



COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 19, 2018

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FOUR-TIME GRAMMY AWARD WINNER AND CMA ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR KEITH URBAN TO HEADLINE ALLSTATE CHAMPIONSHIP TAILGATE

MULTI-PLATINUM SELLING POP ARTIST ANDY GRAMMER TO PERFORM NATIONAL ANTHEM

Full Slate of College Football Playoff National Championship Game Day Entertainment Announced

IRVING, Texas – The College Football Playoff (CFP) today announced the pregame entertainment for the 2019 College Football Playoff National Championship to be held Monday, January 7, at Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California.

Four-time GRAMMY Award winner **Keith Urban** will headline Allstate Championship Tailgate from the Capital One® Savor® Card Music Stage. The newly-crowned 2018 Country Music Association (CMA) Entertainer of the Year, Urban, released *Graffiti U* in April, which, upon its release, hit #1 on charts in the United States, Canada and Australia. The album is Urban's ninth studio recording and follows one of the most successful releases of his career, 2016's *RIPCORD* that featured five #1 records, including "Blue Ain't Your Color". Urban has had an album simultaneously atop the all-genre charts in the U.S., Canada and Australia twice, and he is the only male Country artist to have achieved the mark even once. He has won 13 CMA awards, 11 Academy of Country Music (ACM) awards, four People's Choice awards and four American Music awards. Urban will follow his performance at Allstate Championship Tailgate by kicking off the Australian leg of his Graffiti U World Tour in January 2019 and before his first European tour in nearly a decade.

Prior to kickoff, multi-platinum selling artist **Andy Grammer** will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner." Grammer, who has committed his career to inspiring and empowering the world by communicating his truths through his music, has taken the music world by storm with a succession of anthemic pop hits, six of which are certified gold or better. He is the first male pop star in a decade since John Mayer to reach the Top 10 at Adult Pop Radio on his first two singles. His debut album featured the platinum singles "Keep Your Head Up" and "Fine By Me". Grammer's second album, *Magazines or Novels*, featured the triple-platinum infectious smash hit "Honey, I'm Good," which was one of the best-selling songs of 2015, in addition to the certified gold anthem "Good To Be Alive (Hallelujah)." His third full-length album, *The Good Parts*, was released in December 2017 and includes his global smash hit "Fresh Eyes" with over 350 million streams, including the catchy summer jam featuring LunchMoney Lewis, "Give Love," as well as his new hit single "Smoke Clears."

In advance of Grammer's performance, the Nation's Colors will be presented by a **Joint Armed Forces Color Guard**, including members of the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard. As part of the CFP's salute to the armed forces, the national anthem ceremony will include a live feed from U.S. troops stationed in Afghanistan watching the national championship game. Continuing a CFP tradition, drummers from the participating team bands will play side-by-side as the color guard is introduced. The national anthem will conclude with a military flyover by aircraft from the **9th Reconnaissance Wing, Beale Air Force Base**, California.

For the fifth consecutive year, local college and high school students will perform the “Path to the Championship” procession of 142 banners, representing the 10 conferences and all Football Bowl Subdivision institutions. Members of the **San José State University** marching band will lead the presentation, along with students from Bay Area-area high school marching bands.

Samantha Medina-Vasquez, a 17-year-old native of Watsonville, California, will perform the national anthem in American Sign Language. Medina-Vasquez is currently a junior honor roll student and varsity cheerleader at California School for the Deaf in Fremont, California.

As part of the CFP Foundation’s **Extra Yard for Teachers** (EYFT) initiative, the 2018 Teacher of the Year from each U.S. state and territory will be honored on the field during the pregame celebration. This is an opportunity for fans to applaud these educators for their hard work and dedication and furthers the EYFT mission of elevating the teaching profession.

Allstate has signed on as title sponsor of the 2019 Championship Tailgate, the ultimate pregame event adjacent to Levi’s Stadium. Allstate Championship Tailgate is the gathering place for fans with game tickets to experience extreme tailgating prior to the CFP National Championship. The outdoor event will take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific time in the parking lot west of Levi’s Stadium. Allstate Championship Tailgate will allow fans to gather and enjoy the ultimate pregame atmosphere and tailgating favorites, including concerts, interactive games, ziplining, sponsor activities, concessions, ESPN shows, merchandise booths and more.

Pregame festivities inside Levi’s Stadium will begin at 4:30 p.m. Pacific time. The game, which will kick off at 5 p.m. PT, will feature the winner of the Playoff Semifinal at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic against the winner of the Playoff Semifinal at the Capital One Orange Bowl.

Celebrating a college football tradition, the **marching bands** of each participating team will be featured performers on the field at halftime. In addition, ESPN has announced that a performance by multi-platinum Grammy Award-winning band **Imagine Dragons** will air live on ESPN from Treasure Island, located in the San Francisco Bay.

Pregame, halftime and postgame pageantry will be produced by Michael T. Fiur Productions, one of the leading producers of live event and sports spectaculars in the world.

Join the conversation on Twitter using the official hashtag #CFBPlayoff. For more information on the College Football Playoff and the national championship game, visit www.collegefootballplayoff.com.

-#CFBPlayoff-

About the College Football Playoff

The College Football Playoff matches the No. 1 seed vs. No. 4, and No. 2 vs. No. 3 in semifinal games that rotate annually among six bowl games – the Goodyear Cotton Bowl, PlayStation Fiesta Bowl, Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl, Capital One Orange Bowl, Allstate Sugar Bowl and Rose Bowl Game presented by Northwestern Mutual. This season’s Playoff Semifinals will take place Saturday, December 29, 2018, at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic and Capital One Orange Bowl. The College Football Playoff National Championship will be Monday, January 7, 2019, at Levi’s Stadium in Santa Clara, California.