



Brad Paisley's 'Bonfires and Amplifiers' Tour makes a stop at 155th Great Allentown Fair

Taylor Swift, Jack Ingram, Kellie Pickler to open August 30 show

Allentown, Pa.— Country singer Brad Paisley will be cranking it up at the 155th Great Allentown Fair when his 2007 “Bonfires and Amplifiers Tour” pulls in on Thursday, August 30.

Three other young performing artists will join Paisley on the follow-up to his hugely successful 2006 tour that played to more than 750,000 fans ranking it the fourth-most-attended country music tour of last year.

Taylor Swift, a teenager of rapidly rising fame with a local connection, Jack Ingram, a recording artist who also hosts his own radio show and Kellie Pickler, the first American Idol finalist from last year's season to release an album, will take turns on stage before Paisley's headlining set.

Tickets for this show will go on sale to the public starting Saturday, March 31. Tickets are \$50 and \$45 and include admission to the Fair when purchased in advance of the show date.

Certified double platinum, Paisley's fourth CD, “Time Well Wasted,” earned him the 2006 Country Music Association's “Album of the Year.” He also won the association's “Vocal Event of the Year” distinction for his performance with Dolly Parton on the single “When I Get Where I'm Going.”

The West Virginian singer-songwriter-guitarist was tagged as a country traditionalist early in his career after releasing his first album in 1999, “Who Needs Pictures.” With more albums and hit singles such as “I'm Gonna Miss Her,” “Mud on the Tires,” “Celebrity,” and “Alcohol,” he has proven to maintain his roots while adding the unexpected to his recordings and performances.

Paisley's "Bonfires and Amplifiers Tour" has been sweetened by a sponsorship from Pennsylvania's own Hershey Company with the singer promoting Hershey Milk Chocolate on all the dates of the national tour.

Taylor Swift, who left her home town of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania only a few years ago, is well on her way to becoming the toast of Nashville. The 17-year-old's Top Five single, "Tim McGraw" helped to boost her self-titled debut album to Gold and land her the opening slot on country legend George Strait's most recent tour.

Swift performed solo last month at the Crocodile Rock nightclub in Allentown in what she referred to as her "hometown concert." When she plays The Allentown Fair Grandstand in August, she will be on the stage that has seen the likes of female country icons recognized by their first names—Reba, Loretta, Martina, Dolly and even the rebellious Gretchen—to mention a few.

Jack Ingram is an artist that has been around awhile but started making some big noise in 2006 with his Number One single on all charts, "Wherever You Are." The Texas native has been a regular at the Austin City Limits festival and even hosts a weekly radio show on a Dallas station that is also broadcast on XM satellite radio.

Ingram's crossover appeal was noticed by rock-singer Sheryl Crow who took him on tour with her. Their performance together of Crow's "If It Makes You Happy," has become an iTunes-released download.

Kellie Pickler made an alumnus appearance on American Idol this past week (March 1) performing her new single "I Wonder." The striking blond has been nominated for CMT's Breakthrough Video of the Year for her first-released single "Red High Heels."

Pickler's "down home" banter made her a memorable Idol contestant and it was no surprise that the 20-year-old from Albemarle, North Carolina titled her first album "Small Town Girl."

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

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