



AGRICULTURE NEWS

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BAD COMPANY TO OPEN THE 2019 GREAT NEW YORK STATE FAIR'S CHEVROLET MUSIC FESTIVAL AT CHEVY COURT

Bad Company will perform the first big show of the 2019 Great New York State Fair's Chevrolet Music Festival at Chevy Court when rock legends and band co-founders Paul Rodgers and Simon Kirke take the stage at 8 p.m. August 21. Their timeless hits include "Can't Get Enough," "Bad Company," "Feel Like Makin' Love," "Shooting Star," "Rock and Roll Fantasy" and the smash hit "All Right Now" from Rodgers' and Kirke's band, Free. The Chevy Court show will be the band's only show in New York State on its 15-city tour. Rodgers and Kirke will be joined by guitarist Howard Leese (formerly of Heart) and bassist Todd Ronning. This is the first of more than two dozen shows by national touring groups that will take place at Chevy Court and on the Experience Stage.

"If you want to see one of the great rock bands and hear one of the great rock singers of all time, the Fair is the place to be. This will be a great show, one of many to come, as we create what may be the biggest and greatest lineup in our history. Don't miss the first big party of the Fair," said Fair Director Troy Waffner.

This is the first of more than two dozen shows by national touring groups that will take place at Chevy Court and on the Experience Stage. Over 13 days, the Chevrolet Music Festival at Chevy Court features 26 performances in diverse genres, most from national touring bands. National groups will also perform on the Experience Stage in the New York Experience festival ground. Chevrolet sponsors the performances on both stages.

Bad Company performs on opening day, when admission is \$1.

Founded in 1841, the Great New York State Fair is America's third largest state fair. The fair showcases the best of New York agriculture and provides top-quality entertainment. The 2019 Fair runs from August 21 to September 2. Information about the Fair can be found [here](#).

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

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Bad Company biography, provided by the band:

BAD COMPANY BIOGRAPHY

Paul Rodgers Mick Ralphs Simon Kirke Boz Burrell

One of the most acclaimed bands of the rock era, England's Bad Company has put its indelible stamp on rock 'n' roll with a straight-ahead-frills musical approach that has resulted in the creation of some of the most timeless rock anthems.

Bad Company formed when Paul Rodgers met Mott The Hoople guitarist Mick Ralphs in 1973 and after jamming together and listening to new songs that each of them had written, they agreed to form a band. The duo added Free drummer Simon Kirke and recruited former King Crimson bassist/vocalist Boz Burrell, and Rodgers christened the band Bad Company. Rodgers' brought in Led Zeppelin manager Peter Grant and Bad Company became the first band signed to Zeppelin's Swan Song label. Bad Company was an instant hit worldwide. Their 1974 self-titled debut went platinum five times over and featured the smash hits, #1 single "Can't Get Enough," "Movin' On" along with electrifying rock anthems "Ready For Love," "Rock Steady" and the title track "Bad Company." Because of their association with Grant, a unique opportunity arose for them when it came time to record that classic first album in November 1973. "We were bursting at the seams to get into the recording studio," says Rodgers. "Led Zeppelin had a mobile studio together at Headley Grange all ready to go, but they were delayed for two weeks. Peter told us that if we were quick, we could use the studio to lay a couple of tracks down. We steamed in and put the entire album down. Headley Grange was very atmospheric. We had the drums set up in the hallway and the guitars in the living

room. We did interesting experiments like placing the vocal microphone way out in the fields for the song 'Bad Company'. We recorded that track late at night underneath a full moon."

The eight tracks recorded at Headley Grange clearly defined the band's stripped-down sound. Rock, blues and even country influences were skillfully layered within songs such as the beautiful "Seagull," the straight-ahead rock of "Movin' On" and "Rocky Steady." Also featured from those fertile sessions at Headley Grange are "Little Miss Fortune" and the brooding blues-rock classic hit "Ready For Love."

Worldwide, Bad Company's popularity soared. While some fans recognized Rodgers' voice from the hit "All Right Now," cowritten by Paul Rodgers while he was with Free. As a side note, in 2018 Rodgers received a Citation of Achievement from BMI when "All Right Now" surpassed six million radio plays in the US. FM radio devoured Bad Company's debut disc, ultimately working "Can't Get Enough," "Rock Steady," "Bad Company," "Ready For Love" and "Movin' On," into regular rotation. Incidentally, Bad Company was the first band to have a self-titled release song and album. With a number-one album to their credit in North America, Bad Company returned to London triumphant.

