

CMA

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2005



CMA AWARDS PREVIEW

**BRAD PAISLEY and
LEE ANN WOMACK
Top Nominations
with Six Each**

**CMA Broadcast Awards
Finalists Announced**

**BROOKS & DUNN
to Host CMA Awards**

**The Country Music Hall
of Fame to Welcome
ALABAMA,
DEFORD BAILEY
and GLEN CAMPBELL**

**TERRI CLARK
Finds Her
'Big, Big Ballad'
for New Album**

**CMA
AWARDS VOTING
Final ballot mailed
on Oct. 4
Return final ballot
by Nov. 3**

cma | • s e t u p

october/november 2005 / issue date september 26

- 4** CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL
ABC-TV Scores with Two-Hour Special
"CMA Music Festival: Country Music's Biggest Party"
Dierks Bentley on "The View"
Montgomery Gentry on "Good Morning America"
- 5** CMA Music Festival Tickets on Sale Now
AAA Auto Club South Offers Discount to CMA Members
- 6** Getting SIRIUS About Country Programming
- 7** Terri Clark Finds Her 'Big, Big Ballad' for New Album
- 8** Independents' Day: Surviving in a Major Label World
- 10** SONGWRITER SPOTLIGHT: Aimee Mayo
- 11** Jon Randall is Back 'Walking Among the Living'
- 12** Charities That Help the Country Music Industry
"THE 39TH ANNUAL CMA AWARDS"
The Big Apple Hosts Country Music's Biggest Night™
Live from Madison Square Garden, Nov. 15 on CBS-TV
- 13** Nominees News Conference Airs on CMT and MJJ
- 15** Final Nominees
- 16** Reactions from Nominees
- 17** NARM POP Campaign
Prilosec OTC Hits the "Road to the CMA Awards"
- 18** Broadcast Awards Finalists
- 19** Ticket Pick-Up in New York City
MJJ Delivers CMA Awards
Tickets on Sale to Public for First Time
- 20** Country Music Hall of Fame to Welcome Alabama, Glen Campbell
and DeFord Bailey
- 22** Brooks & Dunn Hosts for Second Year
- 23** "Burning to Sing Your Heart Out" Contest
Chevy All Access Music Tour Stops in New York City
- 24** Country Takes New York City
- 25** Broadway Meets Country
Broadway Tickets Discount for CMA Members
New York Hotels
Promotional Trip Packages Available
- 26** American Airlines Offers Discounts
First Round of Performers Announced
New Promotional CD
Sound Quality is Top Priority
- 27** CMA and Charles Fazzino Unveil Commemorative Artwork
- 28** Mailing and E-Mail Service
CBS Satellite Tour
Video News Release
Ballot Schedule
Online Music Clips and Voting
CMAawards.com
- 29** CHANGING FACE OF NASHVILLE RECORD LABELS, PART I
SONY BMG Music Entertainment
INTERNATIONAL
- 30** Bering Strait: A Great Band
Ruud Hermans Receives Royal Medal of Honor
- 31** Country Artists Perform at Live 8
- 32** New CD Releases
- 33** BEHIND THE LENS: Rick Schroder
- 34** DEBUT ARTIST SPOTLIGHT: Eddie Bush, Susan Haynes,
Shawn King, Shooter Jennings, Craig Sellers, Brittany Wells,
Heather Williams and Jimmie Wilson
- 38** A Tribute to Kix Brooks, CMA Board Chairman
- 40** CMA Staff Changes
- 42** TECHNOLOGY: SoundExchange
- 43** IN MEMORIAM: Albert Berman, Charles Bradley, Peggy Bradley,
Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, Vassar Clements, Bill Dailey,
John Herald, Tracy Jones, Shoo Kusanu, Hal Rugg, Sol Saffian,
Dick Schofield and Eddie Shuler

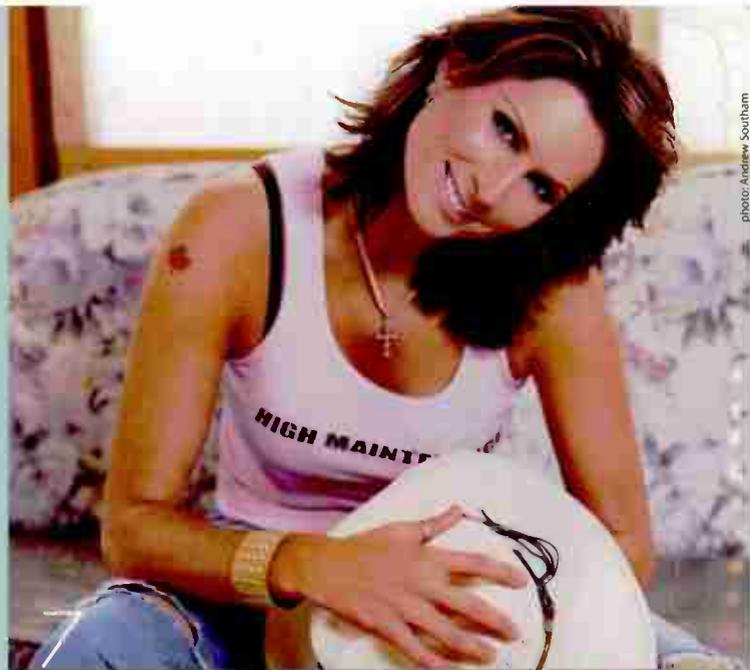
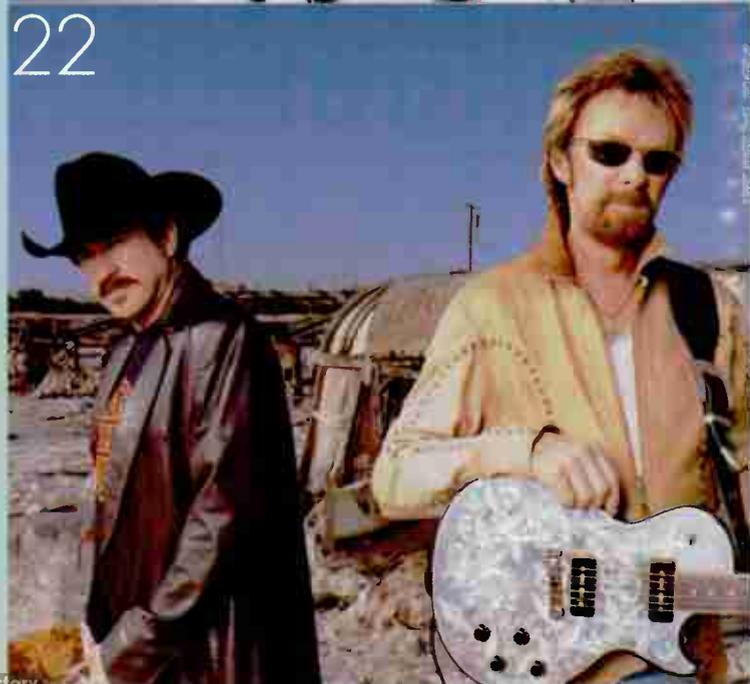


photo: Andrew Southern



20
22

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Country Takes New York City

"Country Takes New York City" is the title being given to the exciting week of activities in Manhattan that culminate with "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday, Nov. 15.

The schedule of activities includes many unique and fun events built around themed days that reflect the culture and energy of the Big Apple. There is Culinary Day, Education Day, History Day, Culture and Entertainment Day, Sports and Parks Day, Fashion and Shopping Day, and finally, CMA Awards Day.

The week's activities range from performances in NYC by some of Country Music's top artists to a version of the "Words and Music" program of the Country Music Hall of Fame, pairing kids from schools in each of the five boroughs with Country songwriters.

Country artists will be everywhere in NYC including singing at the Giants and the Jets NFL games the two weekends before the CMA Awards, participating in the Veterans Day Parade and the Wreath Ceremony on the Intrepid.

Our CMA Awards hosts Brooks & Dunn will ring the bell to open the New York Stock Exchange on the morning of the Awards. The Nashville Chamber of Commerce is organizing a large delegation trip which will feature meetings between Nashville and New York business leaders.

One of the most unique events of the week is "Broadway Meets Country," a joint project with CMA and the League of American Theatres and Producers. Top stars from Broadway and Country Music will perform together at Lincoln Center in an exclusive benefit show produced by the noted Stephen Oremus.

Judging from ticket orders, there will be more CMA members than ever attending the Awards at Madison Square Garden. And thanks to the capacity of the venue, tickets were made available to the general public for the first time ever.

This is an enormous opportunity to play on the world's biggest stage and leave New Yorkers with a new enthusiasm for our artists and their music.

I hope to see you there,

A handwritten signature of Ed Benson in black ink.

Ed Benson
CMA Executive Director

CMA Close Up welcomes your letters and feedback.
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ABC SCORES WITH "CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL:



Country Music programming is a sure way to generate ratings, and the ABC Television Network did just that with the Aug. 2 broadcast of "CMA Music Festival: Country Music's Biggest Party™."

