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## **MEIJER GARDENS ANNOUNCES 2008 OUTDOOR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES**

*Three-Month Series Features Eclectic Mix of Artists in Popular Outdoor Venue*

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., April 24, 2008**—Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park in Grand Rapids, Michigan, a leading Midwest cultural destination, today announced the lineup for its 2008 Summer Concert Series at the Meijer Gardens Amphitheater that includes acclaimed artists such as Sara Evans, CAKE, Los Lonely Boys and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy.

The sixth season of live pop, jazz, blues, folk and country music features performances by an eclectic mix of entertainment's biggest names. Several artists are returning favorites to Meijer Gardens, including Lyle Lovett and Los Lobos. Tickets to concert events will be sold at all StarTicketsPlus locations, [www.startickets.com](http://www.startickets.com) or by calling 800-585-3737. Tickets will range from \$30.00 to \$70.00 based on the artist.

"The Meijer Gardens Summer Concert Series is extremely popular and there are always a handful of shows that quickly sell out, often strictly to members, who receive early access and discounts," said David Hooker, President & CEO of Meijer Gardens. "We often say 'membership has its advantages,' and this is an excellent example of the benefits of being a Meijer Gardens Member. In 2007, the Lyle Lovett concert sold out to members before tickets even became available to the public."

Meijer Gardens reserves a two-week ticket buying window for members only. The variety of musical acts at Meijer Gardens attracts a regional audience and concerts often sell out quickly, frequently to members. **Tickets to Meijer Gardens Members go on sale Saturday, May 3, 2008 and to the general public on Saturday, May 17, 2008.**

Memberships are available online at [www.meijergardens.org/membership](http://www.meijergardens.org/membership).

### **CAKE (SOLD OUT)**

*With special guest Jessica Lea Mayfield*  
*Thursday, June 5*

CAKE's quirky blend of funk, soul, pop, jazz, and alternative rock are filled with lyrical word play, pop-culture references, and syncopation. The group's tuneful guitar bursts, mariachi-derived trumpet, and funky rhythms, encourage audiences to join in on choruses. Cake provides a variety of original tunes and cover songs from popular artists including Willie Nelson, Frank Sinatra, Barry White and AC/DC. Cake hits include "Short Skirt/Long Jacket," "No Phone," and sporting-event anthem "The Distance." Members: \$41, Public: \$43

### **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**

*With special guest Mario Spinetti*  
*Thursday, June 12*

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy (BBVD) boasts a modern swing vibe and big band sound. Largely responsible for the mid-90s revival of swing, this nine-piece band is renowned for their impeccable performances and 40s era zoot suits. BBVD played half-time at Super Bowl XXXIII, performed with Stevie Wonder and Gloria Estefan, and created music for the hit animated film *The Wild*. Members: \$33, Public: \$35.

### **Robert Randolph's Revival**

*Monday, June 16*

Robert Randolph's inspiring pedal steel guitar playing blends the sounds of rock and blues with soulful gospel groove. His string wizardry is the focal point of The Family Band's lively performances, which include appearances with Eric Clapton, Santana and the Dave Matthews Band. Rolling Stone named this Grammy nominated artist one of the "100 Greatest Guitarists of All Time." Members: \$37, Public: \$39

### **Derek Trucks & Susan Tedeschi – Soul Stew Revival**

*With special guest Scrapomatic*

*Wednesday, July 9*

Multi-talented musician Susan Tedeschi has a formidable reputation as a deeply expressive singer, prodigious guitarist and distinctive songwriter. This four-time Grammy nominee has a large and loyal audience for her ability to craft elements of classic blues, rock, R&B, folk and gospel. Slide guitarist Derek Trucks, who has a passion for improvisation and musical exploration, blends a variety of genres including jazz, rock, blues, Latin and other world music. He has shared the stage with The Allman Brothers Band, Bob Dylan and Eric Clapton, and was featured on the cover of Rolling Stone for their "New Guitar Gods" issue. Members: \$51, Public: \$53

