

CMA **lose up**

JUNE/JULY 2004

**CMA Music Festival
Preview**

**"Country Music's
Biggest Party™"**

**Behind the Lens
CMA Music Festival
Television Special**

**Clint Black
Spend My Time
Marks New Chapter**

**Glen Campbell
Makes Timeless Music**

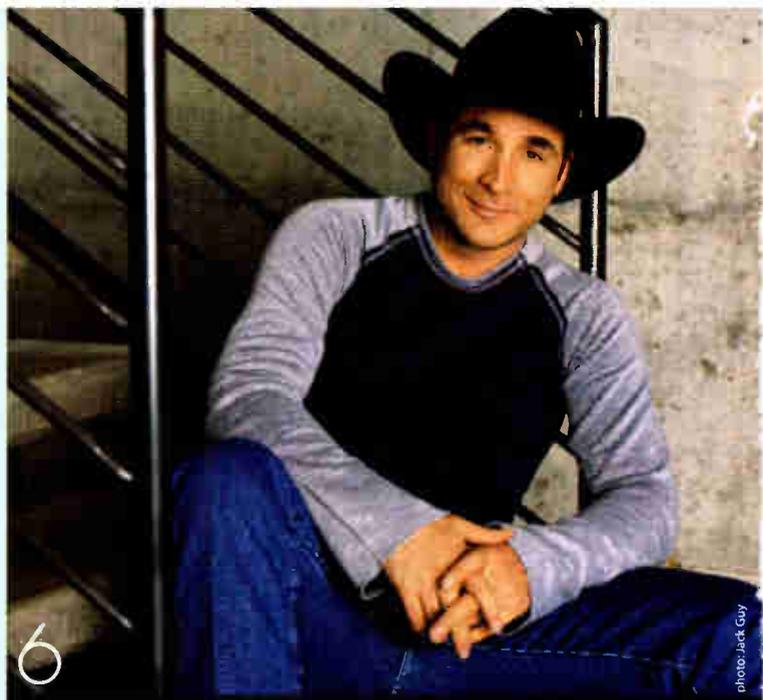
**David Lee Murphy
Back With a Bang**

**Mark Wills
Leaves Iraq a
Changed Man**

**Country Music
Hall of Fame® Member
Merle Haggard
Honesty is Key**

CMA AWARDS VOTING
First Ballot Mailed June 3
Return first ballot by July 2
Membership renewal payment due by July 16
Return second ballot by July 26

- 4** Letter from CMA Executive Director Ed Benson
Country Music Association Directories On Sale Now
- 5** "THE 38TH ANNUAL CMA AWARDS"
"Country Music's Biggest Night™" / Mailing and E-mail Services
Ticket Order Forms Mailed in August
Merchandise Available in July
- 6** Clint Black: *Spend My Time* Marks New Chapter
- 8** CMA Presents Connie B. Gay Award to Wynonna
- 9** LEGEND: Glen Campbell Makes Timeless Music
- 10** Nashville Film Festival Sings a Country Tune
- 11** David Lee Murphy is Back with a Bang
- 12** Bluebird Café Moves Downtown During CMA Music Festival
- 13** Mark Wills Leaves Iraq a Changed Man
- 14** Cable Network RFD-TV Relocates to Nashville
- 15** CMA Broadcast Awards Submissions Online
- 16** INTERNATIONAL
- 19** Guy Gilchrist Features Country Artists in *Nancy* Comic Strip
- CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL PREVIEW
- 20** "Country Music's Biggest Party™" / Artists Appearing
- 21** Daily Schedule
- 22** Daily Concerts at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages
Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum /
Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) / Acoustic Corner
- 23** CMA Music Festival After Hours™
The Stars of NBC Daytime Celebrate Fourth Year
- 24** CMA Global Artist Showcase / Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone
CMA Celebrity Close Up / CMA Music Festival Midway Carnival
First Annual CMA Music Festival Pin Hunt
- 25** CMA Music Festival Sports Zone / www.CMAfest.com
- 26** "Color Me Musical" Contest / 2005 CMA Music Festival Tickets/
CMA Music Festival Newspaper for Attendees
MJJ Brings CMA Music Festival to Airwaves
Tune In This Summer for CMA Music Festival TV Special on CBS
- 27** BEHIND THE LENS: CMA Music Festival TV Special on CBS
- 28** IN THE STUDIO: Brent Rowan: A Guitar Great Moves Into the
Producer's Chair
- 29** Ernest Tubb Record Shops: Friendliness and Country Music
- 30** DEBUT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: John Arthur Martinez, Julie Roberts,
Lane Turner and Trent Willmon
- 32** IN MEMORIAM: Albert F. Crockett, Joe P. "Pat" Ethridge,
Julian Aberbach, Albert "Big Al" Gore, Dave Kirby, Jeff Newman
and Rick Rentz
- 33** NEW CD RELEASES
- 39** CMA PRESENTS THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME: Merle Haggard
- 40** CMA EVENTS CALENDAR



6

photo: Jack Guy



9

photo: Jim Viscare photo: Jeff Russ



11

TUNE IN THIS SUMMER FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, TO WATCH COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST PARTY™

THE 2004 CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL

TWO HOUR TELEVISION
SPECIAL ON THE
CBS TELEVISION
NETWORK

CMA Close Up welcomes your letters and feedback.
You can reach us at Tel: (615) 244-2840; Fax: (615) 242-4783
or e-mail at closeup@CMAworld.com



2004 CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAM BOOKS ON SALE NOW!

The full-color, 76-page collector's program book is only \$10, (price includes U.S. domestic shipping and handling.) To order, or for international shipping price quotes, call CMA at (615) 244-2840 or e-mail aeckard@CMAworld.com to have an order form faxed or mailed to you. Order forms are also available to download on www.CMAfest.com.

Program books may also be purchased for only \$5 at the CMA office at One Music Circle South, Nashville, Tenn., 37203-4312.

Please allow one week for delivery.

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CMA AWARDS VOTING ONLINE FOR ALL MEMBERS

Big news about this year's CMA Awards balloting — all individual members can cast their votes online. Last year CMA's international category members became the first industry professionals to vote online in a major Country Music awards competition.

Since then, we have worked with Election Services Corporation (ESC), a leading global election software and services company, to develop an online balloting system which will be available for all members who prefer to cast their votes online.

This year, all CMA members will still be sent paper ballots which are to be filled out and returned to Deloitte & Touche for tabulation. In these paper ballot mailings, you will also find complete instructions for voting online.

ESC's online voting technology has been used by clients throughout the world including major corporations, political organizations and federal and state governments. They have worked closely with CMA to develop a system that will provide members a convenient, fast, easy and secure way to nominate and vote in the CMA Awards from their homes, office or any device that has Internet access. In the future, we plan to convert all CMA Awards balloting to online voting.

I hope each of you will use this new technology to exercise your right to have a say in who wins. Be sure to watch "Country Music's Biggest Night™" on the CBS Television Network, Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 8 PM/EST to see if your favorites succeed in "The 38th Annual CMA Awards."

Thanks,

Ed Benson
CMA Executive Director



Cover photo: John Russell, 2003 CMA Awards Designer: Kelli Grisez

CMA INDUSTRY DIRECTORY ON SALE NOW!

The 2004 CMA Directory has your number if you are in the Country Music industry.

The directory is a comprehensive guide with contact information for Country Music artists and Country radio stations in the United States and Canada. The 2004 CMA Directory is FREE to all CMA sterling and organizational members and their copy was shipped to them in March.

"The Directory has become the must-have, desk-top reference for many people in our industry," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "It is a popular, anticipated benefit for our members each year."

All CMA sterling and organizational members receive one FREE copy of the bound 430-page book, with other additional copies available for \$25 each. Non-members pay \$75 for the 2004 CMA Directory. For those members who think paper is passé, CMA regularly updates the information on CMA's member Web site, My.CMAworld.com.

"Our industry is constantly changing and we want this valuable resource to keep pace with our business," Benson said. "Keeping the listings refreshed online allows us to be completely up-to-date as possible."

The 2004 CMA Directory includes complete Country radio information including call letters, frequency, address, phone and fax; Web site; and important station personnel. Internet and satellite radio are also included, along with radio syndicators.

The Artist Reference section lists artists alphabetically with information about their management, record label, publicist and talent agent. Other sections include Record Labels; Management Companies; PR Firms; Booking Agents; Song Music Publishers; and Performing Rights Organizations.

The 2004 CMA Directory is not a directory of CMA members. CMA membership roles are not made available for publication. Directory advertisers listed in the Directory include ASCAP; American Airlines; BMI; Hearing Services of Tennessee; Inside Radio (Radio TV); Iron Mountain; MJJ Programming, a division of Premiere Radio Networks; Signature Limousine; Travel for the Stars; and Travis TV.

To order the 2004 CMA Directory, you may download an order form at CMAworld.com and fax it to CMA at (615) 726-0314 or buy copies at the CMA office at One Music Circle South, Nashville, Tenn., 37203.

To change your listing information, call CMA at (615) 244-2840 or e-mail CMAdirectory@CMAworld.com.

For information about becoming a CMA member, call (615) 244-2840 or visit CMAworld.com.
Wendy Pearl



Save the Dates! "Country Music's Biggest Night™" Live Broadcast Nov. 9 on CBS CMA Awards Ballot Season is Here

TUESDAY, NOV. 9, 2004
8 PM/ET CBS
CMAawards.com

"The 38th Annual CMA Awards" will broadcast live **Tuesday, Nov. 9** (8 -11 PM/EST) on the CBS Television Network from the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville, Tenn., which means ballot season is here.

Last year, CMA's international category members became the first industry professionals to vote online in a major Country Music awards competition. In 2004, the online voting option will be extended to all eligible CMA voting members through Election Services Corporation (ESC), the leading provider of election management services. Members will receive information on the new voting option with their ballot. Members may also use the paper ballot system.

"The convenience and ease of online voting proved very successful with our international members in 2003," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "Making online voting an option for all of our voters in 2004

should be just as successful. Our goal is always to maximize the percentage of eligible voters casting their votes and this is an important move in that direction."

The eligibility period for the 2004 CMA Awards is July 1, 2003 to June 30, 2004. It takes 10 nominations on the first ballot to be included in the second ballot. The final nominees in the 12 categories will be announced during a press conference in late August.

The industry professional members of the Country Music Association vote to determine CMA Award winners. The CMA Awards is a production of the Country Music Association, produced by Walter C. Miller and directed by Paul Miller. MJI Programming, a Division of Premiere Radio Networks, is the official radio packager of the CMA Awards, which includes the stereo-radio simulcast of the gala event. An edited version of The CMA Awards will broadcast on BBC2 in the UK. The CMA Awards became the first music awards show to be broadcast on network television in 1968.

CMA Awards Mailing and E-mail Service

CMA provides an opportunity for CMA Awards nominees to educate CMA voting members about nominees and nominated products. This service is available to all nominees, but those nominees who are CMA members can take advantage of discounted rates. This CMA Awards mailing service is available only for those appearing on the second or final ballots of the 2004 CMA Awards during the balloting period from July 26 through Oct. 28, 2004. Under NO circumstances will the authorized mailing house release the CMA Awards mailing list to anyone.

Fees vary depending on category of CMA membership and the areas to be mailed.

Area 1 – All CMA voting members residing in the United States.

Quantity of 5,000 pieces per mailing.	
Non-member nominee	\$2,200
CMA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	
Regular	\$2,000
Sterling	\$1,800
CMA ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS	
Basic	\$1,750
Bronze	\$1,650
Silver	\$1,500
Gold	\$1,250
Platinum	\$1,000

Area 2 – All CMA voting members residing in Canada.

Quantity of 100 pieces per mailing.	
Additional fee per mailing	\$50

Area 3 – All CMA international voting members residing outside the United States and Canada.

Quantity of 500 pieces per mailing.	
Additional fee per mailing	\$50



In addition to the mailing service, CMA will offer the CMA Awards E-mail Service, operated by Hi-Fi Fusion. Nominees can send an e-mail to CMA voting members instead of using regular mail. The same costs

above apply for the e-mail service.

For all information on the CMA Awards Mailing or E-mail Services, visit www.CMAworld.com/Events or contact Brandi Simms at (615) 664-1607 or e-mail: Bsimm@CMAworld.com.

CMA AWARDS TICKETS

Ticket order forms will be mailed in early August to CMA individual sterling and organizational members. For more information contact CMA's Special Projects Department at (615) 244-2840 or e-mail: Tickets@CMAworld.com. CMA Awards tickets are for use by CMA individual sterling and organizational members only. Tickets are not sold or available to the general public. Members may not sell their tickets or ordering privileges may be revoked.

CMA AWARDS MERCHANDISE AVAILABLE IN JULY!

Official merchandise will be available in late July on www.CMAawards.com. For more information contact Angela Ramler at (615) 664-1632 or e-mail: Aramler@CMAworld.com.

www.CMAawards.com

2004 CMA Awards Ballot Schedule

FIRST BALLOT

Wednesday, June 2

CMA membership application must be received at CMA to vote on all three ballots.

Thursday, June 3

First CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Friday, July 2

Return first CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

SECOND BALLOT

Friday, July 16

CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on second and third CMA Awards ballot.

Monday, July 26

Second CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Monday, Aug. 23

Return second CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

THIRD BALLOT

Wednesday, Sept. 15

CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on third CMA Awards ballot. A member must have received a second ballot to receive a third ballot.

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Third CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Thursday, Oct. 28

Return third CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

The balloting process is officiated by the international accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP. All ballots must be received by Deloitte & Touche on the exact date noted by 5 PM/CDT at their offices located at: 424 Church Street, Suite 2400, Nashville, Tenn. 37219-2396. The deadline is when the paper ballots must be received by Deloitte & Touche LLP, NOT when they are postmarked. Online votes must be cast by 5 PM/CDT. CMA staff members do not vote for the CMA Awards nor do they tabulate ballots. Ballots sent to the CMA office will be disqualified. Don't forget to vote and make sure everyone you know who is eligible is voting too.



BRITAIN

BRITAIN

BRITAIN

SPEND MY TIME MARKS NEW CHAPTER FOR CLINT BLACK



photo: Jack Guy

The mile-wide "What, me worry?" grin is intact as Clint Black contemplates the busy schedule of a hands-on guy who has just released his first album in five years.

He's putting together the setlist for a tour. He is writing a treatment for a video for his song, "The Boogie Man." He needs to set aside time for 3-year-old daughter Lily Pearl and his wife of 12 years, actress Lisa Hartman Black. And he's got business concerns beyond his own career now as part owner of his new Nashville-based record label Equity Music Group.

"I'm really brain-tired from all of these things," Black said in a conference room at Equity, talking a mile a minute and showing no signs of weariness.

"I don't know how any new songs are coming out of me, but they are. I've got ideas. I've been keeping a notepad by the bed at night.

"I'll wake up and write four lines. I wake up the next morning, and [the lyrics] haven't sucked!"

Black's ninth full-length studio album, *Spend My Time*, (released in March) has already spawned a Top 5 hit with its title cut. More importantly, it marks the return of one of the Country Music industry's most consistent hitmakers after a long break following his exit from RCA Records, where he'd spent his entire recording career.

Black co-wrote all 12 songs on the album including "Just Like You and Me," with Steve Dorff and the moody heartbreak "A Lover's Clown" with Steve Warnier, who accompanies Black on guitar. A 13th track is available through a promotion Equity is running with Wal-Mart. Fans who purchase the album at the retail chain will receive instructions in the packaging to download, "The Great Mississippi Flood of '93," a true-story song penned by Black.

"It's a definite new chapter," said Black, who recorded and produced the album in his home studio.

The Houston-area native burst onto the Country Music scene in 1989 with the classic *Killin' Time* album, around the same time Alan Jackson and Garth Brooks also came into their own. He's won four CMA Awards including Male Vocalist in 1990 and Horizon Award in 1989. Black's decade-long run of hits at RCA includes "A Better Man," "We Tell Ourselves" and "When I Said I Do," a duet with Hartman-Black.

Black has sold more than 18 million records, charted nine Platinum albums and scored 27 Top 5 singles — including 13 No. 1 hits. As his RCA contract neared its end, Black's attorney started negotiations with several record labels. Presented with some attractive options, the singer decided it didn't feel right to sign with anyone.

Instead, Black's longtime dream to operate a record company in a different way came true with the founding of Equity Music Group. The company is a partnership between Black, his business manager Charles Sussman and his manager Jim Morey, and Mike Kraski, the former Executive Vice President/General Manager of Sony Music Nashville.

"We're presenting ourselves as more artist friendly, and we're backing that statement up," Kraski said. "We give the artist control of their masters. They lease it to us, and at the end of the contract they own it."

In return, artists sign over a percentage of their touring, merchandising and performance royalties from their songs to Equity.

"This business model connects us at the hip," Kraski said. "It serves our self-interest to do what's in the best interest of the artist every step of the way. We're partners in everything they're involved in."

Kraski expects to sign no more than eight mainstream Country Music acts to Equity, though he might also sign artists from other genres. Artists who sign up will get the benefit of Black's experience as part of the package.

"I'll be there for the artists," Black said. "I'll be someone they can turn to. We want to make sure that the creative dreams of artists are being fulfilled."

Equity's radio promotion team, led by Vice President of National Promotion Rick Baumgartner, has already scored a big comeback hit for

Black with "Spend My Time." Black calls the song "the most profound message on the album."

"I won't go quietly into that dark night," Black sings on "Spend My Time."

"There'll be no more burning daylight/I'll be living in/Every moment that I'm in."

"Spend My Time" was co-written by Black and his longtime writing partner Hayden Nicholas.

"I've got a son who just turned four, and Clint's daughter is just about exactly a year younger," Nicholas said. "Our children changed our outlook on things, and that's what that song is about."

"It's about living every moment more, and not with yourself as the center of the universe like you were before your child."

Nicholas, who has played guitar and written songs with Black from the beginning, said success hasn't changed his old friend.

"He's still the same guy, with the same goals and values that he's always had," Nicholas said. "The only difference is that people treat him differently because he's a star, and that changes how he's perceived. It's like that Joe Walsh song ("Life's Been Good"): 'Everybody's different, I haven't changed.'"

Nicholas and Kraski each describe Black as an amiable Texas gentleman who thrives on new challenges.

"EVERY TIME I GET IT OUT OF ME,

IT DOESN'T TAKE TOO LONG BEFORE

I GET HUNGRY FOR IT AGAIN." - Clint Black

"Clint didn't go to college, but he's self-educated," Nicholas said. "He's an avid reader about all kinds of subjects."

Kraski notes that Black has written or co-written virtually his entire catalogue of songs.

"He's an amazing creative force, and he doesn't always get his just due," Kraski said. "He's his own producer, he's an actor, and he's behind the ideas you see on his videos. He deserves credit for being willing to step up and try this business concept when he had many other safer options."

Black says he never stopped working while he sorted out his business arrangements. He had "three and a half" albums worth of material to choose from to record the *Spend My Time* album.

"I'm going through one of those surges right now," he said. "Music is like food to me. Every time I get it out of me, it doesn't take too long before I get hungry for it again."

Black will perform at the 2004 CMA Music Festival on Friday, June 11 at The Coliseum. Fans will have meet and greet opportunities with Black in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention during the four-day festival.

Jim Patterson

On the Web: www.clintblack.com; www.equitymusicgroup.com

CLINT BLACK
MANAGEMENT: Morey Management Group
PUBLICITY: Alliance
TALENT AGENCY: William Morris Agency

continued on page 34...



CMA Recognizes Connie B. Gay Award Recipient Wynonna Award Presented by Trace Adkins and CMA Executive Director Ed Benson

During a pre-arranged, backstage meeting on April 17 at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, CMA Executive Director Ed Benson and Capitol Nashville recording artist and CMA Board member Trace Adkins surprised Wynonna with the presentation of the Connie B. Gay Award, one of the Country Music Association's most prestigious honors.

"During the past year, Wynonna repeatedly stepped up to the plate to serve CMA in a variety of ways beyond what is normally expected of our members," Benson said. "Her willingness to be a leader, making several commitments to support the initiatives of CMA, made her the obvious choice for this award."

"This is a pat on the back, but I'd be doing it anyway," Wynonna said. "After 20 years, I'm just glad to have a seat at the table."

