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NEWS

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For Immediate Release:

O.A.R. TO PERFORM AT EIU; TICKETS FOR GENERAL PUBLIC ON SALE MONDAY, OCT. 6

CHARLESTON – Every band wants it. A lot of bands claim they have it. Others have hits for years and never have it. O.A.R. (a.k.a., Of a Revolution) has got it: a devoted, organically grown grassroots following.

And members of that following, as well as new fans, are invited to hear one of their favorite groups in concert when O.A.R. performs on the campus of Eastern Illinois University on Sunday, Nov. 2, in Lantz Arena.

Showtime is at 7:30 p.m., with doors opening at 6. Tickets are \$13 for students with EIU Panther Card ID and \$20 for the general public. (Ticket sales for the public begin Monday, Oct. 6.)

Tickets are available through Eastern's ticket box office, located on the second floor of the west side of the University Union. Hours are from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday, and phone orders [(217) 581-5122] will be allowed. Cash, check, Visa and MasterCard will be accepted.

Likened to the Dave Matthews Band, O.A.R. consists of lead singer/rhythm guitarist Marc Roberge, lead guitarist Richard On, saxist Jerry DePizzo, bassist Benj Gershman and drummer Chris Culos.

O.A.R. formed in 1998 at Ohio State University. Roberge had known Culos since childhood in Rockville, Md., where he also became friends and played in local bands with On and Gershman. DePizzo, who hails from Youngstown, Ohio, met the others at Ohio State. O.A.R. first recorded *The Wanderer* independently as a demo in 1997. Many of the songs on O.A.R.'s debut disc were written while Roberge and Culos were living in Israel.

After the release of *The Wanderer*, college reps began to hawk the band's demo record to people and servers at universities. Word-of-mouth news spread about the band's roots rock and reggae-inflected upbeat songs. The O.A.R. explosion had begun, and before long, the band was receiving thousands of hits daily on its Web site: www.ofarevolution.com.

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O.A.R.'s third CD, *Risen*, was produced by John Alagia (Dave Matthews Band, Ben Folds Five) and recorded in Summer 2000 at Water Music in Hoboken, N.J., and at Dumbo Studios in New York City for the group's independent label, Everfine Records. The CD debuted at number 11 on Feb. 24, 2001, on the Top Internet Album Sales chart in *Billboard*.

Two years later, the switch from student band to headliner started with the arrival of the group's popular song, "That Was A Crazy Game of Poker." Many of the lyrics for the band's songs come from Roberge's interest in literature, particularly Stephen King's novel, "The Stand."

The group went back into the recording studio for a second demo, which was released independently as *Souls Aflame* in 1999. Both *The Wanderer* and *Souls Aflame* were reissued in 2001 on Everfine Records.

With the success of *Risen*, Roberge began writing songs for a new CD in late 2001. To appease their dedicated fanbase, they released the live *Any Time Now* in Spring 2002. The album went on to sell 100,000 copies. *In Between Now and Then* appeared in Spring 2003, and the band's debut single off the new album, "Hey Girl," has received significant radio play as well as rotation on MTV.

This event is being sponsored by University Board Concerts, a student programming board responsible for major entertainment events at Eastern.