The primetime special, aired in high-definition television with 5.1-channel surround sound, led its two-hour block in total viewers. It also registered ABC's largest non-sports programming audience and highest young adults rating in the time period in nearly two months.

The special was taped June 9-12 in Nashville during CMA Music Festival, and captured performances and the artist-fan encounters that have been at the heart of the event for more than three decades. The annual Festival draws more than 145,000 fans for more than 30 hours of autograph signings and 70 hours of live music.

"The CMA Music Festival is one of the most exciting events I've been to," said Andrea Wong, Executive Vice President, Alternative Programming, Specials and Late-Night, ABC Entertainment. "To watch the fans and the artists come together and connect on a personal level is an experience like no other, and we are thrilled to bring this special to ABC for the first time."

In its inaugural broadcast of the event, ABC broadcast performances by some of the hottest acts appearing at CMA Music Festival including Dierks Bentley ("How Am I Doin'?"); Big & Rich with Cowboy Troy ("Rollin' (The Ballad of Big & Rich)"); Sara Evans ("Perfect"); Alan Jackson ("Where I Come From"); Miranda Lambert ("Kerosene"); Jo Dee Messina ("My Give a Damn's Busted") Dolly Parton and The Grascals ("Viva Las Vegas"); Rascal Flatts ("Fast Cars and Freedom"); Sugarland ("Something More"); Keith Urban ("Who Wouldn't Wanna Be Me"); Gretchen Wilson ("All Jacked Up"); Lee Ann Womack ("I May Hate Myself in the Morning"); Wynonna ("I Can Only Imagine"); Phil Vassar ("I'll Take That as a Yes (The Hot Tub Song)"); and Trisha Yearwood ("Georgia Rain").

Mark Bracco, Director of ABC Specials, explained how the network promoted the special.

"ABC ran an aggressive on-air promotional campaign with spots featuring Gretchen Wilson's new single 'All Jacked Up' and the tease that the special would debut her new single," Bracco said. "Good Morning America' featured a performance by Montgomery Gentry and 'The View' had on Dierks Bentley. A tape mailing was sent to the top print markets. Montgomery Gentry also completed an ABC-TV satellite tour and radio tour on MJJ. Dierks Bentley completed a radio tour on MJJ and did an interview on 'CNN Showbiz Tonight.'"



Alan Jackson autographs hats and presents NYC firefighters a plaque of hand-written song lyrics. photo: Paul Fenn / ABC-TV



Big & Rich perform for Monroe Carell Jr. Vanderbilt Children's Hospital patients and their families. photo: Nell Brake



Earl Scruggs, Ricky Skaggs and several student musicians perform at the Nightly Concert at The Coliseum. photo: John Russell



Montgomery Gentry perform "Something to be Proud Of" on "Good Morning America." (l-r) "Good Morning America" weatherman Tony Perkins; Eddie Montgomery; "Good Morning America" anchor Diane Sawyer and Troy Gentry. photo: Heidi Gutman / ABC-TV

GAC AIRS "CMA CELEBRITY CLOSE UP" SPECIAL

Great American Country found some great Country Music programming by taping the "CMA Celebrity Close Up" sessions during the 2005 CMA Music Festival.

GAC will re-air the special on Monday, Nov. 14, at 8 and 11 P.M. EST. It premiered on Sept. 7.

Television and radio personality Lorianne Crook sat down at the Ryman Auditorium with Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn, Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry, and all three members of Sugarland (Kristian Bush, Kristen Hall and Jennifer Nettles), for an hour of interviews that included questions from a studio audience of Country Music fans from around the globe.

Brooks and Montgomery joked about their musical partners and their most embarrassing stage moments, while the three members of Sugarland shared insight and inspiration from their current tour.

"This show is important to us because it illustrates the important link between Country artists and fans," said Sarah Trahern, GAC Vice President of Programming. "Fans made up the audience and asked questions, along with Lorianne, so it's not your typical TV interview because of all the participation."

Gary Voochies

On the Web: GACtv.com



Sugarland shares insights into their growing career.

COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST PARTY"

ABC's promotional efforts paid off in the ratings and album sales. Every act on the show got a sales bump, led by a 27 percent increase for Phil Vassar and a 24 percent increase for Big & Rich and Gretchen Wilson.

"We were very excited to partner with ABC for this exciting show," said Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director. "The special includes riveting performances in front of thousands of fans — which is where these artists excel. The unique relationship between Country Music artists and their fans is the cornerstone of this event. This wonderful bond was spotlighted as the TV special looked behind-the-scenes and into the real stories that are part of what has made this Festival a singular success for 34 years."

The special also featured stories showcasing the relationship between Country Music artists and fans.

In one segment, Alan Jackson met New York City firefighters touched by the singer's September 11th inspired "Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)." Another accompanied Rascal Flatts as they made a surprise return to play a Downtown Nashville bar, Fiddle and Steel Bar, where they got their start.

Also during the show, Big & Rich paid a visit to the Monroe Carell Jr. Vanderbilt Children's Hospital to perform and honor a young patient who had become a friend and inspired their music before she died in 2003. In addition, Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry took viewers on a quick tour of the Festival in their camouflage Bad Boy Buggie, a four-wheeler/golf cart, to interviews with fans from around the world.

"Country Music fans are the greatest," Montgomery said. "They've always got your back."

Comedian Rodney Carrington, star of ABC-TV's "Rodney," did a segment on the autograph sessions in the exhibit hall. And Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn led five young musicians through a rehearsal before introducing them to two of their heroes, Ricky Skaggs and Earl Scruggs. The five youngsters, along with Brooks, Skaggs and Scruggs, were also seen performing "Foggy Mountain Breakdown" on stage at one of the Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum.

"When you see hungry hearts like that, you want to feed them," Skaggs said. "And they appreciate it and they will never forget it."

The pairing of the CMA Music Festival television special with ABC made for a night of memorable performances and insightful stories that demonstrated the significance of Country Music.

"Right now, Country Music truly is America's music ... which makes it the perfect fit for ABC," Brocco said.

Gary Voorhies



Comedian Rodney Carrington, star of ABC-TV's "Rodney" interviews fans Brielle and Colista Robbins. photo: Jim Hagens



Rascal Flatts performs at the Fiddle and Steel Guitar Bar in Downtown Nashville. photo: Paul Fenn / ABC TV



Dierks Bentley performs "Come a Little Closer" on "The View."



Eddie Montgomery of Montgomery Gentry and Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn with Lorianne Crook, host of "CMA Celebrity Close Up." photos: Amanda Eckard

2006 CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets for 2006 CMA Music Festival are a hot commodity, with sales far ahead of previous years and Gold Circle seating at The Coliseum already sold out.

Four-day ticket packages include: Nightly Concerts at The Coliseum, home of the NFL's Tennessee Titans; Daily Concerts at Daytime Stages at Riverfront Park, on the bank of the Cumberland River; daily admittance to the autograph signings and exhibits at the Fun Fair® (Exhibit Hall) in the Nashville Convention Center; Family Zone, Fun Zone, Sports Zone, late-night music and specials at Downtown clubs during CMA Music Festival After Hours™; free in-town shuttles to event sites; Official Program Book and more.

CMA Music Festival 2006 will take place Thursday through Sunday, June 8-11, in Downtown Nashville. Tickets are available now and selling fast.

To order tickets for the 2006 CMA Music Festival call 1-800-CMA-FEST (1-800-262-3378); (615) 770-2041; visit CMAfest.com to download an order form to fax or mail; visit ticketmaster.com to buy online or charge-by-phone at (615) 255-9600. Prices do not include applicable handling fees. Ticket prices are subject to change without notice. All sales are final and non-refundable.

Four-day ticket package categories correspond to a different level of reserved seating at The Coliseum. Children 3 years and younger are admitted free, and CMA Music Festival continues its popular program of offering discounts for fans 14 and younger.

RESERVED SEATING AREA	ADULT	14 AND YOUNGER
Gold Circle	SOLD OUT	N/A
Floor Level	\$155	\$110
Lower Level	\$135	\$95
Club Level	\$125	\$85

For up-to-the-minute information about CMA Music Festival, visit CMAfest.com and sign up for e-news. The Web site features a gallery of Festival photos, news, highlights, merchandise and more.

AAA OFFERS DISCOUNT TO ITS MEMBERS

For the second year, AAA Auto Club South is offering a special package for their members to attend CMA Music Festival.

The discount package includes five-night hotel accommodations and daily breakfast buffet at the Millennium Maxwell House in Nashville plus four-day tickets to the Festival. The special "AAA Slip Away" offer will be featured in the November/December issue of the association's publication, *Slip Away*.





The nerve center for SIRIUS operations is at Avenue of the Americas and 49th Street in New York City, where the company's state-of-the-art studios are also located.



SIRIUS, which is on track to have 3 million subscribers by the end of the year, enjoyed a 184 percent rise in subscriber growth in the second quarter of 2005, compared to 2004. It's the second largest satellite radio network, after XM Satellite Radio*.

"Our great second quarter results clearly indicate that momentum for SIRIUS is accelerating," said Mel Karmazin, Chief Executive Officer of SIRIUS.

