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

## **Classic Rock Bookends Main Stage at A Taste of Colorado**

**DENVER** – “American Band” Grand Funk Railroad and British blues rockers Foghat are set to take the Main Stage at the 26<sup>th</sup> annual A Taste of Colorado. Grand Funk Railroad will kick off the Festival on Friday, Sept. 4, at 7:30 p.m. Foghat will close out the event on Monday, Sept. 7, at 5:30 p.m. Both concerts are presented by 103.5 The Fox. 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.

Celebrating its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, Grand Funk Railroad has garnered 13 gold and 10 platinum records from sales around the world, including eight Top 40 hits. Originating from Flint, Mich., this high-energy classic rock group features founding members Don Brewer and Mel Schacher, joined by veterans Max Carl (38 Special), Bruce Kulick (KISS), and Tim Cashion (Bob Seger). A signature hard-driving sound, soulful vocals, muscular instrumentation, and forceful pop melodies have made Grand Funk Railroad synonymous with tunes such as “We’re An American Band,” “I’m Your Captain/Closer To Home,” “Locomotion,” and “Some Kind Of Wonderful.”

In 2002, the band received its most recent gold award for the greatest hits package, “Grand Funk Railroad: The Collectors Series.” EMI/Capitol Records released a new Grand Funk Railroad package, including a bonus DVD of rare concert footage, in 2006. “We’re An American Band” has received much notoriety in recent years and has been featured in several movies and radio advertising campaigns.

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Foghat has cultivated one of rock's longest careers, releasing its self-titled debut in 1972 and touring relentlessly for the next 14 years. The band's hard work has been rewarded with seven gold records; one platinum record, 1975's "Fool for the City;" and one double-platinum record, 1977's "Foghat Live." "Fool for the City" contained Foghat's trademark Top 40 hit song, "Slow Ride," and helped make the group a household name. They continued to hit the charts in the 1970s with blues/rock singles such as "Drivin' Wheel," "I Just Want to Make Love To You," "Stone Blue," "Third Time Lucky (The First Time I Was a Fool)," and "Somebody's Been Sleeping In My Bed" - many of which are still classic rock radio staples.

The band evolved through several lineup changes, touring and releasing albums into the mid-nineties. The original Foghat reformed in 1994, with founding band members Lonesome Dave Peverett, Rod Price, Tony Stevens, and Roger Earl reuniting for the recording of "Return of the Boogie Men" and later, the live CD, "Road Cases." Peverett was diagnosed with cancer in 1998, yet continued to tour for nearly two years while undergoing chemotherapy. When he passed away in early 2000, the band faced the decision to continue making music as Foghat or disband. Ultimately, the group's decision to forge ahead with former Ted Nugent and Humble Pie vocalist, Charlie Huhn, resulted in Foghat's most well-received album in years, 2003's "Family Joules."

In 2004, the band released "The Official Bootleg DVD, Volume #1," followed in 2007 by a new double-CD, "Live II," to commemorate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their original live, best-selling album. Foghat's classic tunes continue to be a mainstay in pop culture, featured in national advertising campaigns, on movie soundtracks, in video games, and on TV shows.

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 Wines, Blue Moon, Cascadian Farms, 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, LÄRABAR, LBA Realty, 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 Traveler's 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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