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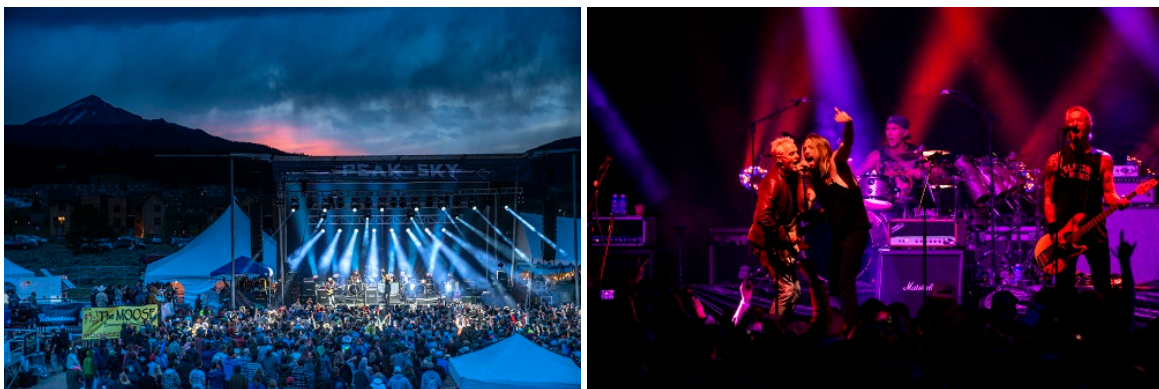
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## Elation IP65 lighting for Montana's inaugural Peak to Sky festival

### Jereco Studios designs and supplies robust, professional lighting rig for iconic rock lineup

When your inaugural event has rock icons like Mike McCready (Pearl Jam), Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers), Duff McKagan (Guns N' Roses), Josh Klinghoffer (Red Hot Chili Peppers) and Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters) on the bill, let's just say you're off to a good start. But you also know you need to deliver lighting worthy of that all-star status, and in a western environment where harsh weather is to be expected. That was the challenge local event producers Outlaw Partners and lighting suppliers Jereco Studios were up against at the first annual Peak to Sky festival in Montana in early July.

"We knew going in that we would have to put together a package that would be fitting of some of the biggest names in rock n' roll," says Frank Douglas of Bozeman-based Jereco Studios. With at least 75% of the live production done by Jereco Studios during the summer months outdoors, Douglas says that in southwest Montana at least 75% of those shows experience some degree of inclement weather. "From sustained high winds, to hail, to rain, to snow, our most exposed fixtures need to be able to withstand that. Elation has led the way with their large selection of IP-rated fixtures."



### Guitars and grandeur

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend Peak to Sky festival, curated by McCready, featured two days of world-class rock under the striking backdrop of Lone Mountain in Big Sky, Montana. Produced by award-winning media and events company Outlaw Partners, fans witnessed history as multiple hall of famers took to the stage as an ethereal sky and picture-perfect sunset played out in the background. The festival also featured multi-Grammy Award-winning artist Brandi Carlile and Seattle-based female rockers Thunderpussy.

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### Lighting setup

Douglas, who served as lighting designer, programmer and lighting op with lighting design and programming assistance by Lauren Plant, says a wide, symmetrical combination of spots, hybrids, washes, and effect fixtures were chosen to populate a Stageline SL320 mobile stage provided by Rocky Mountain Rigging. The downstage electric housed all Elation IP65 fixtures (8 Proteus Hybrid, 8 Proteus Rayzor 760 and 2 DTW Blinder 700IP) with the midstage holding LED moving head effect lights. The upstage electric held 8 Elation Rayzor 760s while the upstage deck housed LED moving head effects as well as 12 Elation SixPar300s, 2 DTW Blinder 700IPs, and a pair of ADJ Mega Flash strobes.

The IP65 rating of the Proteus Hybrids and Rayzors, along with the DTW Blinders, were key to their downstage placement and role in the rig. “The new Proteus Rayzor 760s have excellent output and zoom all the way out to 77 degrees for total coverage at any distance, making them an ideal wash fixture in their standard mode,” said Douglas. “I normally like to put spots/hybrids on my upstage electric and deck, but the Proteus Hybrids have proven to be a versatile go-anywhere beast. In beam mode they cut through the sky, giving it that big rock show feel, yet they also thrive in spot mode, and at that distance from the cyc were used for crisp gobo projection and animation.”



