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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ROCK ARTIST DAUGHTRY TO HEADLINE RIVERFEST**

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WICHITA, Kansas – Wichita Festivals, Inc. (WFI), a non-profit corporation with the purpose of creating diverse community celebrations, announces its major concert entertainment for RiverfestXXXVI, May 11 – 19.

“We provide top-notch, national-known music artists every year for Riverfest,” said Janet Wright. “This year will be no exception with top billboard artists like Daughtry and Craig Morgan scheduled to perform.”

Festival attendees can enjoy over 100 musical entertainment groups at this year’s Riverfest. All concerts are free with any one of the four official Riverfest buttons.

And the line-up is...

### **DAUGHTRY**

#### **Friday, May 11, AT&T Opening Night Concert**



Chris Daughtry is enjoying success with a hit CD, *DAUGHTRY*, released early this winter. Current Billboard charts show a No. 6 top single by Daughtry, “It’s Not Over” and a No. 3 top album with *DAUGHTRY*. “It’s about relationships that you ultimately screw up but swear you’re going to get right the second time. That feeling when you keep doing the same thing thinking you’re going to get a different result, still, you keep trying,” said Daughtry of the single “It’s Not Over.” With his rugged voice, Daughtry opens Riverfest following the AT&T Sundown Parade.

### **The Guess Who & John Kay & Steppenwolf**

#### **Saturday, May 12, Bombardier Learjet Presents Legends of Rock**



The Guess Who originated in Canada beginning in 1962. Since then they broke into the United States with the emergence of “classic rock” radio stations, broadening their base of loyal followers to include more of the baby boom generation as well as today’s teenagers. Enjoy classic hits like “These Eyes”, “American Woman”, “No Time”,

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“No Sugar Tonight”, “Born to be Wild”, “Magic Carpet Ride” and “Rock Me” to name a few. Popularity has grown for The Guess Who due to the strength and highly regarded reputation of their live concert performances.



In the chaotic world of rock 'n' roll the lifespan of most bands can be measured in terms of a few years or a few months. John Kay and Steppenwolf have emerged as one of rock's most enduring and respected bands, delivering hard-hitting, personally-charged music for more than three decades. Such Steppenwolf standards as "Born to Be Wild," "Magic Carpet Ride," "Rock Me" and "Monster" stand among Rock's most indelible anthems.

## The Little River Band

**Sunday, May 13, Spirit AeroSystems Presents Rockin' On The River**



Celebrating their 30th anniversary, Little River Band was the first Australian band to successfully conquer foreign markets from an Australian base. LRB has notched 8 top 10 singles in the US including their big hits, “Reminiscing” and “Lady.”

## Vanessa Bell Armstrong

**Monday, May 14, Gospel Concert**



Beginning at the age of four, Vanessa Bell Armstrong took her voice on tour around Detroit to area churches. At 13, she was signed to a record label and continued to sing in choirs and independently. Looking for a voice with both power and soul, Vanessa beat out both Patti LaBelle and Aretha Franklin for the opportunity to record the theme for the popular ABC sitcom “Amen”. Her music reaches far beyond her large legion of gospel based fans. The JIVE recording artist will bring her special style of R&B and gospel to Wichita with such hits as “Nobody but Jesus” and “Peace Be Still.”

## Craig Morgan

**Wednesday, May 16, LSI Logic Country Concert**



Craig Morgan’s newest CD, *Little Bit of Life*, released in November 2006, has been critically lauded as the best work of his career. His previous albums spawned such memorable hits as “I Got You,” “Redneck Yacht Club,” and the poignant “Almost Home,” as well as “That’s What I Love About Sunday,” which spent five weeks at No. 1 and ended 2005 as country radio’s most played song of the year, besting hits by Toby Keith, Rascal Flatts, Keith Urban, George Strait, Sugarland and Faith Hill, among others. Morgan finished 2005 in the top 10 on Billboard magazine’s top male country artist’s chart and in the top 20 on the magazine’s overall list of top country artists. Currently No. 8 on the Billboard Hot Country Songs, Morgan will shine at this year’s country concert.