The award was established by the CMA Board of Directors in 1963 and is named after the CMA's founding President (1959-1960), the late Connie B. Gay, who was a broadcast entrepreneur and lifelong promoter of Country Music. The award is given in recognition of that person or persons who is not currently serving on the Board who has in the past year rendered outstanding service to CMA.

The Board unanimously selected Wynonna based on her significant contributions and personal efforts on behalf of CMA in advancing media exposure for its signature events, including CMA Music Festival and the CMA Awards.

With this honor, Wynonna joins an illustrious group of Country Music performers and industry leaders.

CMA Board Member Trace Adkins and CMA Executive Director Ed Benson present the prestigious Connie B. Gay Award to Wynonna for outstanding service to the Country Music Association, backstage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville on April 17.

photo: Chris Hollo / Hollo Photographics, Inc. on behalf of the Grand Ole Opry.



CONNIE B. GAY

Country Music's Media Magician

Connie Barriot Gay was born in Lizard Lick, N.C. on Aug. 22, 1914. He got his start in radio on the Farm Security Administration's National Farm and Home Hour and later joined WARL radio in Washington, D.C., where he popularized Country Music and helped make it profitable throughout the 40s and 50s.

Gay is credited with playing a role in transforming what was called "hillbilly" music into viable modern entertainment. He was one of the first to coin the term Country Music as a replacement for the less refined hillbilly music.

Gay's entrepreneurial endeavors spanned radio and television as well as live shows. He oversaw the careers of artists including Grandpa and Ramona Jones, Clyde Moody, Hank Penny, the Radio Ranchmen, the Wheeler Brothers and Jimmy Dean, who Gay developed into a TV star on the regional "Town & Country Time Show," and the short-lived "The Jimmy Dean Show."

During the 50s, there were only a handful of female disc jockeys on radio. Gay changed all of that in 1959 when he hired only women for the New Orleans station WYFE.

In 1958, Gay became one of the founding members and the first President of the Country Music Association Board and years later he helped launch the Country Music Foundation. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame® in 1980. Gay died Dec. 4, 1989.

Amanda Eckard

Previous recipients of the Connie B. Gay Award include:

Richard Frank
Joe Allison
Robert J. Burton
Pack Ackerman
Gene Nash and
Leroy Van Dyke
Owen Bradley
Johnny Cash
Frank Clement
Ken Nelson
Tex Ritter

Frank Jones
Jack Stapp
Hubert Long (posthumously)
Roy Horton
Hal Cook
Bob Tubert
Ben Smothers
Charlie Daniels
Roy Acuff
Bob Boatman
Mary Ann McCready

Frank Mull
Jim Halsey
Merril Warner
Paul Conroy
Ron Huntsman
Michael Sukin
Allen Brown
Bob Saporiti
Jim Free
Fred Rappoport
Heien Farmer

Cindy Wilson
Marc Oswald
Trisha Yearwood
Pam Tillis
Martina McBride
Wayne Halper
Mayor Bill Purcell
Brad Paisely
Wynonna

GLEN CAMPBELL

One of Country's First Crossover Artists Continues to Make Timeless Music

There are stars and there are superstars. But Glen Campbell transcends even those lofty terms. In the days before "crossover" was a common term, Campbell took the Country Music style and sensibility to pop and rock audiences with such standards as "Gentle On My Mind," "By The Time I Get To Phoenix," "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston" and others. And he remains one of America's most beloved and reliable musical entertainers.

Since Campbell arrived in Hollywood in 1960 with his guitar and \$300 in his pocket, the list of achievements and accolades he has accrued rivals that of almost any other musical talent. He first made his name in the industry as a session player for artists as diverse as The Beach Boys, Merle Haggard, Elvis Presley and Frank Sinatra. But it was the one-two punch of his first major hit song in 1967, "By The Time I Get To Phoenix," followed two years later by his No. 1 rated television variety show, "The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour," that made him a household name. Twenty-seven Top 10 singles, movies (including "True Grit" with John Wayne), a best-selling autobiography *Rhinestone Cowboy*, an award-winning career as a Christian and gospel artist and much more followed. This 1968 CMA Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year winner has sold more than 40 million albums. Yet the 68-year-old Campbell is still the friendly, smiling, country boy from Billstown, Ark., who said "The first thing that I remember singing was 'Where Can I Go But To the Lord'" while picking on a five-dollar Sears & Roebuck guitar. The son of a snare-cropper in a family of 12 children, Campbell quit school at 16 to make his living at music. He fondly recalls honing his craft playing in Country bands across the Southwest.

"We did everything from Glen Miller to the latest stuff of the day. I did a lot of Marty Robbins, which I liked doing. Eddy Arnold, Ernest Tubb, Little Jimmy Dickens. We did pop stuff, big band stuff," Campbell remembered.

After arriving in Los Angeles, he sharpened his abilities in recording studios working with Phil Spector, Brian Wilson and Jimmy Bowen, who later became a hit producer and top record executive at the American Music publishing company. Campbell has worked with top producers in Hollywood doing 500 sessions a year.

"We did all the demos for the company," Campbell said. "We could run out three or four songs in an hour — just me and a drummer and a bass player. Overdub more guitar, put my voice on it, and that was it." Scoring hits on the pop and Country charts by the late 1960s, Campbell helped pave the way for many Country artists who crossed over in the decades that followed. He also had considerable influence on countless pickers such as Steve Wariner, with whom he recorded the hit "The Hand That Rocks the Cradle." Anne Murray was among several stars who got career boosts by appearing on Campbell's television show, and after the pop hits faded the Country Music audience continued to give Campbell hits.

Campbell is scheduled to appear this year at CMA Music Festival in Downtown Nashville, continuing to share his talents with fans.

"It's a big thing for the fans, it really is," Campbell observed, chuckling at how the event turns Music City into "a mad house." Then, as he does often in conversation, Campbell breaks into



photo: Jeff

impromptu singing (to the tune of "Yellow Rose of Texas"): "It's mad house time in Nashville when the fans all come to town."

Campbell gives credit to songwriters who've written his hits for his longevity, especially Jimmy Webb.

"I thank God that I was blessed with songs with really good chord progressions, more to it than G, D and C," he said.

He's always had a knack for choosing songs with deep lyrics and emotion. The first time he heard "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" on a Johnny Rivers

Nashville Film Festival Sings a Country Tune



Director Rick Schroder and "Black Cloud" cast members Eddie Spears and Julia Jones gather at a private reception thrown by co-star Tim McGraw in Nashville to celebrate the film's opening. (l-r) Eddie Spears, Tim McGraw, Julia Jones and Rick Schroder. photo: RPM Management



Members of the music and film communities mingle at the NFF opening night party at the Green House. (l-r) CMA Senior Director of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray; NFF board member David Gates; former member of The Flying Burrito Brothers Bernie Leadon; and Executive Director of the Tennessee Film & Music Commission David Bennett. photo: Beth Gwinn



(l-r) Jeff Walker, President, Nashville Film Festival; Lisa Niemi, CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese; and Patrick Swayze. photo: Beth Gwinn



CMA Executive Director Ed Benson presents certificates to Patrick Swayze and Lisa Niemi. photos: Amanda Eckard

The "Film and Television Music" panel. (l-r) Dan Butler, Vice President, Legal/Business Affairs for Music, Warner Bros. Pictures; Julia Michels, Soundtrack Executive, EMI Soundtracks; Paul Rogers, Worldwide Publishing and Secondary Music Rights Specialist, Fintage House; Mason Cooper, Vice President, Brewman Music & Entertainment West Coast; Darren Higman, Film Music Supervisor; and Michael Perlmutter, TV and Film Music Supervisor. photo: Amanda Eckard



The 2004 Nashville Film Festival (NFF), held April 26 – May 2 at the Regal Green Hills Cinema, offered the best that the independent film community had to offer, and also struck a chord for Country Music.

CMA was again a proud sponsor of the NFF, sponsoring the "Film and Television Music" panel, featuring music supervisors and film executives discussing what it takes to get music in films.

Panelists included Darren Higman, Film Music Supervisor ("Spiderman 2," "Win A Date with Tad Hamilton!"); Michael Perlmutter, TV and Film Music Supervisor ("Queer As Folk," "Bliss"); Dan Butler, Vice President, Legal/Business Affairs for Music, Warner Bros. Pictures; Paul Rogers, Worldwide Publishing and Secondary Music Rights Specialist, Fintage House; and Julia Michels, Soundtrack Executive, EMI Soundtracks. The panel was moderated by Mason Cooper, Vice President, Brewman Music & Entertainment West Coast.

Topics for the panel included how to select music, the process of choosing a composer, budget issues, soundtrack production and how it all ties together to make the finished product.

"First and foremost, you have to understand what the project is about," said Perlmutter. "You don't want to pitch hip hop music for a film set in the country."

Actor Patrick Swayze and his wife Lisa Niemi attended the festival as part of a panel on music scoring in film. During the panel, CMA Executive Director Ed Benson presented them with a special membership certificate for their contributions to Country Music.

Some of the films shown at the festival included several Country artists and influences. Curb Records artist Tim McGraw made his feature film debut in the Rick Schroder-directed movie "Black Cloud." McGraw played a sheriff in the town where a Navajo Native American boxer struggles with his heritage while training for the U.S. Olympic boxing team. The film received the Nashville Film Festival President's Award, presented by CMA Board member Jeff Walker, President of AristoMedia, who serves as the NFF Board President.

Country/rock legend Gram Parsons was featured in a film and a documentary. "Grand Theft Parsons," directed by David Caffrey, starring Johnny Knoxville and Christina Applegate, is the story of Parsons' manager, Phil Kaufman, and his journey to Joshua Tree to bury Parsons' body there in 1973. The documentary "Fallen Angel: Gram Parsons," directed by Gandulf Hennig and written by Sid Griffin, delved into the personal and professional life of Parsons, and included interviews and stories from Parsons' friends Steve Earle, Emmylou Harris, Chris Hillman, Bernie Leadon, Kaufman, Sneaky Pete Keinow, Keith Richards and more.

Singer-songwriter Billy Joe Shaver appeared in "The Portrait of Billy Joe," a documentary about his life and career. Directed by Luciana Pedraza and produced by Robert Duvall and others, Shaver is featured in everyday settings and speaks matter-of-factly about his life including his deadbeat dad. Shaver visits his 103-year-old 8th grade English teacher whom he credits with inspiring him to continue writing and he reflects on the recent losses of his wife Brenda, his mother Victory Odessa Watson and his son guitarist Eddy Shaver, who died of a drug overdose in 2000.

"Station Inn: True Life of Bluegrass," directed by Patrick Isbey, spotlights the historic Station Inn in Nashville. It's the place where some of bluegrass music's biggest names have played and they are also featured in the film including Sam Bush, Earle, Tom T. Hall, Alison Krauss, Del McCoury, Mark O'Connor, Peter Rowan, Ricky Skaggs and Ralph Stanley.

"This year, we saw a 17 percent increase in overall attendance," said Walker. "It's great that the festival again showed such dramatic growth this year. It is becoming an important part of the Nashville entertainment landscape and should continue its growth in the years ahead. People including Patrick Swayze and Rick Schroder were very impressed with the Southern hospitality afforded by the festival and Nashville in general, and I'm sure they will be back."

The NFF was founded in 1969 and is one of the longest running film festivals in the country. Each year, they receive more than 1,000 submissions including features, documentaries, shorts and animated works. More than 200 top entries are selected from all genres and shown throughout the event. Because it takes place in Music City, it's only natural that part of the focus of the NFF be on music in films. Plus, after many of the screenings, the audience had the opportunity to ask questions of the filmmakers and stars in an intimate Q&A session.

CMA is also a proud sponsor of the Sixth Annual Nashville Screenwriters Conference, June 4-6, at the Nashville Marriott at Vanderbilt University. The conference is open to the public and tickets are available on the Web at www.nashscreen.com. Amanda Eckard

On the Web: www.nashvillefilmfestival.org





DAVID LEE MURPHY

People have perceived David Lee Murphy in lots of ways.

He's been seen as a Country Music star, respected and in-demand songwriter, hunky heartthrob, NASCAR sponsor and neo-traditionalist honky tonker. The term that best suits him, however, is singer-songwriter.

Murphy wrote or co-wrote every track on all four albums he has released. In the competitive world of Nashville songwriting, that's a rare feat. His latest success is the hit single "Loco," which he penned with longtime collaborator Kim Tribble. This raucous tune's humorous lyrics convey a freewheeling attitude: *Yeah, I might be a little bit loco/ But it keeps me from losin' my mind/ Oh but half insane, that's okay/ Babe, a little bit crazy's all right.*

"Loco" is the lead single from *Tryin' to Get There*, a Koch Records Nashville release that is Murphy's first album in seven years.

"That's a fun party song, and it makes me feel good," Murphy said. "It's about being in the middle of the heartland, sitting in your backyard, plugging in the hot pepper lights and wishing that you were down in Destin, Fla., or somewhere like that. It's about having a good time, and definitely with a blue-collar, middle-class twist."

The single is an historic one for the independent label formerly known as Audium Records.

"We've had a Top 5 album with Dwight Yoakam [*Population: Me*], but as

far as singles go, 'Loco' is our most successful radio single to date (Top 15 and rising)," said Nick Hunter, General Manager of Koch Records Nashville.

Murphy is thrilled to be a member of the Koch roster. "At this point in my career, this is a perfect spot for me," he reflected. "I felt real strongly about the fact that I wanted to be with an independent label. From an artistic standpoint, I felt like that was where I was going to be most comfortable. Everybody at the label is focused, everybody has a job and everybody's excited about it. I look forward to doing what I do all the time."

Murphy co-wrote the new album's title track with one of his idols, Country Music Hall of Fame member Waylon Jennings. The duo wrote four songs together before Jennings passed away in 2002.

"I can't tell you how many nights I've sat on the tailgate of a truck, or in a boat, or by a campfire listening to Waylon Jennings and

Willie Nelson," Murphy said. "Those guys were huge influences on me. We sat in Waylon's house and wrote that song together, so it's really special to me."

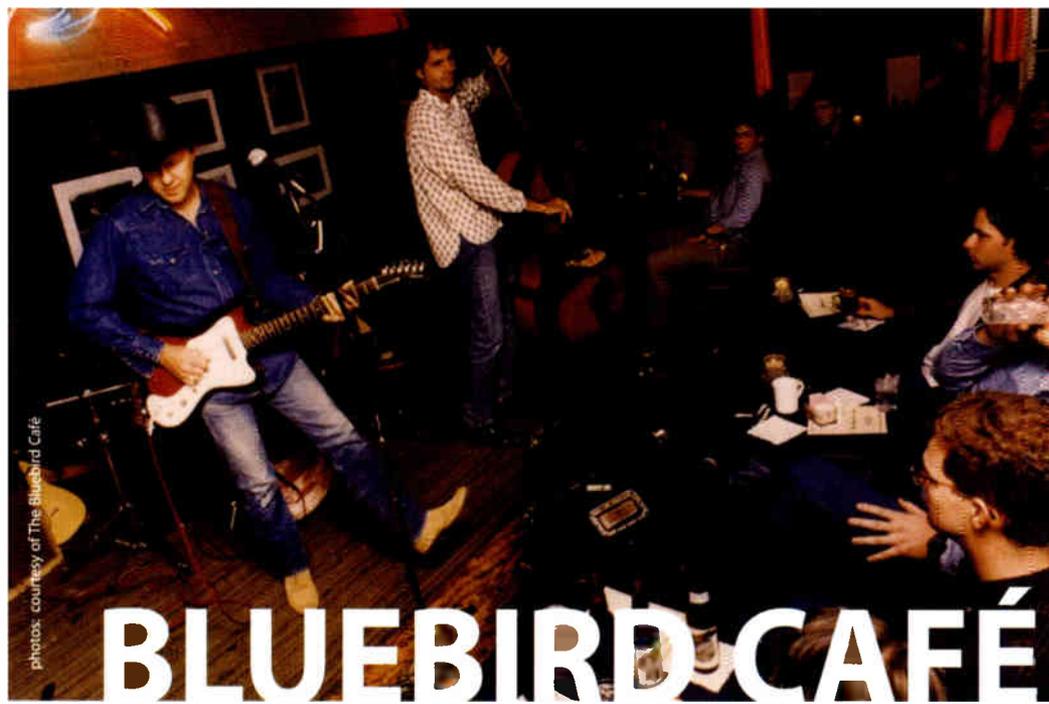
Murphy is best known for "Party Crowd" and "Dust on the Bottle," two smash hits from his 1995 MCA Nashville debut *Out with a Bang*. Co-written by Murphy and Jimbeau Hinson, "Party Crowd" was the

continued on page 35 .

"As a singer, I
don't know if I
could sell a song
as well if I
didn't write it."

- David Lee Murphy

photos courtesy of The Bluebird Café



BLUEBIRD CAFÉ

MOVES DOWNTOWN DURING THE 2004 CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL



Nashville's own Bluebird Café has a place among these storied venues. The small club in a neighborhood strip-mall is a Mecca for songwriters and songwriting hopefuls from around the world, and has showcased some of the greatest songwriting talent ever to grace Music City.

This year, The Bluebird Café will bring a bit of its magic to the CMA Music Festival with a booth in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center. For the first time, fans and visitors will be able to get autographs and pose for photos with the songwriters who create the hits, just as they do with the artists who bring the songs to the radio airwaves and concert stages.

The Bluebird Café first opened its doors in 1982, and quickly became known as the best place to experience the very finest that the city had to offer in original music. Many of the writers who got their start on the Bluebird stage have gone on to fame as artists, as well as writing hits for others. If you ask any aspiring songwriter where they would most like to have the opportunity to showcase their talents, the vast majority would pick The Bluebird.

Bluebird owner Amy Kurland was born in Tulsa, Okla., and moved to Nashville at age 8. She graduated from George Washington University. She is excited about the club's involvement with the CMA Music Festival.

"At The Bluebird, we think that the songwriters are stars, and the Fan Fair booth will be there so that people can have the opportunity to meet the people who write the songs," Kurland said.

Among the songwriters scheduled to appear at the booth are Michael Peterson, who first enjoyed chart success with his hit "Drink Swear Steal and Lie," and Billy Yates, who's compositions include the George Jones hits "I Don't Need Your Rockin' Chair" and "Choices." Also appearing will be Fred Knobloch, whose credits include "If My Heart Had Wings" recorded by Faith Hill, "Which Side of The Glass" cut by George Strait, and several songs recorded by John Anderson, Ray Charles, Sawyer Brown and Trisha Yearwood.

"I remember going to Fan Fair as a youngster and standing in line for autographs," said Yates. "I remember the excitement I felt when I met artists and saw them perform. Now, after being a part of it for the past four years, [as an artist] I'm as excited as ever to be involved again this year. I'm honored to sign in The Bluebird booth. It will be a great opportunity for the fans to meet some of Nashville's finest writers." Yates will also perform on Saturday at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park stages and also have his own booth in the Wrangler® Fan Fair.

The Bluebird was the famous setting for the 1993 Paramount film "The Thing Called Love" starring Sandra Bullock, Samantha Mathis, Dermot Mulroney and River Phoenix. Several Country Music stars also appeared in the film including Pam Tillis, Trisha Yearwood and K.T. Oslin, who played the talent gatekeeper at the club.

The Bluebird has grown in popularity in recent years thanks in part to increased exposure via Turner South Networks "Live From The Bluebird" series, which showcases the club to cable television viewers throughout the South.

"A lot of people have seen the Bluebird because of the show on Turner South," Kurland said. "We will have a video of the show running at the Fan Fair booth for the fans to see while they're visiting us."

Although a spot on the stage of The Bluebird has long been highly coveted, interest has increased immensely in recent years.

"After the events of September 11th, it seems that more people have been inspired to follow their dreams of becoming songwriters," Kurland said. "There are a lot more songwriters trying out now ... but the writers with the potential to be great would have been here anyway."

The *Bluebird Café Scrapbook* will be available at the booth. The book features anecdotes from the many artists who have performed at the club. The stories are often as inspirational as they are funny and informative.

