

MUSIC

All the excitement of UFC, now only on OSN

OSN, the leading pay-TV network in MENA, has entered an exclusive long-term agreement with UFC, the world's premier mixed martial arts organization, making OSN the one-stop destination for UFC fans in the region. Reflecting OSN's commitment to deliver relevant, exclusive and sought-after entertainment for its subscribers, the new partnership ensures all UFC content including live events, pre and post-event shows, and The Ultimate Fighter reality series, available exclusively for OSN subscribers.

Andy Warkman, SVP, Sport & Sports Production, OSN, said: "We are very excited about bringing UFC back to OSN viewers and entering into this long term partnership. We are listening to our customers, and delivering exclusive content and great value to our new sports channel packages. UFC has seen massive growth and we look forward to working with them and WME|IMG to build on that growth

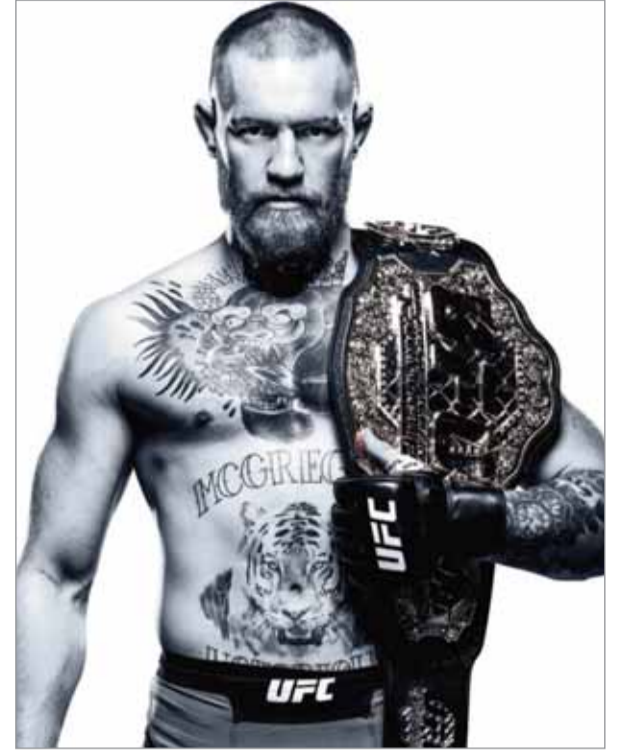
in our region. UFC will be one of our standout offerings in the new sports line up for 2017.

"UFC on OSN will be industry-defining, as for the first time, we will produce localized Arabic content 'for the region, from the region' to give UFC fans an unrivalled viewing experience," continued Warkman. James Elliott, UFC Vice President, EMEA, added: "We are pleased to be partnering with OSN once again to bring even more exciting, new and localized content to viewers across the Middle East and Africa. UFC has previously held two very successful events in the UAE and witnessed firsthand the passion of the fans across the region. Together we will bring athlete stories and events to fans like never before, ensuring they don't miss a minute of the action."

Also in partnership with UFC, OSN is launching UFC FIGHT PASS within the region. This digital subscription service features the world's largest combat sports library,

including all past UFC events, exclusive programming, access to UFC archives, UFC FIGHT PASS exclusive prelims and select live events. For OSN sports fans, 2017 means the chance to exclusively watch every live UFC event across multiple devices, including UFC 208: HOLM vs. DE RANDAMIE in Feb and UFC 209: WOODLEY vs. THOMPSON 2 in March.

The addition of UFC to OSN's sports offering is the next step in further heightening the diverse programming on offer to OSN customers, who already enjoy a wide range of world-class sport. UFC on OSN is the first in a range of new additions to join the network in 2017, with additional programming set to be announced soon. For detailed schedules, visit www.osn.com/ufc. Join the conversation on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram @OSN #OSNsports



This file photo shows brothers Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb, left to right, of the pop group the Bee Gees during a news conference in Miami Beach, Florida. — AP

GRAMMYS, CBS TO HONOR BEE GEES WITH TRIBUTE CONCERT

The Recording Academy and CBS will pay tribute to the Bee Gees two days after the Grammys with a concert featuring a range of artists, including Celine Dion, Andra Day, John Legend and Keith Urban. The show, "Stayin' Alive: A Grammy Salute to the Music of the Bee Gees," will mark the 40th anniversary of the pop legends' soundtrack to "Saturday Night Fever," according to a joint announcement released Friday.

Barry Gibb, the sole surviving member and co-founder of the Grammy-winning group who released a solo album late last year, will perform a selection of hits from the soundtrack, which won a Grammy for album of the year for 1978. The concert will be taped Feb 14 at the Microsoft Theater, to be broadcast on CBS later this year. Little Big Town, Nick

Jonas, Tori Kelly, Demi Lovato and the Pentatonix are among others to perform, with additions expected.

The Bee Gees "helped make 'Saturday Night Fever' an emblem of 1970s pop culture," said Neil Portnow, president and CEO of The Recording Academy. "With expert harmonies, undeniable groove and a personal charisma matching their on-stage persona, the iconic band of brothers defined not just a genre, but a generation." Tickets for the show start at \$25. Details are available at Axs.com. The show is similar to joint tribute concerts with AEG Ehrlich Ventures honoring Stevie Wonder, The Beatles and Frank Sinatra. — AP

Queen, Lambert tour; no record yet

Queen has clearly found somebody to love in Adam Lambert. Since joining forces with the "American Idol" runner-up for a series of shows in 2012, the band that ruled rock radio in the 1970s and early '80s has enjoyed tremendous success, with audiences embracing Lambert as the heir to Freddie Mercury's onstage legacy. They've been selling out areas around the world for five years now, and have just announced a 25-city North American tour beginning June 23 in Phoenix. But there's one thing they haven't dared try yet: recording a studio album of all-new Queen songs. And despite their effortless box office success, it might not happen soon, if at all.