"We beat Wall Street consensus expectations on all important metrics through a continuing focus on sound business execution, while maintaining low churn and very high levels of customer satisfaction," Karmazin said. "Plus, our automotive channel showed very strong results and consumers responded favorably to our second quarter retail promotion. Going into the second half of the year, we believe that creative new programming, additional automotive factory programs and the introduction of exciting new products will continue to drive our strong growth for the future."

One of the company's new products is the SIRIUS S50, a wearable satellite radio which allows users to capture and store up to 50 hours of SIRIUS content, or a mix of SIRIUS programming and MP3/WMA files. The company hopes to become a player in the growing iPod/MP3 player market.

SIRIUS emphasizes original content. The company's six Country Music channels — New Country, Prime Country, The Roadhouse, Outlaw Country, Bluegrass and FolkTown — provide exclusive shows such as Toby Keith's recent stint as a music programmer. A channel was turned over to the star to program from 6 AM to midnight.

Scott Lindy, Director of Country Programming for SIRIUS, said that the Keith promotion garnered some of the highest listener feedback since he's been with the company.

"Our listeners just went crazy and we're still getting calls about that," Lindy said. "We recently partnered with Ocean Way Studio through Belmont University to start a live performance

series called the SIRIUS Sessions from Ocean Way Nashville. The first act to appear was Columbia Records' Van Zant. Doing things like that is where we can set ourselves apart."

Since SIRIUS charges for access to its programming, Lindy believes that unique content is the company's number one priority.

"We really focus on creating exclusive material," he said. "We don't want to do things that you can get anywhere else for free. If you're going to pay \$12.95 a month for this, we better make it special on a regular basis. And we do."

Lindy promises significant changes for the SIRIUS Country channels, including the possibility of additions.

"The chance of us adding channels is pretty good," he said. "We always want to do more with Country Music on SIRIUS because of the successes we've had. I can hear five more channels in my head, but that's because I'm such a fan of the music. It's something we want to do."

Lindy says Country Music is a "major component" of programming on SIRIUS.

"From the surveys we do, we know that our Country channels have very good customer satisfaction," he said. "Country Music is one of the things that's going to make SIRIUS famous."

The nerve center for SIRIUS operations is in New York City and more than 3,200 artists of all genres of music have visited their state-of-the-art New York studios for performances and interviews.

In May, singer/songwriter/author and CMA Awards winner Jimmy Buffett and SIRIUS announced an agreement to present a Radio Margaritaville music channel exclusively for SIRIUS subscribers. The new 24-hour channel features a wide variety of music, live broadcasts of Buffett's concerts and other unique programs.

"I first listened to SIRIUS' incredible programming in my car and my boat," Buffett said. "We designed Radio Margaritaville after the old pirate radio stations that sat offshore and played continued on page 44..."



Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Trace Adkins and LeAnn Rimes perform on the SIRIUS stage at the 2004 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

Terri Clark

Just know, if it's Terri Clark, expect the unexpected.

The 36-year-old Country entertainer, who built a career by doing things her own way, including donning a hat and boots and belting out women's anthems such as "I Wanna Do It All," "Girls Lie Too" and "I Just Wanna Be Mad," no doubt has caught some fans and the industry off guard with her new album and its first single "She Didn't Have Time."

The single, an uncharacteristic ballad from Clark, was one of the final songs added to her album, *Life Goes On*, due out Nov. 1.

In fact, without delays caused by major staff changes at her label, Mercury Nashville, "She Didn't Have Time," written by Pat Bunch and Nicole Witt, may not have been on the album at all. With 12 songs recorded on an album tentatively titled *Honky Tonk Songs*, the process stopped, halting release for months. While the project was on hold, Clark's camp found "She Didn't Have Time."

"I've really been looking for that ballad that can be an anthem for women with the same kind of depth as a big, big ballad, but with the same kind of message as my tempo songs have been for me," Clark said.

The song is reminiscent of a Reba McEntire story-single, telling the tale of a single mother putting her young daughter's life before her own. Ironically, Clark, who has spoken for years about her admiration for McEntire, found herself in a tug-of-war of sorts with the veteran entertainer over "She Didn't Have Time."

"The night before we were going to cut 'She Didn't Have Time,' my producer said 'Reba has this song on hold.' The next thing you know, the phone rings and it's Reba."

They chatted for a minute.

"Ten minutes later she called me back and said I could have this song," Clark said. "It was really nice of her."

McEntire's gift is significant to Clark for another reason.

"Reba is one of those artists who didn't come into her own and become a mass appeal artist until she was at least 10 years into her career," Clark said. "That's where I'm at now."

Last year was a milestone year for Clark, with the release of her first greatest hits collection and induction as a member of the Grand Ole Opry. With a new album on the brink of release and a ballad climbing the charts, Clark anticipates even bigger events for the future.

"Women don't generally get to go play stadiums, but I never give up the hope," she said. "I'm very ambitious and very competitive," she said, adding that she's satisfied with the growth of her career as long as she can feel she's gaining momentum.

To keep her career moving forward, Clark realized, it was time to shake things up a bit with the new album, produced by Byron Gallimore, featuring three songs written by Clark: "Slow News Day," "Everybody's Gotta Go Sometime" and "Tear It all Down."

"This is my sixth studio album. I've got to find something that I haven't said five times before and yet not alienate my audience," she said.

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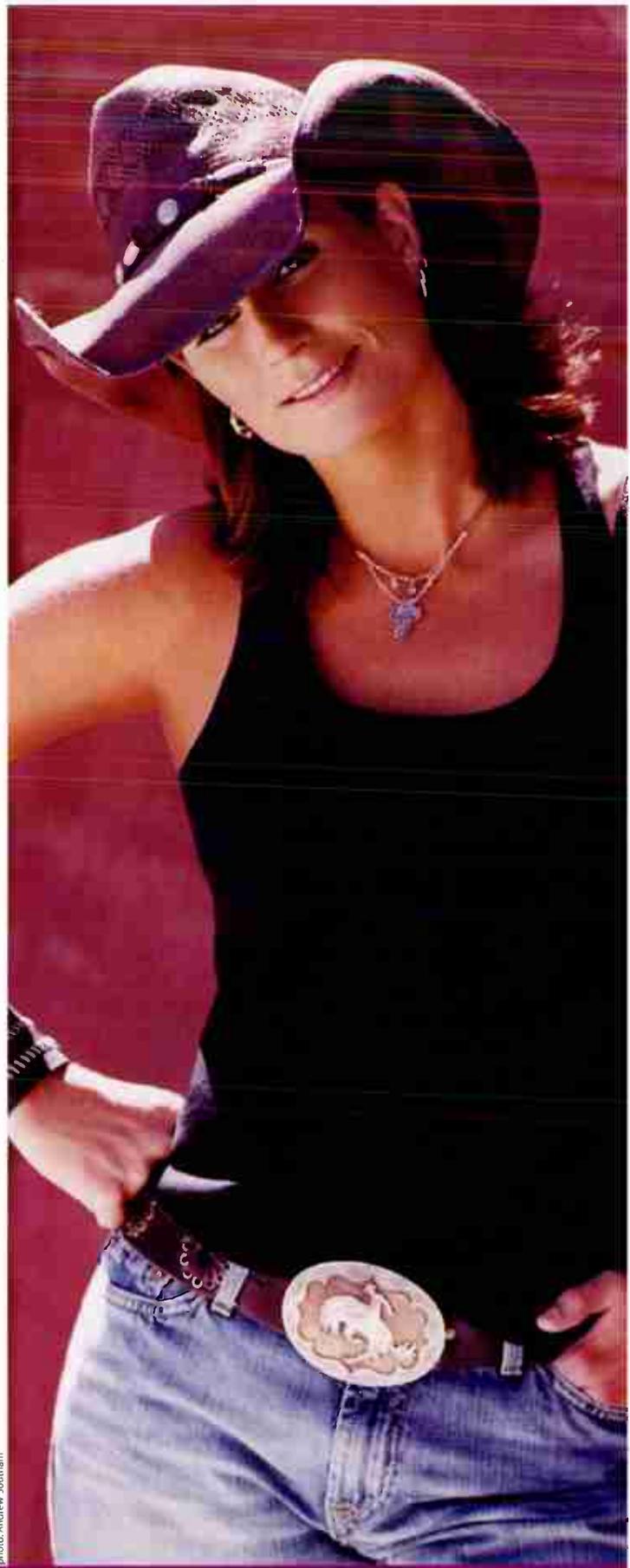


Photo: Andrew Southern

Finds Her 'Big, Big Ballad' For New Album



Benji Sharp
(Capitol Records)



The Willies (Open Road Records/
Maple Music)



Billy Yates (M.O.D. Records)



T.G. Sheppard
(Destiny Row
Records)

PovertyNecK
Hillbillies
(Cort Records)



photo: courtesy of PovertyNecK Hillbillies

INDEPENDENTS' DAY **Surviving**

Necessity isn't the only mother of invention. Ambition sires a few discoveries, too. This is demonstrably apparent among Country artists who record for independent labels — often their own. Without the promotional resources major labels provide to ensure national distribution, major market airplay and relentless publicity, indies have to find other avenues and methods to sell albums and tickets. But, with digital technology lowering recording costs and the Internet providing a worldwide storefront, many such acts are thriving.