Another project that is important to Kurland is the organization SHARE. The name is an acronym for Songs of Hope, Awareness and Recovery for Everyone. SHARE is committed to using the power of Nashville's music to help raise funds and awareness for the treatment and prevention of alcohol and drug abuse. To help raise money, SHARE has released an album of songs that chronicle the struggles and successes of recovering from addiction. The album contains previously released tracks from Country artists including BR549, George Jones, John Prine and Darrell Scott. SHARE's signature song, "When Love Rules the World," is a new recording that features T. Graham Brown, Hal Ketchum, Kathy Mattea, Martina McBride and sixteen other Nashville artists. All of the proceeds from the sale of the album will go to charities that facilitate addiction recovery.



The CD project received PRISM Award Commendations in the Music ("When Love Rules the World") and Community Service Effort (SHARE, Songs of Hope, Awareness and Recovery for Everyone) categories at "The 8th Annual PRISM Awards," a nationally-televised awards show recognizing the accurate depiction of drug, alcohol and tobacco use and addiction in film, television, interactive, music, video, and comic book entertainment.

continued on page 35...

USO Tour Leaves **MARK WILLS** a Changed Man

Most of us — Country Music stars included — are used to celebrating the holidays in the usual rush of shopping, parades and music among friends and family. But Mark Wills and Darryl Worley spent their last Yuletide in a decidedly un-Christmas-y environment. Wills and Worley joined comedian Al Franken, actress Karri Turner (who plays Lt. Harriet Simpson on CBS Television's "JAG,") and others on "The Hope and Freedom Tour 2003" USO Tour, led by the Army's Sergeant Major Jack L. Tilley, entertaining U.S. soldiers stationed in Iraq, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Although the entertainers were there for just 10 days, Wills reports he came away from the experience profoundly changed.

"When we went, there was a small chance that we weren't going to be able to get back on Christmas Eve," he said. "That weighed heavy on my heart because that meant that I might miss my new daughter's first Christmas. But that was selfish. The men and women who are over there miss their Christmas' and Thanksgivings and birthdays all the time. ... I was going over to let the men and women of the United States Army know that we were there for them."

During the trip, Wills had several once-in-a-lifetime moments.

"We got to experience wonderful things over there that nobody ever gets to experience," he said. "Like sitting on Saddam Hussein's throne. Sleeping in his palace. Hanging out of the back of a Shinook helicopter wearing Kevlar vests." The group also got a first-hand look at the struggles of the Iraqi people.

"What you don't hear about on the news are the Iraqi citizens who are so thankful that they have some freedom, and that they have some people defending them from the thugs that were basically brutalizing their country," he said. "What you don't see are children over there, who are basically living in dirt. I'm a dad ... and it makes me sad."

It was hard to tell whether the entertainers or the troops were having a better time while the USO troupe performed, Wills said.

"It was really well-received," he said, "maybe mostly because it was Christmastime, and these guys were looking for a little piece of home."

Wills brought the crowd to their feet with "19 Something" and "And The Crowd Goes Wild." When Worley took his guitar out and played "Have You Forgotten?," in one of Hussein's palaces, the soldiers cheered.

"I sat underneath that huge chandelier and it was such a surreal feeling to know that Saddam had been caught thanks to our troops," said Worley.

Even amidst the merriment, however, Wills said he was always conscious of being in a war zone.

"When you see a truck fly past you because they think there could be a bomb ahead of you, that gets you a little nervous," he said. "When you're stopped, and the people in the car next to you could be Saddam Hussein loyalists, that's when you feel like you're laying it on the line. I'm a singer. I didn't really sign up for that."

"But at the same time, it made me feel so proud to get to be there and entertain our men and women."

Wills said he keeps in touch with some of the soldiers he met via e-mail, and hopes he meets them again when they arrive home.

He met one soldier stationed in Afghanistan who was preparing to leave on a mission.

"He said, 'I wish I had something for you to sign,'" Wills recalled. "And I didn't have pictures or anything, either. And I said, 'Open your gun.' And we opened the gun, and I took out the first bullet out of his gun and said, 'I hope you don't have to use this tonight,' and he said, 'I hope I don't, either.'"

"He wasn't there looking forward to killing people. I signed it and said, 'If you don't use that tonight, take it home with you and bring it to me at a show somewhere, and I'll get you in. Just bring it back to me, and come home safe.' And I hope I see him. ... Maybe it'll happen."

Shannon Wayne Turner

On the Web: www.markwills.com

MARK WILLS

MANAGEMENT: International Artist Management

PUBLICITY: Splash! Public Relations / TALENT AGENCY: William Morris Agency



Wills on Saddam Hussein's throne.



Wills and Darryl Worley



Wills and pilot Chris Smith fly over Baghdad.



Wills autographs a memento for a soldier.

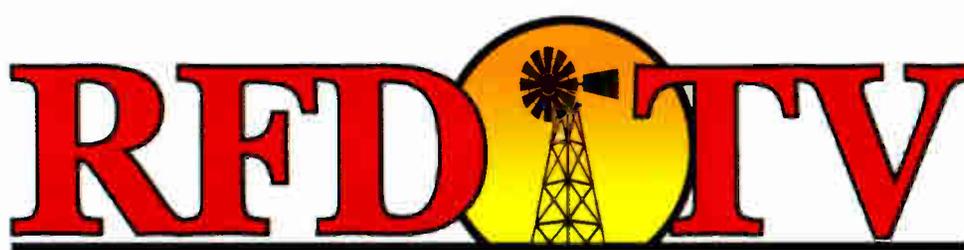


Wills at Kandahar International Airport.



Wills, guitarist Tom Bass and troops fly over Baghdad.

Mark Wills will participate at the CMA Celebrity Close Up, a personal fan-driven interview session held at the Ryman Auditorium on Friday, June 11, hosted by radio and TV personality Lorianne Crook, during the CMA Music Festival in Nashville. Joining Wills in the 8-9 AM/CDT session are Darryl Worley, Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap, Karri Turner of "JAG," plus special call-in guest Al Franken. Advance tickets are \$10 (\$15 at the door). Call 1-800-CMA-FEST or visit the Ryman Auditorium box office or Ticketmaster (615) 255-9600.



Cable Network RFD-TV Relocates to Nashville

RFD-TV, the nation's only 24-hour television network dedicated to serving the need and interest of rural America and agriculture, relocated its operating headquarters from Dallas to Nashville in April.

The station's new home will be located at NorthStar Studios, which will provide full service production of live events, network broadcast, transmission and production support services for RFD-TV.

"NorthStar Studios is a perfect fit for RFD-TV," said Grant Barbre, Vice President and General Manager of NorthStar Studios. "We have the experience, ability and capacity to provide them with total turnkey television production service. We are excited to have them as our newest network client."

RFD-TV programming features informational, educational and family oriented programming. The lineup provides unique shows in distinctive subject matters including farming, ranching, agriculture, horses, rural life and outdoor cooking. The network also provides extensive coverage on American agriculture including broadcasts of the U.S. Farm Reports and coverage to farm-related organizations such as the Future Farmers of America and 4-H Clubs Council. The network features several shows on music, with a concentration on bluegrass, Americana, polka and classic Country.

RFD-TV was launched in 2000 and is currently available in more than 21 million homes, schools and businesses through the DISH Network, DIRECTV, Mediacom and NCTC cable systems.

"RFD-TV has a unique distribution platform and flexible programming format that enables many different organizations to reach targeted audiences in rural America during primetime," said Patrick Gottsch, RFD-TV's Founder and President. "The popularity and awareness of the network's programming franchises continue to grow at a rapid pace. We believe that our move to Nashville and our association with NorthStar Studios will also provide RFD-TV with new opportunities to expand our live event, entertainment and music programs."

"RFD-TV and NorthStar Studios partnership is an incredible addition to the Tennessee Production Community. With our state's rich history of Agricultural Commerce, RFD-TV is a significant link to the past looking forward to the future," said David Bennett, Executive Director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment and Music Commission.

NorthStar Studios has six television studios, satellite uplinks and two fully digital mobile production trucks with satellite uplinking capabilities. The 125,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art facility provides television and production services nationally for the entertainment



More than 400 people, including channel viewers from 17 states, representatives of government, business, agriculture and the local music/entertainment industry, gathered on April 8 at the NorthStar Studios in Nashville to celebrate the first, live two-hour broadcast on RFD-TV. The open house and launch party featured self-guided studio tours, a reception, a dinner and a performance by the Sons of Tennessee.

left: Patrick Gottsch, President of RFD-TV, and Harold Bradley, President of the Nashville Association of Musicians.

far left: Sons of Tennessee

photos: courtesy of Bill Hudson & Associates

"The Cumberland Highlander's Show" features regional and national bluegrass acts performing in highlands of Southeast Kentucky. "Bluegrass & Backroads" presents stories from Kentucky's backroads set to bluegrass music. The network also airs the classic "The Porter Wagoner Show," which ran from the late '60s through the mid-'70s and starred Country Music Hall of Fame members Porter Wagoner and Dolly Parton. Billy Crash Craddock and Dottie West perform classics from the Willie Nelson Act IV Library on "Pop Goes the Country." Classic Country Music is also available on "The Wilburn Brothers Show" and "Great American Roadhouse." Polka music performances can be viewed daily on "The Big Joe Polka Show" and gospel music on "Sing Out America."

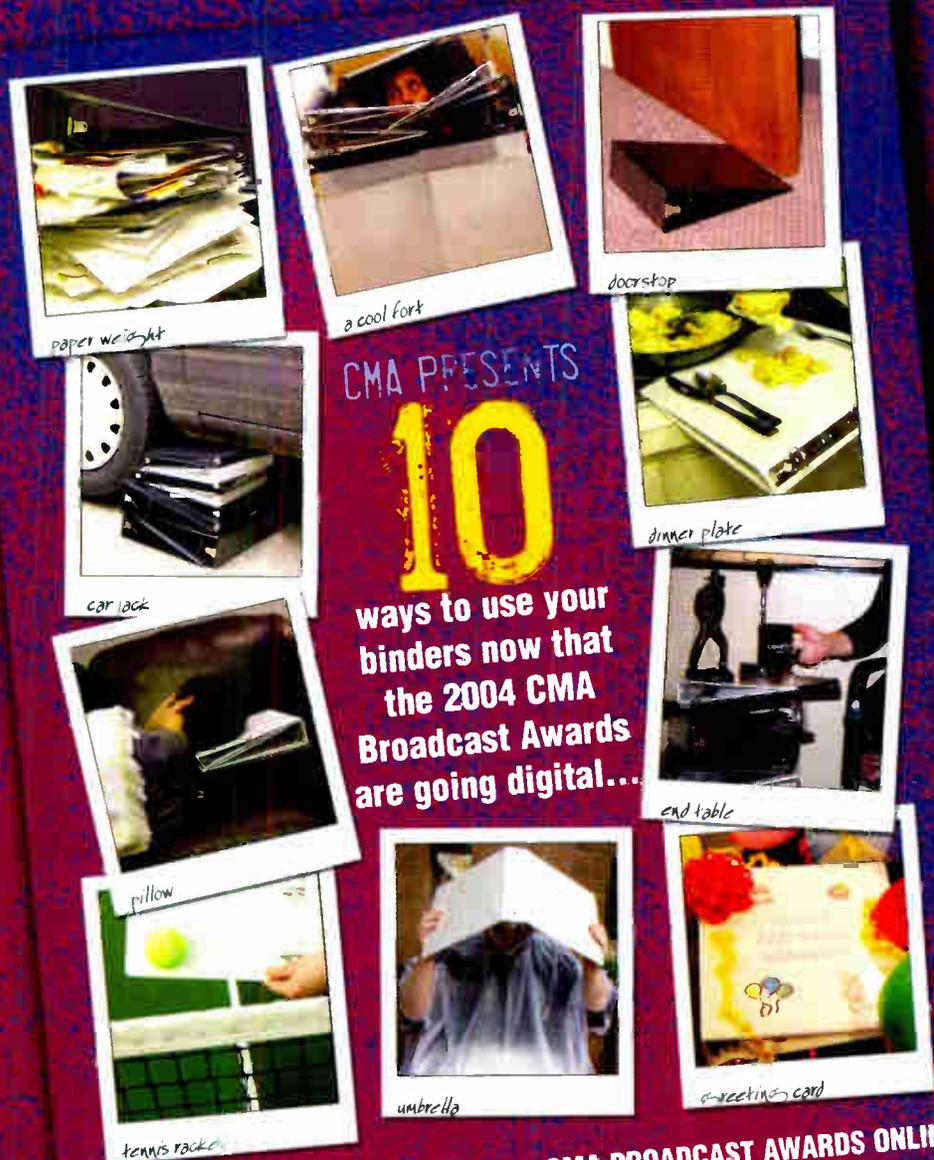
industry, advertising and public relations agencies, corporations, government, sports and news organizations.

Due to viewer demand, RFD-TV now offers a printed, bi-monthly magazine that will be sent to viewers homes to provide programming information, two months in advance of airing. The magazine was launched in June 2003 and currently has 20,000 paid subscriptions that support programming on the network.

Amanda Eckard

On the Web: www.rfd-tv.com; www.northstarstudios.tv

2004 CMA BROADCAST AWARDS SUBMISSIONS ONLINE



CMA PRESENTS
10
ways to use your binders now that the 2004 CMA Broadcast Awards are going digital...

SUBMIT YOUR ENTRIES FOR THE 2004 CMA BROADCAST AWARDS ONLINE

STARTING **APRIL 2** AT
Broadcast.CMAawards.com
DEADLINE **JULY 1, 2004**

A postcard was sent to all U.S. Country radio stations in late March driving them to the new Web site.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THEIR INCEPTION, CMA is accepting submissions online for the 2004 CMA Broadcast Awards for Broadcast Personality, Radio Station and National Broadcast Personality of the Year.

"In the past few years, our member radio stations and judges have been telling us that the old system of using multiple, bulky binders was difficult and cumbersome," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "This new system should streamline the process for everyone involved."

The CMA Board of Directors approved the online submission initiative at recent meetings on the recommendation of the Radio Committee. The new site, **Broadcast.CMAawards.com** will be accepting radio submissions until July 1. The site also contains guidelines and instructions for entries.

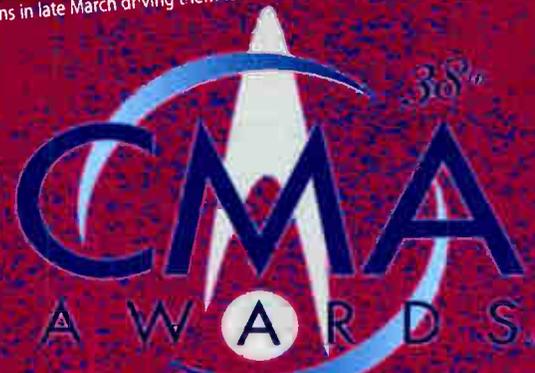
"Many of the stations that submit entries for the awards start working on them months in advance and we wanted to give them as much notice as possible that the procedures are changing this year — hopefully in their favor with an easier submission process," Benson said.

Submission and review of all CMA Broadcast Award categories will be online, including Broadcast Personality and Radio Station of the Year in each of the four market sizes (major, large, medium and small) as well as National Broadcast Personality of the Year.

The process is simple. Entries are submitted via the designated website. CMA's panel of radio professionals who judge the entries will be able to view and evaluate them online. Deloitte & Touche LLP will tabulate the judges' scores for 2004.

CMA Broadcast Awards guidelines will remain the same as in previous years with some slight changes in format to fit a digital process. The deadline for submitting entries is Thursday, July 1. The winners are notified in September and recognized at "The 38th Annual CMA Awards," "Country Music's Biggest Night™" on Tuesday, Nov. 9, in Nashville, Tenn. For more information about CMA Broadcast Awards entries contact Christy Wilson at cwilson@CMAworld.com. To view samples of winning entries from the 2003 CMA Broadcast Awards visit www.CMAawards.com.

Wendy Pearl



World Radio History





David Lee Murphy and Kent Messenger Group Newspapers writer Paulene Wren.



David Lee Murphy performs at the International Travel Writers breakfast at the International Maxwell House Hotel in Nashville.



David Lee Murphy and Eastern Daily Press writer Keiron Prim.



James Otto performs at the travel writers reception at B.B. King's in Downtown Nashville.



(l-r) (back row) CMA Executive Director Ed Benson; writer Jeff Waddle; David Lee Murphy; James Otto; writer Doug English; (front row) writers Jim Vance; Frances Vance; Walter Roessing; Diana Lambdin Meyer; Judith Fein and Dorothea Michelman.

CMA Welcomes Travel Writers to Nashville

Nashville is a popular vacation destination and Country Music is high on the list of reasons why people visit Music City U.S.A. So, as ambassadors of the format, it makes sense the Country Music Association would play host when the travel writers come to town.

Several times a year, CMA hosts receptions and performances for travel writers from around the world and closer to home. In March, CMA held a breakfast for a group of international writers at the Maxwell House Hotel. April 3, CMA entertained a group of U.S. journalists at B.B. King's and again on April 22 with another group at the Wildhorse Saloon — all to generate interest in Country Music and introduce them to CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair®.

"Being able to welcome these important journalists and columnists to Nashville and tell them all about the CMA Music Festival should create interest and bolster future attendance from abroad, and closer to home, for the event," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson.

CMA has hosted events for travel writers in partnership with the Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau for several years, but this was the first time CMA entertained foreign travel writers.

"Each year the Nashville Convention & Visitors Bureau coordinates a British media tour," said Amanda Price, Director of Communication for the NCVB. "The numbers of interested journalists continue to grow, and the results have been astounding. As 3 percent of our leisure traveler is international, these media tours help to blanket the United Kingdom with destination stories about Music City. And since music has always been the focus for the British visitors, these journalists deliver just enough to tease the reader and encourage overseas travel to Nashville."

With numerous fans attending CMA Music Festival coming in from outside the United States, informing international writers about the entertainment value of the event makes sense, according to Benson. To give the writers a taste of what CMA Music Festival is all about, Audium/Koch Nashville recording artist David Lee Murphy stopped in to

perform songs from his new album *Tryin' To Get There* and signed autographs and posed for pictures with the writers. Murphy also shared stories from his past experiences at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair.

At B.B. King's, Murphy was joined by Mercury recording artist James Otto, who performed songs from his debut album, *Days of Our Lives*, and described his first CMA Music Festival experience for a group of travel writers that represented publications including the *Toronto Sun* and *London Free Press* as well as *Dallas Morning News*, *German Life*, *LA Times*, *The Miami Herald*, *Denver Post*, *New York Post* and a variety of AAA publications.

DreamWorks Records Nashville artist Jimmy Wayne and Equity Music Group artist Shannon Lawson performed at the May 22 reception at the Wildhorse Saloon. Writers in attendance represented publications including *New Orleans Magazine*, *Fodors*, *The Boston Globe*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Washington Post* and *Tampa Tribune*.

The writers were each given information packets about "Country Music's Biggest Party™," CMA Music Festival posters, artist CDs and a photo of them with the artists to take home.

"It is certainly a cut above your usual travel souvenir," Benson said. "We want them to leave with a sense of our hospitality, the approachability of our artists, the quality of our music and the annual event that brings all of those elements together — CMA Music Festival." **Amanda Eckard and Wendy Pearl**



The Front Porch Country Band

The Front Porch Country Band Brings Country To China

The six-member Pennsylvania band, The Front Porch Country Band, received a special invitation by The US-China Foundation (USCF) to perform a tour that started in early May. The band will perform songs from their latest CD *Somebody Tonight* in cities including Beijing, Shanghai, and Niog bo. Funded by the China Performing Arts Agency, the tour is one of the cultural-exchange events organized by USCF.

"I knew that the fans were listening to our music from all over the world, but I never would have guessed that would earn us an invitation to China," said The Front Porch Country Band bassist and singer Kim "Kimbo" Reichley. "It's a real honor."

The band is popular among worldwide online charts with more than one million Web spins. More than one third of the Web plays came from Asian and European Internet music subscriber systems.

"It's exciting to represent American Country Music to the Chinese people," said The Front Porch Country Band lead singer Johnny Jolin. "Because our music and cultures are so different, I think it's an important step in our relationship as countries."

"Country Music is a symbol of U.S. culture. It's very popular in China," said Jiali Zhu,

Supervisor of Art and Culture Exchange Department of US-China Foundation. "We know The Front Porch Country Band has an excellent reputation."

