

**Solano County Fair – July 27-31, 2016**  
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## **Headline Concerts Announced for 2016 Solano County Fair**

*Free nightly concerts on the Galaxy Stage to include Gospel Rocks Solano!, Con Funk Shun, Time Bandits, USAF Galaxy Band, and Rose Royce*

**Solano County, CA** – The best entertainment value of the summer can be found at this year's Solano County Fair, July 27-31, with five nights of free headline concert entertainment included with the price of admission.

This year's concerts will once again take place on the Galaxy Stage, transformed last year into a club-like atmosphere with seating for nearly 2,000 music fans. The decor blends a tribute to Travis Air Force Base's C-5 Galaxy Globemaster with a retro look forward to artistic images of our galaxy and beyond.

"It's a more intimate and fun atmosphere that creates a great place to meet family and friends at the Fair," said Fairgrounds General Manager, Stephen Pierce.

The opening night music celebration of Gospel Rocks Solano! will begin at 5:30 p.m. The following nights, performances by Con Funk Shun, Time Bandits/USAF Galaxy Band, and Rose Royce will all take place at 8:00 p.m. The closing night Fiesta Concert acts are still to be announced for a 7 p.m. show time. A separate ticket is not required for the concerts, with seating available on a first-come, first-served basis.

### **Wednesday, July 27 – Gospel Rocks Solano!**

The Fair kicks off on opening night with a "festival within a festival" featuring a stellar lineup of Gospel super stars including Randy Stonehill, Marvin Sapp, the Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir and more. Randy Stonehill has been delivering heart-driven, relevant Christian music for over 40 years. He's written over 800 songs on 27 releases and is responsible for some of the most authentic, influential Christian music ever written. His recordings have inspired many Christian artists and in November 2010, he was inducted into the Christian Music Hall of Fame.

Marvin Sapp has been singing since age four and has shared the stage with many gospel notables. He began singing with the gospel group Commissioned in 1990. In 1996, he went solo and released his first CD *Marvin Sapp*, then *Grace and Mercy*, followed by several more including the 2013 release of his *Christmas Card* CD that featured his three children. He has enjoyed a decorated music career receiving 10 Grammy nominations, 22 Stellar Awards, 2 Soul Train Music Awards, 2 BET Awards, 2 Dove Awards, and 8 BMI songwriter's awards for sales along with many other accolades and honors from national, regional, and local institutions.



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### **Thursday, July 28 – Con Funk Shun**

Back by popular demand, Con Funk Shun returns to their hometown of Vallejo, promising to deliver a superb, high-energy show with electrifying choreography, glistening six-part vocal harmonies, and a dash of humor. They are, unquestionably, among the heroes of Funk with romantic ballads and dance-party hits galore. They have charted four consecutive Gold albums, one Platinum album and 20 hit singles including eight Top Ten R&B Hits and one No. 1 R&B smash. Their high-profile, commercial explosions culminated in Mercury/Polygram's release of the *Best of Con Funk Shun* on their *Funk Essentials Series* which was re-released several years later by Universal (which bought Polygram) on their *Millennium Collection*. Recent appearances include Tokyo's Cotton Club, Cache Creek Casino Resort, Harrah's New Orleans, Rrazz Room San Francisco, The Master of Funk USA Tour, and The Tom Joyner Fantastic Voyage Cruise 2010. The band also remains active in the studio and is planning on releasing a new CD, *Sound of Grown Men*, sometime in the near future.

With chart topping albums *Loveshine* and *Candy*, Con Funk Shun were solid-Gold sellers, performing at sold-out venues like the prestigious Omni in Atlanta, after which they began self-producing with the *Touch* LP. Alongside blistering dance workouts like "Chase Me" and "Ms. Got-The-Body" were their timeless slow-jams with pop flair, and classic favorites such as "Love's Train," "Straight From The Heart," "(Let Me Put) Love On Your Mind" and "All Up To You". Con Funk Shun has teamed with Kool & The Gang's producer, Eumir Deodato, producing "Baby I'm Hooked (Right Into Your Love)," followed by "I'm Leaving Baby," a collaboration with Maurice Starr, then-future svengali to New Kids On The Block. These hits and more remain on radio play lists today, year after year.

