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American Authors to Perform at 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®

*National pop-rock recording artists, **American Authors**, to take the Main Stage at 8:45 PM on Friday, June 8, 2018 during the 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®, the largest, longest-running, free maritime festival in the nation.*

Norfolk, VA (December 20, 2017) – “*This is going to be the best day of my life, my li-i-i-i-ife.*” The sounds of **American Authors** have been widely featured in commercials, on airwaves, on the big screen, and now, the national pop-rock recording artists will take the Main Stage during the 42nd Norfolk Harborfest® at 8:45 PM on Friday, June 8, 2018, along the downtown Norfolk, VA waterfront in Town Point Park. Free and open to the public, this lively four-piece is one show everyone can sing along to!



American Authors will join previously-announced artists **Atlanta Rhythm Section**, **Firefall**, and **Pure Prairie League** who will be performing Saturday, June 9, 2018, for an energetic Southern Rock Saturday, just before one of the LARGEST fireworks show on the east coast! But the festival doesn't end there! Don't



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miss **The Family Stone** bring down the house on Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 4:30 PM with their original and funky sound during the 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®!

American Authors

Friday, June 8, 2018, at 8:45 PM* on the Main Stage



*Since releasing their debut album **Oh, What a Life** in 2014, New York-based pop-rock outfit American Authors have experienced milestones most bands only dream about. They've watched their music climb to the top of the charts, and seen singles go multi-platinum. They've played awards shows, hit the stages of legendary venues all over the world, and toured with One Republic. They've heard their anthemic hit single "Best Day of My Life" in movie trailers, on TV shows, and as a theme song for the Stanley Cup Playoffs. Despite these accolades, however, lead singer Zac Barnett asserts that the best day of their lives is still yet to come. "We just want to keep going," he says. "We can't wait to continue this adventure."*

Adventure is an understatement. After meeting at the prestigious Berklee College of Music, Barnett and bandmates guitarist James Adam Shelley, bassist Dave Rublin and drummer Matt Sanchez began to develop an entirely unique, collaborative sound; one that radiates style, without sacrificing substance. This eclectic brand of energetic pop rock



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attracted iconic label Island Records, to which the band is now signed. "Signing with Island was so exciting," remembers Barnett. "We literally signed the papers and then hit the road on our first legit tour."

Regardless of time constraints, it's clear that American Authors take their name seriously -- their tracks are infused with tribal rhythms, country twang, Latin riffs and EDM-style drops, making their music as diverse as the city they live in. "New York opened us up to this whole new world and community of musicians," says Barnett of the band's adopted home. But worldliness doesn't take away from the relatable nature of their authorship. They create fun and truthful pop rock, drawing on personal experience for inspiration. "Our songs are about daily life. We're constantly learning and failing and succeeding and that's what influences us more than anything." They're not afraid to take risks, a trait that's only intensified since the release of Oh, What a Life. In fact, says Barnett, their new songs take elements from their beloved sound to the next level: "We're pushing everything. Bigger harmonies, bigger melodies -- it's American Authors 2.0."

This transition is exemplified in "What We Live For," a song about moving forward and dreaming big. It's fitting as the title track of the upcoming album -- it's hopeful and upbeat, utilizing road trip imagery the band has become so familiar with to call for artistic exploration. "The first album is all about reflection and the memories that led us to becoming American Authors," says Barnett. "What We Live For is about the adventures we're having and where we want to go." "Right Here Right Now" echoes this sentiment, employing an infectious backbeat handclap, choral vocals and catchy lyrics that illustrate the carefree excitement of being in love. "We can have all these goals," he notes of the song's meaning, "but if you're not doing the things you love with the people you love, they don't matter."

It's entirely apparent that this statement represents the ethos behind American Authors. Their songwriting process is uniquely collaborative, with band members able and willing to play every instrument. Each song, including first single "Pride," is the result of a dynamic mix of experimentation and experience. The track features tribal vocals, unique percussive sounds and banjo to underscore its emotional, but uplifting message. "We're always open and excited to try new things and new sounds," says Barnett. "That's what sets us apart."

Transparent lyricism and a sense of genuine enthusiasm have set American Authors even further apart, rendering them one of the most exciting bands of the last few years. They're humble and earnest, eager to continue their adventure by writing, playing and traveling to new places. More than anything, though, the band is excited to continue connecting with fans. "Our music is our hearts and our souls and our entire lives," says Barnett. "We hope that people can put their own stories into it and find a sense of unity with the music, but also with important moments in our lives. That's what we really live for."