The USCF is a non-profit organization that recently handled arrangements for former President George H. W. Bush to visit China. It facilitates exchange in such areas as politics, economics, finance, law, education, culture, media, science and technology. The foundation was established in the U.S. in 1992.

On the Web: www.frontporchcountryband.com



Allied Artists Chief Executive Officer and CMA Board member Rob Potts, Gina Jeffreys and John Laws. photo courtesy of Rob Potts



BBC2 Producer Mark Ragan, Johnnie Walker and LeAnn Rimes. photo: Alan Braidwood

CMA Presents International Country Broadcaster Awards to John Laws and Johnnie Walker

CMA presented International Country Broadcaster Awards to Britain's Johnnie Walker and Australia's John Laws in April. The CMA International Country Broadcaster Award recognizes outstanding achievement by radio broadcasters outside North America who have made important contributions to the development of Country Music in their country.

"It is very gratifying to be able to recognize these two legendary, international radio personalities. They have been friends to Country Music and its artists for a long, long time," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson.

Curb recording artist LeAnn Rimes surprised British broadcaster Walker when she presented him with his Award during a live interview for his daily drive time show on BBC Radio 2, the UK's most listened-to radio station. Walker has been a strong supporter of Country Music throughout his 35-year career, exposing Country artists to his listeners on a regular basis.

In the '80s, he frequently traveled to Nashville to interview artists and broadcast live from the CMA Awards, which BBC Radio 2 continues to this day.

"That's fantastic! Thank you very much. So, I don't get a free trip to Nashville to pick it up then," Walker joked on-air after receiving the Award. "Well there's a bit of a surprise. There's a turn up for the books! Thank you very much CMA."

Legendary Australian radio broadcaster Laws was also surprised on-air with his Award during a live phone interview with Benson. CMA Board member Rob Potts, Chief Executive Officer of Allied Artists, and Australian Country artist Gina Jeffreys were in the studio for the presentation. Laws has been a leader in talk radio in Australia for more than 50 years. "The John Laws Show" is heard weekday mornings on more than 75 radio stations across Australia, including 2UE in Sydney and the Sky Radio Network. Laws has been a strong supporter of Country Music and introduced Gary Allan, Jo Dee Messina, LeAnn Rimes and many other Country artists to his audience. Laws also received the CMA International Country Broadcaster in its inaugural year in 1997, making him the only broadcaster to win the Award twice.

Amanda Eckard

continued on page 18...

Chely Wright performs at "A Night For The Stars," the Feb. 10 concert benefiting Fulbright Scholars, an exchange program fostering Dutch-American Friendship at the Steigenberger Kurhaus Hotel, The Hague, Netherlands, located just outside of Amsterdam. A personal invitation from Barbara Sobel, wife of Netherlands Ambassador Sobel, was presented to Wright to perform at the exclusive event. Artists Dominique Van Hulst "Doe" and Candy Butler also performed.

Chely Wright and the Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende.



Chely Wright performs with Dutch pop star Dominique Van Hulst "Doe."



2004

INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 4

CMAA COUNTRYLINK HATS OFF TO COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Tamworth, Australia

On the Web:

www.countrymusic.asn.au/hatsoff.html

JUNE 12

17TH OSTSEE FESTIVAL

Schonberg, Germany

On the Web:

home.t-online.de/home/helmut.koehl/

JUNE 25 - 26

VINSTRÅ COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Vinstra, Norway

On the Web:

www.festivaldrift.no/countryfestivalen/

JULY 8 - 10

14TH NÅÅSVILLE BLUEGRASS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Naas, Sweden

On the Web:

www.naasville.just.nu

JULY 9 - 11

AMERICANA INTERNATIONAL

Newark Country Showground

Nottinghamshire, UK

On the Web:

www.americana-international.co.uk

JULY 9 - 18

CALGARY EXHIBITION & STAMPEDE

Calgary, Alberta, Canada

On the Web:

www.calgarystampede.com

JULY 13 - 18

MERRITT MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL

Merritt, British Columbia, Canada

On the Web:

www.mountainfest.com

JULY 22 - 31

EDMONTON KLONDIKE DAYS

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada

On the Web:

www.klondikedays.com

JULY 23 - 25

COUNTRY RENDEZVOUS FESTIVAL

Craponne Sur Arzon, France

On the Web:

www.festivaldecraponne.com

JULY 23 - 25

23RD INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL COUNTRY PICNIC

Mragowo, Poland

On the Web:

www.smcountry.pl; www.polcountry.medianet.pl

JULY 29 - AUG. 1

BIG VALLEY JAMBOREE

Camrose, Alberta Canada

On the Web:

www.bigvalleyjamboree.com

JULY 29 - AUG. 1

SELJORD COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Seljord, Norway

On the Web:

www.countryfestivalen.no

JULY 30 - AUG. 1

FURUVIK FESTIVAL

Furuviksparken, Gavle, Sweden

On the Web:

www.furuvik.se

*Events and dates are subject to change.

If you have information on upcoming

international events for consideration in CMA Close Up, please

e-mail closeup@CMAworld.com.

International Tour Operators Discuss CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair®

Tour groups converge on Nashville from all over the world for the CMA Music Festival. Four tour group operators, who return each year, answered questions to help offer their valuable insights about the event from an international perspective. The panel includes:

Joe Fish, BBC Radio Lancashire, UK Producer/Presenter provides Country Music holidays through Joe Fish Tours who's mission statement is "Quality, knowledge and experience!" **Rineke van Beek**, brings in the *Country Gazette* tour group with her colleague Janny van Dam from the Netherlands. In 2003, the magazine *Country Music Gazette* celebrated its 30th year anniversary. **Gérard Meffre**, President of the Association Country Music Memorial travels with a group from France each year. The association has 3,000 members, produces concerts, publishes the *Country Music USA* magazine and promotes the annual travel event. **Maya Hagenbucher** operates Maya Travel Inn, located near Zurich, Switzerland. She specializes in music travel into the U.S. and Europe.

Bobbi Boyce



Country Music Hall of Fame® member Charley Pride invites Joe Fish Country Tours group to visit him at his Dallas office and recording studio. The tour group also attends CMA Music Festival each year.

Joe Fish

Maya Hagenbucher, Managing Director of Maya Travel Inn at the MTI booth during the Country Music festival in Schützenhaus Albisgüetli in Zurich, Switzerland, where she is selling tour packages to fans to attend the CMA Music Festival.

The Country Gazette Tour group meets singer/songwriter Billy Yates at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair® in 2003.

(l-r) Gilbert Rouit, Founder of the Country Music Memorial Association (CMMA) in 1976; Gérard Meffre, President of the CMMA Board; and Alain Fournier, Vice President of the CMMA Board.

Gérard Meffre, President of the Association of Country Music Memorial which publishes *Country Music USA* magazine, brings a tour group to Nashville annually, during CMA Music Festival.

How long have you been bringing groups to the CMA Music Festival and how many usually come in your group each year? Are your tour members usually new to the event or return each year?

Joe: I have attended for approximately 8 years. I bring 70 to 80 passengers, 30 percent are new and 70 percent regulars.

Maya: I have attended for more than 15 years and the number of people varies between 20 and 80.

Gérard: We've brought 700 people since 1984 including 40-50 people each year and 20 to 25 percent return one or several times. We also bring label managers, journalists, and radio people (George Lang, WRTL has joined us since the first trip.) New in 2004, we will start our trip in Memphis and stay for two days to visit Sun Studios, Graceland and more.

Rineke: We started bringing over groups in 1992 and the number of people varies from 14-26. I know more want to join us for this wonderful event, but it's expensive. However, we have several members who attend every year and some who make the trip every 3 or 4 years.

How do you promote your tours?

Joe: The trips are promoted by word of mouth from previously satisfied customers, advertisements in CMP (*Country Music People* magazine) and occasional mentions on the radio.

Maya: I promote my tours at the Swiss Country Music festivals with advertising and at travel agency booths.

Gérard: We promote the trip through radio, music magazines, flyers distributed at concerts, and we've also organized several contests with WRTL RADIO in association with French record labels or affiliates, offering free trips to the winners.

Rineke: Promotion starts as soon as we return from CMA Music Festival through *Country Gazette*, at festivals and at shows throughout the year. We include a feature story about the festival and we mention it in most of the artist stories written from the interviews that took place during the event.

What does your work with the group entail?

Joe: Every aspect you can imagine including transport to shows, hotel room satisfaction, tickets to all shows and activities, medical issues, sometimes financial issues and even shopping!

Maya: We have breakfast and I tell details about the musicians that will perform, because not everybody knows all the new faces. I also tell stories behind-the-scenes since I know quite a few of the performers from booking their flights and accommodations here for the Swiss festivals.

Gérard: I'm available to assist and help, but I leave them free to do their own thing.

Rineke: I'm there when they need me by phone or in person. We fit in as much wonderful happenings as possible, answer all kinds of questions, give lots of direction and touch base several times a day.

What do you enjoy most in escorting your group?

Joe: The smiles and the enjoyment on their faces. It's a pleasure of giving them MORE than they expect on the tour with extras at no extra cost. Finally, the satisfaction of organizing something so complicated (at times) — and it works.

Maya: I have a lot of customers who travel with me on several occasions. Some of them came a few years ago and then they join the tour again, so it is always nice to have repeaters.

Gérard: It's interesting to see them adjust to America since it's a first trip for most of them plus a long-time dream. They discover America with large-open eyes and adopt very quickly the American way of life.

Rineke: I like to watch people enjoy. I still remember my very first year at Fan Fair and it getting crazier (more fun!) every minute of the day. When somebody is able to see or meet his or her favourite artist it's nice they want to share this with you.

How do you enjoy the event most?

Joe: I simply love the music, both new and traditional Country Music. I love the atmosphere and I still enjoy meeting and talking with the artists.

Maya: When everything is smooth, nobody gets upset and the people at CMA are nice and friendly. Plus the shows are good and not so loud that you can not hear the good music anymore — the sound is perfect.

Gérard: CMA Music Festival atmosphere is great. It's a feeling of communion with American people through the music, and the pleasure to live through all the events without any of the stress we would have to bear in Europe for the same type of event. The organization is great and the people helpful which makes things go smoothly.

Rineke: I start enjoying everything the moment I begin my trip. I like meeting old friends and other people whom I hopefully can call friends soon. When I came to Fan Fair in 1985, I had only planned on coming once as a fan but now it's changed my life and I attend every year.

Will you return next year?

Joe: Can a FISH swim? This is still the finest event in the World for me!

Maya: Of course, as long as my travel agency exists I will come back with my groups — we are looking forward to it each year.

Gérard: We'll certainly be back in 2005.

Rineke: There is only one answer possible and that is a very BIG – YES OF COURSE!

GUY GILCHRIST

PLUGS COUNTRY MUSIC ARTISTS IN NANCY COMIC STRIP



Guy Gilchrist's life shares much with Country Music artists and fans. He has lived in rural Connecticut since he was a child, and is a fan of Hank Williams Sr. and other Country stars. He's even a songwriter.

But Gilchrist is best known as illustrator of *Nancy*, *Your Angels Speak*, *The Muppets* and other syndicated comic strips. He has also written and illustrated 44 children's books. He takes part in the Country Music industry in a unique way — by featuring his favorite artists in his *Nancy* strip, which appears in more than 390 newspapers worldwide.

Patty Loveless, Clint Black, Travis Tritt, Suzy Bogguss, Jett Williams and Porter Wagoner have all been mentioned in the strip. One of the latest to get a nod is Country newcomer Daniel Lee Martin, who released his debut album *All That I Am* in October on ChinMusic Records.

A religious man, Gilchrist identifies with the genre's emphasis on family and generosity. He sees these traits in the artists he meets at book signings and charitable events, but believes that too often they don't receive enough recognition.

"These are folks who go out of their way with no publicity," he said. "It's my way of saying thanks for helping us out and helping children of the world out. It's just a very small thing, mentioning them in my strip."

Gilchrist met Martin in December at an annual benefit concert for the disabled near Tampa, Fla. Gilchrist overheard Martin's acoustic set from an autograph booth.

"He just knocked everybody out," Gilchrist said. "After I was done with my autographing I walked backstage and met him and was just knocked out, not just by his talent and what he had just done, but by the person that I met there. I found out his record was on an independent label, and I wanted to help."

The strip appeared in January, showing Martin serving Nancy ice cream in the "Home Spun Love" ice cream shop, a reference to his album's first single.

Martin is thrilled. A former marketing director with an appreciation for art, he collected comic books growing up. *Nancy* is a favorite, he says. He is pleased by how the strip turned out — "He made me look really buff," he joked — but says the nod is a little intimidating for an up-and-coming artist.

"Just to be in the same sentence with all these other artists," Martin said. "There are so many artists that he's highlighted in his comic strips. I had to sit back and think, 'Wow, I better not screw up because I'm in *Nancy* now.'"

Gilchrist grew up as a Country Music fan in Avon, Conn., one of eight children in a close-knit family. His

father was an upholsterer, and most of the neighbors were farmers and factory workers. He's dabbled in songwriting since high school and has had some 'near-miss' hits. He recently collaborated with Jett Williams on a song. He plays guitar and performs at his annual benefit to fight scleroderma, a disease that claimed a friend's life.

Gilchrist has given about 100 original illustrations of his *Nancy* strip featuring Country artists to the Grand Ole Opry for a future exhibit in the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum. Some of those illustrations are on display backstage at the Opry. Gilchrist also continues to illustrate the religious-themed *Your Angels Speak*, which he created in 2002. He took over *Nancy*, which was created in the 1930s, with his brother Brad Gilchrist in 1995. The brothers also worked

together on "The Muppets" in the 1980s. Guy Gilchrist is also a motivational speaker.

He lists his influences as Dr. Seuss, Hank Williams Sr. and Chuck Berry. He says of the Country artists he has met: "What really struck me is that we were really very much the same. We love what we do. We realize how the Lord has blessed us."

Martin continues to tour and is looking forward to recording his second album. He has opened for Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, Wynonna, Toby Keith and others. He signed in 2002 with ChinMusic Records, a label launched by a group of major league baseball players including Todd Stottlemyre of the Arizona Diamondbacks. ChinMusic is a baseball term used to describe a pitch that is high and tight near the batter's head, knocking him from the plate.

Martin believes Gilchrist does a great favor for the Country Music industry by featuring its artists in *Nancy*.

"It's amazing to see how many fans have remembered or mentioned that they saw us in the *Nancy* comic strip," he said. "Once a fan knows that Guy is the man behind *Nancy* they immediately remember one of their favorite *Nancy* strips, and it's usually one that a Country artist was in."

Martin will connect with some of these fans during the CMA Music Festival (June 10-13) in Downtown Nashville. He will sign autographs at his fan club booth and at various exhibitor booths at the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center. Plus catch his performance at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages on Friday, June 11 as part of the Hooked on Music Show from 11:30 AM – 2:00 PM/CDT.

Amy Green



Nancy®
with
Sluggo® and Aunt Fatzl®



THE CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL



"Country Music's Biggest Party™" is the must-see Country Music event of the year. It continues the great tradition that began as Fan Fair® in 1972 where artists and fans converge on Nashville each summer to celebrate the music together.

There are more than 60 hours of concerts, including the popular Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum. From the opening ceremonies until the last fireworks are set off three evenings later, it's the place to be for great music from Country's hottest stars and surprise guests.

The fun continues after the Nightly Concerts with late night jams at some of Nashville's premier clubs during After Hours™. The party keeps rocking with concerts featuring special appearances, food and drink specials, giveaways and more.

During the morning and afternoon, enjoy the hottest place to hear the coolest music on the bank of the Cumberland River at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages. Grab your place in the shade or lounge in the sun and listen to the eclectic sounds of bluegrass, alt-Country, Texas Swing, classics and Country's brightest new stars.

Stars and fans meet during more than 24 hours of popular autograph signings and exhibits in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) at the Nashville Convention Center. Check out the latest styles in clothing at the Wrangler® store, shop for CDs at the Tower Records booth and pick up CMA Music Festival official merchandise, including extra copies of the Program Book, at Music City Merchandise.

Children and adults will have fun at the Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone. There are two locations — Hall of Fame Park and Broadway near Riverfront Park. Meet spokesduo Jay Bush and his dog Duke and enjoy interactive games, music, exhibits, artist appearances and more.

Outdoors enthusiasts will enjoy the NEW Sports Zone on The Coliseum grounds, where athletes and celebrities engage in friendly competitions including "The Third Annual Andy Griggs Celebrity Archery Tournament." Sports Zone also features the BASSMASTER Tour Expo, that provides the same interactive exhibits, children's activities and merchandise it brings to the popular CITGO Bassmaster Tour and Bassmaster Elite 50 series. Also, be sure to visit the nearby CMA Music Festival Midway carnival.

The Stars of NBC Daytime dramas "Passions" and "Days of our Lives" return to meet fans, sign autographs and host the NBC Daytime After Hours™ Party at the Wildhorse Saloon on Saturday night (separate ticket required) June 12.

Buy your tickets now for the CMA Celebrity Close Up — personal fan-driven interview sessions, held at the Ryman Auditorium on Friday and hosted by TV and radio personality Lorianne Crook (separate ticket required).

CMA Music Festival, dubbed "the crown jewel of Country Music festivals" by *USA Today*, is the premier event for music fans of all ages. Get ready for four days of action-packed, star-studded excitement in Music City U.S.A.! And don't forget to smile for the cameras as CMA Music Festival will be filmed for a two-hour television special airing on the CBS Television Network later this summer.

Artists Appearing*

Trace Adkins
Alabama
Rhett Akins
Curtis Alan
Suzanne Edwards Alford
Jessi Alexander
Deborah Allen
Bill Anderson
Lynn Anderson
Jessica Andrews
Tim Ash
Sherrie Austin
Steve Azar
David Ball
Linton "Cadillac" Bartels
Jeff Bates
T. Bubba Bechtel
Bellamy Brothers
Dierks Bentley
Bernadette
John Berry
Bonnie Lon Bishop
Clint Black
BlackHawk
Blue County
Suzy Bogguss
BRS40
Brad & Shelly
Tony Brantley
Thom Brash
Lace Brody
Brooks & Dunn
Jim Ed Brown

T. Graham Brown
Jerry Burkhart
Tracy Byrd
Chris Cagle
Don Campbell
Glen Campbell
Melony Cannon
Terri Clark
Will Clements
Tammy Cochran
Cooder Crowl
Helen Cornelius
Brad Cotter
Cowboy Crush
Lorianne Crook
Billy Currington
Billy Ray Cyrus
Charlie Daniels
Kassie DePavia
Diamond Rio
Joe Diffie
Donna Hughes Band
MIs America 2004
Ericka Dunlap
Jolie Edwards
Thom Ellis
Scotty Emerick
Ty England
Sara Evans
Donna Fargo
Jimmy Fortune
4Runner
Jamey Garner
Vince Gill

Vern Gossile
The Grascals
Pat Green
Lee Greenwood
Andy Griggs
Jennifer Hanson
J. Michael Warner
Eric Heatherly
Ty Herndon
Higher Crossing
HillJack
HIP Mitty
Ryan Holladay
Steve Holy
Tracey K. Houston
Jon Howard
Jedd Hughes
Con Hunley
The Imperials
Stonewall Jackson
The Jenkins
Kyle Jennings
Buddy Jewell
Julie Ingram
Deborah Kay
David Kersh
Royal Wade Kimes
King Wilkie
The Kinleys
Miranda Lambert
Tracy Lawrence
Shannon Lawson
Johnny Lee

Andy Leftwich
Aaron Lines
Little Big Town
Little Texas
Lonestar
Longneck Jones
Daniel Lee Martin
John Arthur Martinez
The Mavericks
Martina McBride
Lila McCann
Brian McComas
Lee McCormack
Neal McCoy
Mel McDaniel
Memarie
Jo Dee Messina
Ronnie Millsap
Mix Company
John Michael Montgomery
Montgomery Gentry
Moore & Moore
Craig Morgan
Amber Morgan
Mountain Heart
David Lee Murphy
Naturally 7
Joe Nichols
Michelle Nixon & Drive
The Oak Ridge Boys
Jamie O'Neal
James Otto
Brad Paisley

Lee Roy Parnell
Pine Mountain Railroad
Pinmonkey
The Players
Michelle Poe
Celt Pronger
Rachel Proctor
Rascal Flatts
Eddy Raven
Restless Heart
Reunionsaires
Ricochet
LeAnn Rimes
Julie Roberts
Rushlow
Sawyer Brown
Dan and Jim Seals
Jeannie Seely
SNEA!SY
Blake Shelton
Sisters Wade
Connie Smith
Damon Smith
The Stamps Quartet
Jeffery Stone
Doug Stone
Tresa Street
Marty Stuart
Sugarland
Rusty Taber
Neil Thrasher
Mel Tillis
Pam Tillis

Thomas Tillman
Trick Pony
Trini Triggs
Tanya Tucker
Josh Turner
Karri Turner
Lane Turner
Uncle Kracker
Keith Urban
Phil Vassar
Rhonda Vincent
Clay Walker
Shane Warner
Jimmy Wayne
Bryan White
White Lightning Strike
The Wilkinsons
Hank Williams Jr.
Trent Willmon
Mark Wills
Gretchen Wilson
Brad Wolf
Lee Ann Womack
World's Greatest
Fishing Band
Darryl Worley
Michelle Wright
Wynonna
Billy Yates
Chris Young...
AND MORE!

