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EDITOR'S NOTE:  
Entertainer photos can be e-mailed upon request.

## **Swing and Blues are Served on Saturday's Main Stage at A Taste of Colorado**

**DENVER** – The contemporary swing sounds of Cherry Poppin' Daddies and the eclectic bluesy-soul-rock music of The Robert Cray Band will fill the Main Stage at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual A Taste of Colorado on Saturday, Sept. 5. Cherry Poppin' Daddies will perform at 1 p.m. and The Robert Cray Band will play at 7:30 p.m. Both concerts are presented by 97.3 KBCO. The four-day, free admission, food, music, and entertainment Festival will take place Labor Day weekend, Sept. 4 through Sept. 7, in Downtown Denver's Civic Center Park.

The Cherry Poppin' Daddies came together 19 years ago when University of Oregon student musicians of opposing musical backgrounds began sharing a practice space. The result was the combination of a punk rock rhythm section with jazz-schooled horn players and keyboardists. Soon the new sound sold out local clubs in the area and drew comparisons to contemporaries like Fishbone, Faith No More, and Bad Brains. To this day, the group continues to distinguish themselves by incorporating big band swing into their diverse mix.

The group's breakout album, "Zoot Suit Riot," sold two million copies and left its audience wanting more. The Daddies' recruited notables Tony Visconti and the free jazz icon, the late Dewey Redmond (the sublime tenor solo from "The Saddest Thing I Know") for "Soul Caddy," which found them resuming their tradition of experimentation in the studio.

Now in its 19th year, the Cherry Poppin' Daddies is poised for its next chapter, starting with a brand-new record, the group's seventh. Like its predecessors, "Susquehanna" reveals facets of the group's diversity ranging from the familiar ("White Trash Toodle-oo") to areas where the musicians might have had to reach for their compasses. Select tunes also explore what the group sees as an important strand of pop music's future.

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Internationally-admired as a stylist whose innovations have brought new life to the blues, singer-songwriter-guitarist Robert Cray has been engaging fans for more than 35 years. A five-time Grammy Award winner, Cray’s undefinable sound is celebrated in his soon to be released album, “This Time,” the first studio album on Cray’s own imprint Nozzle Records, distributed by Vanguard Records.

According to Cray, his music is characterized by the influence of several genres, including rock, soul, jazz, blues, and a bit of gospel and Caribbean flavor, accompanied by sounds going back to his roots of listening to the radio in the ’60s.

His debut Nozzle label release, “Live From Across the Pond,” is an electrifying two-CD concert set drawn from a series of shows opening for Eric Clapton at London’s Royal Albert Hall. When the time came to follow up that widely-praised collection with a studio recording, Cray viewed it as an opportunity to move his sound into a new territory. The refreshed lineup of Cray, Richard Cousins, Jim Pugh, and Tony Braunagel came together at Santa Barbara Sound Design to record what became “This Time.” The collection includes fresh material contributed by all the band members, with Cray bringing in the title track, “Chicken in the Kitchen,” as well as “I Can’t Fail” and “Trouble and Pain.”

In addition to the Main Stage, four other entertainment stages located throughout the Festival will serve up a continuous menu of music, featuring rock, country, jazz, classic rock, blues, and ethnic music and dance groups.

More than 50 of Colorado’s favorite food establishments will be selling a wide variety of small portions to full meals, ensuring that there will be something for every palate. The Fine Dining area, sponsored by Sub-Zero and Wolf, will host some of Denver’s finest restaurants. The Culinary Showcase features local and nationally-renowned chef demonstrations creating simple, yet elegant meals.

Festivalgoers can shop in more than 250 Marketplace booths for original arts and crafts, home and gift items, furniture, jewelry, imports, and more. Shoppers can also explore the Home & Lifestyles area, which features a variety of exhibitors displaying products and services such as window installation, kitchen remodeling, cookware, basement refinishing, and salons and spas.

There will be plenty of music, magic, clowns, and puppets on the KidzStage, and the KidZone features play equipment and hands-on craft activities. Kids and adults can also enjoy carnival rides and games Saturday through Monday.

In the Festival of Mountain and Plain area, families can learn about the state’s pioneer past, nature, and the environment. Featured artisans will demonstrate Navajo weaving and culture, spinning, rug braiding, lace crocheting, papermaking, and quilting, along with the popular blacksmith demonstration. At the Rocky Mountain Raptor Program exhibit, children can learn about birds and their environment, along with their interactions with humans. Free gold panning and educational materials about dinosaurs, volcanoes, rocks and minerals, and energy production and conservation are available at the Colorado Mining Exhibit.

Sponsors of this year’s Festival are: 9NEWS, Aggreko, All Copy Products, American Medical Response, American Satellite – An Authorized DIRECTV Dealer, Barefoot Wine & Bubbly, Blue Moon, Cascadian Farm, Cold Front Distribution, Coors Light, *The Denver Post*, Downtown Denver Partnership, Inc., Dreyer’s Grand Ice Cream, Eldorado Natural Spring Water, Famous Dave’s Bar-B-Que, Grand Lodge On Peak 7, Killian’s, LÄRABAR, LBA Realty, Levinson Eye Clinic, Microtech-Tel, Mike’s Hard Lemonade, Molson, Muir Glen, The Other White Meat Tour, PEPSI, Residence Inn Denver City Center, SOYJOY, Sturgeon Electric, Sub-Zero & Wolf, and Travelers Insurance.

Festival hours are Friday, Sept. 4, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 5, and Sunday, Sept. 6, 10:30 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Monday, Sept. 7, 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Festival of Mountain and Plain ... A Taste of Colorado is a community celebration that is produced by and benefits Downtown Denver Events, Inc., the Downtown Denver Partnership family’s community events non-profit organization. The Festival is an opportunity for people throughout the region to come together to experience and appreciate our diverse cultural traditions, and to learn more about our state’s Western heritage. The Festival highlights visual and performing arts in addition to featuring educational programs and culinary demonstrations.

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