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CITY OF PALMDALE *NEWS RELEASE*

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Phil Vassar to Perform at The Amp This Saturday

PALMDALE – Billboard Country Songwriter of the Year Phil Vassar will take the stage at the Palmdale Amphitheater this Saturday, July 12 at 8 pm as the City of Palmdale’s summer concert series kicks off the 2014 season.

Over his highly successful career, Vassar has released eight albums, earned two ASCAP Songwriter of the Year trophies, penned countless hits as a singer and songwriter, and launched his own Rodeowave Entertainment label. He has hit the Top 5 seven times with songs like “Carlene,” “Last Day of My Life” and “American Child,” and topped the charts with “In a Real Love” and the perennial favorite “Just Another Day in Paradise.” Known as one of Nashville’s top tunesmiths, his songs other artists have taken to #1 include “My Next Thirty Years” by Tim McGraw, “She’s Right On The Money” by Alan Jackson, and Jo Dee Messina’s “Bye, Bye” and “I’m Alright.” New artist David Nail had a hit with Phil’s “The Sound of a Million Dreams,” which *Billboard* named the #1 song in their Top 10 Country Songs of 2012.

Tickets are on sale at www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp. General admission tickets for all four concerts can be purchased online at www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp for \$10. Gates open at 6 pm and the concerts begin at 8 pm rain or shine. Guests are encouraged to bring lawn chairs or blankets. Carry-in food, beverages, coolers, alcohol and pets are not permitted. Food, beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Other headliners in Palmdale's summer concert series include country star **Fifth Harmony** on July 19, R&B legends **The Whispers** on July 26, and **Banda Machos** on August 2.

Fifth Harmony formed during the second season of *The X Factor*. In the short time since, they have won numerous awards including Radio Disney Music Award for 2014 Breakout Artist of the Year, Shorty Awards for Best Band in Social Media, and *Billboard's* Girl Group Week Most Promising New Girl Group. They were handpicked to be part of Disney's "Next Big Thing" campaign, MTV and Pop Tarts "Crazy Good VMA Concert," and won the fan-voted Vevo's Lift Artist Award. Fifth Harmony's debut EP *Better Together*, released October 22, 2013, skyrocketed to #2 on iTunes and now officially lands the group their first Top Ten Album, which debuted at #6 on the Billboard Top 200 Chart.

The Whispers are one of only a few "old school" groups that can boast of having over 40 years in the industry with a worldwide fan base, maintaining their vocal dominance and original members. They have amassed four decades of pop and R&B hits including "Rock Steady," "It's a Love Thing," "And the Beat Goes On"; seven gold albums, two platinum albums, 12 top twenty singles, 40 chart hits, and nominations from the American Music Awards, Soul Train Awards and Grammy Awards. The Whispers were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2003.

Since their formation in 1990, **Banda Machos** (or "La Reina de las Bandas" as they're commonly known) have been blazing a trail in the Mexican Regional market. Their unique blend of Banda, Quebradita and Ranchera sounds have led to #1 singles, platinum albums and countless awards from their musical peers. Now 22 years into their

career, this 13-piece ensemble is going strong and kicking off the most exciting phase of their career as the creators of Quebadrita with their techno banda style. On the social networks, **Banda Machos** are a dominant force as well. Their smash single “No Hay Problema” has earned nearly two million YouTube views and videos for “Sangre De Indio” and “Al Gato y El Raton” (their all-time biggest hit) are well into the millions.

The summer concerts are generously sponsored by American Medical Response, AV Furniture & Mattress, Antelope Valley Mall, BJ’s Restaurant & Brewhouse, Claim Jumper Restaurant, Double D Cupcakes, Hilton Garden Inn, Lancaster JetHawks, Lockheed Martin, Southern California Edison, Time Warner Cable News, Valleywide Dental, and Ventura Graphix.

Previous performers at Palmdale Amphitheater include Blake Shelton, The Beach Boys, Air Supply, En Vogue, Lonestar, The Spinners, The Four Tops, Loverboy, The Temptations, The Guess Who, America, SheDaisy, The Rascals, Styx, REO Speedwagon, Chaka Khan, Mercy Me, War, Euge Groove, The Rippingtons, Jeff Golub, The Village People, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, Pam Tillis, Bill Medley, Blind Boys of Alabama, Sugarland, Peter Noone and Herman’s Hermits, Tracy Lawrence, Josh Kelly, Blue Oyster Cult, Clay Walker, and Morris Day and the Time.

For more information about Palmdale Amphitheater concerts, please visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp or call 661/267-5611.

About Palmdale Amphitheater (‘The Amp’)

The Amp at Marie Kerr Park is the Antelope Valley’s premier outdoor entertainment venue, providing audiences with a blend of high energy concert

performances and community-based programming. Its convenient location, great sight lines and comfortable, grassy seating areas are complemented by Saturday evening concerts and Friday evening Family Movie Nights presented during summer months.

For many years, the City of Palmdale hosted the Starlight Concert Series on a baseball field at Marie Kerr Park, and guests would come as early as 3 am to set out their blankets and stake their spots to watch entertainers perform on a portable stage. There were often smaller events held prior to the concerts, like Family Western Days, Taste of the Valley and the Fourth Saturday Cruise. Soon, however, the concerts were bursting at the seams with guests, and it became clear that a larger venue was needed.

In 2005, after Palmdale residents voted for a bond measure to provide funds for the construction, the Palmdale Amphitheater was opened at the newly expanded Marie Kerr Park site, ushering in a new era. The new amphitheater featured amenities that were not available at the old site, such as permanent restrooms, areas for food vendors, and even a “real” green room for the entertainers.

This year, The Amp will host several events in addition to the concerts and movies including:

GraceFest AV

Dating back to August 2007, GraceFest AV has become the Antelope Valley’s Premier Music and Message festival. GraceFest returns to the Palmdale Amphitheater in Sept. for two amazing nights of music and fellowship. Tickets

and info will be available at www.gracefestav.com. For more info, please call 661/722-6112.

G-Com Benefit Concert

The second annual G-Com Concert benefitting will be held on Oct. 4 to benefit the Wounded Warrior. It is a family friendly event that will include food and great live music. Info: gcomservices@outlook.com.

Making Strides Against Breast Cancer 5K Walk

Saturday, Oct. 18. Registration begins at 7 am. Walk starts at 8 am. Hundreds of walkers are expected to gather for the national crusade to raise awareness and funds to fight against breast cancer. To learn more about the American Cancer Society or how to form a team for the event, call 1/800-227-2345 or contact Marissa Toth at AntelopeValleyCAStrides@cancer.org or 951/300-1208.

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for the AV

Point Man Antelope Valley and the City of Palmdale will present the Mobile Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall for the Antelope Valley (AV Wall) on display in Nov. around the Veterans Day holiday. The public will have 24 hour a day access to the AV Wall while it is on display, and a series of events surrounding the display. For more information, please call 661/524-6408 or visit www.avwall.org.

To learn more about The Amp, please visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/TheAmp, or call 661/267-5611.

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