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MEDIA RELEASE

**Tuesday, February 24, 2009
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

WICHITA FESTIVALS, INC. ANNOUNCES RIVERFEST 2009 CONCERT ENTERTAINMENT

WICHITA, Kan. - Wichita Festivals, Inc. (WFI), a non-profit corporation with the purpose of creating diverse community celebrations, announced today its concert line-up for Riverfest 2009, May 8-16.

The 2009 entertainment features artists from across the musical genres – up-and-coming talent, 80's rock stars, Texas soul, oldies favorites and popular local groups.

"This years' line-up has something for everyone, well-known bands who've been around a long time and have great hits and new performers with releases that are hitting the top of the charts," Janet Wright, President/CEO of Wichita Festivals, Inc, said. "With a button the only admission to all of them, it's a great deal and is going to be a great Riverfest!"

The Festival kicks off with a bang on Friday, May 8, as KANSAS hits West Bank Stage. The U G2G (U Got 2 Go) Concert returns with popular Disney group Everlife on Saturday, May 9, while 1980s hit-makers Loverboy belt it out Saturday evening. Local Salsa favorites, Grupo Rumberos, beat out their Latin rhythms Sunday afternoon, May 10, followed by Dr. Hook at 6:30 that evening.

The talented Wichita group, The Naughty Astronauts, rock out on the Team Kansas Toyota Food Court Stage at Century II on Tuesday, May 12, while hit country recording artist Pat Green takes to Kennedy Plaza Stage on Wednesday, May 13. Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band will perform at the LSI Big Easy on Thursday, May 14, and popular 50s group, The Platters, will wrap up the musical entertainment on Friday, May 15, at the Block Party Oldies Concert.

All concerts are free with a Riverfest button.

KANSAS

Opening Night Concert – Friday, May 8, 8:50 pm

Classic rock band **KANSAS** kicks off Riverfest 2009 in a big way! KANSAS became a popular arena rock group in the 1970s with hit singles such as "Carry On Wayward Son" and "Dust in the Wind". They continue to be a classic rock radio staple and in 2008, released the 30th Anniversary Edition of their platinum album *Two for the Show*.

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Everlife

U G2G (U Got 2 Go) Concert – Saturday, May 9, 3 pm

The three sisters that make up **Everlife** open Saturday afternoon with their first No. 1 radio hit, “Lead the Way”. Everlife has opened for Cheetah Girls and most recently, Miley Cyrus and is currently working on their third album.

Loverboy

Bombardier Learjet Presents Legends of Rock – Saturday, May 9, 8:15 pm

Holders of four multi-platinum albums and millions of record sales, Riverfest presents **Loverboy**. Known for popular hit singles, “Turn Me Loose” and “Working for the Weekend”, Loverboy’s songs have been arena rock staples and are still heard on many classic rock radio stations across the United States.

Grupo Rumberos

Musica Latina – Sunday, May 10, 2:15 pm

Grupo Rumberos brings their Caribbean Latin flavor to the West Bank Stage Sunday afternoon. Combining Wichita’s finest percussion and horn musicians to create some of the industry’s finest Salsa, Mambo, Cha-cha and Merengue music, Grupo Rumberos will not disappoint.

Dr. Hook

Spirit Aerosystems Presents Rockin’ on the River – Sunday, May 10, 6:30 pm

The river will definitely be rockin’ when **Dr. Hook** comes to town. Dr. Hook has been on the music scene for 40 years, producing popular hits such as “The Cover of the Rolling Stone” and “When You’re In Love With A Beautiful Woman”. The group’s first major hit, “Sylvia’s Mother” went to No. 5 on the U.S. music charts in 1972. Dr. Hook followed up with six top 10 hits in the United States over a 10-year span.

The Naughty Astronauts

Club 225 on the Patio – Tuesday, May 12, 6:30 pm

Club 225 brings a hometown favorite to the stage as **The Naughty Astronauts** perform. The local group will perform songs from their 2008 released CD as well as mix of popular songs from all across the music genre – from “Love Shack” to “Livin’ La Vida to “Footloose”.

Pat Green

Country Concert – Wednesday, May 13, 7:45 pm

After his 2003 hit “Wave on Wave” climbed to No. 3 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart, Texas native **Pat Green** became the pinnacle of “Texas Country” music. Thirteen of Green’s singles have charted the *Billboard* list with his latest single, “Let Me” off of his newly released album *What I’m For*, reaching the No. 12 position on the chart.

Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band

LSI Big Easy – Thursday, May 14, 7:30 pm

Chubby Carrier is undeniably “The World’s Premier Zydeco Showman.” Carrier brings his Bayou Swamp Band to Kansas after playing across the world and at big-time music festivals such as the New Orleans Jazz Fest, Chicago Blues Fest and the Beale Street Music Festival in Memphis. Chubby Carrier and the Bayou Swamp Band have recorded five CDs over the past 10 years including their last album, *Live at Knuckleheads*, recorded live in Kansas City.

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The Platters

Block Party and Oldies Concert – Friday, May 15, 8:30 pm

Regarded as the most popular vocal group of the 1950s, **The Platters** take us back in time with their classic hits “Only You” and “Love Me Tender”. Between the years of 1955 and 1960, The Platters had four number one songs and sixteen gold records, most of which can still be heard on any easy-listening or oldies station throughout the country today.

For more information on Riverfest entertainment, go to wichitariverfestival.com.

Riverfest buttons are now available for order at wichitariverfestival.com, and will be on sale in retail locations starting April 6. Riverfest 2009 will take place May 8-16, in Downtown Wichita.

2009 WFI Official Sponsors: AirTran Airways, Broadview Hotel, Bud Light, Don Hattan Chevrolet, Fahnstock Plumbing, HVAC, Electric, and Fireplaces, FedEx Office, Howerton + White, Johnson Controls, Metro Courier, Pepsi, Prairieland Partners, The Access Group, and Van Horn Promotion & Marketing.

For more information about Riverfest volunteering opportunities, contact Kim Wickliffe, volunteer manager at 316-267-2817, ext. 11, or e-mail kimw@wichitafestivals.com. To see a complete list of volunteer opportunities visit wichitafestivals.com/volunteer.html.

For more information about Wichita Festivals, Inc. or Riverfest, please contact Susan Burchill, Director of Marketing at (316) 267-2817, ext. 22 or at susan@wichitafestivals.com.

Wichita Festivals, Inc. is a non-profit corporation with the purpose of creating diverse community celebration within the Wichita community. The primary event produced by Wichita Festivals, Inc. is Riverfest.

Creating an economic impact of approximately \$26 million, Riverfest annually attracts more than 350,000 visitors. The Festival has become one of the top special events in Kansas and was recognized in 2006 as one of the top 100 events in the United States by the American Bus Association.

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