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## 2009 New Mexico State Fair Entertainment Announced

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – 2009 marks another banner year for live musical entertainment at the New Mexico State Fair. Once again, Tingley Coliseum will host a hand-picked roster of some of country and rock music's most popular and celebrated entertainers. From raw country talent to pop superstars and established world-class bands and solo artists, the 2009 New Mexico State Fair will feature them all as standalone concerts, and as part of the combined PRCA rodeo and concert lineup.

“Once again this year, we expect sellout or near-sellout crowds at our concerts and rodeo-concerts said State Fair Commission Chairman Luke Otero, who also heads the entertainment committee for the Fair. “We’ve worked hard to book a broad spectrum of top-notch entertainers early, and the result is one of the strongest lineups we’ve ever had in terms of award-winning new horizon country stars and longtime favorites.”

“This year, we’ve expanded our Tingley entertainment to 10 shows, including eight rodeo-concerts, which remain the best dollar-for-dollar entertainment value in New Mexico,” said EXPO New Mexico/State Fair General Manager Judith M. Espinosa.

Special advance-purchases tickets to established buyers for all State Fair rodeo and concert events are expected to be available in May and available to the general public by early summer.

In keeping with The New Mexico State Fair's long history of family-friendly pricing, this year's rodeo-concert series and concert-only tickets are still the best deals in town for premier entertainment. Rodeo-concert series tickets are priced at \$28 box, \$21 chairback and \$14 bench. Season box tickets are \$XX each for all eight rodeo events. Concert-only ticket prices are \$59 center floor, \$43 and \$40 left and right floor, \$46 box, \$37 chairback and \$26 bench.

### **About the 2009 New Mexico State Fair Artists**

Friday, September 11

#### **MONTGOMERY GENTRY**

<http://montgomerygentry.musiccitynetworks.com/>

Montgomery Gentry's journey into the front ranks of American music has been one of the most gratifying sagas of the past decade. Their road to gold and platinum albums, CMA and ACM awards, a Grammy nomination and highly successful tours has been paved both with musical integrity and with an abiding respect for the people and the genre they represent. Their latest CD, *Back When I Knew It All*, was nominated this year for the Academy of Country's Music's "Album of the Year" award.

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Seldom have entertainers been identified so closely with their fans, and seldom has the respect and affection run so deep in both directions. They share blue-collar outlooks; sunup-to-sundown work ethics; rooted in God, country and family; and the ability to celebrate life and endure hardship. It is a relationship few other artists in the often volatile world of show business can boast.

Saturday, September 12

**HUEY LEWIS & THE NEWS**

[www.hueylewis.com/](http://www.hueylewis.com/)

Huey Lewis and The News have been defying the rock odds makers for three decades. 2009 marks the group's 30th anniversary. Formed from two rival Bay Area bands in 1979, their contagious brand of straight-ahead rock n' roll has outlasted countless trends, selling over 20 million albums worldwide in the process. Huey Lewis & The News have carried the banner as the quintessential American rock band, endearing them to millions of fans and earning them the right to mark their place on the pop history map.

These Grammy Award winners have written and performed such classic Top Ten Hits as "Heart of Rock & Roll." "Stuck With You." "I Want A New Drug." "If This Is It." "Hip To Be Square" and "Workin' For A Livin'." The group also wrote and performed "The Power of Love" and "Back in Time" for the hit film *Back To The Future*. "The Power of Love," which was nominated for an Academy Award, went all the way to #1 on Billboard's singles chart.

As great a recording career as the band has had, it's their live performances that remain the stuff of legend. They have toured worldwide continuously for 30 years. Huey Lewis & The News incorporate a variety of musical influences, including R&B and soul, to create their own unique sound. One of the highlights of their show is their a cappella rendition of early rock n' roll classics such as "Sixty Minute Man," "Under The Boardwalk" and "It's Alright."

Thursday, September 17 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**TBA**

Friday, September 18 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**AARON TIPPIN**

<http://aarontippin.musiccitynetworks.com/>

Aaron Tippin is a force of nature, a man whose passion for music fuels an array of other vigorous enthusiasms. Apart from writing and recording songs and wowing crowds with his live appearances, Tippin is also a pilot, farmer, winemaker, outdoorsman, competitive bodybuilder and devoted family man. He even runs his own record label. It's no surprise then that so many in the music industry regard this tireless South Carolinian as the "Hillbilly Hercules."

Tippin has crusaded for the working man and woman since he ripped country music wide open in 1990 with his uncompromising "You've Got To Stand For Something." On the strength of that remarkable song, comedian Bob Hope invited Tippin to appear with him when he toured the Middle East to entertain the troops of Desert Storm. Tippin has been a favorite of – and a standby for – America's fighting forces ever since.

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Saturday, September 19 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**DIAMOND RIO**

<http://www.diamondrio.com/index.html>

In 1991, Diamond Rio became the first band to top the U.S. country charts with their debut single, the ballad "Meet In The Middle." Their first album went platinum and yielded several more hit singles such as "Mirror, Mirror," "Mama, Don't Forget To Pray For Me," "Sawmill Road" and "In A Week Or Two." With the addition of Lee Roy Parnell and Steve Wariner, the band became Jed Zeppelin for a new treatment of "Workin' Man Blues" on the Merle Haggard tribute album, *Mama's Hungry Eyes*. They also performed "Ten Feet Away" on a tribute album to Keith Whitley.