The LD says the upstage Rayzor 760s wound up being a perfect choice for mirroring the large LED moving head effect lights. “I ran the upstage Rayzors in pixel mode, which were plotted in 2D to control each cell,” he says, “making for much more pleasing dimmer and color effects, as well as pixel mapping alongside the LED effect lights in their extended mode.” The potential for rough weather dictated that the Proteus Hybrids work from the downstage truss and not surprisingly the wind kicked up and there was rain on and off throughout the weekend. “Still, all of our Proteus tanks were completely unscathed.”

Useful as a simple wash or specialty effect light, the Rayzor 760 can pan & tilt continuously and along with its patented SparkLED pixel sparkle effect, provides designers ample opportunity to be creative. Douglas describes one of his favorite looks using them. “I was definitely looking forward to utilizing the infinite pan and tilt of the Rayzor 760s. My favorite look using that was to write an

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effect using the infinite tilt and fanning out the offset and rate to achieve a spider-esque look of continually cascading light beams. I was able to incorporate the new SparkLEDs just by selecting a bunch of my favorite looks from their built-in macros, then manipulating their rate with a fader. It was nice to know I could still get excellent utility from the SparkLEDs even without needing to run them in the full extended 80 channel mode.” Rounding out the rig were SixPar 300s, which provided upwash onto a cyc, while another pair of DTW Blinders were positioned directly behind Chad Smith and Taylor Hawkins' drum risers to create a silhouette when blacking out the rest of the rig.

**The future of entertainment lighting**

Douglas says he has used Elation Platinum Spot and Beam fixtures previously in his career and has always had good experiences using Elation gear. “Elation has been at the forefront of developing LED and weatherproof fixtures, which are the future of entertainment lighting,” he said. “Since we are sticklers for efficiency and robustness, choosing Elation was a no-brainer.”

Douglas ends by saying he feels lucky to work for a company like Jereco, which affords him the opportunity to work with premium equipment and very talented individuals. “Our live production crew is one of the best around and they make my job the best a guy could ask for.” That Jereco crew consists of Jeremiah Slovarp (Owner), Stephan Gueguen (Technical Director/FOH Engineer), Matt Grayson (Monitor Engineer), Garrett Stephens (StageLine Tech), and “the most integral piece to our lighting world our L2, Lauren Plant.”

With 5,500 people attending the two-day, sold out event in Big Sky, the inaugural Peak to Sky festival was a big success. After the festival, McCreedy, who took part in a number of classic jams throughout the festival such as renditions of Aerosmith’s “Sweet Emotion,” David Bowie’s “Ziggy Stardust,” Prince’s “Purple Rain” and an epic Led Zeppelin medley, said he hopes to make the festival an annual event.

**Lighting Equipment:**

8 x Elation Proteus Hybrid™

8 x Elation Proteus Rayzor 760™





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4 x Elation DTW Blinder 700IP™  
8 x Elation Rayzor 760™  
12 x Elation SixPar 300™  
ADJ Mega Flash™  
2 x Antari F4 Fazer™

Photos: Kene Sperry

**About Outlaw Partners**

Outlaw Partners is an award-winning media, marketing and events firm based in Big Sky, Montana. Outlaw Partners provide clients with resources for building, enhancing, and expanding their brands worldwide. Outlaw-owned and produced media publications include the Explore Big Sky newspaper, Mountain Outlaw magazine and Explore Yellowstone magazine. Outlaw Partners' mission is to create connections while inspiring action. For more information, visit [theoutlawpartners.com](http://theoutlawpartners.com).

**About Elation Professional**

Based in California with facilities in Florida and Mexico City, as well as European offices in The Netherlands, Elation designs and manufactures a comprehensive range of innovative lighting and video products known for its superior performance, excellent efficiency, and outstanding price:value ratio, all backed by a hard-earned reputation for Total Support. Through nearly three decades of intelligent lighting development, our mission has always been simple: to provide best-in-class products and service while offering the best value:performance ratio in the industry, helping show designers and producers achieve their vision. From discharge to LED, intelligent to conventional, Elation products continue to be a part of the industry's most exciting projects across the globe and our list of references is always growing. We invite you to take a closer look at [www.elationlighting.com](http://www.elationlighting.com)

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