CMA Close Up polled several indie artists to ask how they survive in the increasingly competitive marketplace.

"After leaving a major label to start my own a few short years ago, I decided to put all of my time and resources into marketing my music in Europe," said Billy Yates, who wrote the George Jones hit "Choices" and earlier recorded for Epic Records and Almo Sounds. He now runs his own label, M.O.D. Records.

"There seemed to be a definite compatibility between my kind of music and the music loved by the fans and industry (in Europe)," Yates said. "Now I'm seeing an increase in interest in Australia, New Zealand and Japan. So I'll continue over the next several years to expand the current base and eventually move into other parts of the world."

Historically, the lack of timely and adequate distribution has sunk promising careers. Yates said that he has diversified to avoid this pitfall. "I currently distribute my product through a number of smaller outlets here and abroad. I sell wholesale to various exporters, importers and wholesalers around the world. Internet sales have also proven to be a strong means for selling product, both through my Web site and through several others, including CD Baby. I've also secured digital distribution on many sites including Apple iTunes, Sony Connect and others. Now I'm considering several distribution offers that will enable me to maximize sales through territorial deals all across Europe, the UK and throughout other parts of the world."

The less radio exposure an indie act gets, the more it needs to promote its music through concerts. "I'll work around 50 dates this year in Europe alone," Yates said. "I generally travel there about once a month for

one to two weeks at a time. This has come after building a fan base through airplay and media support. I started headlining several of the festivals this year and have seen crowds in excess of 10,000 people. Now with an ever-growing fan base and increased demand I can continue to expand with even more airplay and media support. I presently deal with two different agents. One in Holland that books all of Europe and another in England that focuses solely on the UK."

A former marketing executive, Lynn Bryant put that expertise to work to sell her current album, *Woman Enough*, on V-Tone Records. "As an independent artist," Bryant said, "I knew I had to come up with a way of marketing myself beyond the normal channels of distribution." She struck a deal between her company, Sunrise Productions, and Ferguson Enterprises, a chain that sells plumbing and construction supplies to both wholesale and retail customers. She picked Ferguson, she explained, because it represented an industry with which she was already familiar.

Although Ferguson has more than 3,500 locations worldwide, Bryant began her campaign with 21 stores in Georgia and Texas. Under this agreement, Sunrise purchases Bryant's albums from V-Tone and re-sells them to Ferguson on a no-return basis. Sunrise also provides the stores counter displays (at cost) and a copy of Bryant's current music video to play on the store monitors. Bryant said she hopes to include other new artists in this campaign once it gains momentum. "It's just rolling out now," she said, "but the opportunity is very large."

T. G. Sheppard, who records for Destiny Row Records, has an advantage few other indie artists can boast — a long string of memorable hits. Beginning with "Devil in the Bottle" in 1974, Sheppard steadily scored several No. 1s over the next 12 years, among them "Last Cheater's Waltz," "Do You Wanna Go to Heaven," "Party Time," "Finally" and "Strong Heart."

"We were fortunate to have some great records early in our career that have been very successful running on stations as recurrenents," Sheppard said. "We had a couple of records that crossed over as Top 40 pop records in the '80s which also helped to boost our career. I have always toured extensively since the beginning of my career. I have tried

"As an independent artist, I knew I had to come up with a way of marketing myself beyond the normal channels of distribution."

— Lynn Bryant, V-Tone Records



photo: Brian Rasmussen

Doug Stone
(Lofton Creek Records)



photo: Brian Rasmussen

Keith Bryant
(Lofton Creek Records)



photo: Brian Rasmussen

Lynn Bryant
(Y-Youe Records)



photo: Michael Wilson

Jeff Black
(Dualtone Records)



Leland Martin
(Magnet Music/
Aspirin Records)



Robbie Fulks
(Yep Roc Records)

in a Major Label World

to stay on the road at least 100 days per year minimum to keep my face and name in front of the public. The other key to all this is to have a great live show. Your show has to make people want to see you over and over and hopefully never get bored with what you do. You have to keep both the show and the music fresh."

Sheppard, who worked in record promotion during the 1960s, noted that smaller labels can stay more in tune with their artists than the majors. "If you surround yourself with good management, guidance and direction are not a problem. Doing it yourself or working with a small label that shares your vision for your music and your craft enables you to be true to yourself and your music."

Robbie Fulks, who records for the innovative Yep Roc label, conceded that independence from major labels comes at the cost of increased involvement in every mundane aspect of the business. "I think you have to maximize the DIY (do-it-yourself) tools and do all the little things that don't necessarily constitute the best or most pleasant use of your time but are nonetheless necessary," Fulks said. "I'm referring to mailing out Web site orders, keeping up with SoundScan, staying on top of auto maintenance, booking decent hotels for your band, disseminating itinerary information, doing all the radio and retail work you can to support your label's efforts, maintaining your sound gear, etc. ... I actually don't mind most of it. It does prevent me from spending more time practicing guitar and writing songs, though."

Such intimacy with the promotional process has another up side, according to Fulks. "The biggest thing I've learned is to be very proactive about keeping good relationships going with the people that support me one-on-one. I answer my fans' letters. I give them time at shows. If they hire me for private events, I meet their families, and try to remember their names when I see them again a year later. I have a drink with the promoters after the shows and talk trash. I tip the bartenders and merchandise sellers well. I've gotten to be good friends with some

of these people, fans and promoters and bartenders. Every once in a while one of them throws something generous my way — a good-paying festival or private party. Those are the things that have really kept me in business for 10 years — not so much club shows or record royalties."

Lofton Creek Records, which has Keith Bryant, Shawn King, Doug Stone and Jeffrey Steele on its roster, has had considerable success, President Mike Borchetta reported, with a theme album. Bryant's *Ridin' With the Legend*, which is keyed to NASCAR fans, has sold 40,000 copies since its mid-July release.

Stone brought more than a decade of Country hits with him when he signed to Lofton Creek and he included a couple of them on *In a Different Light*, his debut album for the label. The album also features several pop standards, among them "Tell It Like It Is," "Georgia On My Mind" and "Only You," with the aim to offer the consumer something reassuringly familiar besides Stone's melodious voice. Lofton Creek released Stone's album in the spring and boosted it with a 30-minute TV special that aired repeatedly on GAC.

"The biggest thing I've learned is to be very proactive about keeping good relationships going with the people that support me one-on-one. I answer my fans' letters. I give them time at shows. If they hire me for private events, I meet their families..."

— Robbie Fulks, Yep Roc Records

Steve Wilkinson, the patriarch of the family trio The Wilkinsons (son Tyler and daughter Amanda), has seen the business from both ends. The Wilkinsons made their breakthrough on the now-defunct Giant Records in 1998 with the No. 3 single "26 Cents."

"Rather than try to compete with a major record label, with the large promo budget that's at their disposal, you need to be a little more creative and be willing to think outside the typical record label box," Wilkinson said. "That's why The Wilkinsons in particular pitched the idea of a long-format TV program."

The program is a reality series, tentatively called "Meet The Wilkinsons." It's set to air this fall on CMT Canada for 10 episodes. "We do still have videos and singles that have been released and currently play on the various formats, but with long-format programming we will be enjoying another avenue of exposure," Wilkinson said. The Wilkinsons continue to tour in Canada, their home base, and the United States. Their newest album, *Highway*, released in March, is distributed in continued on page 44 ...

MUSICARES and OPRY TRUST FUND Can Provide Help to Musicians



Pursuing a career in the music industry is often a rocky journey. Everyone in the business — whether it's a musician, producer, bus driver, engineer or stagehand — faces personal difficulties from time to time. Thankfully, music industry professionals have within their reach numerous organizations willing to offer aid.

Established in 1989 by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences, MusiCares helps music industry workers cope with personal, medical and financial hardships. All phone calls made to MusiCares' four toll-free telephone numbers are confidential. MusiCares provides many forms of aid, including crisis intervention, health care referrals, financial assistance grants and addiction recovery programs.

"We have negotiated low-cost rates with a large number of treatment facilities around the country," said Debbie Carroll, MusiCares' Senior Director of Health & Human Services. "Our relationships enable us to do a quick assessment with the client, make a phone call and then get the client treatment almost immediately."

MusiCares also operates addiction recovery support groups around the nation. These free services are designed specifically for music industry professionals, to help them deal with ongoing recovery issues.

"We also have Safe Harbor Rooms, which are clean-and-sober rooms at awards shows and other events," Carroll said. "CMA has been very generous in allowing us to have Safe Harbor Rooms backstage at its annual awards show for several years now. If folks are working on the show, or performing on the show, and they're in recovery, they can come to a Safe Harbor Room. There, they can relax, grab a bite to eat or participate in a 12-step meeting. They can do so confidentially, right there, backstage at the show."