*Artists appearing subject to change. Check www.CMAfest.com for latest artist additions.

CMA Music Festival Schedule

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM **GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Registration Open

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

9:00 AM - 7:00 PM **GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Registration Open

13:00 AM - 5:00 PM

8:30 AM

13:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Open 9:00 AM

13:00 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 - 2:00 PM

2:00 - 4:00 PM

4:00 - 6:00 PM

6:00 - 8:00 PM

4:00 - 6:00 PM

5:30 PM

5:30 PM

7:00 PM

FRIDAY, JUNE 11

5:30 AM - 6:00 PM **GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Registration Open

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

8:30 AM

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Open 9:30 AM

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

11:30 AM - 2:00 PM

2:00 - 4:00 PM

4:00 - 5:00 PM

6:00 - 8:00 PM

7:00 PM

8:30 PM

7:00 PM

3:00 - 3:00 AM

4:30 - 5:00 PM

BUSH'S® BAKED BEANS FAMILY ZONE

(Hall of Fame Park and Broadway - two locations)

NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER Commerce Street Doors Open

Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) Open

GREASED LIGHTNING® RIVERFRONT PARK STAGES Gates Open

(Downtown Nashville on the bank of the Cumberland River)

Country Kickstart Show (Jo Dee Messina, Brian McComas, Lee Greenwood, Jessi Alexander, and Andy Griggs)

The Mega Music Show (Joe Diffie, Daniel Lee Martin, The Oak Ridge Boys, Jolie Edwards, and The Wilkinsons)

Complete Country Show (Ricochet, Cooder Graw, Billy Currington, Rachel Proctor, Shannon Lawson, and Rhonda Vincent)

Nashville 37202 Show (Jeff Bates, Sherié Austin, Ty Herndon, Tanya Tucker, King Wilkie, and Eric Heathery)

THE COLISEUM

SPORTS ZONE featuring **THE BASSMASTER TOUR EXPO**

(The Coliseum grounds at Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge)

Highliner presents Fisher's ATV World's Celebrity ATV Rodeo

Gates Open at The Coliseum for Nightly Concert

Pre-Show Activities (Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap, Ronnie Milsap and Naturally 7)

Nightly Concert at The Coliseum

Charlie Daniels, Sara Evans, Buddy Jewell, Terri Clark, Vince Gill, LeAnn Rimes, Uncle Kracker, Rascal Flatts, and more

BUSH'S® BAKED BEANS FAMILY ZONE

(Hall of Fame Park and Broadway - two locations)

NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER Commerce Street Doors Open

Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) Open

GREASED LIGHTNING® RIVERFRONT PARK STAGES Gates Open

(Downtown Nashville on the bank of the Cumberland River)

Boot Scootin' Brunch Show (Neal McCoy, Sugarland, Suzy Bogguss, and Colt Prather)

Hooked On Music Show (The Pajama Party - Deborah Allen, The Kinleys and Michelle Wright, Dan and Jim Seals, Aaron Lines, Pinmonkey, and Memarie)

Nashville Standard Time Show (Tammy Cochran, James Otto, Steve Azar, Lynn Anderson, Scotty Emerick, and Trent Willmon)

Heartland Happy Hour Show (Jessica Andrews, Jimmy Wayne, Hilljack, Josh Turner, Connie Smith, and Eddy Raven)

THE COLISEUM

SPORTS ZONE featuring **THE BASSMASTER TOUR EXPO**

(The Coliseum grounds at Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge)

Third Annual Andy Gnggs Celebrity Archery Tournament (Lot R East)

Gates Open for Nightly Concert

Nightly Concert at The Coliseum

Hosted by the Stars of NBC Daytime

SHeDAISY, Tracy Lawrence, John Michael Montgomery, Lonestar, Clint Black, Joe Nichols, Trace Adkins, Martina McBride, and Brooks & Dunn plus special guest Gretchen Wilson

MISCELLANEOUS

CMA Celebrity Close Up® (Ryman Auditorium)

Two Sessions Hosted by Lorianne Crook

Q&A with Mark Wills, Darryl Worley, Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap, Karri Turner of "JAG," plus special call-in guest Al Franken

Q&A with LeAnn Rimes (4:30 - 5:00 PM); Kix Brooks and Trace Adkins (5:00 - 6:00 PM) (separate tickets required)

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM **GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Registration Open

10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

8:30 AM

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

9:30 AM

10:00 - 10:30 AM

10:30 - 11:35 AM

11:35 AM - 12:45 PM

12:45 - 2:30 PM

2:30 - 4:30 PM

4:30 - 6:00 PM

9:30 AM - end of show

1:00 - 6:00 PM

5:30 PM

7:00 PM

11:00 PM

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM **GAYLORD ENTERTAINMENT CENTER** Registration Open

2005 CMA Music Festival TICKETS ON SALE at box office

11:00 AM - 5:00 PM

8:30 AM

10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

11:00 AM - 1:00 PM

10:00 AM

10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

12:00 - 2:00 PM

2:00 - 3:45 PM

3:45 - 5:00 PM

9:30 AM - end of show

1:00 - 6:00 PM

5:00 PM

6:00 PM

9:30 AM - end of show

1:00 - 6:00 PM

5:00 PM

6:00 PM

2005 CMA Music Festival TICKETS ON SALE at box office

BUSH'S® BAKED BEANS FAMILY ZONE

(Hall of Fame Park and Broadway - two locations)

NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER Commerce Street Doors Open

Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) Open

GREASED LIGHTNING® RIVERFRONT PARK STAGES Gates Open

(Downtown Nashville on the bank of the Cumberland River)

The Imperials and The Stamps Quartet present the Gospel

Side of Elvis

Country Jamboree Show (Longneck Jones featuring Billy Yates, Blue County, Miranda Lambert, and "Nashville Star" winner Brad Cotter)

Country Sounds Show (The Players, Lane Brody, Thom Bresh, Lila McCann, and Johnny Lee)

Saturday In The Park Show (Lane Turner, Mel Tillis, Mel McDaniel, Royal Wade Kimes, Gretchen Wilson, and John Arthur Martinez)

Nashville City Limits Show (Little Big Town, Jamie O'Neal, J. Michael Harter, Jennifer Hanson, and Lee Roy Parnell & David Lee Murphy)

Riverside Country Experience Show (Jedd Hughes, Julie Roberts, Restless Heart, T. Graham Brown, and Cowboy Crush)

THE COLISEUM

2005 CMA Music Festival TICKETS ON SALE at box office

SPORTS ZONE featuring **THE BASSMASTER TOUR EXPO**

(The Coliseum grounds at Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge)

Gates Open for Nightly Concert

Nightly Concert at The Coliseum

The Mavericks, Billy Ray Cyrus, Diamond Rio, Lee Ann Womack, Clay Walker, Brad Paisley with a special appearance by Josh Turner, and Montgomery Gentry

MISCELLANEOUS

NBC Daytime After Hours™ Party (Wildhorse Saloon)

Featuring the stars of "Days of our Lives," "Passions," Blue County, and Lonestar. (*separate ticket required)

GREASED LIGHTNING® RIVERFRONT PARK STAGES Gates Open

(Downtown Nashville on the bank of the Cumberland River)

THE ROPE Legends Show (Jan Howard, Jeannie Seely, Stonewall Jackson, Helen Cornelius, and Jim Ed Brown)

Sunday In The South Show (Jimmy Fortune, Bellamy Brothers, John Berry, Special Presentation, Mountain Heart, Michelle Poe, and BlackHawk)

Country Spotlight Show (Craig Morgan, The Jenkins, Kellie Coffey, BR549, and Doug Stone)

Riverfront Grand Finale (Jeffrey Steele, Pam Tillis, and Little Texas)

THE COLISEUM

2005 CMA Music Festival TICKETS ON SALE at box office

SPORTS ZONE featuring **THE BASSMASTER TOUR EXPO**

(The Coliseum grounds at Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge)

Gates Open for Nightly Concert

Nightly Concert at The Coliseum

Chris Cagle, Glen Campbell, Darryl Worley, Dierks Bentley, Pat Green, Keith Urban, Wynonna, and Hank Williams, Jr.

*Schedule and artists appearing are subject to change. Artists listed in performance order. All times Central Daylight Time. Schedule listed in venue order. *Separate ticket required.

THURSDAY - SUNDAY 11:00 PM CMA Music Festival After Hours™ with late-night music and specials at Downtown clubs

visit the **CMA Music Festival Midway** carnival presented by Belle City Amusements on The Coliseum grounds at the foot of the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge adjacent to the Sports Zone. Hours are Monday - Wednesday, 5:00 PM - Midnight; Thursday - Sunday, Noon - Midnight. FREE admission. Ride tickets available to purchase on-site.



Daily Concerts at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages

Daily Concerts at The Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages feature the hottest sounds from the coolest artists on the scenic bank of the Cumberland River. With more than 30 hours of non-stop music from many of Country Music's favorite hitmakers, it's the fun and festive place to be — complete with atmosphere, food, beverages and a photo line, allowing fans to get close to the stage for that special shot.

Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages

Nightly Concerts at the Coliseum

Expect fireworks — in the sky and on the stage — during the Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum, featuring state-of-the-art production, two huge stages for continuous entertainment and three giant screens capturing all the excitement. Enjoy more than 16 hours of non-stop music from today's biggest Country Music stars. Bring your camera for the famous photo line that makes it easy to get personal mementos of your favorite performers.



The Coliseum



Clay Walker



Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall)



SheDAISY

Wrangler® FanFair (Exhibit Hall)

Visit the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center to get autographs and pose for pictures with your favorite Country Music stars and celebrities. Plus, there are many shopping opportunities. Check out the latest fashions at the Wrangler® Cowboy Store, buy your favorite CDs at the Tower Records booth, and purchase CMA Music Festival official merchandise at Music City Merchandise.

New in 2004 is the Music Row and Bluegrass Row of booths. Music Row features Curb, Universal South and Universal Music Group record labels booths and Bluegrass Row is complete with Bluegrass Journey, *Bluegrass Unlimited* magazine, The Grascals, Hope River Entertainment and Skaggs Family Records.

Another new element this year is the nearby Acoustic Corner, in room 209 on the second level of the Nashville Convention Center, for fans to hear live, unplugged Country and bluegrass music. Acoustic Corner is open to CMA Music Festival four-day registrants 10:30 AM - 3:30 PM, Thursday - Sunday. Check out the daily list onsite of artists performing. Most of the artists performing will also be signing autographs in the Exhibit Hall. Performers include Suzanne Edwards Alford; Tim Ash; Linden "Cadillac" Bartels; Bernadette; Brad & Shelly; Tony Brantley; Jerry Burkhart; Don Campbell; Melonie Cannon; Thom Ellis; Jamey Garner; Higher Crossing; Ryan Holladay; Donna Hughes Band; Kyle Jennings; The Larkins; Andy Leftwich; Memarie; Mixt Company; Michelle Nixon & Drive; Pine Mountain Railroad; Sisters Wade; Damon Smith; Thomas Tillman; Shane Warner; White Lightning Strike; the World's Greatest Fishing Band and Chris Young.

World Radio History



Jo Dee Messina



Clubs Participating in CMA Music Festival After Hours™

CMA Music Festival After Hours™ keeps "Country Music's Biggest Party™" rolling into the wee hours. After a spectacular fireworks display closes the Nightly Concert at The Coliseum, Downtown Nashville keeps jumping for Country Music fans.

Fifteen clubs, restaurants and bars offer a variety of special deals and activities to CMA Music Festival four-day ticket registrants. There are concerts, special celebrity appearances, giveaways, food and drink specials and more.

Country Music is everywhere, whether your tastes run to traditional, bluegrass or alt-Country.

One of the most anticipated events of CMA Music Festival After Hours™ is the fourth annual "NBC Daytime After Hours™ Party" on Saturday, June 12. A separate ticket is required to get up close and personal with soap stars from "Days of our Lives," "Passions," and special guests Lonestar and Blue County at the Wildhorse Saloon. Some of the stars show off their musical talent, and there are skits and other surprises. For tickets call the Wildhorse Saloon box office at (615) 902-8200. Take a walk through vibrant Downtown Nashville after the big show, because the night is far from over after the fireworks.

Bailey's Pub and Grille
Big River Grille & Brewery
BB King's Blues Club & Restaurant
Hard Rock Café
Legends Corner
Nashville Crossroads
Rippy's Smokin' Bar and Grill
Robert's Western World
Ryman Auditorium
Second Fiddle
The Stage on Broadway
The Trap
Toolies Orchid Lounge
Wildhorse Saloon
Wolfy's



CMA Music Festival After Hours™ partner



PASSIONS

Days of our Lives

The Stars of NBC Daytime Celebrate Fourth Consecutive Year at CMA Music Festival

Since 2001, the partnership between NBC Daytime and Country Music has been a hit with stars and fans alike. This year, actors from "Days of our Lives" and "Passions" return to visit CMA Music Festival to participate in "Country Music's Biggest Party™."

Thirteen stars, including Kyle Brandt ("Phillip"); Bryan Dattilo ("Lucas"); Judi Evans ("Bonnie"); Kyle Lowder ("Brady"); Melissa Reeves ("Jennifer"); Kirsten Storms ("Belle"); and Alison Sweeney ("Sami") from "Days of our Lives," and Charles Davis ("Chad"); Eric Martsolf ("Ethan"); Liza Huber ("Gwen"); Heidi Mueller ("Kay"); Richard Steinmetz ("Martin Fitzgerald"); and McKenzie Westmore ("Sheridan") from "Passions," will take part in various activities during CMA Music Festival. They'll sign autographs at the NBC

Daytime booth No. 234 in Wrangler Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) at the Nashville Convention Center, introduce performers at the Greased Lightning Riverfront Park Stages and The Coliseum and make several surprise guest appearances throughout the four-day festival.

"The stars of NBC Daytime create lots of excitement among CMA Music Festival fans who love celebrities," said Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director. "The Festival also permits the daytime stars to meet some of their admiring fans. The stars get to meet some of the Country artists they admire. This obviously works great for both NBC and CMA."

The partnership is even more meaningful in 2004, as Country Music takes center stage on "Days of our Lives" with new plot lines and the opening of a Country nightclub.

"The stars of NBC Daytime are coming back to Nashville and we couldn't be more excited," said Sheraton Kalouria, Senior Vice President, NBC Daytime. "This year is extra special because 'Days of our Lives' now features its very own Country nightclub to allow acts from the world of Country Music to perform on the show. In addition to meeting stars from 'Passions' and 'Days of our Lives,' people who visit us at CMA Music Festival will be among the very first to learn which Country superstars will be appearing on 'Days.'"

Lonestar makes their debut on daytime television with a performance on "Days of our Lives" on June 18. The band is set to drop in on the fictitious town of Salem, U.S.A. to headline the grand opening of character Bonnie Lockart's (Judi Evans) new restaurant Alice's, a down home Country Music bar and restaurant. During this special event, Lonestar, appearing as themselves, will perform "T.G.I.F.," a song from their upcoming album *Let's Be Us Again*.

"With the opening of a Country Music nightclub written into the script on 'Days, what better fit to bring members of the cast to the CMA Music Festival for a fourth year in a row," said Rick Murray, CMA Senior Director of Strategic Marketing. "It is amazing to me that every time I visit the set of 'Passions' and 'Days of our Lives' in Los Angeles, I am cornered by the talent asking if they can come to Nashville this year. The CMA Music Festival has developed a reputation among the actors, producers and NBC brass alike as a cool, fun place to hang. And don't be surprised when the actors aren't scheduled somewhere, you run into some of them walking around the Family or Sports Zones or checking out the After Hours action."

To promote the NBC Daytime stars appearance at CMA Music Festival, CMA and NBC teamed up with "After MidNite With Blair Garner," a nightly syndicated Country Music radio program from Premiere Radio Networks, for a contest. Various NBC Daytime actors visited the studios of "After MidNite" to talk about the Festival and upcoming plotlines on their shows. One lucky listener became the Grand Prize Winner, and received a "Days of our Lives" walk-on role and a trip for two to Nashville to attend the Festival.

The NBC Daytime stars will top off the weekend with the highly anticipated fourth annual "NBC Daytime After Hours™ Party" at the Wildhorse Saloon in Downtown Nashville on Saturday, June 12 at 11:00 PM/CDT (A separate ticket is required.). During the event, the actors will showcase their musical talents and interact with fans. BNA Records group Lonestar will be the special musical guest at the party. Curb Records duo Blue County will warm up the audience before the festivities begin, making the evening a family affair as Blue County's Scott Reeves is married to "Days of our Lives" actor Melissa Reeves. Tickets are \$20 in advance and are available at the Wildhorse Saloon Box Office (615) 902-8200 or visit www.wildhorsesaloon.com.

www.CMAfest.com

World Radio History

CMA Global Artist Party

(The Stage on Broadway)
Monday, June 7, 6:30 PM

A FREE concert event featuring performances from international Country Music artists including Lisa Brokop (Canada); Bobby Cash (Australia); Rodrigo Haddad (Brazil); Ruud Hermans (The Netherlands); Jason McCoy (Canada); The Replete Brothers (Greece) and Mal Rodgers (Ireland). Hosted by GAC's Kylie Harris, a native of New Zealand. Harris will also host the Country Spotlight Show on Sunday at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages.



Tracy Lawrence



Jay Bush and Duke



Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone

The place for kids of all ages is the Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone, with two locations (Hall of Fame Park and Broadway) for twice the excitement, featuring spokesduo Jay Bush and his dog Duke.

"Duke and I are excited to return to this year's Festival. We're sponsoring the Bush's Baked Beans Family Zone because, being a family owned company, families are very important to us. We hope you'll bring your family by the Exhibit Hall or the Bush's Baked Beans Family Zone to meet us." Jay Bush

Be one of the first 500 people at the Bush's® Baked Beans cookout hosted by Jay Bush and his dog Duke on Sunday at 11:30 AM and receive a free lunch.

Kids are sure to enjoy arts, crafts, face painting and celebrity storytelling. Plus, check out basketball games from Carl Black Chevrolet, the Firestone Monster Truck display, and a Nashville Children's Theater performance at the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital Performance Stage. Have more fun on the Coca-Cola inflatables, sing-a-long at the Chartbuster™ Karaoke Experience and participate in cooking demonstrations at Lawry's Live! Cooking Caravan.

There are plenty of free samples from Bush's® Baked Beans, Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Country Time Lemonade, MintASURE, Shoney's and more.

Take time out of your busy day to stroll the Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone. Your kids — and the kid in you will thank you!



"The Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone is free and open to the public. All times, appearances and activities are subject to change."



Young fan in inflatable

CMA Celebrity Close Up

is personal fan-driven interview sessions held at the Ryman Auditorium on Friday, June 11, hosted by TV and radio personality Lorianne Crook. Fans get an intimate look into the lives and careers of Country Music's most popular stars. Two sessions: 8:00 – 9:00 AM - Q&A with Mark Wills, Darryl Worley, Miss America 2004 Ericka Dunlap, Karri Turner of "JAG," plus special call-in guest Al Franken.

4:30 – 6:00 PM - Q&A with LeAnn Rimes, Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn and Trace Adkins. Tickets are \$10 or \$15 at the door. Call 1-800-CMA-FEST; visit the Ryman Auditorium box office or Ticketmaster (615) 255-9600.



