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CITY OF PALMDALE

NEWS RELEASE

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Palmdale Announces Summer Concert Series, Family Movie Nights at 'The Amp'

PALMDALE – The City of Palmdale has announced the lineup for its summer concert series and Family Movie Nights at the Palmdale Amphitheater (The Amp).

“Our residents spoke, and we listened,” said Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford. “They said that in addition to the great legendary acts we’ve brought in the past, they’d like to see some up-and-coming performers, as well as a top name Hispanic act. This year’s roster does just that.”

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, The Amp will kick off its summer concert series on Saturday, July 12 with an appearance by country star **Phil Vassar**, followed by up-and-coming sensation **Zendaya** on July 19, R&B legends **The Whispers** on July 26, and **Banda Machos** on August 2.

Phil Vassar’s career has seen the release of eight albums, two ASCAP Songwriter of the Year trophies, *Billboard* Country Songwriter of the Year, countless hits as a singer and songwriter, a mantle full of awards, and the launch of 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.

Zendaya, a multi-talented actress, author and platinum-selling artist, recently released her self-titled 2013 debut album where she delivers soulful pop with an urban edge. Her first single on the album, “Replay” was certified platinum for selling 1,000,000 copies in the U.S. this January, and now has over 44 million views on VEVO. Zendaya will also star in the movie, “*Zapped*” which premieres this summer. She was the break out star and runner-up on Season 16 of ABC’s *Dancing with the Stars*, and has performed around the world, including the White House and the 2011 Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, as well as performing on numerous talk shows such as *Ellen*, the *Today* show, *Extra* and BET’s *106 & Park*.

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.

“We’ve got something for everyone in this year’s lineup,” said Palmdale’s Recreation and Culture Director Keri Smith. “The variety and depth of quality performers this year makes this one of the most exciting concert series we’ve ever had. Besides, there really is no other venue in the region that is a beautiful, picturesque and comfortable to see a concert than at The Amp.”

Tickets go on sale Wednesday, April 16 at 7:30 am at www.cityofpalmdale.org/amp. Tickets are \$10 for all ages for general admission seating.

A limited number of VIP tickets are available for \$20, which includes express entry and seating at the front of the stage, ensuring that VIP ticket holders can arrive just before the concert and still get one of the best seats in the house. VIP seating is theater style (first-come, first-served), with chairs provided courtesy of the Antelope Valley Mall.

VIP and individual concert tickets will also be available beginning Wednesday, April 16 at the recreation and culture office, located at 38260 10th St. East, open Monday through Thursday, 7:30 am to 6 pm. Cash, MasterCard® and Visa® are accepted. Tickets will also be available the day of each concert beginning at 4 pm on a cash-only basis.

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.

The summer concerts are generously sponsored by American Medical Response, Antelope Valley Mall, Double D Cupcakes, Lancaster JetHawks, Lockheed Martin, Time Warner Cable News, Valleywide Dental, and Ventura Graphix.

Sponsorships are still available for the concert series and Family Movie Nights, which offer businesses the opportunity to reach potential customers in a unique setting that allows for personal interaction for greater impact. To learn more about either series of events, please contact Sponsorship & Marketing Specialist Stella Devine-Knight at 661/267-5120 or sknight@cityofpalmdale.org.

Previous performers at The Amp have included 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, The Whispers, Mercy Me, Pablo Cruise, War, Euge Groove, The Rippingtons, Jeff Golub, The Village People, Starship featuring Mickey Thomas, Pam Tillis, The Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Bill Medley, Blind Boys of Alabama, Sugarland, Peter Noone and Herman's Hermits, Tracy Lawrence, Josh Kelly. Blue Oyster Cult, Blood Sweat and Tears, Clay Walker, Morris Day and the Time, and Phil Vassar.

Following the concert series will be the popular "Family Movie Nights," coming to The Amp on four consecutive Friday evenings beginning Aug. 1.

"We had a great response from our residents last year who were so glad that we brought back 'Family Movie Nights,'" said Palmdale's Recreation Supervisor Annie

Pagliari. "We chose four movies that give families and friends the opportunity for a great evening out together."

The movies are: **Despicable Me 2**, Friday, Aug. 1; **The Blind Side**, Friday, Aug. 8; **Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone**, Friday Aug. 15; and **Finding Nemo**, Friday, Aug. 22.

Despicable Me 2 features Gru, his adorable girls, and the mischievous Minions with a cast of unforgettable new characters in the blockbuster sequel to the worldwide phenomenon. Just as Gru has given up being super-bad to be a super-dad, the Anti-Villain League recruits him to track down a new criminal mastermind and save the world. Partnered with secret agent Lucy Wilde, Gru, along with the wildly unpredictable Minions, must figure out how to keep his cover while also keeping up with his duties as a father. Assemble the Minions for laugh-out-loud comedy in one of the funniest, most enjoyable movies ever.

The Blind Side, starring Academy Award® Winner for Best Actress Sandra Bullock, is based on an extraordinary true story that features Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron), who knows little about family, and even less about football. What the homeless teen does know are the streets and projects of Memphis. Well-to-do Leigh Anne Tuohy (Sandra Bullock) knows little about his world. Yet when she and Michael meet, he's found a home. And the Tuohys found something just as life-changing: a beloved new son and brother. This real-life story of family and of Michael's growth into a blue-chip football star will have you cheering with its mix of gridiron action and heartwarming emotion as it unveils the remarkable journey of a college All-American and first-round NFL draft pick who was a winner before he ever stepped onto the playing field.

In **Harry Potter & The Sorcerer's Stone**, an enchanting, three-time Oscar nominated film adaptation of J.K. Rowling's delightful bestseller, Harry Potter learns on his 11th birthday that he is the orphaned first son of two powerful wizards and possesses magical powers of his own. At Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, Harry embarks on the adventure of a lifetime. He learns the high-flying sport Quidditch and plays a thrilling game with living chess pieces on his way to face a Dark Wizard bent on destroying him.

Finding Nemo features Nemo, an adventurous young clownfish, who is unexpectedly taken from his Great Barrier Reef home to a dentist's office aquarium. It's up to his worrisome father Marlin and his friendly but forgetful regal blue tang fish Dory to bring Nemo home — meeting vegetarian sharks, surfer dude turtles, hypnotic jellyfish, hungry seagulls, and more along the way.

Tickets for Family Movie Nights are \$2, with kids 12 and under admitted free. The gates will open at 6:30 and movies will start at dusk. Moviegoers are allowed to bring a picnic dinner and non-alcoholic beverages to Family Movie Nights.

Family Movie Nights are sponsored by American Medical Response, Lockheed Martin, Time Warner Cable News, and Valleywide Dental.

For more information on the concert series and movies, please visit www.cityofpalmdale.org/amp or call 661/267-5611.

About 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 concert series and movies including:

Easter Concert and Children's Egg Hunt

Sunday, April 20, 10:30 am to noon. Hosted by Palmdale United Methodist

Church. Free and open to the public. Bring a lawn chair or blanket. For more information, please call 661/947-3103 or visit www.PUMChurch.com

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/amp, or call at 661/267-5611.

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