



Contact: Catherine Pappas  
Public Relations & Communications Manager  
More Info: (413) 205-5041

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**THE BIG E ANNOUNCES MORE COURT OF HONOR STAGE ENTERTAINMENT**

Ripe, The Bar-Kays: Soul 2 Soul Revue, Ying Yang Twins, The Outlaws, Don McLean & More

The Big E announces a number of concerts for the first round of its Court of Honor Stage, sponsored by *Mattress Firm*, for the 2020 Fair, Sept. 18-Oct. 4. All shows are free with Big E admission and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. The stage is located in front of the iconic Coliseum.

Shows scheduled to date include:

**Ripe**, Sept. 24, 8pm

Siphoning the spirits of rock, funk, R&B, jazz, and pop through a kaleidoscope of unpredictable and virtuosic improvisation, Boston-based seven-piece Ripe consistently brings people to their feet. Join the dance party at this year's Big E.

**The Bar-Kays: Soul 2 Soul Revue**, Sept. 25-27, 3pm

With a career total of 29 albums including 5 gold and 1 platinum, 40 single releases and 20 top ten singles and albums, the American Soul R&B and funk group, the Bar-Kays remain one of the hardest working and most honored groups around. The band played President Barack Obama's second inaugural and were also featured in a nationally-televised White House tribute to Memphis soul.

**Ying Yang Twins**, Sept. 26, 8pm

The hip-hop duo debuted in 2000 and rose to mainstream popularity in 2003 collaborating with Britney Spears on her album *"In the Zone"* and with Lil Jon on "Get Low." Their song "Halftime (Stand Up and Get Crunk)" is now a standard in many NFL football stadiums.

**The Outlaws**, Sept. 28-29, 8pm

For more than 40 years, the Southern Rock legends have celebrated triumphs and endured tragedies to remain one of the most influential and best-loved bands of the genre. Today, The Outlaws have returned with new music, new focus and an uncompromising new mission: It's about a band of brothers bound together by history, harmony and the road.

**Don McLean**, Oct. 1, 8pm

Don McLean is a Grammy award honoree, a Songwriter Hall of Fame member, a BBC Lifetime Achievement award recipient, and his smash hit "American Pie" resides in the Library of Congress National Recording Registry and was named by the Recording Industry of America (RIAA) a top 5 song of the 20th Century. A New York native, Don McLean is



one of the most revered and respected songwriters in American history. After paying his dues in the New York club scene in the late '60s, he went on to score mega-hits like "Vincent (Starry, Starry Night)," "Castles in the Air" and many more. His catalog of songs have been recorded by Madonna, Garth Brooks, Josh Groban, Drake, Weird "Al" Yankovic, and countless others. In 2015, one of McLean's four handwritten manuscripts of the lyrics to "American Pie" was auctioned by Christies, selling for just over \$1.2 Million. 2019 honored Don with a star on the Las Vegas Walkway of Stars and his song "And I Love You So" was the theme for Prince Harry and Megan Markle's wedding. Now in 2020, Don signed a recording contract with Time Life/Warner Bros. Records to release his catalog of recordings as well as the much anticipated new album *Still Playin' Favorites*, which will be released in the Fall. "American Pie" will be featured in the Avenger's *Black Widow* and the Tom Hanks movie *BIOS* and much more to be announced. And when you think things are slowing down, not so for Don McLean! 2021 will mark the 50th anniversary of *American Pie* with a World Tour to follow.

Look for more concert announcements soon at [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com). The 2020 Big E takes place Sept. 18-Oct. 4 in West Springfield, Mass. Stay up to date with all Fair happenings by finding us on Facebook, following us on Twitter and Instagram or joining our mailing list at [TheBigE.com](http://TheBigE.com).

