**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT:
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**80’s pop and Ohio country rock favorites will headline MVMAF**

**MOUNT VERNON,** Ohio – The Mount Vernon Music and Arts Festival welcomes **Starship featuring Mickey Thomas** on Saturday, August 12 at 8:30 p.m. at the Public Square. Friday night’s main stage headliner is Central Ohio country rock band **McGuffey Lane**, a frequent visitor to Knox County.

“We are very excited to have such a great lineup again this year,” says MVMAF Director Trina Trainor. “Plans are well underway to have a fantastic Festival in August.”

**ABOUT STARSHIP:**

Mickey Thomas is the owner of the soaring voice that propelled Starship through the decade of the 80’s. With his soulful and compelling vocals, Mickey has established himself as one of rock music’s most recognizable stars.

Mickey made his mark in 1976 as lead vocalist on the mega-hit “Fooled Around And Fell In Love” with The Elvin Bishop Band. In 1979, Mickey joined Jefferson Starship as the lead vocalist, after the departure of Grace Slick and Marty Balin, and recorded a string of hits including “Jane”, “No Way Out”, “Find Your Way Back”, “Stranger”, and “Layin It On The Line”.

The group was renamed Starship in 1985 and went on to record three #1 hit songs including “We Built This City”, “Sara”, and “Nothing’s Gonna Stop Us Now”, from the film *Mannequin* which also was an Academy Award nominee. Their hit “It’s Not Over Til It’s Over” became Major League Baseball’s theme in 1987. Mickey’s stellar voice and video charisma on Starships’s video classics such as “We Built This City” and “Sara” became staples on MTV and VH1.
 **ABOUT MCGUFFEY LANE:**

In 1972 founding members Steve George Reis (bass/ vocals) and Terry Efaw (steel guitar/ gut string guitar/ electric guitar) were a duo called "Scotch and Soda". When they added Bobby Gene McNelley (vocalist/ guitarist) they renamed themselves McGuffey Lane after the street of Steve's Athens Ohio home. As their popularity grew they added Dick Smith (drums/ vocals) and Stephen "Tebes" Douglass (keyboards/ harmonica/ vocals). In 1977 McGuffey Lane started playing at Zachariah's Red Eye Saloon and soon became the house band. At that point they added John Schwab (vocalist/ guitarist) who was opening for them as the sixth and final member of the original McGuffey Lane.

McGuffey Lane is still going strong with the three original surviving members (Steve George Reis, Terry Efaw and John Schwab) in the band. McGuffey Lane still performs 20+ concerts annually.

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Updates about this year’s MVMAF will be on [**https://www.mvmaf.org/**](https://www.mvmaf.org/) or on the Festival’s Facebook and Instagram (@mvmafohio).

The 2023 Mount Vernon Music and Arts Festival is Friday-Sunday, August 11-13 around the Public Square and the streets of downtown Mount Vernon.

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