For the past four years, Marty Stuart has designated MusiCares as the beneficiary of his Late Night Jam, a multi-artist concert at the Ryman Auditorium during the week of CMA Music Festival in Nashville each June. Contributions from the Late Night Jam have generated more than \$50,000 for MusiCares.

MusiCares is in the midst of a record year for fund distribution. "Last year, we distributed \$1.3 million, and this year we're on target to distribute more than \$2 million," Carroll said. "That's great news. It means that people are aware that we're here and they're looking to us to help them."

MusiCares often partners with other entertainment assistance organizations, including The Actors' Fund of America; the American Federation of Musicians, Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers; and the Music Maker Relief Foundation.

MusiCares offices are located in Nashville, Chicago, New York, Los Angeles, Hollywood and Austin. Carroll can be reached at (615) 327-0050. The toll-free hotline is (877) 626-2748.

The Nashville-based Opry Trust Fund has much in common with MusiCares. The fund was established in 1965, and has provided assistance for medical bills, living expenses, rental fees, mortgage payments, utilities and food. The identity of people helped by the fund remains confidential.

"The vast majority of the cases we help out with are due to an illness," said Steve Buchanan, who is the Opry Trust Fund President as well as Senior Vice President of Media and Entertainment for Gaylord Entertainment.

"Typically, we receive a referral," Buchanan said. "People make us aware of someone who is in need. We go through a process to understand the circumstances and to determine what will help bridge the gap. We analyze the

continued on page 46...



(1) and (2) Country stars including Jessi Alexander, Dierks Bentley, Jessi Colter, Shooter Jennings, Miranda Lambert, Raul Malo, Earl Scruggs, Randy Scruggs, Connie Smith, Marty Stuart and his band the Fabulous Superlatives and Holly Williams perform at the Ryman Auditorium during CMA Music Festival week on June 8, 2005 at Marty Stuart's Fourth Annual Late Night Jam, to help raise more than \$21,000 for the MusiCares Foundation. (l-r) Randy Scruggs, Earl Scruggs and Marty Stuart. (l-r) Connie Smith, Jessi Colter, Jessi Alexander, Dierks Bentley and Shooter Jennings. photo: Thomas Pettilo

(3) In 2003, the Grand Ole Opry Trust Fund committed \$250,000 towards development of the Country Music Retirement Center. On July 26, 2003, Martina McBride accepts the initial \$50,000 contribution during "Grand Ole Opry Live." (l-r) Wayne Halper, General Manager, DreamWorks Records Nashville; Pete Fisher, General Manager, Grand Ole Opry; Martina McBride; Brian Williams, Senior Vice President, SunTrust Bank; and Joe Galante, RCA Label Group Chairman. photo: courtesy of Grand Ole Opry (note titles are from 2003 and may have since changed)

(4) On Dec. 7, 2004, CMA donates \$100,000 to charities designated by artists who participated in the 2004 CMA Music Festival as part of CMA's "Cause For Celebration!" charitable benefit program. For the fourth consecutive year, the Country Music Retirement Community was the largest single recipient of funds from the program. (l-r) CMA Executive Director Ed Benson; CMA Music Festival Executive Producer and Buddy Lee Attractions President Tony Conway; CMRC Board President Brian Williams; CMRC Executive Project Coordinator Katie Gillon; Capitol Records Nashville recording artist Jamie O'Neal and CMA Board Chairman Kix Brooks. photo: John Russell (note titles are from 2004 and may have since changed)



The final nominees for "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" Country Music's Biggest Night™ are announced at a news conference on Wednesday, Sept. 7, 2005 at Stone Rose in the Time Warner Center in New York City, broadcast live on "CMT Insider Special Edition: 2005 CMA Awards Nominees Announcement" and on Country Radio by CMA Radio Partner MJI Programming, a Division of Premiere Radio Networks. (l-r) Charles Fazzino, popular 3-D artist and official artist of the 2005 CMA Awards; Kim Kosak, Chevrolet General Director, Advertising and Sales Promotion; Daniel L. Doctoroff, NYC Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Scott Reeves of Blue County; Maureen J. Reidy, President of NYC Big Events, Inc.; Aaron Benward of Blue County; Miranda Lambert; Keith Urban; Lee Ann Womack and Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director.

BRAD PAISLEY and LEE ANN WOMACK LEAD NOMINEES with SIX NOMINATIONS EACH for "THE 39th ANNUAL CMA AWARDS," COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST NIGHT™

Toby Keith and Keith Urban Receive Four Nominations and Sugarland Scores Three Nominations

Brooks & Dunn Hosts CMA Awards on Tuesday, Nov. 15 from New York City's Madison Square Garden

The final list of nominees for "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" is an across-the-board collection of hard-core traditionalists, Country Music hitmakers, mainstream innovators with a healthy dose of up-and-comers added to the mix.

"Country Music is thriving on the talent and creativity of an outstanding group of artists and they are well represented with our nominees," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "These talented performers, musicians, songwriters and producers demonstrate the artistic depth and creativity driving the burgeoning growth of our format. It is an exciting time for Country Music and the 2005 CMA Awards will definitely reflect that in November."

"The 39th Annual CMA Awards" will be hosted for the second year by Arista Nashville super duo Brooks & Dunn and broadcast live from New York City's Madison Square Garden, Tuesday, Nov. 15 (8:00-11:00 PM/ET) on the CBS Television Network.

For the first time in the history of the CMA Awards, the announcement of the final nominees was made in New York City, which is hosting the CMA Awards for the first time in 2005. CMA chose to move the Awards for this year from its traditional home in Nashville, Tenn., as a platform to reach a broader consumer base, placing Country Music in the heart of the media and marketing capital of the world.

"New York City has long established itself as the premiere destination for the biggest events in entertainment," Benson said. "With the city as the backdrop of this year's CMA Awards, we will add even more excitement, energy and glamour to what is already one of the most anticipated events of the year."

Announcing the finalists in the 12 Award categories were reigning Male Vocalist of the Year Keith Urban and three-time CMA Awards winner Lee Ann Womack. It was a good day for both of them.

Womack received six nominations including Female Vocalist of the Year (which she won in 2001); Album of the Year for her MCA Nashville release, *There's More Where That Came From*; Single and Music Video of the Year for "I May Hate Myself in the Morning;" and two nominations for Musical Event of the Year, one with George Strait for "Good News, Bad News," and one with Willie Nelson for "I'll Never Be Free." "I May Hate Myself in the Morning," was also nominated for Song of the Year, which goes to the songwriter Odie Blackmon. The last time a female received six nominations was Faith Hill in 2000.

Nelson is a proven winner with Womack. In 2002, they won Vocal Event (now Musical Event) of the Year with "Mendocino County Line." She claimed the Single of the Year trophy in 2000 with her smash "I Hope You Dance."

Womack tied for the most nominations with Brad Paisley. Paisley has won five CMA Awards since he received one of his first nominations in 2000 for the Horizon Award. Paisley is nominated for Entertainer of the Year (his first nomination in the category); Male Vocalist of the Year; Single, Song and Music Video of the Year for "Alcohol;" and Musical Event of the Year with Sara Evans for "New Again." In 2004, Paisley won Musical Event and Music Video of the Year for "Whiskey Lullaby" with Alison Krauss. Songwriters Bill Anderson and Jon Randall are nominated for "Whiskey Lullaby" for 2005 Song of the Year.

Keith Urban and Toby Keith each had four nominations. Urban was nominated for Entertainer of the Year (his first nomination in the category); Male Vocalist of the Year; Album of the Year for *Be Here*; and Music Video of the Year for "Days Go By." Urban is two-for-two with CMA Award nominations and wins. He won his first CMA Award in 2001, when he picked up the Horizon Award. In 2004, he received his first nomination for Male Vocalist of the Year and won that, too. He can win an

continued on page 14...



Blue County and 3-D artist Charles Fazzino display the official 2005 CMA Awards artwork.



Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director, Keith Urban and Lee Ann Womack.



The CMA Awards Nominees News Conference coincides with the "Chevy All Access Music Tour," which took over Union Square Park in New York City, Sept. 6-8. Kim Kosak, Chevrolet General Director, Advertising and Sales Promotion, talks about the tour and the groundbreaking partnership between the auto manufacturer, CMA and the City of New York.



Blue County (Aaron Burckow, Scott Reeves not pictured), Miranda Lambert, Keith Urban and Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director.



additional trophy as co-producer of his album.

Keith, who won his first CMA Award in 2001 for Male Vocalist, received four nominations for Entertainer of the Year; Single, Song and Music Video of the Year for "As Good As I Once Was." Keith is eligible for an added trophy as co-producer of "As Good As I Once Was."

Several artists had three nominations each including Rascal Flatts, George Strait, Sugarland and Gretchen Wilson.

Reigning Vocal Group of the Year Rascal Flatts is nominated again in that category as well as Album of the Year for *Feels Like Today* and Single of the Year for "Bless The Broken Road." The song is also nominated for Song of the Year, with songwriters Marcus Hummon, Bobby E. Boyd and Jeff Hanna. Rascal Flatts is also eligible for additional trophies as co-producers of their album and single.