### **Friday, July 29 – “Hometown Double!”: Time Bandits and the USAF Galaxy Band from Travis Air Force Base**

Friday night hits a Hometown Double with two bands on the Galaxy Stage starting with Solano County's own Time Bandits. The Time Bandits have been together going on over 20 years now and are getting stronger and better all the time. Fueled by their collective love of many styles of music and original songwriting, they always bring a powerful performance to every venue.

Continuing the night's party after the Time Bandits, the USAF Band of the Golden West's newest ensemble, the Galaxy Band features powerful vocals and intricate musicianship. The sounds of Galaxy will pull you to your feet as they perform a wide variety of musical styles playing rock, pop, and country hits from the past to today's top 40.

Representing diverse educational and cultural backgrounds, the members of Galaxy Band combine their incredible musical talents with their passion for high-energy performance. They effectively share the Air Force story with audiences throughout the western region of the USA. Galaxy Band takes great pride in their ongoing musical support for the morale and welfare of our warrior-airmen and our joint-combined forces deployed across the globe.



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## **Saturday, July 30 – Rose Royce**

As a principal vehicle for former Motown hitmaker Norman Whitfield's engaging compositions, Rose Royce ascended to the top of the Soul Music world with a string of great hits and a tight, full sound that rivaled many of the best self-contained soul and funk groups of that era.

Formed by trumpeter/vocalist Kenny Copeland, drummer Henry Garner, trumpeter Freddie Dunn, and keyboardist Michael Nash in the mid-70s, the group first served as a backup band for Edwin Starr, who introduced them to his "War" producer, Whitfield. This led to regular work with many of Whitfield's other Motown acts, including the Undisputed Truth.

Rose Royce is a nine member band which performed the Whitfield-produced MCA soundtrack to the Richard Pryor movie *Car Wash*. With its hand-clapping, funky intro, exciting vocals and the band's great performance, the title track became one of the biggest dance songs ever, leaping to #1 on the pop and soul charts and taking Rose Royce with it. Fortunately, the group turned out to be neither a one-hit-wonder nor just a dance band. Rose Royce's follow up from the soundtrack, "I Wanna Get Next To You," was a gorgeous ballad as strong as anything Whitfield had provided to the Temptations and the performance was again outstanding.

*Car Wash* moved Rose Royce to the head of the R&B pack, and the group capitalized on its position with *In Full Bloom*, the band's formal debut album which topped the charts and landed the big hit, "Ooh Boy." In 1978 Rose Royce again proved to be a great love song group, hitting the charts with two now-classic ballads, "Wishing On A Star" and "Love Don't Live Here Anymore" (later remade by Beyonce) and the top five album *Rose Royce Strikes Again*.

Rose Royce continues to this day with the foundation of Copeland, Garner, Dunn, and Nash who self-released the album *Live In Hollywood*. A resurgence of their music, through the continuing popularity of "Car Wash" and the cover of some of their ballads by new generation singers, has made Rose Royce a popular touring act again and kept the classy funk and soul flowing well into the 21st Century.

## **Make plans to attend the Solano County Fair**

The Solano County Fair runs from July 27-31, 2016 at the Solano County Fairgrounds in Vallejo. All concerts are included FREE with Fair admission. 2016 Fair hours are 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, and noon to 11 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Fair admission prices are \$8 in advance and \$10 on-site for adults, \$6 in advance and \$8 on-site for veterans, \$4 in advance and \$6 on-site for children ages 6 to 12 and seniors 60+. Children 5 and under are always free. Select activities, carnival rides and games have a separate cost. Carnival wristbands, good all day any one day, are \$20 in advance and \$25 on-site.



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In addition to discounted pre-sale tickets, available online through July 26, the Fair is offering three special admission days.

- Wednesday, July 27: Seniors Day – seniors age 60+ receive free admission.
- Thursday, July 28: Kids Day – kids age 12 and under receive free admission.
- Friday, July 29: Military & First Responders Appreciation Day – military, law enforcement and firefighters and their families receive free admission.

All of the following sources are available to get the latest updates and announcements about the annual Solano County Fair as well as year-round Fairgrounds activities:

- visit the Fair's web site, [SCFair.com](http://SCFair.com);
- visit the Fair's blog at [SolanoCountyFairgrounds.blogspot.com](http://SolanoCountyFairgrounds.blogspot.com);
- follow the Fair on Facebook by clicking the link on the Fair's home page; or
- sign up to receive email blasts and newsletters by registering your email in the box at the top of the Fair's home page.

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