



AGRICULTURE NEWS

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ROCK HALL OF FAME BAND BLONDIE TO PERFORM FOR FIRST TIME AT CHEVY COURT AT THE GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR

Chevy Court Concerts Complement "Central NY Rising" - The Region's Comprehensive Strategy to Revitalize Communities and Grow the Economy

Blondie, the band behind timeless hits "Heart of Glass," "Call Me," "The Tide is High" and more, will make its first-ever stop at the Great New York State Fair's Chevy Court with a show at 8 p.m. August 22. Lead singer Debbie Harry leads the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame band, as she has since it began in 1974. The concert takes place on the Fair's opening day, when admission is \$1. Free concerts at Chevy Court, which drew more than a quarter million people in 2017, complement Central New York Rising, the region's comprehensive strategy to grow the economy.

"We're thrilled to be able to bring such an influential band to Chevy Court. It's a great way to open the 2018 Fair and kicks off what I believe will be our best and most diverse lineup ever," said Troy Waffner, Acting Fair Director.

This is the seventh concert scheduled at Chevy Court for the 2018 Fair, joining:

- Hunter Hayes, at 8 p.m. Sunday, August 26
- Peter Noone of Herman's Hermits, at 2 p.m. Monday, August 27
- Smokey Robinson, at 8 p.m. Monday, August 27
- Lil Yachty, at 8 p.m. Wednesday, August 29
- Maren Morris, at 1 p.m. Monday, September 3
- Niall Horan, at 6 p.m. Monday, September 3

The Chevy Court stage is the home of up to 26 national touring acts each year. A diverse 2017 lineup, including performers and groups such as Migos, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Earth Wind & Fire, The Beach Boys and Three Doors Down drew 264,600 fairgoers. Chevy Court won two Syracuse Area Music Awards in 2017 as People's Choice for Favorite Venue for Live Music and Favorite Festival or Music Series. The Fair was nominated for Fair of the Year by the International Entertainment Buyers association, the trade organization for live entertainment industry professionals. Free concerts at Chevy Court are sponsored by Chevrolet.

About Blondie

For the last four decades, Blondie has become and remains a true national treasure; one whose influence both shaped and continues to inform the worlds of music, fashion and art. From an irreverent Lower East Side punk outfit to bona fide international ambassadors of New York cool, Blondie will forever be synonymous with that punk spirit that lives somewhere in all of us. Comprised of singer-songwriter Debbie Harry, guitarist and co-writer Chris Stein, powerhouse drummer Clem Burke, and long-time band members bassist Leigh Foxx, guitarist Tommy Kessler and keyboardist Matt Katz-Bohen, Blondie's chart-topping success, fearless spirit and rare longevity led to an induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2006, a NME Godlike Genius Award in 2014, a Q Award for Outstanding Contribution to Music in 2016, the 2017 Silver Clef Outstanding Achievement Award and more than 45 million albums sold worldwide to date. Debbie Harry's persona and the band's boundary-pushing pop have shaped the look and sound of many chart-topping female artists who followed in the last three decades.

Blondie's newest album, "Pollinator," delves even deeper into this idea: inspiration from Blondie's action-packed, cross-pollinating past shaping the sound of our collective future. Selected as one of Rolling Stone Magazine's 20 Best Pop Albums of 2017, "Pollinator" is a remarkable album that stands alongside any in their celebrated and trailblazing career. Grammy Award-winning producer John Congleton (The Decemberists, St. Vincent, Sigur Ros) brought out the late '70s "Parallel Lines" attitude of Blondie again on "Pollinator," with arrangements that are fast and fun, lyrics that are romantic and teasing, and synth-stoked hooks that evoke the new wave era.

Accelerating Central NY Rising

Today's announcement complements "Central NY Rising," the region's comprehensive blueprint to generate robust economic growth and community development. The State already has invested nearly \$3 billion in the region since 2012 to lay the groundwork for

the plan - capitalizing on global market opportunities, strengthening entrepreneurship and creating an inclusive economy. Today, unemployment is down to the lowest levels since before the Great Recession; personal and corporate income taxes are down; and businesses are choosing places like Syracuse, Oswego and Auburn as a destination to grow and invest in.

Now, the region is accelerating Central NY Rising with a \$500 million State investment through the Upstate Revitalization Initiative, announced by Governor Cuomo in December 2015. The State's \$500 million investment will incentivize private business to invest well over \$2.5 billion - and the region's plan, as submitted, projects up to 5,900 new jobs. More information is available [here](#).

The New York State Fair, operated by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, runs from August 22 to September 3, 2018. The Fair's mission, reflected in its theme, "FIND YOUR GREAT," is to showcase the best of New York agriculture while providing top-quality entertainment.

The home of the Great New York State Fair is a 375-acre exhibit and entertainment complex that operates all year. A year-round schedule of events is available on the Fair's website. Find The Great New York State Fair on Facebook, follow @NYSFair on Twitter, on Snapchat at nysfair and enjoy photos from the Fair at [Flickr.com/photos/nysfair](https://www.flickr.com/photos/nysfair). Also, New Yorkers are invited to send their ideas for the Great New York State Fair at statefairideas@agriculture.ny.gov.