To learn more about American Authors, please visit their site at

<http://www.weareamericanauthors.com/>



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Atlanta Rhythm Section

Saturday, June 9, 2018, at 8:15 PM* on the Main Stage



For more than 30 years, members of The Atlanta Rhythm Section have entertained audiences all over the world with their hits. The members of Atlanta Rhythm Section originally came together as a session band at Studio One, an Atlanta area studio recording artists like Lynyrd Skynyrd, Al Kooper, Dickey Betts and .38 Special. The band put out 15 albums and were paired with contemporaries Lynyrd Skynyrd as the successors to the Allman Brothers – carrying the mantle of “Southern Rock” in the late 70s. But performing songs that were more musically diverse and having hits that had a softer, pop flavor, they had a sound all their own.

Influenced by music coming out of England and sharing the musical stylings of groups likes The Eagles and Fleetwood Mac, the members of ARS were accomplished musicians who constantly tried to evolve – think Steely Dan or Little Feat. With multiple gold and platinum albums to their credit, the band had top hits, “So Into You,” “Imaginary Lover,” “Doraville,” “I’m Not Gonna Let It Bother Me Tonight,” “Champagne Jam,” “Angel,” “Do It Or Die” and “Spooky.”

To learn more about the Atlanta Rhythm Section visit their site at

[http://www.atlantarhythmsection.com./](http://www.atlantarhythmsection.com/)



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Firefall

Saturday, June 9, 2018, at 5:45 PM* on the Main Stage



In an age where new bands come and go, Firefall has enjoyed a career that spans more than forty years and shows no sign of slowing down. Firefall's commercial success includes three Gold albums, two Platinum albums and eleven chart-topping singles. The band's biggest hit, "You Are the Woman" has been played on commercial radio more than 7,000,000 times and has also appeared in many movies and television shows. Other hit songs include "Goodbye I Love You", "Cinderella", "Strange Way", "Mexico" and "Just Remember I Love You".

Firefall was inducted into the Colorado Music Hall of Fame in 2015 along with Poco, Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Stephen Stills & Manassas. Currently touring with three original members (Jock Bartley, David Muse, Mark Andes), longtime drummer Sandy Ficca and talented newcomer Gary Jones, Firefall continues to make great music for a loyal following, adding new fans at each show.

To learn more about Firefall, visit their site at www.firefallofficial.com.

Pure Prairie League

Saturday, June 9, 2018, at 3:15 PM* on the Main Stage



Country rockers Pure Prairie League took their name from an obscure 19th century Temperance Union mentioned in the 1939 film, "Dodge City." But this distinctly American band, with its 40-year career and long line of top hits, escaped obscurity long ago. Although fan favorites right out of the gate it took a number of years before PPL, formed by vocalist/guitar player Craig Fuller, had their first hit. They couldn't have picked a better way to start, and "AIMEE" not only put PPL on the map, but went on to become perhaps the most well-known and beloved country rock songs of all time.

Somewhere along the line Fuller left to replace Lowell George in Little Feat, but PPL continued to grow and prosper, with Mike Reilly as well as Country superstar Vince Gill, who was part of the band for a short time. Fuller eventually came back, and stayed for over a decade. Although Fuller is retired from full time touring, he sometimes joins the band for occasional shows. PPL continues to tour and treat their legions of loyal fans to music that sounds as good today as it did when it was first performed. "People come to hear the music the way it was played back then," Fuller says. "We may have improved on the fidelity, but when we do a song off one of our records, we do it just as it was recorded." Whether they are "Pickin To Beat The Devil," or taking you riding down a "Two Lane Highway," PPL is a sure fire good time.

To learn more about Pure Prairie League, visit their site at pureprairieleague.com.

The Family Stone

Sunday, June 10, 2018, at 4:30 PM* on the Main Stage



Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees, R&B Pioneer Award Winners, and original founding members of Sly & The Family Stone; Jerry Martini and Greg Errico, together part of the first inter-racial inter-gender, main-stream major band in Rock & Roll history bring you the chart-topping hits of Sly & The Family Stone.

