

Thomas McClary, Co-Founder of the Commodores, to Perform at 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®

Norfolk, VA (February 13, 2018) – Four-time GRAMMY nominated songwriter, **Thomas McClary, Co-Founder of the Commodores**, performs with his band The Commodore Experience, on the Main Stage at 2:00 PM on Sunday, June 10, 2018 during the 42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®, the largest, longest-running, free maritime festival in the nation.

Thomas McClary, Co-Founder of the Commodores, will join previously-announced national recording artists **American Authors, The Family Stone, Atlanta Rhythm Section, Firefall, Pure Prairie League, Super Doppler** and local favorite, **DJ Canrock**, for an incredible three-day-and-night-long maritime celebration at Town Point Park in downtown Norfolk, Virginia.





120 W. Main Street, Norfolk, VA 23510 P: (757) 441-2345 – F: (757) 441-5198 – festevents.org

42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest®

Main Stage

Sunday, June 10, 2018 - 2:00 pm

The Founder of the original Commodores, is back!

As an irresistible force of social and cultural change, this Motown icon made his mark not just on the music industry — but society at large. McClary was part of a new musical group that was both authentic and groundbreaking and created a sound that the world had never heard before – one that was real, raw, and unbelievable. This was a sound that captured America and resonated around the world. The group is credited with seven number one songs; a host of top ten Billboard hits and their vast catalog includes more than 50 albums with more than 120 million units sold.

McClary played an intricate role in creating the essences of the Commodores sound with his funky, rock flavored, smooth intimate guitar licks and his collaboration with Lionel Richie. Together they wrote over two thirds of all the songs recorded by The Commodores. Lionel once referred to the Richie / McClary writing team as “the Paul McCartney and John Lennon of The Commodores.” A little wishful thinking, but it certainly challenged the group to set the bar high. In fact, McClary would often remind the guys “remember, we are the Black Beatles.” What seemed at the time to be just a mere slogan later became reality.

In 1974, The Commodores broke the Beatles attendance record at the Araneta Coliseum in the Philippines. This happened after the first album *Machine Gun* made history by becoming the first gold album sold in the history of Motown Records. This writing team wrote hits such as: *Brickhouse*, *Slippery When Wet*, *I Feel Sanctified*, *Too Hot To Trot*, *Flying High*, and *High On Sunshine* just to name a few.

McClary’s guitar licks on The Commodores smash *Easy* have been hailed as one of the best solo guitar performances of all time. Whether it’s *Sail On*, *Three Times A Lady*, *Just To Be Close*, *Zoom*, *Oh No*, *Lady You Bring Me Up*, *Sweet Love*, *This Is Your Life*, *Still*, or the smash instrumental hits *Machine Gun* and *Cebu*.

It all began in 1967, when Thomas McClary came to Tuskegee University from Eustis, Florida pursuing a degree in Business Administration. While standing in the registration line, he met Lionel Richie who was whistling the song *Listen here* by Eddie Harris. Thomas asked Lionel if he was a musician, introduced himself as the man on a mission to put a band together. The two colleagues began recruiting other musicians to form The Mystics. Members from The Mystics merged with another Tuskegee based group called The Jays to form The Commodores.

The Commodores big break came after touring for two years as the opening act for the red hot Jackson 5, in 1972-73. McClary co-wrote 60% of all the Commodore songs.

Did you know?

- McClary co-wrote with Lionel Richie 60% of all the Commodore songs.
- Did you know that Thomas McClary collaborated with Lionel Richie and Diana Ross on the *Endless Love* sound track and the Kenny Rogers project; wrote and produced songs for The Four Tops; The Temptations; Whitney Houston; Melissa Manchester; Miles’ Davis bassist, and Michael Henderson.