In 1997, Diamond Rio won a Country Music Association Award for "Vocal Group Of The Year," a deserved accolade for their unique blend state-of-the-art modern country rock, high harmonies and bluegrass instrumentation. Their second greatest hits collection, *Greatest Hits II*, was released in May of 2006.

Sunday, September 14 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**JAMEY JOHNSON**

<http://www.jameyjohnson.com/#/bio.aspx>

He could be basking in his songwriting accolades, but Jamey Johnson remains a restlessly creative maverick. He is the co-writer of the Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music 2007 "Song of the Year" "Give It Away," recorded by George Strait. Trace Adkins, George Jones and Joe Nichols have also recorded his songs. But instead of sitting at home counting his royalty checks, Jamey Johnson recorded more than 40 songs during the past year.

Not content with providing hits for others, the singer-songwriter has a powerful drive to sing, record and perform. "Writing is not enough for me," says this intense artist. "I did not come here to just be a writer. I live to play. I'm not here to take a stab at it. I am going to *do it*." Johnson's latest CD, *That Lonesome Song*, was nominated this year for the Academy of Country's Music's "Album of the Year" award.

Wednesday, September 23 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**JULIANNE HOUGH**

<http://juliannehough.com/>

Every country artist once had a "day job" that commonly used music business term for an occupation that pays the bills and fills the void between hopeful aspiration and bona fide success. However, never in the history of country music has someone taken a more celebrated path on the road to their country music dream than Julianne Hough (pronounced "Huff").

A triple threat as a singer, actress and dancer, Julianne is already known to millions of fans as the two-time professional dance champion on ABC-TV's top-rated "Dancing with the Stars." The show, which pairs professional dancers with music, sports, film and television celebrities, has become a cultural phenomenon and Julianne its top star.

Julianne Hough's eponymous debut is a compelling collection of songs about the joys and challenges of everyday life delivered by an evocative young voice. It's the perfect vehicle to carry her from her successful day job to the realization of a dream come true.

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Thursday, September 24 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

**BILLY CURRINGTON**

<http://www.billycarrington.com/>

From small-town Son of the South to hot new artist to bona fide country star, Billy Carrington has seen it all. In 2003 he burst onto the Nashville scene with his self-titled debut album, and proceeded to burn up the charts with Top Ten singles “I Got a Feelin’” and “Walk a Little Straighter.” It wasn’t long before the legendary Shania Twain tapped him to be her duet partner in their smash hit “Party for Two.” In the accompanying video, Carrington swung from an enormous chandelier and straight into the hearts of Americans everywhere.

Carrington’s latest effort, *Little Bit Of Everything*, is just what it claims to be – a little bit of everything.

The album showcases his talent for country with influences from R&B, pop and rock ’n’ roll over the span of eleven tracks, all produced by Carrington and longtime collaborator Chamberlain. “Carson and I have been together since the beginning. We’re just a great team, and we work well together. He’s given me the opportunity to grow as a singer, songwriter and producer.”

Carrington’s skill as an artist has definitely evolved. It’s evident from the album’s upbeat attitude, soaring vocals, and spot-on production that Carrington has truly hit his stride, and the timing couldn’t be better. “I’d been on the road touring so much, I hadn’t had the chance to record anything. When a window of opportunity finally opened up earlier this year, I felt like it was the right time to go in and start making a new record,” he says.

Friday, September 25 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

#### **THE LOST TRAILERS**

<http://www.thelosttrailers.com/index.php?content>

Ryder Lee and Stokes Nielson met in a church band as teenagers, and they’ve been making records together ever since. Their high school friendship begat a country band of five called The Lost Trailers, who have blazed their way through hundreds of honkytonks, joints, roadhouses, night clubs and concert halls, building a firewall of fiercely loyal fans. They are a band that came together naturally, matured creatively, perform explosively and have poured all of that into *Holler Back*, their new album on BNA Records.

“Anyone who has ever seen us live is going to hear the first 15 seconds of *Holler Back* and say ‘There’s The Lost Trailers. Those are the guys I saw open for Chesney or open for Sugarland’,” says Stokes.

“Music is important and has a lasting quality,” adds lead vocalist Ryder. “But music should be fun too, there needs to be a balance. “Holler Back” is a fun song that captures the element of our live show which is really important to us as well.”

Saturday, September 26 (w/ PRCA rodeo)

#### **CHUCK WICKS**

<http://www.chuckwicks.com/index.html>

Everyone has heard the phrase “practice makes perfect” and though it’s a mantra more often associated with sports than songwriting, it’s just as apropos for that vocation as any other endeavor—just ask singer/songwriter Chuck Wicks.

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Though he took the country format by storm with his Top 5 debut single, “Stealing Cinderella,” and his Top 15 follow-up hit, “All I Ever Wanted,” Wicks spent several years paying his dues by parking cars and writing songs. He developed his craft, apprenticing with some of the top songwriters on Music Row. That hard work pays off

on *Starting Now*, Wicks' RCA Nashville debut album, which showcases the depth of his artistry as a vocalist and songwriter.

Wicks' depth as a dancer was apparent throughout the 2009 season of ABC's "Dancing with the Stars."

2009 State Fair entertainment information and updates can be found at [www.exponm.com/fair](http://www.exponm.com/fair).

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