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## **INDIANA BLACK EXPO ANNOUNCES 47<sup>th</sup> SUMMER CELEBRATION LINEUP AND FREE 3 DAY EXHIBITION HALL**

Kenneth Babyface Edmonds, Fantasia, Chante Moore, Johnny Gill, Zapp & Atlantic Starr  
Set to Perform at Music Heritage Festival I & II

Kool Moe Dee, Case & Ernest Pugh Scheduled to Perform  
in the Exhibition Hall at the Indiana Convention Center

The Exhibition Hall for all 3 days (Friday – Sunday) is free to the Public

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Indiana Black Expo announced its Summer Celebration weekend music lineup for its Exhibit Hall Entertainment Stage and Music Heritage Festival I & II. On Friday, July 14 and Saturday, July 15, Indiana Black Expo will host its Annual Music Heritage Festival series, a cornerstone concert series of the 47th Annual Summer Celebration. The Exhibit Hall Entertainment Stage will feature performances by Hip Hop icon Kool Moe Dee, 90's R&B soul singer Case and Gospel Singer Ernest Pugh.

The free outdoor - Music Heritage Festival I - concert on Friday, July 14th will be headlined by R&B legend Johnny Gill. R&B and funk bands Zapp (“More Bounce and Doo Wah Ditty”) and Atlantic Starr (“Secret Lovers”) join the line up at the American Legion Mall. A VIP seating area is available for \$40. To purchase tickets, go to [www.indianablackexpo.com](http://www.indianablackexpo.com) or call 317.925.3037.

Indy's own Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds headlines Music Heritage Festival II at Bankers Life Fieldhouse on Saturday, July 15, 2017 and is joined by Grammy Award Winner Fantasia Barrino and Grammy Winning R&B Diva Chante Moore. Tickets are \$50 \$65, \$75, \$100 and \$125 and go on sale Monday, April 17th at Bankers Life Fieldhouse, the IBE Office at 3145 N. Meridian St., [TicketMaster.com](http://TicketMaster.com) and [IndianaBlackExpo.com](http://IndianaBlackExpo.com).

“Admission into the Indiana Convention Center will be free to the public for the very first time in 47 years” said Tanya Bell, IBE President and CEO. Admission fees are waived to provide the community access to all the resources, activities and entertainment inside the Convention Center. The exhibition hall includes a variety of entertainment, the largest black and minority health fair in the world, more than 300 vendors, celebrity performances, fashion show, spoken word, amateur boxing, celebrity basketball game, cultural arts and more.

### **Summer Celebration Performers**

#### **Kenneth “Babyface” Edmonds**

Edmonds an 11-time Grammy Award winner with 11 solo albums, 125 Top-10 R&B hits, and 16 #1 Pop hits, Kenneth Edmonds accomplishments speak for themselves. The hallmark of a true artist is the ability to reinvent yourself and still sustain the intrinsic essence of who you are. Babyface gives fans the real deal and more.

## **Fantasia**

In 2004, the High Point, North Carolina native became the season three winner of Fox's American Idol. Later that year, [Fantasia](#) released her platinum-selling debut album *Free Yourself* and became the first artist in the history of the Billboard Hot 100 chart to debut at #1 with her first single, "I Believe." Fantasia's second single, "Truth Is," spent 14 weeks at #1, making her the first singer to simultaneously have two of the top three songs on the Billboard chart. Fantasia's 2006 eponymous second album featured the #1 R&B single, "When I See U," and reached gold status. In 2010, [Fantasia](#) released the critically acclaimed *Back To Me*, which featured the hit single "Bittersweet" that earned her first ever Grammy Award for Best Female R&B Vocal Performance and a NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Song. *Back To Me* debuted at #1 on the Billboard R&B Albums chart, #2 on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart, and not only marked Fantasia's first #1 R&B album but also her highest Billboard Top 200 chart ranking. In 2013, [Fantasia](#) released her fourth studio album, *Side Effects of You* which debuted at #1 on the Billboard R&B Albums Chart and #2 on the Billboard Top 200, marking her second consecutive positions on these charts. Fantasia's fifth album, *The Definition Of...*, include the standard love ballads that have won her plenty of Grammys, influenced by the "rock soul" sensibility she's been testing for years.