In 2005, George Strait added Male Vocalist of the Year, Album of the Year for *Somewhere Down in Texas*; and Musical Event of the Year for his duet with Lee Ann Womack to his outstanding list of career nominations. He is also eligible for an additional Award as co-producer of his album.

Red hot trio Sugarland have hit it big in 2005 with their first, second and third CMA Award nominations including Single of the Year for "Baby Girl," the longest running single on the *Billboard* Country Singles Chart in the history of the monitored chart era; Vocal Group of the Year and the coveted Horizon Award.

Wilson won the Horizon trophy in 2004, and she is nominated in 2005 for Female Vocalist of the Year; Song of the Year for "Redneck Woman," which she co-wrote with John Rich of Big & Rich; and Music Video of the Year for "When I Think About Cheatin'."

In addition to Van Zant, made up of Southern rock royalty brothers Donnie Van Zant (.38 Special) and Johnny Van Zant (Lynyrd Skynyrd) and Sugarland, Country artists receiving their first CMA Award nominations include Billy Currington for Musical Event of the Year with Shania Twain for "Party For Two," and Miranda Lambert for the Horizon Award.

The 2004 CMA Awards, which aired on a Tuesday night for the first time, posted an 11.5 rating with an 18 share. CBS estimates that more than 37 million viewers watched all or part of the gala event. CBS was first in households, viewers and key demographics during the three-hour broadcast (8:00-11:00 PM/ET). CBS won every half-hour in households, viewers, adults 18-49 and adults 25-54. This marked CBS' best delivery in households, viewers and adults 25-54 and adults 18-49 since November 2001.

To put the success of the CMA Awards rating in perspective, during the 2004-2005 television season, the CMA Awards trailed only the Academy Awards and was a statistical tie with the GRAMMY Awards.

The CMA Awards was first broadcast on network television in 1968 — making it the longest running music awards program on network television. Winners of "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" will be determined in the third and final round of voting by nearly 6,000 industry professional members of the Country Music Association. CMA Awards balloting is officiated by the international accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP.

The CMA Awards Nominees News Conference, held at Stone Rose in the Time Warner Building in New York City, was carried live on "CMT Insider Special Edition: 2005 CMA Awards Nominees Announcement" and re-aired several times following. In addition, the event and artists received extensive television airtime and media attention from outlets attending including "Access Hollywood," AOL Music, AP, *Billboard*, CNN, *Country Weekly*, E!, "Entertainment Tonight," "Extra," *The New York Times*, MJI Programming, *People*, *The Tennessean*, TV Guide Channel, a number of New York City television stations and many more.

A video news release with footage from the 2004 CMA Awards and interviews with some of the 2005 nominees was also serviced.

The CMA Awards is produced by Walter C. Miller, directed by Paul Miller and scripted by David Wild. MJI Programming is the official radio packager of the CMA Awards, which includes Red Carpet coverage and a stereo-radio simulcast of the gala event. Chevy, an American Revolution, is the official automotive sponsor of the 2005 CMA Awards. American Airlines is the official airline of the 2005 CMA Awards. Additional promotional sponsors include Prilosec OTC and Crème Savers. Charles Fazzino is the official artist of the 2005 CMA Awards.

Wendy Pearl

On the Web: CMAawards.com

Attendees watch Shania Twain, among other artists, in a video presentation of highlights from the 2004 CMA Awards
World Radio History

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

KENNY CHESNEY
ALAN JACKSON
TOBY KEITH
BRAD PAISLEY
KEITH URBAN

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

SARA EVANS
ALISON KRAUSS
MARTINA MCBRIDE
GRETCHEN WILSON
LEE ANN WOMACK

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

KENNY CHESNEY
ALAN JACKSON
BRAD PAISLEY
GEORGE STRAIT
KEITH URBAN

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

ALISON KRAUSS + UNION STATION
FEATURING JERRY DOUGLAS
DIAMOND RIO
LONESTAR
RASCAL FLATTS
SUGARLAND

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

BIG & RICH
BROOKS & DUNN
MONTGOMERY GENTRY
VAN ZANT
THE WARREN BROTHERS

SINGLE OF THE YEAR

(Award goes to artist and producer)

"ALCOHOL"
Brad Paisley
Produced by Frank Rogers
Arista Nashville

"AS GOOD AS I ONCE WAS"

Toby Keith
Produced by James Stroud/Toby Keith
DreamWorks Records Nashville

"BABY GIRL"

Sugarland
Produced by Garth Fundis
Mercury Records Nashville

"BLESS THE BROKEN ROAD"

Rascal Flatts
Produced by Mark Bright/
Marty Williams/Rascal Flatts
Lyric Street Records

"I MAY HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING"

Lee Ann Womack
Produced by Byron Gallimore
MCA Nashville

HORIZON AWARD

DIERKS BENTLEY
BIG & RICH
MIRANDA LAMBERT
JULIE ROBERTS
SUGARLAND

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

(Award goes to artist and producer)

BE HERE
Keith Urban
Produced by Dann Huff/Keith Urban
Capitol Records Nashville

FEELS LIKE TODAY

Rascal Flatts
Produced by Mark Bright/
Marty Williams/Rascal Flatts
Lyric Street Records

LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING

Tim McGraw
Produced by Tim McGraw/
Byron Gallimore/Darran Smith
Curb Records

SOMEWHERE DOWN IN TEXAS

George Strait
Produced by Tony Brown/George Strait
MCA Nashville

THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM

Lee Ann Womack
Produced by Byron Gallimore/
Greg Droman
MCA Nashville

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

(Award goes to artist and director)

"ALCOHOL"
Brad Paisley
Directed by Jim Shea

"AS GOOD AS I ONCE WAS"

Toby Keith
Directed by Michael Salomon

"DAYS GO BY"

Keith Urban
Directed by Wayne Isham

"I MAY HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING"

Lee Ann Womack
Directed by Trey Fanjoy

"WHEN I THINK ABOUT CHEATIN'"

Gretchen Wilson
Directed by Robert Deaton/
George J. Flanigen IV

CMA AWARDS FINAL NOMINEES

SONG OF THE YEAR

(Award goes to songwriter and primary publisher)

"ALCOHOL"
Brad Paisley
EMI April/Sea Gayle Music

"AS GOOD AS I ONCE WAS"

Toby Keith/Scotty Emerick
Tokeco Tunes/Sony/ATV Songs/
Big Yellow Dog Music/
Florida Cracker Music

"BLESS THE BROKEN ROAD"

Marcus Hummon/Bobby E. Boyd/
Jeff Hanna
Careers-BMG Music/Jeff Diggs Music

"I MAY HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING"

Odie Blackmon
Cal IV Songs

"REDNECK WOMAN"

Gretchen Wilson/John Rich
Sony/ATV Cross Keys/Hoosiermama
Music/WB Music Corp

"WHISKEY LULLABY"

Bill Anderson/Jon Randall
Sony/ATV/Mr. Bubba Music/
Reynsong/Wha Ya Say Music

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

George Strait (Duet with
Lee Ann Womack)
"GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS"
MCA Nashville

Willie Nelson with Lee Ann Womack
"I'LL NEVER BE FREE"
Lost Highway Records

Brad Paisley/Sara Evans
"NEW AGAIN"
Wind Up Records

Shania Twain (with Billy Currington)
"PARTY FOR TWO"
Mercury Records Nashville

Jimmy Buffett with Martina McBride
"TRIP AROUND THE SUN"
RCA Records

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

JERRY DOUGLAS - Dobro
PAUL FRANKLIN - Steel Guitar
DANN HUFF - Electric Guitar
BRENT MASON - Guitar/Electric Guitar
RANDY SCRUGGS - Guitar/Mandolin



REACTIONS FROM SOME OF THE CMA AWARDS NOMINEES

"All my life growing up I would watch the CMA Awards and dream about what it would be like to get nominated. Now, I am kind of used to going to the Awards, but it is still such a thrill every year; it's like Prom Night and being nominated for Prom Queen. I love the music, the clothes, the Red Carpet and seeing all my friends. I feel more connected to it now more than ever before."

— **Sara Evans**
Female Vocalist and Musical Event of the Year nominations

"I can't believe it, I really can't believe it. To hear my name called as a Horizon nominee was amazing and to hear Keith Urban read it made it even more special."

— **Miranda Lambert**
Horizon Award nomination

"In the past 15 years I've been nominated 14 times in this category and have won twice. With the longevity of my career, I've always made it a point to reinvent myself and stay fresh. The fact that I continue to be recognized in this way is an award in and of itself."

— **Brent Mason**
Musician of the Year nomination

"I'm blown away. I have been so wrapped up in making and supporting my new album, *Time Well Wasted*, that I honestly was exhausted and in dire need of sleep (until right now). What a great wake-up call! This is the kind of day you dream of when you make records ... when you get this kind of good news. I am truly humbled by these nominations and of course, I can't wait to eat that New York pizza."

