



News Release

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ABC 17 Fire in the Sky 2008 **Presented by Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance** **The 57th annual celebration of an American tradition**

Celebrate Independence Day at ABC 17's Fire in the Sky! This annual event is presented by Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance and will be held at the University of Missouri Memorial Stadium on Friday, July 4. Gates open at 6:30 p.m.

Primitive Soul will perform at 7 p.m. followed by Henry Clay and the Full Grown Men at 8 p.m. The Missouri Symphony will perform at 9 p.m. A spectacular fireworks display will begin shortly after 9:30 p.m. and will be choreographed with the music of the Missouri Symphony. The celebration is free and concessions will be available. The public is asked to not bring any fireworks, coolers or alcohol to the stadium.

About the Bands

Primitive Soul is a collection of musicians who were at the forefront of the Columbia music scene in the late 1960s and into the early 1980s. All former full-time, professional musicians and mid-Missouri natives, the members of Primitive Soul were players in some of the most successful and influential groups in area history.

Members include Dan "Jake" Jacobs - lead vocals, guitar, additional percussion. Back in the day, Jake fronted both the Comic Book Society and Slaughterhouse, two seminal bands in Columbia's music scene. Slaughterhouse opened concerts for Bachman-Turner Overdrive, Peter Frampton, REO Speedwagon, Spirit, Bob Seger and others. Bruce Barkelew - lead guitar, vocals. Bruce was a founder and key member of Slaughterhouse, Buddy Palace & the Auroras and Ricky & the Ricardos.

Jim Quisenberry - lead guitar, slide guitar, vocals. Quiz has been called "the best rock lead player in the area" by Kevin Walsh. Quiz also excels on open-G turning slide playing, acoustic finger picking and piano. Tom Weislocher - keyboards, saxophone, guitar, vocals. Tom was a member of The Bluesman in the 1960s and Rockin' Chair in the 1970s.

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Doug Whitworth - five-string bass guitar, vocals. Doug's powerful, finger-style playing provides half of the band's propulsive rhythm section. Rod Southard - drums, vocals. Rod is the dynamic engine of Primitive Soul, with a muscular playing style that's as aggressive now as it was in the Comic Book Society of which he was a founding member from 1967 'til 1973.

Started as a hobby in 2002, Primitive Soul has evolved into a versatile ensemble of broad expressive and dynamic range, featuring top-line musicianship, incredible vocal harmonies and charismatic stage presence. Time has not diminished their abilities, their love of music or their ability to rock with a fury. An evening with Primitive Soul is a night of rock-n-roll flavored with the passion of the blues.

Henry Clay & the Full Grown Men: Rising from the ashes of the touring rocking blues band from the late 1980s and early 1990s formerly known as The Benders, Henry Clay and The Full Grown Men is comprised of five seasoned veterans of the Columbia music scene.

Leading the band on vocals and harmonica is consummate bluesman Henry Clay Ransburg. When it comes to the blues, few are more knowledgeable, and none more committed to keeping the music alive with their very heart and soul. As for guitarists, the FGM is blessed with two of the best, Sean Hennessy and Pete Szkolka. Whether it's laying down an unwavering groove on the Strat or swinging hard on the Big Box, Columbia's own Sean Hennessy is the blues bus driver. Add native Chicagoan triple threat Pete Szkolka on guitar, keys, and vocals to make a blues roux so thick you can dance on it.

Nailing down the bottom end are Kevin Hennessy on bass and Jimmy Joe Cotton Culbertson on drums. Kevin Hennessy moved back to the Midwest after spending 17 years in the southern California music scene. He has played or recorded with Sting, America, Nickel Creek and more.

Whether it's Muddy Waters or Mick Jagger, or anything in between, The Full Grown Men serve up an adult portion of dancing blues music that will satisfy your cravings and yet leave you wanting more. You might recognize a few of the covers and even a couple of the originals, but regardless, you will hear real blues music played real good. Web: www.henryclayblues.com

Missouri Symphony Orchestra: For the last thirty-seven years, the Missouri Symphony Society (MOSS) has dedicated itself to providing musical performances of the highest caliber. This ensemble, under the direction of Maestro Kirk Trevor, is comprised of professional musicians from throughout the United States and around the world, and provides a popular eight-week summer music festival during the months of June and July. The orchestra will perform pops and patriotic music for the Fire in the Sky celebration.

For more information visit www.fireinthesky.tv.