## **Chante Moore**

Chante Moore has been in the game since the early 90's. Long before her first number 1 single the R&B Divas was featured on soundtracks for *Waiting to Exhale*, and *Stella Got Her Groove Back*. She signed her first record deal when she was only 22 years old. Chante grew up in a religious household. Her father was a minister and she grew up singing in the church. Her vocal range, clarity and strength helped her get noticed by Boyz II Men. She was featured on the groups single *Your Home is In My Heart* and later linked up with R&B singer Keith Washington on *I Love You*.

Her breakout came in 1999 after recording 3 albums she had her first Billboard top ten single "Chante's Got A Man." The record was international hit and got Moore her first Grammy nomination, Soul Train Award and the song sold over 500,000 copies in the US alone.

## **Johnny Gill**

Not many artists are still landing hits on radio three decades after their first encounter with success, but Johnny Gill who first scaled the charts in the early Eighties is one notable exception. With an unmistakable, unique trademark style, Johnny Gill has altered the sound of R&B music with a signature sound that pairs superior singing with extraordinary showmanship.

## **Zapp**

For over 30 years, Zapp has played in small clubs, venues and huge stadiums alongside massive legends such as Rick James, Cameo, The Time, Prince and mentor George Clinton

## **Atlantic Starr**

Like many groups formed in the mid-70s, Atlantic Starr was influenced by the self-contained funk bands like Earth Wind & Fire and Kool & the Gang, and the massive initial lineup, consisting of lead singer Sharon Bryant and musicians Cliff Archer, Porter Carroll, Joseph Phillips, Damon Rentie, William Sudderth and brothers Wayne, David and Jonathan Lewis, reflected the times.

## **Kool Moe Dee**

A true Hip Hop icon and trailblazer. He was one of the first MCs to win a Grammy and the first rapper to ever perform at the annual event. Kool Moe Dee is most famous for his phenomenal battles with Busy Bee, Run-D.M.C. (alongside Special K on the seminal rap television show "Graffiti Rock"), and, most of all, LL Cool J. He is credited with inventing the speed rap (*The Treacherous 3* & Spoonie Gee "The New Rap Language") and popularizing freestyling (*New Year's Battle* with Busy Bee in December '81).

## **Case**

Grammy nominated R&B singer-songwriter known as Case who put out Gold certified albums in 1999's *Personal Conversation* and 2001's *Open Letter*. His other charting Billboard 200 charting albums include his 1996 debut, self-titled and 2009's *The Rose Experience*.

## **Ernest Pugh**

Dr. Earnest Pugh is a Dove & Multiple Stellar Award Nominee who brought us two #1 hits “ *Rain On Us* ” and “ *I Need Your Glory* ” and has recorded 8 CDs to date. Dr. Pugh is a 2013 BMI Award Winner. As a notable accomplishment he has been featured at the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. Pugh was honored to sing in the presence of President Barack Obama and the First Family.

## **About Indiana Black Expo, Inc.**

Indiana Black Expo, Inc. is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) statewide organization with 12 chapter affiliates. The mission of IBE is to serve as a voice and vehicle for the social and economic advancement of African-Americans. IBE is known for its two major fundraisers, Summer Celebration and Circle City Classic®. IBE provides year round youth and family programs, including its Indiana College & Scholarship Fair, Summer Internship Program, Circle City Classic® Scholarship Fund, State of Our Black Youth Report and Initiative, Parent Leadership Academy, Youth Media Institute, Statewide Anti-Tobacco Initiative, Education Conference, Youth Leadership Summit, Employment Opportunity Fair, and Minority Business Conference. IBE is currently responsible for the implementation of OpportunIndy as part of former President Barack Obama's My Brother's Keeper Program. The proceeds from Summer Celebration benefit its year-round youth and family initiatives.