— **Brad Paisley**
Entertainer, Male Vocalist, Single, Song, Music Video and Musical Event of the Year nominations

"The old cliché is to say that it is an honor just to be nominated, but after 15 consecutive nominations in this category, we are truly honored. We are blessed to have had this longevity in this industry that we love being a part of."

— **Brian Prout of Diamond Rio**
Vocal Group of the Year nomination

"When I look back over the last 10 years, we as a band have accomplished so much. And individually, we've accomplished a lot. But I think one of the things I'm most proud of is the fact that out of all the success that we've had, we've been really blessed to sell a lot of records, have a lot of No. 1s and play for a lot of fans, and we've done it as a band, as a unit."

— **Dean Sams of Lonestar**
Vocal Group of the Year nomination

"I can't begin to express just how much the CMA nomination for Musician of the Year means to me. I've spent a lifetime in the presence of one of the most important and influential musicians of all time. Thanks to my dad, I've truly learned the importance of not only applying your best skills to your playing but true heart as well."

— **Randy Scruggs**
Musician of the Year nomination

"Three words: Madison Square Garden."
— **Kristian Bush of Sugarland**
Horizon Award, Vocal Group and Single of the Year nominations

"For the first time, I truly understand what people mean when they say it's an honor just to be nominated. This is awesome."

— **Kristen Hall of Sugarland**
Horizon Award, Vocal Group and Single of the Year nominations

"This is very surreal. I can't believe we are nominated in three categories for 'Baby Girl.' I feel like we are living out the story of 'Baby Girl' and we're almost to the bridge but we aren't sending money home yet. It takes a long time."

— **Jennifer Nettles of Sugarland**
Horizon Award, Vocal Group and Single of the Year nominations

"Given that this is an industry award, it's particularly humbling. In Nashville there are so many people trying to make music and be heard. So when you get a nomination for anything like this, it's quite an honor."

— **Keith Urban**
Entertainer, Male Vocalist, Album and Music Video of the Year nominations

"When I woke up this morning, in New York City, I felt like crap and had one of the worst hangovers of my life and then ... 30 minutes later, I got this news. I feel so much better now."

— **Gretchen Wilson**
Female Vocalist, Song and Music Video of the Year nominations

"It's a joy to see this album and the people who put their hearts and souls into it, such as the songwriters and musicians, recognized by the CMA for their dedication to the project. This is my dream album and it's been the experience of a lifetime to see it through."

— **Lee Ann Womack**
Female Vocalist, Single, Album, Music Video and two Musical Event of the Year Nominations



Ed Butler, CMA Executive Director, welcomes the audience to "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" Final Nominees News Conference.



Miranda Lambert being interviewed about the 2015 CMA Broadcast Awards Nominees.

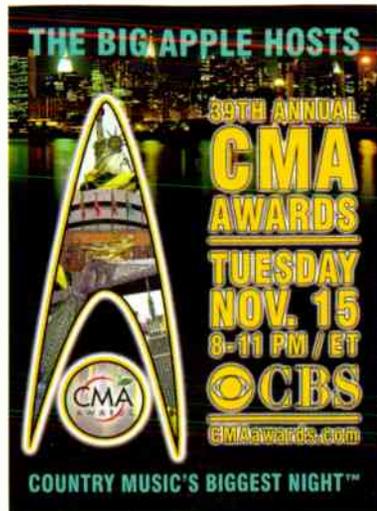


Keith Urban talks to the media about his four CMA Awards nominations and Lee Ann Womack talks about her five CMA Awards nominations.



Keith Urban and Lee Ann Womack announce the final nominees.





POSTER AND FLAT FRONT



POSTER BACK

CMA AWARDS NARM POP CAMPAIGN PROMOTING COUNTRY MUSIC

CMA, the National Association of Recording Merchandisers (NARM) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) continue a 23-year joint point-of-purchase (POP) campaign to promote "The 39th Annual CMA Awards."

The POP displays at music outlets target consumers and increase high visibility of the live CBS Television Network broadcast of "The 39th Annual CMA Awards." The campaign helps drive album sales in the weeks leading up to the show and after the broadcast.

"The NARM POP campaign plays a very important role in our efforts to promote tune-in for the CMA Awards," said Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing. "This year, in particular with the one time only move to New York City, it has become one of our pivotal visual advance communication pieces that ties Country Music, iconic New York City imagery, tune-in information and emotes the energy and enthusiasm that New Yorkers, Country Fans across the country and our industry will be experiencing throughout Awards Week."

"By itself, the show is a valuable promotional tool for album sales at the retail level because of the publicity for the artists," said Sue L'Ecuyer, NARM Vice President of Communications and Marketing. "Too, the implied endorsement of the nominees and winners by their peers acts as a kind of Country Music 'seal of approval' for consumers, letting them know that the music they are purchasing is the best of the best. The POP campaign materials help extend the CMA Awards show brand and implied messages even further, and also serve to provide a useful and valuable tool for consumers to easily identify the nominees and winners in the store environment, enabling consumer education and purchases. Everybody wins."

The campaign, designed by Mr. Big Studios in Nashville, features three display pieces: a two-sided poster (18" x 24"), a divider card (5" x 15") and a two-sided flat (12" x 12"). The promotional use only materials are offered free of charge to music retailers and wholesalers throughout the United States and Canada. More than 250,000 display pieces were ordered in 2004.

"Our members have always responded enthusiastically to the CMA Awards show, and certainly appreciate the ongoing support of CMA for the in-store POP campaign," said L'Ecuyer.

"Music retailers are one of the vital arteries, carrying Country Music, artist branding and a sense of community amongst fans to our current and potential audience base," said Murray. "As I travel across the Country and drop in various retail stores, it is exciting to see how the individual sales associates and store managers embody creativity and our music in the way they utilize various POP materials to promote our genre and our artists. The window prior to the CMA Awards seems to bring out the best of this creativity — and most importantly, it resonates perfectly with Country fans."

Gary Voorhies



FLAT BACK



EXCERPTS FROM DIVIDER CARD

On the Web: NARM.com

PRILOSEC OTC HITS THE 'ROAD TO THE CMA AWARDS'

CMA is gearing up for "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" with a coast-to-coast bus tour sponsored by Prilosec OTC. The "Prilosec OTC Country Music Tour: Road to the CMA Awards in New York City," which kicked off in Los Angeles on Sept. 15 and hits 18 cities in its cross-country trek, wraps its run in the Big Apple days before the CMA Awards airs.

The promotional tour is designed to entertain and educate consumers about Frequent Heartburn (heartburn two or more days a week) while also building awareness and excitement for this year's CMA Awards. At each event, fans have the opportunity to step inside a tour bus once used by past CMA Awards-winner LeAnn Rimes, create a Country karaoke CD, view an exhibit of CMA Awards memorabilia and speak one-on-one with a pharmacist about heartburn. Giveaways are at each stop, including a First Act Acoustic Guitar.

Additionally, consumers in three markets will be treated to free, live performances and post-show autograph signings. The first concert features RCA recording artist Catherine Britt at Living Spaces, an upscale furniture retailer in the Los Angeles market on Sept. 15. Concerts are also planned in St. Louis and Philadelphia, however talent has not been announced for those dates.

"I'm so excited to be a part of the 'Road to the CMA Awards,'" remarked Britt, who duets with Sir Elton John on current single "Where We Both Say Goodbye" from her forthcoming debut album *Too Far Gone*. "For me, that journey began when I was 11 and I took the stage in Newcastle, Australia and sang the songs of Dolly Parton, Loretta Lynn and Hank Williams. Singing Country Music and being on the road are the dreams of my life."

"Prilosec OTC is excited to go on the road with CMA because we know it's a good way to connect with people," said Kurt Weingand, Associate Director of External Relations for Prilosec OTC. "We are thrilled to help CMA bring Country to New York City, and look forward to offering a little bit of fun and education to Country Music fans in each of the tour stops."

OTHER CITIES ON THE TOUR INCLUDE: Albuquerque (Sept. 22); Denver (Sept. 26); Kansas City (Sept. 28); Houston (Oct. 1); Little Rock (Oct. 6); Memphis (Oct. 9); Indianapolis (Oct. 14); Cleveland (Oct. 17); Cincinnati (Oct. 18); Louisville (Oct. 20); Atlanta (Oct. 25); and Charlotte (Oct. 27). Additional tour information is available at CMAawards.com.

Cory Chapman





Final nominees for the nation's top Country radio stations and broadcast personalities were announced when Curb Records duo Blue County and Epic Records artist Miranda Lambert teamed up to reveal the 2005 CMA Broadcast Personality and Radio Station of the Year finalists during the CMA Awards News Conference at the Time Warner Center in New York City, just before the announcement of the final nominees for the 2005 CMA Awards.

This year's Broadcast Awards winners will be recognized during "The 39th Annual CMA Awards."

"It's important for CMA to recognize these stations and broadcast professionals for the work they do expanding the appeal of Country Music and helping to develop the careers of our artists," said Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director. "These nominees have shown creativity and strength in their markets and are applauded for being at the top of their trade."

Eligibility for the National Broadcast Personalities category included syndicated, short-form and hub voice-tracking personalities heard in at least three markets with a minimum of 40 shows per year. The judges narrowed the field to three among the entries for this category.

