

Toby Keith headlines Pendleton Whisky Music Fest

Event returns after a one-year hiatus

East Oregonian

PENDLETON — Pendleton Whisky Music Fest is ready to thrill again.

Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Academy of Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year Toby Keith is set to headline the annual summer event on July 10, 2021, at the historic Pendleton Round-Up Grounds.

Tickets, which will be available until the day of the show, range in price from \$79.50 for the grandstand to \$135 for arena standing. Call 541-612-3421 for box seat pricing.

Country music's Clare Dunn, Clay Walker and Cole Swindell also are slated to perform, ac-

cording to the announcement from Pendleton Whisky Music Fest.

Doug Corey, Whisky Fest co-founder, said the entertainers have been easy to work with and "having a top notch agent and one that is respected in the industry" was central to getting the lineup.

"Trying to do this without an agent would be difficult," he said. "There are simply too many moving parts. We are extremely lucky to have secured Toby Keith, Cole Swindell and Clay Walker, all on such short notice. It will be a wonderful country music event. We are excited for this year's Pendleton Whisky Music Fest."

This year's festival will kick off as usual with a Friday night party in downtown Pendleton from 6 p.m. to midnight. Featured musical performances include Kurt Van Meter, Precious Byrd and DJ Sovern-T.



Country music recording artist Toby Keith performs on NBC's Today Show at Rockefeller Plaza on July 5, 2019, in New York. Keith, a Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee and two-time Academy of Country Music Awards Entertainer of the Year, is set to headline the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest on July 10, 2021, at the historic Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. (Greg Allen/Associated Press, File)

On Saturday, ticket holders can "beat the rush" from 1-4:30 p.m. to pre-buy drink tickets and pre-check ID at Roy Raley Park next to the main entrance.

Gates open at 3 p.m. DJ Sovern-T starts the music at 4 p.m., as well as between each musical act. Clare Dunn takes the stage at 4:45 p.m., followed by Clay Walker at 6:15 p.m. Cole

Swindell plays at 7:45 p.m. and Toby Keith's performance starts at 9:30 p.m.

Organizers canceled the 2020 festival due to the coronavirus pandemic. The new lineup of 2021 performers will replace the original headlining artist Eric Church, who is now set to perform at the Pendleton Whisky Music Fest in 2022, along

PENDLETON WHISKY MUSIC FEST

Kick-off party: 6 p.m. Friday, July 9, downtown Pendleton

Music Fest: Gates open at 3 p.m. Saturday, July 10, Pendleton Round-Up Grounds
pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com/tickets

with Macklemore.

Pendleton Whisky Music Fest, according to the press release, will follow all health and safety guidelines per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as local and state government health officials. This year's main event will have a reduced capacity of 12,000 fans, and title sponsor Pendleton Whisky will provide face masks at each entrance to festival goers who choose to wear one.

The event has showcased some of the biggest names in the music performance industry, including Maroon 5, Blake Shelton and, in 2019, Pitbull and Post Malone.

For updates on the 2021 and 2022 musical festivals, including ticket information, visit www.pendletonwhiskymusicfest.com/tickets.

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