Host Lorianne Crook

Fans at the 2001 carnival



Visit the CMA Music Festival Midway

carnival provided by Belle City Amusements on The Coliseum grounds at the foot of the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge adjacent to the Sports Zone. Open Monday – Wednesday, 5:00 PM – midnight; and Thursday – Sunday, noon to midnight. Free admission. Ride tickets available to purchase on-site.

World Radio History

Check out the First Annual CMA Music Festival Pin Hunt

Visit each of the following locations Downtown to collect all 13 **limited edition** pins featuring the CMA Music Festival logo. See each location for more details.

BB King's Blues Club and Restaurant

Bogey's on Broadway

Charlie Daniels Museum

Hard Rock Café

Legends Corner

The Nashville Outlet

The Ryman Auditorium

2nd to None Gifts

The Stage

Tootsies Orchid Lounge

The Trap

Wildhorse Saloon

Willie Nelson General Store

photo: courtesy of Crigo

Lake CITGO Fishing Challenge



CMA Music Festival Sports Zone

New in 2004 is the CMA Music Festival Sports Zone where artists and celebrities compete in friendly competitions. The event takes place adjacent to The Coliseum and the Cumberland River at the foot of the Shelby Street Pedestrian Bridge. The Sports Zone features sports activities for all ages:



photo: Theresa Montgomery



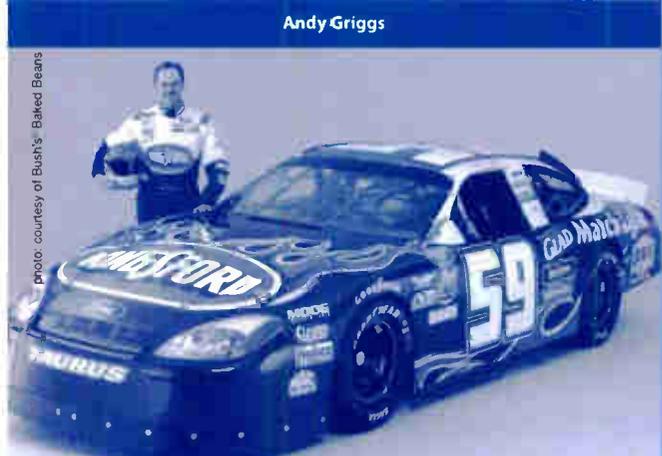
Andy Griggs

The BASSMASTER TOUR EXPO will feature the fastest bass boats, screaming on-boards and the newest tackle. Fishing enthusiasts can learn tips from Bassmaster pro anglers and kids can take part in the Casting Kids Contest.

An official BASS celebrity Angler and Artist fishing tournament takes place Saturday at area lakes. Chris Cagle, Billy Currington, Craig Morgan, Tim Rushlow of Rushlow, Chely Wright and others scheduled to participate. The tournament weigh in will occur at the Sports Zone with The World's Greatest Fishing Band providing entertainment.

THE THIRD ANNUAL ANDY GRIGGS CELEBRITY ARCHERY TOURNAMENT pits Country Music hitmakers against each other in a friendly competition, shooting at targets for points. Rhett Akins, Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn, Tracy Byrd, Greg Cook of Ricochet, Ty England, Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry, Andy Griggs, Doni Harris of Rushlow, David Kersh, Daniel Lee Martin, the Outdoor Channel's Rusty Tabor, Neil Thrasher and others are scheduled to compete.

photo: courtesy of Bush's Baked Beans



Kingsford /Bush's Baked Beans No. 59 Interactive race car and driver Stacy Compton

HIGHLIFTER PRESENTS FISHER ATV WORLD'S CELEBRITY ATV RODEO, hosted by Montgomery Gentry, will showcase Country celebrities maneuvering around an obstacle course on Thursday. Artists set to participate include Rhett Akins, Blue County, Jeff Carson, Billy Currington, Scotty Emerick, Tracy Lawrence, James Otto and Daryle Singletary. The winner will win a brand new Suzuki ATV. One lucky CMA Music Festival attendee will also win a new Suzuki ATV from Fisher's ATV World and Highlifter on Sunday (the winner must be present).

Wrestling fanatics will be able to see their favorite **TNA WRESTLING SUPERSTARS**. Bring your cameras and catch Abyss, America's Most Wanted ("Wildcat" Chris Harris and "Tennessee Cowboy" James Storm), Jeff Jarrett, Michael Shane and Traci. **FOOTBALL** fans can meet the players of the National Women's Football League at their booth. And you can trade slap shots with your friends at the interactive **HOCKEY** game sponsored by the NHL's Nashville Predators. Plus, meet Tennessee Titans Wide Receiver Drew Bennett and Nashville Predators Goalie Tomas Vokoun.

Toyota roars into the Sports Zone with the **TOYOTA INTERACTIVE GARAGE**, featuring the Toyota Tundra on display from NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series race events. Stop by **NASCAR** driver Stacy Compton's No. 59 interactive race car sponsored by Bush's Baked Beans to test your driving skills. Compton will sign autographs and pose for pictures on Thursday, from 3 - 5 PM.

Thrill-seekers shouldn't miss the interactive activities at the Sports Zone, including a mechanical bull and a towering rock climbing wall.

*The CMA Music Festival Sports Zone is free and open to the public. All times, appearances and activities are subject to change.

photo: John Ducey/Nashville Predators



Nashville Predators Goalie Tomas Vokoun (left) and Tennessee Titans Wide Receiver Drew Bennett



www.CMAfest.com

For up-to-the-minute information about tickets, travel information, schedules, artist appearances and more, visit www.CMAfest.com and sign up for e-revs. Plus, visit CMA's one-stop, online fan shop and be among the first to wear official 2004 CMA Music Festival merchandise.

"We are making a sample of our official merchandise available much earlier this year due to fan interest and requests," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "As people purchase their ticket packages — especially as gifts — they want something to wear and present to the recipients. A CMA Music Festival T-shirt or cap fits the bill."



"Color Me Musical" Contest

CMA and *The Tennessean* teamed up with Bush's® Baked Beans and Office Depot® to sponsor the CMA Music Festival "Color Me Musical" Contest, that ran April 9 through May 5 in *The Tennessean*.

The contest encouraged children in grades K-8 to design a poster around how music made them feel, and then write an essay describing their poster. More than 400 entries were received.

The winners will be announced at the Bush's® Baked Beans Family Zone on Friday, June 11 at 3:00 PM/CDT. Winners receive a \$500 savings bond, a barbeque dinner hosted by Bush's® Baked Beans spokes-duo Jay Bush and his dog Duke, 10 single-night tickets to the Friday Night Concert at The Coliseum and a backpack full of school supplies from Office Depot.

The winning posters will be displayed at the festival and will be published in *The Tennessean*.



Keith Urban



Wynonna

When and Where Can I Buy Tickets for CMA Music Festival 2005?

Tickets for the CMA Music Festival in 2005 that takes place June 9 – 12, 2005 in Nashville, will go on sale for a limited time at 2004 prices.

Fans attending CMA Music Festival 2004 have the opportunity to purchase 2005 tickets in advance on Saturday and Sunday before they go on sale nationwide for best available seating and to take advantage of 2005 tickets at 2004 prices.

CMA Music Festival 2005 four-day advance tickets are on sale only in Nashville on:

SATURDAY, JUNE 12

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Gaylord Entertainment
Center Box Office

9:30 AM - end of show

The Coliseum Box Office

SUNDAY, JUNE 13

9:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Gaylord Entertainment
Center Box Office

9:30 AM - end of show

The Coliseum Box Office

Tickets go on sale nationwide beginning Monday, June 14, at 10:00 AM/CDT. Tickets may be purchased by calling 1-800-CMA-FEST and at all Ticketmaster locations and www.ticketmaster.com. Buy your tickets early to get the best seat! Adult tickets are \$250, \$145 and \$125. Fans 14 and younger tickets are \$100 and \$86 and fans 3 and younger are admitted FREE.

Returning in 2005 are limited GOLD CIRCLE (\$250) tickets with preferred seating on the field at center stage, preferred parking at The Coliseum and wait service at your seat. This section SOLD OUT within days in 2004.

CMA Music Festival four-day ticket packages are divided into categories corresponding to different levels of RESERVED SEATING at the Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum.

*Prices are subject to change and do not include applicable handling fees.



CMA Music Festival Newspaper for Attendees

Kansas-based Ascend Media, in conjunction with CMA, will produce a newspaper for CMA Music Festival attendees that will include up-to-date information on the various events surrounding the Festival, artist profiles, games and more. The newspaper, *CMA Music Festival First*, is FREE and will be available on racks in the mornings at each festival venue and will also be distributed by volunteers throughout Downtown Nashville. *CMA Music Festival First* is the best way for attendees to stay current with all of the excitement of CMA Music Festival so they won't miss a beat.



Pam Tillis

MJI Brings CMA Music Festival to Airwaves



MJI, a division of Premiere Radio Networks, is the official radio syndicate of the CMA Music Festival and will broadcast the excitement of "Country Music's Biggest Party™" from the Nashville Convention Center.

Sixteen stations will attend the three-day remote, Wednesday through Friday, June 9 – 11, interviewing participating artists for their morning drive-time shows. "After MidNite with Blair Garner" will also participate.

Stations participating in the remote include WXTU/Philadelphia; WKHX/Atlanta; WQYK/Tampa; WGAR/Cleveland; KSD/St. Louis; KUPL/Portland, Ore.; WPOC/Baltimore; WFMS, Indianapolis; KUSS/San Diego; WKKT/Charlotte; WQDR/Raleigh; WSM/Nashville; WDAF/Kansas City, Mo.; WCOL/Columbus, Ohio; WGKX/Memphis; and WAMZ/Louisville, Ky.

CMA Music Festival is organized and produced by the Country Music Association. *Country Weekly* is an official media partner. MJI Programming, a division of Premiere Radio Networks, is the official radio broadcaster. Promotional partners include American Airlines, B.A.S.S., Bush's® Baked Beans, Camping World, Carl Black Chevrolet, Coca-Cola, Greased Lightning®, NBC Daytime, Sparkie® Paper Towels, Vanderbilt Children's Hospital and Wrangler®. Fan Fair is a registered trademark of CMA.

TUNE IN THIS SUMMER

FOR THE FIRST TIME EVER, TO WATCH

COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST PARTY™ CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL

TWO HOUR TELEVISION SPECIAL ON THE CBS TELEVISION NETWORK



NASHVILLE'S BIGGEST PARTY™ comes to primetime television

This summer the entire country will have an opportunity to see the 2004 Country Music Festival — “Country Music’s Biggest Party™” in glorious action — as a prime-time, CBS Television Network two-hour special. This annual event (unprecedented in other genres of music) shows what Country Music is all about — especially what it means to the fans as well as the artists, and the deep respect and appreciation they have for each other. As a CBS special, its star performances will reach a much wider demographic and undoubtedly expand the base of the Country Music fan community.

“This is a great opportunity for artists at all levels in our genre because they all get to do their own thing at this festival,” said CMA Board President Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn. “This television special will show people across America how much fun is going on here and the unique stories that are happening at CMA Music Festival.”

Getting It Started

Robert Deaton, a CMA Board member and Chairman of the CMA Television Committee for the CMA Awards, is an accomplished award-winning film producer and co-owner of Deaton Flanigen Productions. His credits include national television specials, “Monday Night Football,” and videos for Country artists including Faith Hill, Martina McBride, Brad Paisley and Rascal Flatts.

“We started developing the idea several years ago,” said Deaton, “especially after the CMA Music Festival moved to The Coliseum — the event was bigger and had a lot more energy. It was pulling in younger fans, too. With the bigger venue, it just seemed like a natural fit for television.”

Deaton shot a promotional film during the 2003 CMA Music Festival as a prelude to pitching it to CBS. “Showing a lot of what goes on at the Festival is much easier to do than explaining it,” he continued. Deaton had five cameras running during the event and reduced those hours of footage to a short pitch piece.

Deaton, along with Special Council for Development Joel Katz, CMA Executive Director Ed Benson and CMA Senior Director of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray, took the proposal to CBS. “CBS was a natural choice for us,” said Murray. “We have an established history with the CMA Awards, which has always been an effective vehicle for our industry to convey Country Music in a more formal, black-tie setting. We wanted to show CBS the other side of Country Music, and there’s no better example than the CMA Music Festival, the biggest party in Nashville.”

The CMA team sat down with CBS executives, discussed their vision of the project, and presented the pitch film. “They were very enthusiastic,” said Deaton. “I don’t think they had realized the scope of the Festival until they saw the film — especially the unbridled enthusiasm of the fans.”

CBS President and Chief Executive Officer Les Moonves said, “We want it,” and CMA closed the deal that day — “a testimony to the strength of the relationship between CMA and CBS and our shared respect for Country Music,” said Murray.

Jack Sussman, Senior Vice President for Specials with CBS, agreed. “We’re excited at the prospect of expanding that relationship with CMA this summer, on what promises to be a spectacular Country Music special.”

Defining the Vision

The CMA Music Festival is scheduled for June 10-13 in Downtown Nashville. There will be more than 60 hours of music including The Coliseum and The Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages. Fans will participate in sports activities plus see their favorite Country Music stars and professional athletes in friendly competitions at the new Sports Zone. There’s more fun for fans of all ages at the Bush’s® Baked Beans Family Zone and nearly 30 hours of autograph signings in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) plus music nearby at the Acoustic Café.

“The exciting thing is that the CBS show is not going to be just another music special,” said Deaton. “There is going to be incredible action going on. Some of it will be fan-based, including autograph sessions. Some may be artists playing late at night in the clubs. Or following an artist or fan for an entire day and also see what it’s like backstage. The energy level will be high, that’s for sure.”

Danny Wendell is Supervising Producer for the television special. As the former Director of Operations for TNN (The Nashville Network), Wendell ran all the production facilities that produced CMA Awards broadcasts, Farm Aids, and network specials. He currently runs his own company, Wendell Productions.

“This will be a great project to work on with Robert,” said Wendell. “We’re a good team — Robert is very creative, and I have the technical experience to make his visions come true on film.”

Wendell is excited about the size of the project because he can use a variety of production techniques. “I’m looking forward to making The Coliseum look as big as possible,” he laughed. That includes using a Skycam, a camera suspended on a cable over The Coliseum, and several wireless steady cameras. “But we’ll also be running around with cameras, shooting scenes of artists and fans at the concerts,” added Wendell.

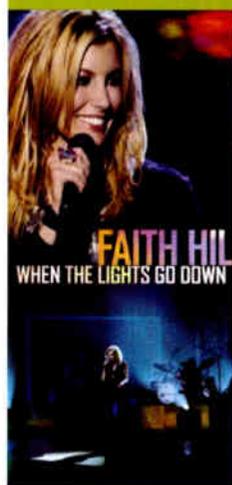
The multiple cameras will take the audience to places they



Supervising Producer
Danny Wendell



Producer Robert Deaton/
Deaton Flanigen Productions



Director Gary Halvorson
also directed the Faith Hill
“When The Lights Go Down”
television special and DVD.

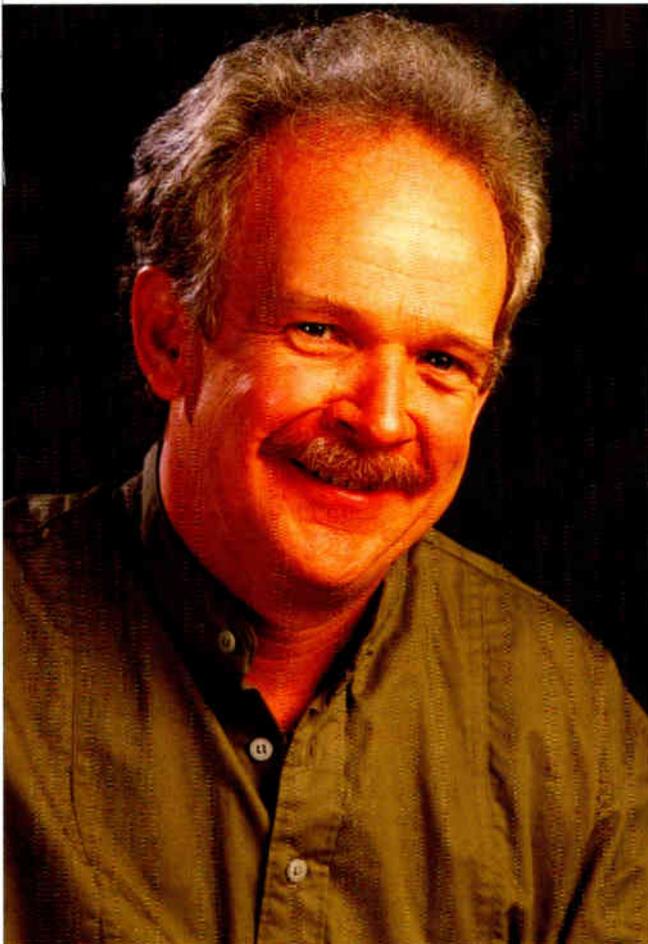
behind the lens
photo courtesy of Wendell Productions

photo courtesy of Deaton Flanigen Productions

photo courtesy of Roman Entertainment

continued on page 35..

visit
2005 CMA Music
Festival Tickets
Available NOW!
1-800-CMA-FEST



BRENT ROWAN

A Guitar Great Moves Into the Producer's Chair

“Greatness with integrity” is a high bar to set.

Brent Rowan, one of the most recorded session guitarists in Nashville, is off to a roaring start as a producer with that lofty goal.

The producer of the smash debut by Joe Nichols, *Man with a Memory* (Universal South), and highly touted self-titled first album by Julie Roberts (Mercury Nashville) paid his dues during 12,000 recording sessions as a guitarist and band-leader.

Arriving in Nashville in the late 70s as a 20-year-old who had never gone to a movie, Rowan was naïve yet eager to learn. As a child, he had picked out tunes on the family piano and harmonica. At 10, his parents bought him an inexpensive acoustic guitar, and an electric guitar followed in about a year.

Rowan lived in Texas until the eighth grade and then the family moved to Colorado. Rowan was surrounded by church music and as a teenager, he worked in a traveling gospel band (The Kenny Parker Trio) in Chattanooga as a starving artist (literally), before trying Music City.

A gig with Country Music Hall of Fame member Grandpa Jones led to some sporadic demo work. Then producer Bud Logan hired him to play on John Conlee’s “Friday Night Blues.”

“That was such a big deal to me because it was my very first session and the song went to No. 1,” Rowan said. “Bud was the first guy who believed in me and I learned so much from him about how to respect an artist and a song.”

Rowan went on to play on sessions for Country’s biggest artists, including Alabama, Alan Jackson, Randy Travis, Conway Twitty, Tim McGraw, George Strait and Shania Twain. He became band leader on 85 percent of those sessions, acting as liaison between the producer and the other musicians. He’s a five-time CMA Musician of the Year Award nominee who has experienced plenty of chill-bump moments in the studio as some of Nashville’s biggest hits were being created. He continues to play in Nashville and also does sessions for artists in New York and Los Angeles.

“Brent is a genius. He knew how to capture my sound and the best way to make me shine by putting the focus on my vocals. When I did my vocals, it was just me and Brent. No distractions.” - Julie Roberts

“I always loved artists who loved good, quality songs, because that’s what I loved,” Rowan said. “And it was always fun to get to improvise a little and make some magic. I remember on the Mark Chesnutt session for ‘I’ll Think Of Something,’ we were finishing the take and nobody had talked about there being a fadeout. I looked up at the drummer as we ended it, and he motioned for me to go on, so I went into this solo, and everybody jumped right in and when it got to the end, everybody was like, ‘No way!’ And that’s what’s on the tape. Nobody had talked about an outro or anything like that. ... anything that happens like that in the studio, I like.”

Rowan continues to help create that studio magic, only now he’s added being one of Music Row’s in-demand producers to his resume.

“Some of my best friends are major label heads who I worked with so often during those years,” Rowan said. “And some of those guys would say, ‘Man, you’re producing some of these records anyway. ... You need to think about producing.’ I was a little apprehensive, though, because I love playing so much.

“But then Brian Spradlin, my cartage guy, who is Joe Nichols’ best friend, approached me one day with a tape of Joe. He told me he thought I was going to be a great producer one day and I should give [Nichols’ tape] a listen.”

