



P.O. Box 1387 ◦ 501 E Fonner Park Road, Suite 200 ◦ Grand Island, NE 68802 ◦ P 308.382.1620 ◦ F 308.384.1555 ◦ StateFair.org

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Contact: Jace Robinson
Marketing Director
Nebraska State Fair
p) 308.382.1620 e) jrobinson@statefair.org

CONCERTS IN THE HEARTLAND

Nebraska State Fair Showcases Broad Talent Mix Indoors

Grand Island, NE – Talent is stacked to the ceiling at Nebraska State Fair’s indoor concert series. Beginning with The Righteous Brothers--Bill Medley and Bucky Heard, this lineup includes performances by Francesca Battistelli, Old Dominion, Up With People-Live On Tour and Night Ranger.

The Righteous Brothers--Bill Medley and Bucky Heard – are the feature act for Older Nebraskans Day Wednesday, August 29. The group formed in 1962 and became a staple on pop charts in the late 1960s. Hits like the timeless “Unchained Melody” or “You’ve Lost That Lovin’ Feeling” were catapulted to contemporary favor thanks to movies such as *Ghost* and *Top Gun*.

The following night, Christian artist Francesca Battistelli brings her contemporary pop voice to the stage. Battistelli just made the largest jump on the Christian Airplay chart in a 12-year history for *Billboard*, scoring a number one hit with “Messiah.” Her first top hit was in 2015 with “Free To Be Me” which remained number one for four weeks. Battistelli has racked up seven number one singles, a Grammy award and six Dove awards.

One of the fastest rising hot-country groups on radio today, Old Dominion performs Friday, August 31. Old Dominion just won their second Academy of Country Music Award, this time for Vocal Group of the Year. Their current tour, *Happy Endings*, follows the release of the same-named album

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featuring current hit single “Hotel Key.” In Old Dominion’s short tenure, the band has lit up the charts. With their smash debut album *Meat And Candy* launched in 2015, number one hits “Break Up With Him” and “Song For Another Time” were followed up with two more chart toppers “No Such Thing As A Broken Heart” and “Written In The Sand.” The song “Snapback” from their first album (reaching number two on *Billboard*), is probably their most well-known song with 16 million views on *YouTube*.

Up With People may best be remembered from the 1970s and 80s when they were a staple production across state fairs in the United States. Today they return with their newest production, *Live on Tour 2018*, including high energy international songs and dances, entertaining pop medleys and original songs. A cast of 100 participants from 20 different countries will perform cultural programs and participate in community service activities throughout Grand Island. Up With People performs Saturday, September 1.

Classic rock crooners Night Ranger round out the 2018 concert lineup. Performing September 2, Night Ranger has one of the most charged guitar performances on the touring scene today featuring three guitarists. Critics have reported they sound even better today than the mid-80s, featuring a 100-minute set with a catalog including hits like “Sister Christian” and “Don’t Tell Me You Love Me” to covers from Don Henley and Ozzy. Night Ranger has sold more than 17 million albums worldwide.

The indoor concert series feature the following prices, dates and times:

Righteous Brothers	\$6	GA	\$30	Fan Club	Aug. 29	2 p.m.
Francesca Battistelli	\$6	GA	\$30	Fan Club	Aug. 30	7:30 p.m.
Old Dominion	\$30	GA	\$45	Pit	Aug. 31	7:30 p.m.
Up With People	\$6	GA	--	--	Sep. 1	7:30 p.m.
Night Ranger	\$22	GA	--	--	Sep. 2	7:30 p.m.

The 2018 Nebraska State Fair runs August 24 through September 3 in Grand Island. Ticket discounts are currently available at all Pump & Pantry locations or online at **StateFair.org**. Bundle prices, entertainment information and a schedule of events can be found online.