



Two legendary rock groups, Dispatch, and O.A.R. will finally be sharing a stage in the summer of 2022 @ Jones Beach on Sat, Aug 27, 2022 - tix: <http://OAR.jonesbeach.com> - The two bands will also be joined by special guest G. Love

Both Dispatch and O.A.R. got their starts in the mid-1990s as heartland and indie rock groups,

frequently appearing at similar events and even getting mistaken for each other, making this collaboration, 25 years later, inevitable.

“For the first three or four years of our career, we’d often see each other kind of weaving in and out of each other’s storylines. Then we didn’t see each other for a long time but there was always this idea that we eventually would get together,” Chadwick Stokes, co-founder of Dispatch, tells American Songwriter. “I think it was just a matter of everyone figuring out how their own individual lives fit with the band, and so the planets just kind of aligned.” However, the planets didn’t align perfectly. This long-awaited collaboration was originally planned for the summer of 2020, but the COVID-19 pandemic sent the world home before it could be announced. Now the bands are not only eager to play together, but they’re also eager to be back in front of audiences.

“I think releasing the news now is more exciting than it would have been a couple of years ago just because there’s this collective exhale. We’re finally going back outdoors, we’re finally going into a big healthy tour after waiting for three years,” says Brad Corrigan, the other founder of Dispatch. “I think you start to appreciate the gift of music in such a profound way when you can’t do it. Like anything in life, as soon as you don’t have that freedom it gives you a totally different take on what it will be like to get back out there.”

O.A.R.’s lead vocalist, Marc Roberge, chimes in about the return to live music feels like getting back to an identity that had been missing. “Growing up, you didn’t want to be famous; you wanted to be a dues-paid touring musician who played shows and live music and had that connection, and we got that. And then, for two years, you take on a different identity as an artist at home creating things,” says Roberge. “For us to all get back to what our identity is as a traveling musician is hard to even put into words, so I’m excited for all of it.”

Members of both bands have earned the title of touring musicians, as their live performance achievements are no small feat. Dispatch broke molds as an independent group, selling out three nights at Madison Square Garden and amassing a crowd of over 100,000 at an outdoor concert in Boston with no major label backing. O.A.R. has also sold out Madison Square Garden multiple times and performed during Dick Clark’s Rockin’ New Year’s Eve from Times Square in 2014. The goal for this tour, according to O.A.R. drummer Chris Culos, is to reconnect with the fans and make every show special, “We’re trying to provide the best experience possible and our goal is for people to feel like they were part of that experience. We basically want people to go home with a smile on their face even bigger than when they got there,” said Culos. “If you’re thinking of wanting to go to this concert with your best friends or a perfect date or something like that, this is that perfect summer night concert.”

DISPATCH - formed by Chadwick Stokes and Brad Corrigan while in college in Vermont - have forged their own path outside the mainstream music industry as one of the most successful artists in the roots rock scene. Over the course of a slew of acclaimed studio and live albums and countless tours and festivals, the band has gone on to become one of biggest success stories in independent music history, selling out three nights at Madison Square Garden and drawing over 100,000 fans to a massive outdoor show in their adopted hometown of Boston without any traditional radio or major label support. The band recently released their

extraordinary 8th studio album, *Break Our Fall*, to critical acclaim.

O.A.R. is one of music's most consistent & dependable rites of passage for rock fans across the country. The platinum-certified Rockville, MD band has sold out Madison Square Garden multiple times, filled Red Rocks Amphitheater on countless nights, earned platinum and gold plaques across 11 full-length albums, lit up the Times Square New Year's Eve celebration, and built one of the most committed fanbases in the world. The group - Marc Roberge [lead vocals, guitar], Richard On [lead guitar], Chris Culos [drums], Benj Gershman [bass], and Jerry DePizzo [saxophone, guitar] - formed while still in high school and this year they will ring in 25 years together by strengthening their special bond with audiences everywhere.

Throughout their rise, both bands have taken every opportunity to use their success for good, launching charitable organizations to fight poverty and mass incarceration, raising funds and awareness for environmental causes, schools and hospitals on the road, and even traveling as far afield as Nicaragua and Zimbabwe to work with children and communities in need. O.A.R.'s *Heard the World* Foundation raises money to create education-based opportunities, including music therapy programs in hospitals, scholarships, donating computers to schools and even providing an infrastructure in Flint, MI, to help with the ongoing water crisis. DISPATCH's Chadwick Stokes' *Calling All Crows* joins bands and fans together in collective activism that has raised more than half a million dollars, while DISPATCH's Brad Corrigan's *Love Light + Melody* helps amplify the stories of children who live in extreme poverty.