

Still time to get tickets for Pendleton Whisky Music Fest

By Jennifer Colton

Go! Magazine

PENDLETON — Eric Church and Macklemore are set to take the stage at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds next month for the annual Pendleton Whisky Music Fest — and there are tickets available for the Saturday, July 9 show.

"We have some tickets left. We're not sold out," Doug Corey said. "I think a lot of people assume that the event is sold out, and it's truly not. We can always find tickets for people who want to go."

Corey and Andy McAnally co-manage Whisky Fest, which is now in its sixth or seventh year, depending on how someone counts the year the show was canceled for the COVID-19 pandemic. The concert has welcomed Zack Brown Band, Maroon 5, Pitbull and Blake Shelton, Post Malone and Toby Keith. This year's lineup — Eric Church and Macklemore — was originally scheduled for 2020.

"On this concert we've been really lucky," Corey said. "We signed Eric Church in 2019, then COVID hit in 2020 and we had to have a smaller concert last year (in 2021), so he's rolled over two years in a row. Both Eric Church and Macklemore, they've been really easy to work with."

The pandemic also impacted ticket sales. Tickets for the 2020 Whisky Music Fest went on sale before the pandemic, and it was sold out. When the concert was canceled, ticket holders had the option to hold their tickets or to return them. About 75% of ticket holders chose to keep them, banking on the concert



East Oregonian, File

Stage lights silhouette fans July 10, 2021, at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds during the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest. Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year Eric Church is the headliner of the 2022 festival alongside Grammy award-winner Macklemore.

eventually happening.

"The community support behind this event is what I find very, very amazing," Corey said. "They've really gotten behind it and backed it up."

This year, Whisky Fest will happen in a similar format to past years, but Corey said they are trying to limit lines inside the venue. ID checks will happen in Roy Raley park before entering the Round-Up Grounds, and ticket holders will have the option to purchase drink vouchers in the park instead of paying with a debit or credit card in line at the event.

Along with limiting lines, they will have multiple hydration

stations to refill water bottles as well as shaded spots for people to cool down during the event.

They will have a medical tent and first responders on site, as well as multiple security com-

PENDLETON WHISKY MUSIC FEST

Gates open at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 9, at the Pendleton Round Up grounds.

The music starts at 4 p.m. Find more information and purchase tickets at www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com.

panies and a free bus service to help people get home or back to their hotel, whether or not they drink.

Multiple local groups, including youth activities and non-profit organizations, will also use Pendleton Whisky Music Fest as a fundraiser, serving as vendors or operating car lots.

In addition to the Saturday concert, Whisky Fest will be bringing back the Friday night kick-off party from 6 p.m. to midnight on Main Street. That concert includes Kurt Van Meter, Precious Byrd and DJ Sovern-T.

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