Bad Company followed up their initial success with the 1975 release of the triple-platinum album *Straight Shooter*, which contained the Top Ten smash ballad "Feel Like Makin' Love," which was Grammy-nominated. "I started writing 'Feel Like Makin' Love' when I was 18 and felt it needed an extra something. When I played it for Mick he added the big guitar bada ba bada ba then I felt the song was finished." Rodgers other tracks from the album, such as "Shooting Star" have long since become concert and radio staples.

Eagerly anticipated by the group's fans, "Straight Shooter" enjoyed international success, reaching number three on both the UK and North American album charts.

The wildly successful "Run With The Pack" in 1976 was the band's third consecutive platinum seller, fueled by the Top 20 single success of "Youngblood," the Coasters' classic. The band met in Grasse, France in September 1975 to begin recording the album. Upon its release, it soared to number five in both the US and the UK. With three albums now to their credit, the central ingredient to the group's remarkable success was their steady stream of chart-topping original material.

Burnin' Sky, with its moody and atmospheric title track, reached gold status in 1977, followed by the double-platinum wallop of *Desolation Angels* in March 1979. Next, *Bad*

Company gathered at Ridge Farm Studios in Dorking, Surrey to record *Desolation Angels*. “Rock 'n' Roll Fantasy” opened the album and set the tone for what was to follow. “I remember walking into the studio and Paul was playing this huge riff on the guitar,” recalls Simon Kirke. “He had an octave divider device on his guitar and the riff was great. We recorded the song that day.”

Another of the album's highlights was Ralphs' rollicking “Oh Atlanta.” “We always had a great time in Atlanta and I think you can hear a bit of the country influence in that song,” remembers Kirke. The group's affinity for country music was evident throughout *Desolation Angels*. The western-flavored “Evil Wind” was a noteworthy example. “‘Evil Wind’ was a strong track,” states Kirke. “That was full of Paul's tumbleweed-across-the-plains imagery. I think Paul was a cowboy or one of those bounty hunters in another life.”

The wide approval enjoyed by *Desolation Angels* reaffirmed Bad Company's commercial status. The album spawned the gold selling classic “Rock & Roll Fantasy,” a staple on classic rock playlists still today. The band toured the globe countless times during this period, playing to sold out crowds.

After the release of the Top 30 album *Rough Diamonds* in 1982, Rodgers left the band to take time off and to eventually pursue a Grammy nominated solo career. “Looking back, we stopped at the right time,” recalls Mick Ralphs. “Paul wanted a break and truthfully, we all needed to stop. Bad Company had become bigger than us all and to continue would have destroyed someone or something. Paul's instinct was absolutely right.”

Fans and critics alike hoped for a reunion of the original band and finally after a 17-year absence Bad Company returned. 1999 saw the band not only complete a rousing 30-date U.S. tour that drew sold-out crowds but also oversee the release of the *Original Bad Company Anthology* that year as well—a dynamic two-CD, 33-song overview of the band's career that also included four new tracks. Two charting singles, new song “Hey Hey” by Ralphs' #1 on *Billboards Monitor Heritage Rock Radio Charts* and #20 on *Main Stream Rock Charts* and Rodgers “Hammer of Love” charted at #2 on *Billboards Monitor Heritage Rock Radio Charts* and #23 on *Main Stream Rock Charts*. Charting again in 2002 the band recorded Rodgers' penned single “Joe Fabulous.” It hit #1 on *Classic Rock Radio* and #20 on the *Main Stream Rock Charts*. The chart action exemplified just how timeless Bad Company's music is.

With the passing of bassist Boz Burrell in 2006, who has been replaced by bassist Todd Ronning and due to a stroke in 2016, Mick Ralphs has Howard Leese of Heart filling in on guitar. The band continues to tour choosing to play select dates.

Seeing the band perform in 2016 Robert Plant commented, "With mean riffs that took no prisoner, smouldering grooves and THE voice of all British voices, these guys bring home a special unique angle to the scene."

