

Barenaked Ladies headed to 2021 Festival of Ballooning

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Asbury Park Press
USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

The New Jersey Lottery Festival of Ballooning may be months away, but you'll be wishing there was only "One Week" to go.

(OK, now that that cringe-worthy introduction is out of the way, read on for the exciting part.)

Barenaked Ladies were announced Thursday as musical guests for the 38th edition of the Readington tradition, set for July 23 to 25 at Solberg Airport.

The '90s Canadian rock band, whose international radio hits include "One Week," "If I Had \$1,000,000" and "Pinch Me," are also the creators of "The Big Bang Theory" theme song and winners of 8 JUNO Awards in addition to two Grammy nominations. They've sold over 15 million albums.

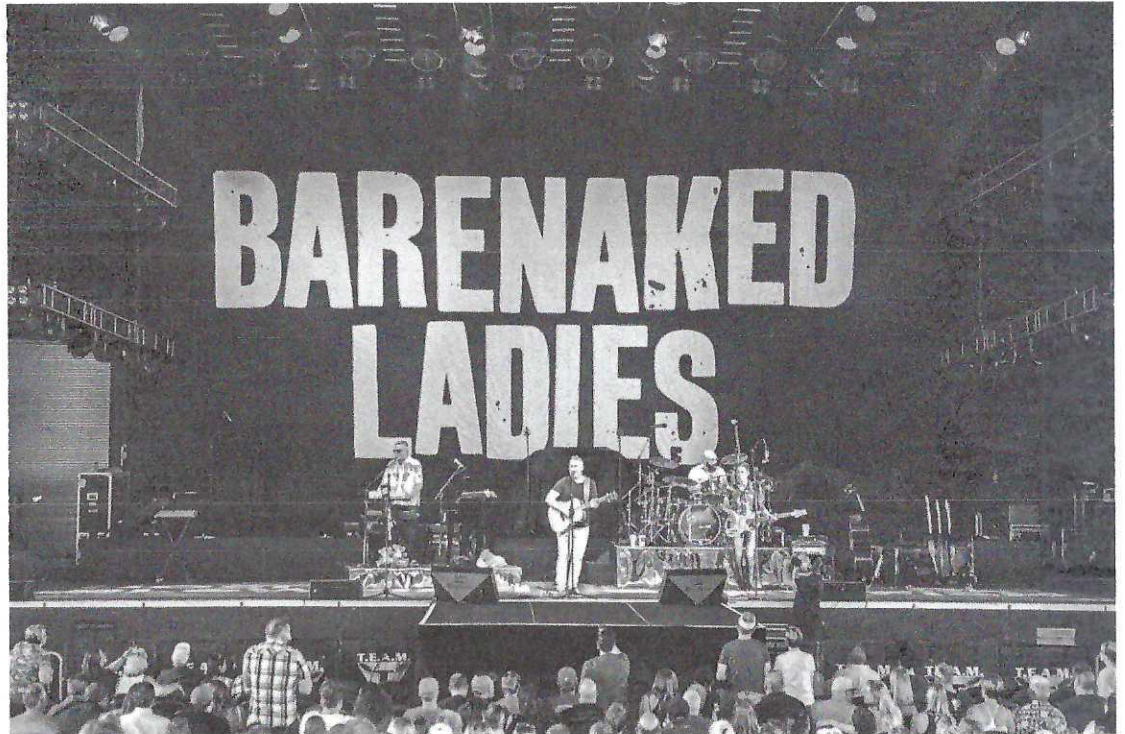
Barenaked Ladies are set to perform at 8 p.m. on Saturday, July 24, accompanied by the festival's Balloon Glow.

Previously announced to headline this year's festival, after the 2020 event was postponed and later canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic, is Styx. They will perform at 3 p.m. on Sunday, July 25.

The balloon festival features mass ascensions of hot air balloons, balloon rides, hundreds of crafters and vendors, food, fireworks, children's amusement rides and other family fun and more in addition to the concerts.

The 2019 festival attracted 169,500 attendees from around the world in 2019, including all 21 counties in the state, as well as hot air balloon pilots from 24 states and two countries.

This year's festival is the New Jersey



The Barenaked Ladies, shown performing in 2019 in Phoenix, Ariz. FILE PHOTO

Lottery's first as title sponsor.

Balloon festival tickets, including Styx concert tickets, are on sale now. General admission tickets to the festival include concert lawn seating. VIP options and reserved concert seating also are available.

Presale Barenaked Ladies concert

tickets went on sale Friday, Jan. 22, while ticketing opens to the general public on Monday.

Visit balloonfestival.com for tickets and more information on the festival.

Ilana Keller is an award-winning journalist and lifelong New Jersey resi-

dent who loves Broadway and really bad puns. She highlights arts advocacy and education, theater fundraisers and more through her column, "Sightlines." Reach out on Twitter: @ilanakeller; ikeller@gannettnj.com