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## **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**

**Thursday, May 17, Mardi Gras Concert**



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's newest album, "Save My Soul", pays tribute to the home of Mardi Gras, New Orleans. Since 1989, the jazz, blues and swing band has been formed into what it is now. They kicked off the swing revival in the mid-1990's with their appearance in the film *Swingers* and began touring ferociously, delivering killer shows night after night, city after city. They'll bring their newest songs and some of their favorites to Riverfest's Mardi Gras.

## **Chubby Checker**

**Friday, May 18, AT&T Block Party Concert**



The "King of the Twist" comes to Riverfest! Having been on the chart list for over 48 years, Checker will bring such notable hits as "The Hucklebuck", "Pony Time", "The Mess Around", "Slow Twistn'", "Limbo Rock", "Dancin' Party", "Loddy Lo", as well as the first Certified Platinum single ever, "Let's Twist Again." Chubby's first single, "The Class" was a vehicle for his musical impressions and was included in Dick Clark's 1958 Christmas card. That record was his first hit and reached #38 on Billboard. He has sold 250 million records over the course of his career (so far). Chubby Checker was the first Black Rock Star, who was not a crossover Artist; he appeared on the Pop Charts with his first record. Dick Clark has said: "The three most important things that ever happened in the Music Industry are Elvis Presley, The Beatles, and Chubby Checker."

## **Patti Austin and the Wichita Symphony Orchestra**

**Saturday, May 19, Koch Industries Twilight Pops Concert**



International recording star Patti Austin will perform a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald in her first-ever Wichita appearance with the Wichita Symphony Orchestra. Austin has recorded and toured with artists Quincy Jones, Roberta Flack and James Ingram and made guest appearances on numerous television shows. The daughter of a jazz trombonist and goddaughter of musical legends Quincy Jones and Dinah Washington, Austin made her stage debut with Washington at the world-famous Apollo Theater in Harlem. During the 70's she was the undisputed "queen" of the New York jingle session scene. Her voice was heard on literally hundreds of commercials, behind everyone from Paul Simon, Cat Stevens and Joe Cocker to Bette Midler, Roberta Flack, Luther Vandross and Diana Ross.

Riverfest buttons are now available for order online at [www.wichitariverfestival.com](http://www.wichitariverfestival.com) and will be on sale at retail locations April 9. Any one of the four official buttons available this year is your ticket to these great concerts and all Festival events.

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**2007 Riverfest Sponsors:** 89th Regional Readiness Command, Aeroflex Wichita, Inc., AirTran Airways, Associated Advertising Agency, AT&T, Bank of America, Bob FM, Bombardier Learjet, Bud Light, BWCU, Capitol Federal Foundation, 107.9 JAMZ, Cessna Aircraft Company, City of Wichita, Clear Channel Outdoor, Inc., Clear Channel Radio, Conrady Western, Inc., Cox Communications, Don Hattan Chevrolet, Entercom Wichita, Foley Equipment Company, Hall's Culligan Water, INTRUST Bank, JaJo Inc., JCI, Journal Broadcast Group, Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas Lottery, KSNW NBC, LSI Logic, Marriott Hotels, Metro Courier, Mid America Network, Pepsi Bottling Group, Printing Inc., QuikTrip Corporation, Sedgwick County, Spirit AeroSystems, The NORDAM Group, Toyota, Unified Party Bus, Van Horn Promotion & Marketing, Via Christi Wichita Health Network, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Wichita Downtown Development Corporation.

For more information about Wichita Festivals, Inc. or Riverfest, please contact Susan Burchill, Director of Marketing and Public Relations at (316) 267-2817, ext. 25 or at [susan@wichitafestivals.com](mailto:susan@wichitafestivals.com).

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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 300,000 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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