These veteran San Franciscan Funksters are joined by the powerful voices of Phunne Stone (The multi-talented daughter of Sly Stone and the late great Cynthia Robinson) and Swang Stewart on vocals. They bring you a message of peace, love, and social consciousness, through musical harmony with some of the funkier players of all time. Big Guns of Funk like Nate Wingfield on the Guitar, Jimmy McKinney on Keys, and Musical Director Blaise Sison on bass adding the proper pocket to the raw Family Stone sound.

They present an explosive set of their Psychedelic Funk classic hits of the 60s and 70s. The raw, unfiltered original sound that became part of the essential building blocks of many, if not most, of the great modern artists toolkits. Sampled and covered by major artists around the world, the influence of their music and sound is immeasurable in the development of modern music as we know it today.

Legendary Anthems like "I Want to Take You Higher," "Everyday People," "Thank You Falettinme Be Mice Elf Agin," "Dance To The Music," "Hot Fun In The Summertime," "Family Affair," "Sing a Simple Song," and many other instantly recognizable tunes from their vast catalog of albums including the album "STAND" which in 2015, was declared a National Treasure, preserved in The United States Library of Congress. In 2015, "STAND" was also inducted into The Grammy Hall of Fame.



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Keeping the legacy true to its original sound and raw funk groove, these “Everyday People” will naturally “Take You Higher” with a musical experience that has brought them in front of millions of people through Europe, Asia, Australia, The USA, and The Caribbean; appearing at massive gatherings like WOODSTOCK, Glastonbury, Coachella, Stern Grove, Tokyo Jazz, Electric Picnic and Harvest Festival, while also enjoying smaller intimate Jazz clubs like Ronnie Scots, Dimitriou's Jazz Alley, and Ophelias; spreading the roots of funk that is truly a revolutionary act of music going onstage.

To learn more about The Family Stone, visit their site at <http://thefamilystonemusic.com/>



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In addition to Friday, Saturday, and Sunday's packed musical acts by **American Authors, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Firefall, Pure Prairie League, and The Family Stone**, the historic waterfront festival offers a spectacular weekend packed with thrilling activities on land, sea and in the air! You won't want to miss the tall ships, Parade of Sail, artisan foods and beverages, work boat races, unique and unusual performances, one of the largest fireworks shows on the East Coast on Saturday, June 9, 2018, family games and activities, national and regional entertainment, and so much more!



From now until June, Norfolk Festevents will be sharing the latest and greatest in Norfolk Harborfest@ events, activities, entertainment, vendors, and more at bit.ly/NFKHF18. You can also follow us on social media through Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @Festevents. Don't forget to check back frequently for the latest performer announcements here bit.ly/HF18Lineup.

42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest@ Hours*

- Friday, June 8, 2018: 12pm-11pm
- Saturday, June 9, 2018: 12pm-11pm
- Sunday, June 10, 2018: 10am-6pm

The 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest@ is produced by Norfolk Festevents, Ltd. and sponsored by the City of Norfolk.

**Schedules subject to change*



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The 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest® is the largest, longest-running, free maritime festival in the nation. This exhilarating, FREE, family-friendly, fun, outdoor extravaganza is stocked full of activities on land, sea, and in the sky! For three incredible days, you'll see tall ships, Parade of Sail, artisan foods and beverages, work boat races, unique and unusual performances, one of the largest fireworks shows on the East Coast, family games and activities, national and regional entertainment, and so much more!

Norfolk Festevents, Ltd., based in Norfolk, Virginia, is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating the most dynamic urban waterfront community in America through innovative programming and imaginative uses of its historic waterfront spaces. An extensive 10-month schedule of diverse outdoor cultural events, festivals, concerts, entertainment, holiday programs, tall ship visits, sports and recreation are presented in two popular and welcoming waterfront environments; Town Point Park located in downtown Norfolk on the banks of the Elizabeth River and Ocean View Beach Park situated on the shore line of the Chesapeake Bay. Norfolk Festevents has served as the City of Norfolk's official event marketing agency since the city's downtown waterfront revitalization initiatives began in 1982. The organization has garnered international acclaim for its advocacy for public access to waterfronts, outstanding quality programming and development of public spaces, transforming Norfolk into one of the most progressive, fun and livable waterfront communities in the country. Residents, workers, and visitors to Norfolk and the Hampton Roads region are invited to experience all the fun and excitement of the 2018 season!

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