Luckily for Rowan, after about six months of gentle prodding from Spradlin, he finally did. Soon after, Nichols had found his producer. The two worked diligently for months, asking each other night after night, “Would you buy this?” as they laid down tracks like “She Only Smokes When She Drinks,” and “The Impossible,” which would become Nichols’ first No. 1 hit as the flagship artist on Universal South.

Because of record company shakeups, success did not come instantly. After a period of uncertainty, Tony Brown and Tim DuBois at Universal South embraced the project.

“You have to remember when we were making this album there was nobody else doing real traditional stuff, so we didn’t know if it would fly,” Rowan

continued on page 36...

ERNEST TUBB RECORD SHOP

Unbeatable Combination: Friendliness and Country Music

Walking through the door at the Ernest Tubb Record Shop is a bit like stepping back in time to a comfortable place. Surrounded by autographed pictures of Country Music's Who's Who and the sound of classic songs from the likes of Kitty Wells and Carl Smith, one may not know at first glance whether it's 2004 or 1955.

It isn't gimmicks or fads that draw customers into the store, although at various times throughout the year — including during the CMA Music Festival every June in Nashville — Country Music stars stop by to shake hands and sing a few tunes.

Wall decorations, celebrities and music aside, the overwhelming characteristic at the Ernest Tubb Record Shop is friendliness grounded in another era.

"We're a little bit old fashioned," said David Liston, a member of the Ernest Tubb Record Shop management team. "We kind of value our old fashioned roots. ... Ernest Tubb is the role model still for just treating people down-home friendly and nice."

The business model is working.

The Ernest Tubb Record Shop, started in 1947 by the man himself, has become a Nashville landmark, a must-see stop on the tourist route, as well as a reliable source for hard-to-find records by some of Country Music's most popular early artists.

"We're an active, functioning record shop specializing in Country Music," Liston said, "but a lot of folks come a long way just to see the spot where the Midnite Jamboree grew to its fame and acclaim."

The long-running radio show, which Country Music Hall of Fame member Ernest Tubb started when he opened the first record shop location in Nashville at 417 Broadway in 1947, has now moved to the record shop's Music Valley location near the Opryland Hotel in Nashville. Fans can still hear the weekly performance broadcast live, immediately following the Grand Ole Opry every Saturday night, from the Texas Troubadour Theater located in the store.

The Music Valley location also boasts Tubb's Green Hornet tour bus, offering fans a chance to see how the popular entertainer traveled for more than three decades.

While the original store location has stayed intact and popular for almost 60 years, the company has grown to include five locations, including a new shop at the Nashville International Airport.

A modified version of the Ernest Tubb Record Shop opened its doors at the Nashville airport last summer through a partnership with Atlanta-based airport retailer The Paradise Shops. Though the store and inventory are somewhat smaller, the store features the trademark stage providing free music in pure Ernest Tubb style.

"Nashville is Music City, U.S.A. and Ernest's first store had a stage for impromptu performances, so we included a stage in the airport," said Rick Lillie of The Paradise Shop.

Travelers can hear Country Music performed at the stage in the A-B Concourse several times during the day.

"We're happy to have the Ernest Tubb name in the Nashville Airport, welcoming folks to Music City as they come and go," Liston said, adding that the boutique frequently drives folks to visit the larger locations during their Nashville visit.

"It's been a win-win situation," Liston said of the partnership with The Paradise Shops.

Ernest Tubb Record Shop also has stores in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., and the Stockyards area in Fort Worth, Texas.

As times have changed, the retailer has evolved, adding a thriving mail order business and online store.

continued on page 37...

ERNEST TUBB The Texas Troubadour

By the time Ernest Tubb opened the first record shop in Nashville in 1947, he had already secured his place as a Country Music legend.

Born Feb. 9, 1914, the Texas native, who would become known as the "Texas Troubadour," had regional success during the 1930s before breaking out with his 1941 hit, "Walking the Floor Over You."

The single sold 400,000 copies in a matter of months and catapulted Tubb to stardom, resulting in film work and Grand Ole Opry membership in 1943. He became the first musician to use an electric guitar on the Opry.

Tubb went on to enjoy the next two decades as one of Country Music's biggest stars. He had scores of hits

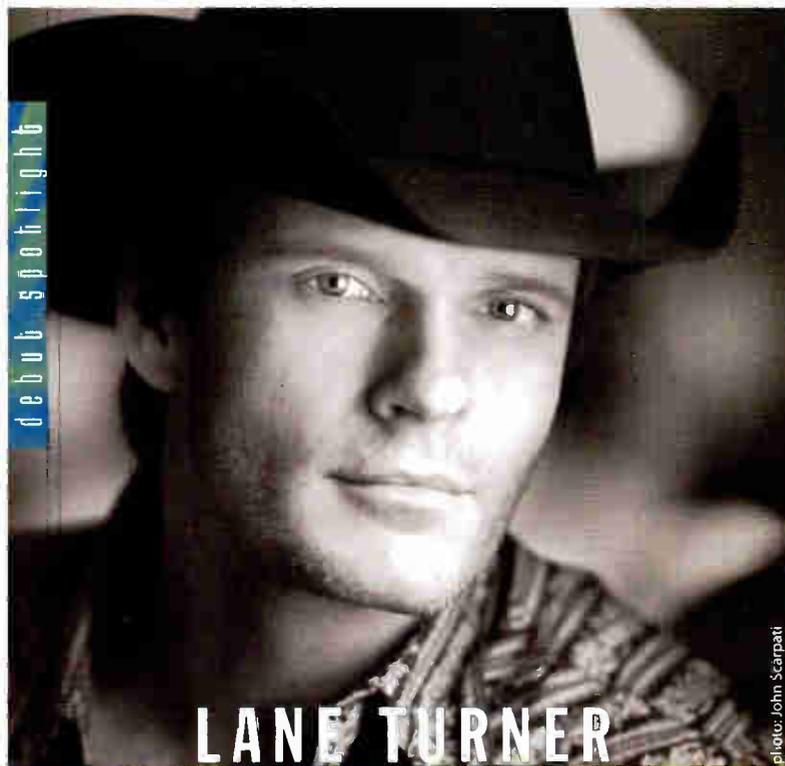
including "Slippin' Around," "Tomorrow Never Comes," plus a number of pop crossovers, and recorded dozens of albums for Decca Records. Tubb was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1965 and was a charter member of the Country Music Association's Board of Directors, having served as its first artist representative.

Tubb kept an active tour schedule through the 1960s and into the 1970s. The singer's battle with emphysema forced his retirement in 1982.

Country Music's "Texas Troubadour" died Sept. 6, 1984.

Crystal Caviness





LANE TURNER

photo: John Scarpati

Lane Turner is road tested and jukebox approved.

After years as a top-draw, honky-tonker on the Texas circuit, and playing clubs from Florida to Canada, Turner is ready to release his Warner Bros. debut *Right On Time*, which is packed with the same grit, emotion and smoldering heat you'd find on the floor of a dancehall on Saturday night.

"I like Country Music, the kind that's raw and emotional and naked," said the lanky Levelland, Texas native. "That's the music I love, and that's the music I make. Always have."

Turner wrote 10 of the 11 cuts on the album. It reflects who he is and where he cut his teeth, from the dance floor romp "Outside Looking In," to tear-in-your-longneck ballad "Happy Hour," to the swooningly sexy first single "Always Wanting More (Breathless)."

On his debut, Turner's baritone draws you in from the first note — and he has the rugged cowboy good looks and charm to keep you there. His energy comes from the experience he's earned on the road.

Right On Time, produced by Scot Sherrrod for Major Bob Productions, is set for release on July 27.

On June 12, Turner is scheduled to perform at the Saturday in the Park Show at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages during CMA Music Festival. And catch him signing autographs in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention center.

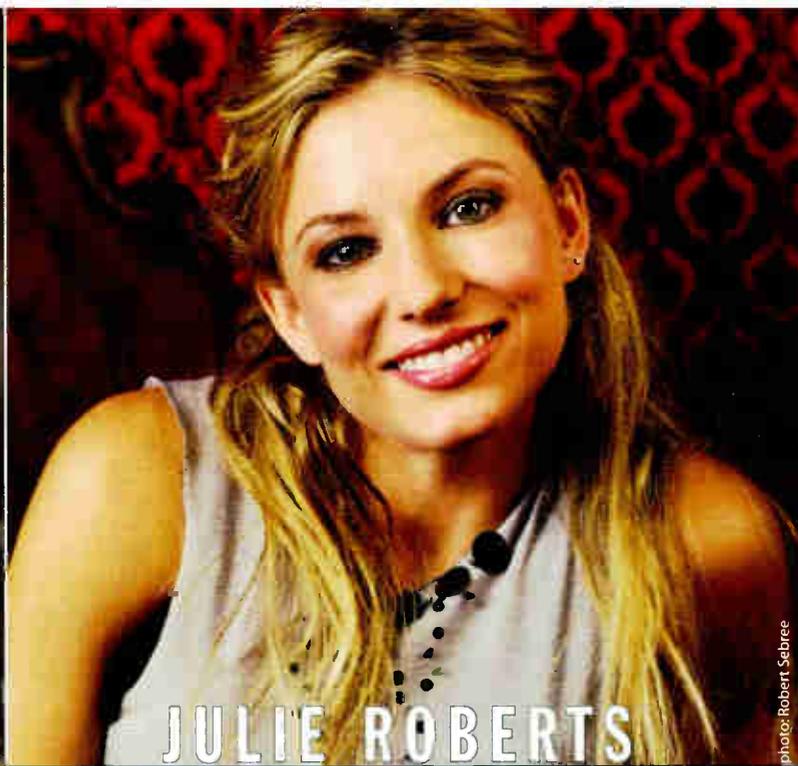
IN HIS OWN WORDS:

How do you feel about performing at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair? This is my first time performing at CMA Music Festival and I am very excited and honored to get to play for so many good people, who come out each year — rain or shine — to support Country Music.

If you could go back in time what era would you visit and why? The cowboy in me would love to come back in the 1800s to see the real open spaces, to venture out West where so much was unknown and untamed.

What song do you wish you had written? "That's My Job." What an amazing song. I think we all want to find those words that honor our father and mother, who have given so much of themselves to help us to grow and follow our dreams.

What word do you find yourself saying over and over again? Love. The one word and one thing that conquers all.



JULIE ROBERTS

photo: Robert Sebree

For years, Julie Roberts sat just feet away from a man who could help her make all her dreams come true. But she never made a peep about her aspirations.

After graduating from Belmont University, Roberts joined Mercury Records as an assistant to Universal Music Group Nashville Chairman Luke Lewis. At night, Roberts honed her skills as a singer-songwriter, making sure to keep the two worlds separate.

Roberts worked with producer Brent Rowan (Joe Nichols) on demos. In a meeting with Lewis, Rowan played Roberts' demo without mentioning the singer's name. Lewis loved what he heard, costing him an assistant. Roberts quit her day job in August 2003 and signed a recording contract with Mercury Nashville.

The daughter of an engineer and an accountant, Roberts found her voice in Lancaster, S.C., while singing along to Country songs on the radio. While her peers were into teen pop, Roberts listened to Tanya Tucker, Dolly Parton and Patsy Cline.

Roberts toured regionally as a teenager and sang in shows at Dollywood and Carowinds, a theme park in Charlotte, N.C. She attended the University of South Carolina for two years before transferring to Belmont, where she formed a band and played Nashville clubs.

Roberts' first single, "Break Down Here," can be heard on her soul-influenced self-titled debut album released in May.

On June 11, Roberts is scheduled to perform at the Hooked on Music Show at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages during CMA Music Festival. And catch her signing autographs and smiling for the camera as she meets fans in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

How do you feel about performing at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair? "Growing up, I always wanted to come to Fan Fair, but we (Mama and me) didn't have the means to get to Nashville, so I just read about it in *Country Weekly*. I was finally able to attend Fan Fair when I began working for Mercury about 3 years ago, and now I am performing myself. It's a dream come true and my entire family will get to come from South Carolina to watch me. It will be one of the highlights of my career; I can't wait to meet all of the people that love Country Music."

What word or phrase do you find yourself saying over and over again? "I say 'awesome' and 'you're crazy' all the time. I am a positive person and every single day is 'awesome' because I am getting to live my dreams. God is so good!"



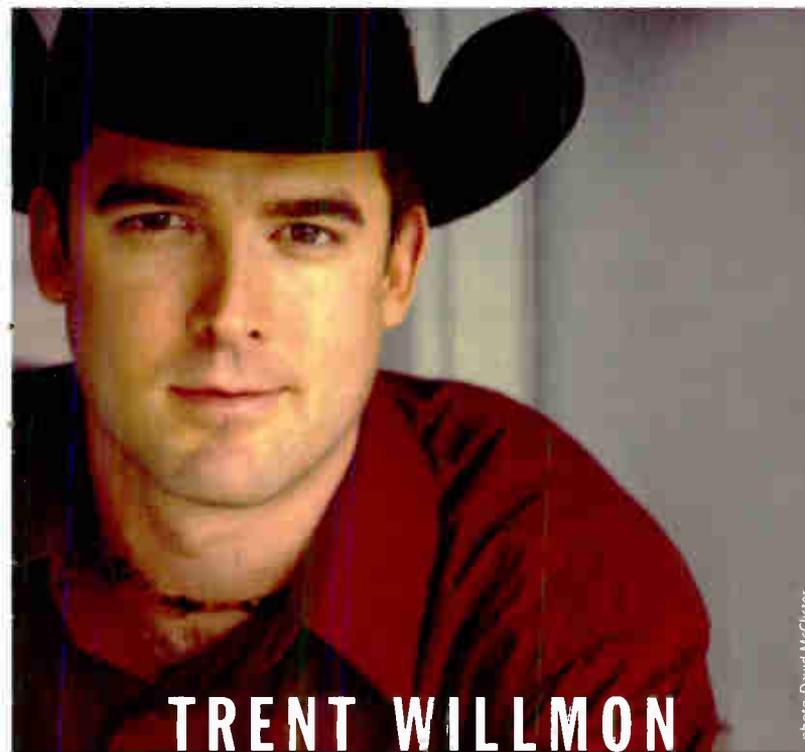


photo: David McClister

TRENT WILLMON

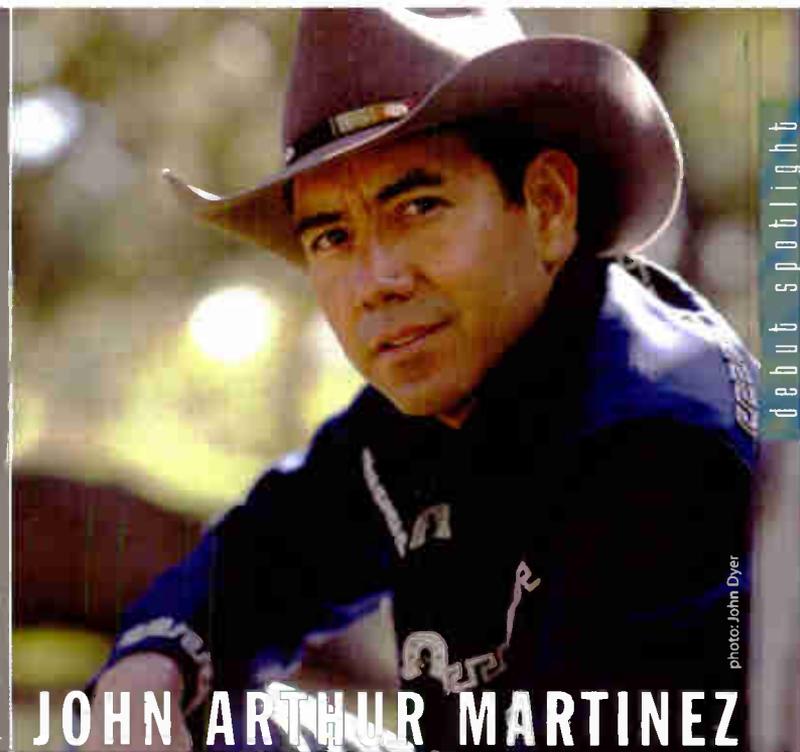


photo: John Dyer

JOHN ARTHUR MARTINEZ

In high school, Trent Willmon's interests were agriculture and animals. He won state agriculture awards from 4-H and Future Farmers of America in his hometown of Amarillo, Texas. However, music took hold of Willmon when his mom bought him a guitar at age 16. He started playing the music of Don Williams, John Mellencamp, George Strait, Chris LeDoux and others.

While attending South Plains College, Willmon taught himself to play the upright bass and toured the South with a bluegrass band.

After moving to Nashville, Willmon was signed as the first staff writer at Sea Gayle Music, an EMI Publishing Company owned by Brad Paisley, Frank Rogers and Chris DuBois.

"Beer Man," Willmon's first single off of his Columbia Records debut album (produced by Rogers) due out this summer, is a salute to the singer-songwriter's down-home, simple roots.

In addition to singing and songwriting, Willmon is an accomplished cook and owns a catering company in Nashville.

On June 11, Willmon is scheduled to perform at the Nashville Standard Time Show at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages during CMA Music Festival. Plus, fans will get to meet Willmon in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center during the four-day Festival.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

How do you feel about performing at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair? "I feel honored and excited about playing for real fans of Country Music."

If you could go back in time what year/era would you visit and why? "I would visit the 1800s. I'd love to see the West while it was still wild."

Do you have a lucky charm? "My charm has helped me get lucky once or twice."

If you wrote an autobiography, what would the title be? "I Never Thought I'd Live This Long"

What instrument do you wish you could play? "The fiddle. My band wishes I could play guitar."

When they look back on your life in 50 years, what do you hope people say about you? "He helped a lot of people, especially those less fortunate; a good friend and a good father."

Even though John Arthur Martinez finished second to Buddy Jewell on cable television's "Nashville Star," the Austin, Texas native won the hearts of Country Music fans across the United States.

Martinez's parents raised him on Country and mariachi music in the Texas hills, introducing the sounds of Willie Nelson and Floyd Tillman. A poet by age 9, Martinez began putting his words to music after his stepfather bought him a guitar.

Martinez attended Southwest Texas State University on a tennis scholarship and graduated with an English and journalism degree. His passion became performing George Strait and James Taylor songs at local bars.

After a short stint in graduate school in Arizona, Martinez immersed himself in music and made his first trip to Nashville in 1987. Over the years, he continued the visits and recorded two independent albums, *Spinning Our Wheels* (1998) and *Stand Your Ground* (1999). He got a big break when he became a finalist on "Nashville Star." He was signed to Dualtone Records in August 2003.

Martinez's label debut, *Lone Starry Night* (produced by Matt Rollings), featuring first single "Home Made of Stone," was released in May.

On June 12, Martinez is scheduled to perform at the Saturday In the Park Show at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages during CMA Music Festival. Plus he will greet fans at the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center throughout the four-day Festival.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

How do you feel about performing at CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair? "First of all, this event is all about the fans, and those fans kept me in the running for the first 'Nashville Star' crown until the very last show. This is my way to say thanks. Also I see it as a validation in the eyes of the industry for all of the years of perspiration."

If you could go back in time, what year/era would you visit and why? "I'd love to experience the decades before the defeat of the Spanish Armada when Spanish culture dominated the world. It was an incredible period for art and music, and it is a part of my heritage."

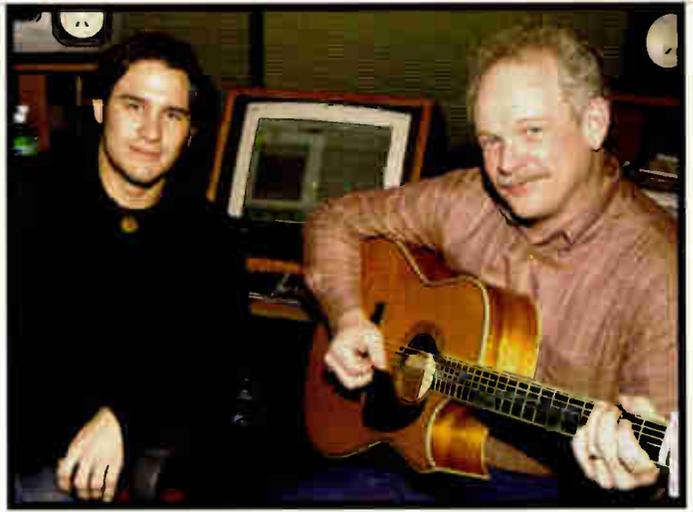
Do you have a lucky charm? "Yes, my daughter Mariah gave me a cross key chain which I kept in my guitar case during 'Nashville Star.' Also, my Mom gave me a cross which I've kept on the rear view mirror of my last four vehicles including one that collided with an eighteen-wheeler."





