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EDITOR'S NOTE:

Entertainer photos can be e-mailed upon request.

The Spinners to Headline Sunday, September 6, at A Taste of Colorado

DENVER – Classic soul group The Spinners, best known for their hit, “The Rubberband Man,” will perform at the 26th annual A Taste of Colorado on the Main Stage, Sunday, Sept. 6, at 7:30 p.m. The concert is presented by KOOL 105. 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.

Formed in Detroit as a “doo-wop” group in the 1950s by Bobbie Smith, Henry Fambrough, Billy Henderson, and Pervis Jackson, The Spinners first hit the charts in 1961 with “That’s What Girls Are Made For” from Tri-Phi Records. The label was soon acquired by Motown Records, with The Spinners making their debut at the Apollo Theater and winning instant acclaim. “I’ll Always Love You” and “Truly Yours” were successful on the Billboard Hot 100 and R&B charts, respectively, but it wasn’t until the summer of 1970, that the Stevie Wonder-penned, “It’s a Shame,” gave the group their first taste of international fame.

In 1972, The Spinners signed with Atlantic Records (at the suggestion of Aretha Franklin) and teamed up with noted Philly soul producer Thom Bell to record their self-titled album, considered by many critics to be one of the most important soul albums ever released. With four Top 10 hits, including “I’ll Be Around,” “Could It Be I’m Falling In Love,” “One of a Kind (Love Affair),” and “Ghetto Child,” the group helped develop the definitive sound of the ’70s that became known as “Philly soul.” The Spinners’ 1974 follow-up album, “Mighty Love,” saw the group’s first number-one hit, “Then Came You,” a collaboration with Dionne Warwick and the Top 10 song, “Games People Play.”

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The Spinners completed their first collaboration with producer Michael Zager in 1979, and by the following year, the dance-influenced single, “Working My Way Back to You,” had topped the Pop and R&B charts, giving the group its 12th gold record. A subsequent album, “Love Trippin’,” featured the song, “Cupid,” one of the fastest-selling records in the band’s career. Other releases included songs on the motion picture soundtracks of “Cross Fire,” “Twins,” and “Spaceballs.”

The group has received six Grammy nominations over the course of its 40-year career, received The Rhythm & Blues Foundation’s Pioneer Award in 1997, and was inducted into The Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 1999. The Spinners also have a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Today, the group maintains an active touring schedule performing for fans of all ages around the world.

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 also can 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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