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## **Country's Many Sounds and Styles Are Showcased at A Taste of Colorado**

**DENVER** – Americana, rockabilly, country rock, and bluegrass all will be performed on the Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que Country Stage presented by 98.5 KYGO at A Taste of Colorado. The 26<sup>th</sup> annual 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.

Kicking off the Festival on Friday at 11:30 a.m. is rockabilly band, **Trailer Park Playboys**. Singer/songwriter and multi-instrumentalist **Julie Burke** takes the stage at 3:30 p.m. Festival favorites and 98.5 KYGO house band, **Flap-N-Jacks**, will entertain at 6:40 p.m.

**Buckstein**, an "American Idol" cowboy and his ensemble, perform Saturday at 10:40 a.m. **The Branders**, with a sound reminiscent of The Wreckers, Sugarland, and Miranda Lambert, play at 2:55 p.m. A local youth group, **D.J. y Los Latineerz**, deliver a mix of Tejano, oldies, and country at 4:55 p.m. "Colorado's country sweetheart," singer/songwriter **Kelly Aspen**, brings her dynamic voice to the stage at 6:55 p.m.

**Jon Chandler and the Wichitones**, a seventh-generation Coloradoan and his band, perform a blend of Americana, Southern bluegrass, and progressive country on Sunday at 10:40 a.m. The **Chris King Band** plays a combination of old and new country, as well as classic rock 'n roll, at 2:55 p.m. Perennial favorite **Timothy P. & Rural Route Three** will deliver a humorous show at 6:55 p.m. with a variety of comic Western swing songs.

Starting off the final day of the Festival on Monday at 10:30 a.m., **The Calf Branders** are a witty, energetic quartet. **Confluence**, a nonprofit that raises money for Central American causes, will take the stage at 1:30 p.m., featuring well-known Denver percussionist and teacher Ed Contreras. Playing fresh country sounds, **Colfax Cowboys** will close out A Taste of Colorado's Country Stage at 4:50 p.m.

In addition to the Famous Dave's Bar-B-Que Country Stage presented by 98.5 KYGO, the Main Stage and three other stages located throughout the Festival will serve up a continuous menu of entertainment, featuring rock, jazz, blues, and ethnic music and dance groups.

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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, felting, instrument-making, 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, PlayStation, Residence Inn Denver City Center, SOYJOY, Sturgeon Electric, Sub-Zero & Wolf, T-Mobile® Limited Operated by On The Go Wireless, 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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