Sir Cliff Richard, the artist heralded on the latest list compiled by the UK Channel 4 television show "The Ultimate Pop Star," as the biggest-selling artist for UK singles over the last half century with nearly 21-million sold, takes a break from recording his new album in Nashville to have dinner at The Palm restaurant.

(l-r) Bobbi Boyce, CMA International Consultant; Tammy Gepovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Sir Cliff Richard; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director and Jeff Walker, President AristoMedia/Marco Promotions and CMA Board Member who head's CMA's Global Market Task Force committee.



Joe Nichols and Brent Rowan.

said. "All we knew was we thought it had integrity, honesty, and we would buy it."

The approach worked, as a million people put down their money to buy the album. Rowan also produced Nichols' second album, *Revelation*, set for release on June 29, and he's confident they have avoided the sophomore curse.

"I told him this is the most important record we will ever make," Rowan said, "because the first one could be luck. But the second one is the difference in 'Well, it was luck,' or 'Here is the keeper of the music for the next 20 years.'

"Luckily we had more time picking the songs on this one. Joe sang unbelievably on it and I had more confidence producing this time out. We started out to make it as good as the last one, and this new one is 30 percent better. Even the label agreed. So we're excited."

"We looked for songs I wouldn't mind singing 20 years from now," Nichols said. "The creative process was a lot more thought out and a lot of fun. We had total creative freedom. It was fun to get to do Country Music the way we like it and working with Brent is a whole other pleasure all of its own."

Rowan also produced the debut CD by Julie Roberts and before that he worked with the Mercury Nashville artist for a year to develop a sound and style. At the time, Roberts was UMG Nashville Chairman Luke Lewis' assistant, but Lewis had no idea she even sang until Rowan brought her demo into his office.

"After we finished, Luke had to know who that was, and I said, 'That's your assistant!' She had never said anything to him because she's that classy," said Rowan. The CD *Julie Roberts* was released on May 25.

"Brent is a genius. He knew how to capture my sound and the best way to make me shine by putting the focus on my vocals," said Julie Roberts. "When I did my vocals, it was just me and Brent. No distractions."

Part of Rowan's success may be his ability to put his own ego aside.

"The natural tendency sometimes if you're a player is you're more concerned with your part than the overall picture, but as a player I was concerned with the overall record more than my involvement," he said. "If you're pushing your own agenda and your hot licks, that might not be appropriate to the whole picture."

"I would just as soon you know what kind of Dad I was because of the kind of kids I have, not because I sat there and told you what kind of Dad I am," he said. "The more you try to divert and get out of the way, the more things come toward you."

Rowan continues to play on recording sessions, including the



A special Royal Medal was presented to Hans van Dam, editor of *Country Gazette* magazine, on April 29. The mayor of van Dam's hometown Boskoop presented him with the award, on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen of Netherlands. Van Dam has donated his time for more than 30 years for the magazine. "His love for Country Music is endless and he is a wonderful example for all of his coworkers," said Rineke Van Beek, a *Country Gazette* writer. "It is an amazing accomplishment and the medal is so well deserved."

photo. courtesy of *Country Gazette*

continued on page 37..

albums he's produced. He's also found an audience for his own music. His latest album *Up & At 'Em* was released on his own RoWest Records, a follow-up to his 2000 release *Bare Essentials*. He's performed an annual concert for five years as part of the Strings in the Mountains series in Steamboat Springs, Colo. The shows have drawn top singer/songwriters including Matraca Berg and Mac McAnally.

"The music on these albums came from this place of doing what I call turbo-tonk, where everybody is playing as loud and fast as they can. So I would go home and do these healing, sensitive tender things, which is what I always loved anyway," Rowan said. "Simple minuets, sometimes about places we'd been as a family, and that's how it started."

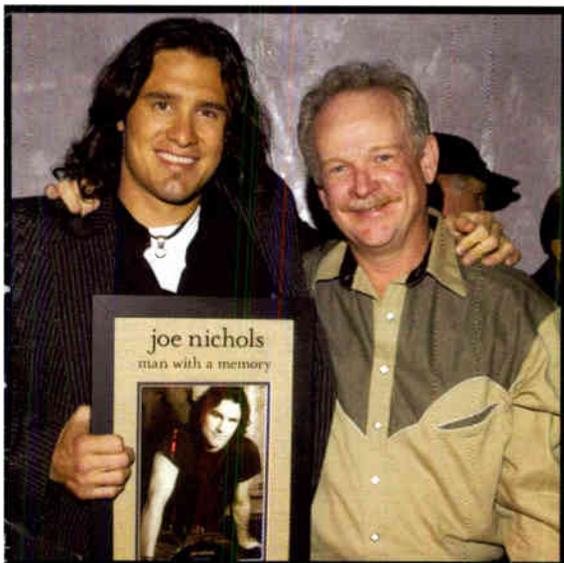
Rowan also enjoys jam sessions with his three sons Marlin, 6; Cade, 3; and Granger, 1.

"The biggest thrill of my life is when I get home at night it's 'Daddy, let's go play music.' Even the 1-year-old sits behind the drums.

"I started out playing when there was no money, and I'll end up on the front porch of an old folks home somewhere playing when there's no money. This is just the in-between." **Lorie Hollabaugh**

On the Web: www.brentrowan.com

Catch Julie Roberts and Joe Nichols perform at the CMA Music Festival on Friday, June 11. Roberts will perform at the Greased Lightning® Riverfront Park Stages at the 11:30 AM - 2:00 PM/CDT Hooked on Music Show. Nichols is scheduled to perform at The Coliseum nightly concert that begins at 7:00 PM/CDT. Plus, fans will have opportunities to get their autographs during the four-day festival in the Wrangler® Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center.



Joe Nichols and Brent Rowan celebrate at the Man With A Memory Gold Party commemorating more than 500,000 copies of the CD sold according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA).

"We try to carry a wide variety of Country Music, both old and new, and maybe a little bit of emphasis on the old that people can't find at the chain stores or the Wal-Marts," Liston said. "We're known for that, especially with our worldwide mail order business and nowadays ordering on our Web site."

These days, David McCormick is the sole owner of the Ernest Tubb Record Shops. McCormick met Tubb as a young man and began working part-time in the store in 1968. Eventually he became a full-time employee and then a member of management. McCormick became a partner with Tubb in the mid-1970s and took over ownership in the late 1980s.

"His respect and love and admiration for Ernest Tubb is just huge," Liston said of McCormick. In a day of multi-layered business plans and corporations merging to create empires, McCormick and the management team have maintained a single focus.

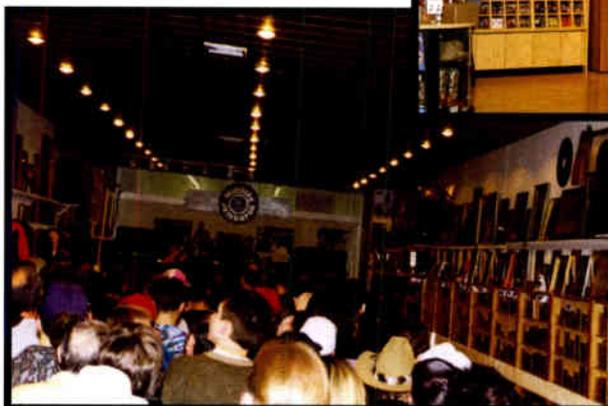
"Our mission is to extend the name and legacy of Ernest Tubb, the man. We're trying to keep his name remembered in the field of Country Music," Liston said. "He's our role model as far as how to treat people. That's what we're all about, more so than just running a record shop. It's special because of that name 'Ernest Tubb,' because he was such a special man."

Crystal Caviness

On the Web: www.etrrecordshop.com



Ernest Tubb Record Shop at the Nashville Airport.



Inside the Broadway store.



Tracy Byrd performs at the Broadway store.



David Rawlings, Ricky Skaggs and Gillian Welch perform at the Broadway store.

Photos: Tom Andrews

Fellow Hall of Famer Little Jimmy Dickens bestowed the medallion on Smith.



Carl Smith and Floyd Cramer were welcomed into the Country Music Hall of Fame family Sunday, May 2 at the Museum's annual Medallion Ceremony. The event, held in the Museum's Ford Theater, concluded with a rousing version of the Museum's signature song, "Will the Circle Be Unbroken."

(l-r) Hall of Famer E.W. "Bud" Wendell, Museum Director Kyle Young and Mary Cramer.



(l-r) Maura O'Connell, Melba Montgomery, Connie Smith, Chuck Mead of BR549, Joe Nichols, Carl Smith, Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn, Ray Walker and Gordon Stoker of the Jordanares, Little Jimmy Dickens, Brenda Lee, Eddy Arnold, Kitty Wells, Charlie Louvin, Hank Locklin, Bud Wendell, Carlene Carter and Goldie Hill were in attendance at the ceremony.



HONESTY IS THE KEY FOR COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME MEMBER MERLE HAGGARD

"Branded Man" is one of the songs that made Merle Haggard a Country Music legend. However, his second No. 1 single might never have been written if Johnny Cash hadn't offered the struggling ex-con, singer-songwriter some sage advice.

Haggard, at the time desperate for a hit, tended to shy away from the darker parts of his past.

Cash told Haggard he was making a mistake. His life, including the time spent behind bars, needed to be there in his music for all to see.

"I was bull-headed about my career," Haggard has said, "but Cash said I should talk about it. That way the tabloids wouldn't be able to. I said I didn't want to do that and he said, 'It's just owning up to it.'"

Soon after Cash's encouragement, he began churning out songs that would make him a living legend, including "Sing Me Back Home," "Mama Tried," "Hungry Eyes" and "Branded Man."

By the early 1970s the Bakersfield, Calif., native was a lauded poet for the common man.

"Going to prison has one of a few effects," he told *Salon.com* earlier this year. "It can make you worse, or it can make you understand and appreciate freedom. I learned to appreciate freedom when I didn't have any."

But it was Cash who convinced him to infuse his music with the most valuable commodity of all, honesty.

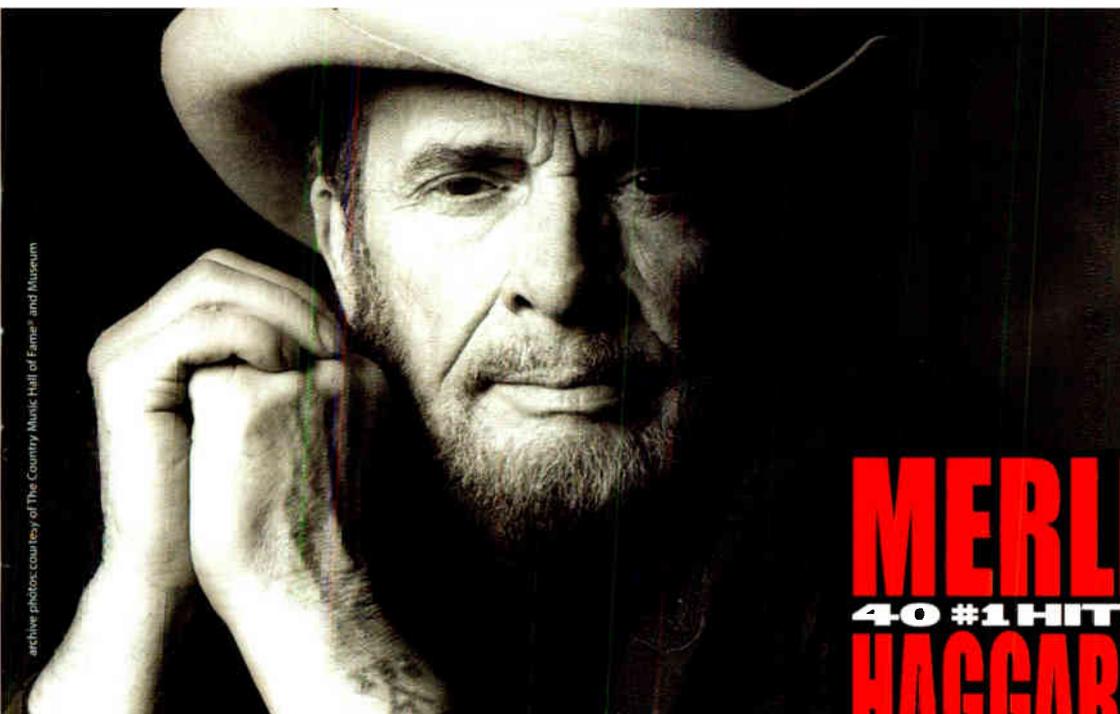
Haggard wrote and recorded music that felt right to him. He made political statements ("The Fightin' Side of Me," "I Wonder if They Ever Think of Me," "If We Make it Through December") and was blunt and eloquent about his five marriages ("Things Aren't Funny Anymore," "Always Wanting You," "Someday When Things Are Good").

Capitol Records Nashville recently released *40 No. 1 Hits*, a collection that spotlights the depth and influence of Haggard's body of work. The singer has won six CMA Awards, including Entertainer of the Year in 1970.

"There are a lot of honors that come with working at Capitol Records," said Mike Dungan, President and Chief Executive Officer of Capitol Records

continued on next page...

archive photos courtesy of The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum



MERLE 40 #1 HITS HAGGARD

*When they let me
out of prison, I held
my head up high/
determined I
would rise above*

the shame/but no matter

where I'm living, the

black mark follows

me/I'm branded with

a number on my name.

—“Branded Man”
by Merle Haggard

Nashville, “but none that carry the honor and responsibility of managing the Merle Haggard catalogue — 50 albums over five decades. On behalf of everyone at Capitol, both those of us who man the ship today and those who have graced our halls in the past, may I say that we are truly honored to represent Merle Haggard.”

Haggard, 64, maintains his independence despite becoming one of the most heralded artists in Country Music history. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1994, and is one of a handful of artists who gets mentioned in the same breath as Hank Williams Sr.

“I moved to Nashville for two years — in 1976 and ’77 — and my record sales went down to about half what they had been,” Haggard said. “So I got the hell out of there and my record sales went right back up.

“It was like living in the middle of a carnival. Hey, I don’t mind coming to work and running the Ferris wheel once in a while, but I don’t want to live right there.”

Born in 1937 near Bakersfield, Haggard’s family lived in an old converted boxcar. Life for the family changed dramatically when the future star was 9-years-old. His father Jim died of a stroke. That meant his mother, Flossie, had to find work as a

bookkeeper. Young Merle Haggard found himself with time on his hands and little parental guidance.

Soon, he found himself in and out of trouble.

A botched robbery resulted in a three-year prison term in San Quentin when he was 20. While serving his time, he took stock.

“Life has been peaks and valleys all the way for me,” Haggard said. “The only way I know to come out of the valleys is to write my way out.”

Upon his release, Haggard returned to Bakersfield. He worked manual labor jobs during the day, and performed Country Music inspired by Bob Wills and Lefty Frizzell in the evenings.

“Whatever kind of music you’re doing,” Haggard said, “if you’re doing something with some honesty and truth to it, people will recognize that. ... I believed that people are looking for honesty, and that’s what I’m trying to put across.”

Haggard is currently on tour promoting the 40 No. 1 Hits CD and his critically acclaimed Hag Records debut, *Haggard Like Never Before*. The current single is Woody Guthrie’s “Reno Blues (Philadelphia Lawyer),” a duet with Willie Nelson.

Keith Ryan Cartwright

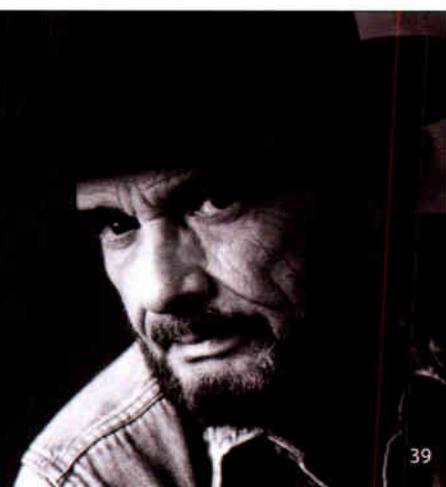
On the Web: www.merlehaggard.com

BMI HONORS MERLE HAGGARD
Merle Haggard was the man of the hour during a BMI-hosted reception in Nashville on April 19 celebrating the release of *40 No. 1 Hits* on Capitol Nashville Records. Haggard received a Special Citation of Appreciation from BMI in recognition of his 42-year affiliation with the performing rights organization. Among his BMI songwriting honors are two Country Songwriter of the Year awards and more than 50 BMI Pop and Country Awards. In addition to toasting the release of the 2-CD No. 1 collection, Capitol presented a plaque that commemorated his “50 albums in five decades.”

(l-r) Capitol Nashville President & Chief Executive Officer Mike Dungan, BMI Director Joyce Rice, Merle Haggard and BMI Vice President Paul Corbin.



Photo: Steve Lowry



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2004 CMA EVENTS

JUNE

Wednesday, June 2

CMA membership application must be received at CMA to vote on all three ballots.

Thursday, June 3

First CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Thursday through Sunday, June 10-13

CMA Music Festival/Fan Fair® / Downtown Nashville
For tickets call 1-800-CMA-FEST

Friday, June 11

CMA Celebrity Close Up / Hosted by Lorianne Crook
Ryman Auditorium / Two Sessions
For \$10 advance tickets (\$15 at the door) call 1-800-CMA-FEST.

Saturday, June 12

Fourth Annual NBC Daytime After Hours Party™
Featuring stars from "Days of our Lives" and "Passions"
Wildhorse Saloon / Nashville / 11:00 PM/CDT
For tickets call (615) 902-8200.

JULY

Thursday, July 1

2004 CMA Broadcast Awards entries due

Friday, July 2

Return first CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

Friday, July 16

CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on second and third CMA Awards ballot.

Monday, July 26

Second CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Wednesday, July 28 and Thursday, July 29

CMA Board of Directors Meeting / New York

AUGUST

Early August

Ticket order forms for "The 38th Annual CMA Awards" mailed to eligible CMA sterling and organizational members.

Monday, Aug. 23

Return second CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 15

CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on third CMA Awards ballot. A member must have received a second ballot to receive a third ballot.

Wednesday, Sept. 15 and Thursday, Sept. 16

CMA Board of Directors Meeting / Nashville

Tuesday, Sept. 28

Third CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

OCTOBER

Thursday, Oct. 28

Return third CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche office or cast vote online.

*Events are subject to change without notice.



Capitol Records Nashville artists Dierks Bentley, Jennifer Hanson, Kristi Karter and Emily West visit CMA for New Artist Orientation, a presentation that CMA provides to its artist members to inform them about the various services and opportunities that CMA offers.

(l-r) CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese; CMA Executive Director Ed Benson; Jennifer Hanson; Dierks Bentley; Kristi Karter; Emily West; and Capitol Records Nashville President & Chief Executive Officer and CMA Board member Mike Dungan. photo: Amanda Eckard



Warner Bros. Nashville artist Lane Turner visits CMA to perform three songs for the staff, including his first single, "Always Wanting More (Breathless)." Turner's debut album *Right On Time* is set for release in July.

(l-r) Gary Voorhies, Senior Associate, Bob Doyle & Associates; Scot Sherrod, Producer; Chris Palmer, General Manager, Warner Bros. Nashville; Bob Doyle, Manager, Bob Doyle & Associates; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Lane Turner; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; and James Yelich, Booking Agent, Monterey Peninsula Artists. photo: Amanda Eckard



Cupit Records artist Memarie visits CMA to perform three songs for the staff, including her new single "I Know You By Heart" from her self-titled debut album.

(l-r) Billy Holland, Executive Vice President, Cupit Records; Memarie; CMA Executive Director Ed Benson; and Jerry Cupit, President, Cupit Records. photo: Amanda Eckard

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Visit
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any issues of
CMA Close Up!

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