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- He also produced a number one hit on a new group named Klique, *Stop Dogging Me Around*.
- Did you know that McClary and The Commodores toured with The Rolling Stones, Bob Marley, Guns & Roses, The Beach Boys, Stevie Wonder, The Jackson Five, and Tina Turner.
- These are just a few of the best kept secrets about the four-time GRAMMY nominated song writer and producer, the first Commodore himself, Thomas McClary.
- After taking some time from touring and recording to spend with his family, and to fulfill philanthropic goals to volunteer and support worthy non-profit organizations such as Shepherd's Hope and Celebs 4 Kids- he's back. The man who started the band that started it all, with unparalleled high energy you won't forget– introducing his cutting edge band: Thomas McClary's Commodores which has sold out audiences everywhere creating a groundswell of excitement that's just contagious.

Celebrating America's largest, longest-running, free maritime festival in its 42nd year, Norfolk Harborfest® will span from Friday-Sunday, June 8-10, 2018 on the downtown Norfolk, VA waterfront in Town Point Park.

For three memorable days, the historic waterfront festival offers a weekend packed with thrilling activities on land and sea to include tall ships and the 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 much more!



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42nd ANNUAL NORFOLK HARBORFEST®

JUNE 8, 2018 FRIDAY NIGHT PERFORMING ARTISTS



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Friday, June 8, 2018 - 6:00pm

National-touring artist, **Super Doppler**, blends soul, roots, and rock to create a psychedelic sound that is uniquely their own. Originating from Norfolk, VA, the six-piece recently released *Moonlight Anthems*; an ode to the 70s rock-n-roll scene.

To learn more about Super Doppler, check them out here superdopplerband.com.



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Friday, June 8, 2018 - 8:45 pm

Multi-platinum artists, **American Authors** have seen their music featured on the big screen, in commercials and as a theme song for the Stanley Cup playoffs. Their pop-rock sound features a mix of tribal rhythm, country twang, Latin riffs and electronic dance music (EDM) style drops. "Our music is our hearts and our souls and our entire lives," says lead singer, Zac Barnett. "That's what we really live for."

To learn more about American Authors, visit weareamericanauthors.com.



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42nd ANNUAL NORFOLK HARBORFEST® JUNE 9, 2018 SATURDAY NIGHT PERFORMING ARTISTS



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest
Boathouse Stage
Friday, June 9, 2018 - 9:45 pm
Saturday, June 10, 2018 - 10:00 pm

Back by popular demand, local crowd pleaser, **DJ Canrock**, will once again bring the funk, jams, and beat to the Boathouse Stage during the After Burner Party on Friday and Saturday night! Guests will end the evening dancing to high-energy tunes spanning across musical genres as a DJ Canrock demonstrates why he is a Norfolk hometown favorite.

To learn more about DJ Canrock, follow him at [@djcanrock](https://twitter.com/djcanrock).



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest
Main Stage
Saturday, June 9, 2018 - 3:15 pm

Pure Prairie League 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," singer Craig 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."

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



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42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Saturday, June 9, 2018 - 5:45 pm

In an age where new bands come and go, Colorado Music Hall of Fame inductees, **Firefall**, have 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.

To learn more about Firefall, visit firefallofficial.com.



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Saturday, June 9, 2018 - 8:15 pm

For more than 30 years, members of the **Atlanta Rhythm Section** have entertained audiences all over the world with their hits. The band's diverse sound has earned them multiple gold and platinum records.

To learn more about the Atlanta Rhythm Section, visit atlantarhythmsection.com.



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42nd ANNUAL NORFOLK HARBORFEST®

JUNE 10, 2018 SUNDAY NIGHT PERFORMING ARTISTS



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Sunday, June 10, 2018 - 2:00 pm

Four-time GRAMMY nominated songwriter, producer, and Motown icon, **Thomas McClary, Co-Founder of the Commodores**, is back and better than ever!

To learn more about Thomas McClary, Co-Founder of the Commodores, visit thomasmcclary.com.



42nd Annual Norfolk Harborfest

Main Stage

Sunday, June 10, 2018 - 4:30 pm

Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees, R&B Pioneer Award Winners, **The Family Stone**, bring raw, original, timeless sound and a psychedelic funky twist to their timeless classics.

To learn more about The Family Stone, visit thefamilystonemusic.com.



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**Schedules subject to change * Free and open to the public * Rain or shine **

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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! Visit the Norfolk Festevents Press Room at bit.ly/FesteventsPress.

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