### **Lyle Lovett (SOLD OUT)**

*Thursday, July 10*

Seen as one of the most distinctive and original artists to emerge since the 80s, Lovett's music is beyond country. The wide range of instrumentation and diverse collection of songs is a mix of gospel, blues, confessional rock, swing, and Americana. The four-time Grammy winner earned titles such as named Best Country Male Vocalist and Best Country Album. Members: \$58, Public: \$60

### **Sara Evans**

*With special guest Jason Jones*

*Thursday, July 24*

Multi-platinum country superstar Sara Evans performs a collection of twangy retro and mainstream contemporary country songs. Named Academy of Country Music's Female Vocalist of the Year, Evans is one of the few traditional-styled singers to emerge from Nashville in the late 1990s. She has opened for country legends Willie Nelson and Tim McGraw. In 2006, Evans competed on ABC's "Dancing With the Stars." Members: \$60, Public: \$62

### **Los Lonely Boys with Los Lobos – Brotherhood Tour**

*Thursday, August 7*

The Texas trio, Los Lonley Boys, offers a deeply personal and stunning fusion of electric blues, soulful grooves and good-old fashioned rock and roll. The three brothers, have opened for Carlos Santana. The group has won a Grammy Award for Best Pop Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal and five Austin Music Awards.

Los Lobos uses a blend of blues, rockabilly, jazz, Latin, and folk to portray their Mexican-American heritage. Since their start in 1973, they've contributed to the soundtracks of well-kown film such as La Bamba and Desperado. The group recently toured with John Mellencamp and has previously shared the stage with Bob Dylan and the Grateful Dead. Members: \$53, Public: \$55

### **KT Tunstall**

*With special guest Martha Wainwright*

*Monday, August 11*

KT Tunstall's sonic mesh of heartfelt pop, rootsy electric blues and alternative folk earned her a Brit Award (UK equivalent to a Grammy) for Best British Female Solo Artist. Hailed a "folk rock goddess" by Rolling Stone, her music is featured on the blockbuster film The Devil Wears Prada. Her album Eye of the Telescope, now certified platinum in the U.S., has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide. Members: \$43, Public: \$45

**Keb' Mo' & Robert Cray**

*Wednesday, August 13*

*Thursday, August 14*

Singer-songwriter Keb Mo's musical roots come from pop, rock, folk, and jazz wrapped up in Mississippi blues. The three-time Grammy award winner has collaborated with B.B. King and Elvis Costello, among others.

Legendary guitarist Robert Cray and his band offer one of the most commercially successful blues sounds in the last decade. Cray's exemplary guitar skills have been compared to legends such as Jimmy Vaughan, Buddy Guy, Eric Clapton, and B.B. King. Members: \$53, Public: \$55

**Doobie Brothers**

*Thursday, August 28*

Boasting a blend of country, blues, jazz and rock, Doobie Brothers is sure to perform one of their signature high-energy shows, proving themselves one of America's most loved rock bands. Over 30 years and 22 million album sales, they have won multiple Grammy awards, earned numerous gold, platinum and multi-platinum albums, and were inducted into the Vocal Group Hall of Fame in 2004. Members: \$58, Public \$60

***The 2008 Summer Concert Series is sponsored by WOOD TV 8 and The Grand Rapids Press.***

**About Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park**

The 132-acre Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, which currently serves more than a half-million visitors annually, features Michigan's largest tropical conservatory; one of the largest children's gardens in the country; arid and Victorian gardens; carnivorous plant house; outdoor gardens; the Midwest's most comprehensive sculpture experience featuring internationally-acclaimed works by Rodin, Oldenburg, Moore, Rickey, di Suvero and others; indoor galleries with changing sculpture exhibitions, as well as a 1750-seat outdoor amphitheater, featuring an eclectic mix of world-renowned musicians every summer, café and gift shop. For additional information, please visit [www.meijergardens.org](http://www.meijergardens.org)