"We get asked that question constantly, but we really haven't had much of a conversation about it internally," said Lambert, who maintains a solo career between Queen tours. "It's totally possible. But what is it? I would never re-record a song that Freddie recorded because that would be sacrilege. If I were to record something brand new, would it be called 'Queen?' Would we have some super group name?" Lambert said he and founding members Brian May (guitar) and Roger Taylor (drums) have not recorded demos of any new material. May said the band took its cue from the ho-hum response to a studio album it did with Bad Company singer Paul Rodgers in 2008, "The Cosmos Rocks."

"The world kind of turned a blind eye to it, and I think we subconsciously absorbed the message that people wanted to hear Queen with Freddie," May said. "That's what they expected; they didn't want to hear anything else. I don't know if that's a correct conclusion or not, but that's kind of the message we got, so I think we turned our attention to live." Taylor said recording a new studio album "seems like an obvious thing to do, but really, we don't plan ahead that much or that far."

The band is working beautifully, so we don't want to stop that until it's not working beautifully." May is more receptive to the idea of a new album now with Lambert on board. "If the moment came up, if there was a real reason to make a new recording, a new song, if the right song came up, we would go with it in the snap of a finger," he said. "But at the moment, we're very happy touring." That entails staging an entirely new show from scratch, with a new set list, lighting, video screens - and the way the band interacts with the audience.



Mercury's give-and-take with the crowd, including daring them to match his a cappella vocal acrobatics, and May's acoustic sing-alongs on "Love of My Life" and "39" became integral and enduring parts of a Queen concert. When Mercury died in 1991 of complications from AIDS, "Brian and I thought everything was kind of over," Taylor said. "But Adam Lambert is an extraordinary talent and just fits in perfectly with us." "It was good when it started, but now I feel like it's more second-nature," Lambert said. "I feel like I've crawled into these songs and can run around in them now." --AP

Stevie Wonder, Tom Petty, Maroon 5 to headline Jazz Fest

Stevie Wonder, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers, Maroon 5, Usher and Dave Matthews are among some of the big names playing at this year's New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. The lineup, announced Friday, includes more than 500 bands covering a diverse array of musical styles over more than a dozen stages set up at the New Orleans Fair Grounds Race Course. "All but about 80 of the acts are local," festival organizer Quint Davis said, enthusiastically. "We've evolved to a point though where every stage, every day has at least one national act. It's taken awhile to get to that point, but we're there."

Davis said he was encouraged by the response to the lineup, so far, by fans of the festival. "A lot of people are really looking at the schedule in depth," he said. "They're paying attention and going deep into it. We're hearing things like, 'Wow,

Corinne Bailey Rae's coming' and after rain ruined Snoop Dogg's debut last year, people now have a second chance to see him for the first time." Some of the other artists appearing include Alabama Shakes, Kings of Leon, Patti LaBelle, Widespread Panic and rappers Pitbull and Nas.

The festival also features artists from Louisiana and New Orleans, such as the Hot 8 Brass Band, Ellis Marsalis, Trombone Shorty, the Soul Rebels, Amanda Shaw and the Cute Guys, Irma Thomas and The Meters. Jazz Fest's Cultural Exchange Pavilion will focus on Cuba this year. Last year, Belize was in the spotlight. Davis said they're looking to enlarge the pavilion's tent this year allowing more fans to "experience the experience."

"It's going to be Cuban music all day," Davis said. The festival, presented by Shell, takes place April 28 to 30 and May 4 to 7. Tickets currently are on sale for \$65 through Feb. 14. The

price rises to \$70 on Feb. 15 and the gate price will be \$80. Children's tickets (ages 2 to 10) remain \$5. The New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Foundation, the nonprofit owner of the festival, also gives out 8,000 free tickets to community groups annually. Davis said he's hoping this year's event will not include the rain that deluged 2016's second weekend.

"I'm starting to question my requests to the weather gods," he said, laughing. "But people are really giving us a lot more slack these days. Last year's first weekend was the best ever, the second was the rainiest ever. Still, people came out in huge numbers, saying 'We're not, not coming!' Whether you experience Jazz Fest in the rain or not, you want to be there." --AP



Top DJ Clarke to boycott US over Trump

Leading techno DJ Dave Clarke says he will boycott the United States as a protest after the election of President Donald Trump. "I have maximum respect for the influence of American music and some US culture in my life but I will not be renewing my work visa," said Clarke, who is British but primarily based in The Netherlands. "I simply cannot consider coming to the US professionally when there is a Misogynist Narcissist Racist President in office, and to be fair maybe my work permit would not be renewed due to his 'Hire American' policy," Clarke wrote on Facebook.

Clarke, who asked US fans not to take his stance personally, acknowledged his decision was also influenced by bad, past experience in the United States with a music agent. Leading musicians both in the United States and overseas have unleashed a flurry of songs to protest Trump since the tycoon launched his presidential campaign. But calls for a boycott of the world's largest economy and entertainment market have been rare.

Cultural boycotts, however, have been embraced frequently by critics of Israel and earlier of South Africa's former apartheid regime. Clarke is a prominent force in techno, the genre of dance music that emerged in Detroit in the 1980s but is now primarily associated with Europe, and often infuses punk rock elements. He has taken a leadership role in putting together Tomorrowland in Belgium, one of the world's most prominent electronic music festivals. — AFP

