’” and “How Do You Like Me Now?”

He also kept racking up the hit singles such as “Who’s That Man,” “Does That Blue Moon Ever Shine on You,” “You Shouldn’t Kiss Me Like This” and a cover of rocker Sting’s “I’m So Happy That I Can’t Stop Crying” that earned both Keith and Sting a Grammy nomination.

The new millennium brought Keith huge recognition not only as a singer, but also as a flag bearer for military-supporting patriotism and as an occasional film actor.

He had been riding the wave of his successful early 2001 album “Pull My Chain” that produced three No. 1 hits, “I’m Just Talkin’ About Tonight,” “I Wanna Talk About Me” and “My List,” when his father was killed in a motor vehicle accident.

Later that year, the events of 9/11 prompted Keith to write a song about his late father's staunch patriotism, "Courtesy of the Red, White and Blue (The Angry American)," that was released on Keith's triple-platinum selling album "Unleashed" in 2002.

The song, a hard-smacking anthem about standing-up after attack, attracted publicity after the late news anchor Peter Jennings rescinded his invitation to let Keith perform it on a Fourth of July television special that aired right when the song was No. 1 on the Country charts. It also drew the rancor of Dixie Chicks member Natalie Maine, who has frequently expressed her odds with American involvement in the war in Iraq.

The controversy did not daunt the success of the "Unleashed" tour that sold out venues nationwide including the Allentown Fair's Grandstand in 2002.

Keith has continued to mix his brand of patriotic-themed songs into his collection of love-gone-wrong ballads and tunes that celebrate barroom carousing. Albums "Shock 'n Y'all," "Honkytonk University," "White Trash With Money" and "Big Dog Daddy" spawned such hits as "American Soldier," "I Love This Bar," "Note to Self" and current singles "Love Me If You Can" and "Get Your Drink On."

Keith has also produced two "Greatest Hits" and two Christmas albums. He is currently recording on his own Show Dog label that has also signed young artists Flynnville Train and Carter's Cord. Keith starred in the film Broken Bridges in 2006 and has lent his name to Love This Bar and Grill chain of restaurants.

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

###