Five finalists are selected for Broadcast Personality and Radio Station of the Year in four categories, established by market size based on population as ranked by Arbitron. In 2005, ties resulted in six finalists for Major and Large Broadcast Personality and Major Market Radio Station of the Year.

Reactions from a few of the finalists:

"The decision to throw my name in the hat was strategic. The KYGO team was ineligible because of last year's win and Skip

BLUE COUNTY and MIRANDA LAMBERT make CMA BROADCAST AWARDS FINALISTS ANNOUNCEMENT

Mahaffey is sitting out a non-compete in Tampa. And, I certainly wanted to give it a shot before Cledus T. Judd begins his 10-year run as CMA Broadcast Personality of the Year next year."

Cadillac Jack, WKHX/Atlanta

"We are hoping that the fourth time is a charm for us and in any case are looking forward to seeing Madison Square Garden."

Mark Ericson, WOKQ/Dover, N.H.

"I wish I could take credit but it all boils down to a great God, great people, great Country and an equally great honor."

Gator Harrison, WSOC/Cookeville, Tenn.

"I am very excited to be among the top radio stations in America and it speaks volume of how Saga is one of the companies that gives you the tools to get the job done."

Sky Phillips, WIXY/Champaign, Ill.

CMA members who are full-time air personalities and CMA member radio stations in the U.S. and Canada were eligible to enter. Personalities who were not individually CMA members were also eligible if employed by a CMA member station. CMA Broadcast Award winners are not eligible to enter in consecutive years.

The entries are judged by a panel of distinguished broadcast professionals, representing all market sizes and regions. Entries for Broadcast Personality are judged on aircheck, ratings, community involvement and biographical information. Stations are judged on airchecks, ratings history, community involvement and format leadership. An aggregate score of the first round of judging and the second round (which is done by a different panel of judges) determines the winners. The international accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP tabulates scoring.

The winners will be notified by phone and on the air by a Country Music artist in mid-October.

Wendy Pearl

BROADCAST PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL*

- "After Midnight with Blair Garner" (Blair Garner) — Premiere Radio Networks
 - "The Crook and Chase Countdown" (Lorianne Crook, Charlie Chase) — Jim Owens Entertainment
 - "The Lia Show" (Lia Knight) — Jones Radio Networks
- *This category has only three finalists

MAJOR MARKET

- "Big John and Ray" (John Howell, Ray Stevens) — WUSN/Chicago, Ill.
- Bob Delmont — WPOC/Baltimore, Md.
- "Cadillac Jack Afternoon Drive" (William Hyde Choate) — WKHX/Atlanta, Ga.
- "Dave Pratt in the Morning with Stacey Brooks" (Dave Pratt, Stacey Brooks) — KMLE/Phoenix, Ariz.
- "The Laurie DeYoung Show" (Laurie DeYoung) — WPOC/Baltimore, Md.
- Lisa Dent — WUSN/Chicago, Ill.

LARGE MARKET

- "Country Lovin with Darren Tandy" (Darren Tandy) — WFMS/Indianapolis, Ind.
- "The Eddie Stubbs Show" (Eddie Stubbs) — WSM-AM/Nashville, Tenn.
- "Gerry House & The House Foundation" (Gerry House, Mike Bohan, Duncan Stewart, Al Voecks) — WSIX/Nashville, Tenn.
- "Jim, Deb & Kevin" (Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt, Kevin Freeman) — WFMS/Indianapolis, Ind.
- "The Original Good Morning, Good Morning, Good Morning Show" (Bill Dotson, Ed Skura, Aunt Eloise) — WTQR/Greensboro, N.C.
- Vicki Murphy — WFMS/Indianapolis, Ind.

MEDIUM MARKET

- "Andy & Alison & The Morning Crew" (Andy Ritchie, Alison West, Jimmy Holt) — WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.
- "John Flint, Tammy Lee and the Q106 Morning Crew" (John Flint, Tammy Lee, Tim Morrissey, Pam Jahnke) — WWQM/Madison, Wis.
- "Neal and Reese, The Moy'nin Boys" (Neal Dionne, Reese Rickards) — WBCT/Grand Rapids, Mich.
- "The Ride with Gunner" (Ted Ousley) — WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.
- "WVVK at Night" (Jack Ryan) — WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.

SMALL MARKET

- "Barrett, Fox & Berry" (Bill Barrett, Tim Fox, Tracy Berry) — KKNU/Eugene, Ore.
- "Dan, B.J. and Dude Show" (Dan Austin, BJ Stone, Dude Walker) — WQHK/Fort Wayne, Ind.
- "Dex and Kim" (Bill Poindexter, Kim Carson) — WUSY/Chattanooga, Tenn.
- "McFly and The Ride Home" (Marty McFly, Stewart James) — WGSQ/Cookeville, Tenn.
- "The Morning Waking Crew" with Mark Ericson & Danielle Carrier (Mark Ericson, Danielle Carrier) — WOKQ/Dover, N.H.

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

MAJOR MARKET

- KEYE — Minneapolis, Minn.
- KMLE — Phoenix, Ariz.
- KNIX — Tempe, Ariz.
- KYGO — Denver, Colo.
- WPOC — Baltimore, Md.
- WXTU — Philadelphia, Pa.

LARGE MARKET

- KASE — Austin, Texas
- WKDF — Nashville, Tenn.
- WQDR — Raleigh, N.C.
- WSIX — Nashville, Tenn.
- WTQR — Greensboro, N.C.

MEDIUM MARKET

- KSSN — Little Rock, Ark.
- KUZZ — Bakersfield, Calif.
- WBBS — Syracuse, N.Y.
- WGNA — Albany, N.Y.
- WSSL — Greenville, S.C.

SMALL MARKET

- KTTS — Springfield, Mo.
- WGSQ — Cookeville, Tenn.
- WIXY — Champaign, Ill.
- WUSY — Chattanooga, Tenn.
- WWKI — Kokomo, Ind.

CMA Awards Ticket Pick-Up IN NEW YORK CITY

New this year, CMA members who have ordered CMA Awards tickets must pick up their tickets in New York City. The CMA Awards ticket pick-up location in NEW YORK CITY, located in the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square at 1535 Broadway on the third floor lobby, opens on Thursday, Nov. 10.

CMA Awards ticket pick-up is open Thursday, Nov. 10 through Sunday, Nov. 13 from 9 AM – 6 PM/ET and on Monday, Nov. 14 from 9 AM – 8 PM/ET. Questions? Call (212) 930-7633 or tickets@CMAworld.com.

VERY IMPORTANT TO NOTE: THE CMA AWARDS TICKET PICK-UP OFFICE IN NEW YORK CITY WILL BE CLOSED THE DAY OF THE CMA AWARDS BROADCAST, TUESDAY, NOV. 15. ALL TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP PRIOR TO TUESDAY, NOV. 15.

Requirements to pick up tickets: bring the confirmation letter previously sent to the ticket buyer by CMA in September, along with a photo identification (driver's license, passport, etc.).

If you are unable to pick up your tickets in person, you must authorize a third-party to do so on your behalf. Complete a Ticket-Release Authorization form that was sent from CMA with your confirmation letter and fax it to the ticketing office (in Nashville prior to 5 PM Nov. 7, in New York City Nov. 9 – Nov. 14) at least 24 hours prior to when the person will be picking up your tickets. CMA Awards Ticketing office NEW YORK CITY FAX: (212) 930-7634. Your authorized third party will be required to present a copy of the Ticket-Release Authorization form that you previously faxed and their photo identification before your tickets will be released to them.

For additional questions or information, contact the CMA Awards ticketing office in NASHVILLE at (615) 244-2840; e-mail tickets@CMAworld.com or fax (615) 726-0314 but note they will close on Monday, Nov. 7 at 5 PM/CST and will re-open in New York City on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 9 AM/ET. And remember, TICKET PICK-UP is in NEW YORK CITY, not NASHVILLE and ALL TICKETS MUST BE PICKED UP PRIOR TO NOV. 15.

CMA AWARDS TICKETS GO ON SALE SEPT. 17 FIRST TIME IN AWARDS' HISTORY THAT PUBLIC CAN PURCHASE TICKETS

The CMA Awards achieves another first by selling tickets to the general public via Ticketmaster. "For nearly four decades, the only way to get a ticket to the CMA Awards was to be a CMA member, guest or nominee," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "Since we announced the 2005 CMA Awards in New York City, we have been inundated with calls and e-mails from fans wanting to know if they can purchase tickets to attend this historic event. Having the CMA Awards in a venue the size of Madison Square Garden allows us to offer the public a chance to attend this very exclusive event."

Tickets for the CMA Awards will go on sale to the public on Saturday, Sept. 17, at 12:00 PM/ET, and can be purchased at Ticketmaster.com; (212) 307-7171; in-person at the Madison Square Garden box office; or at all Ticketmaster outlets and local Ticketmaster phone numbers across the nation. The ticket price is \$250 (not including tax and service charges).



MJI Delivers CMA Awards FOR 14TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

For the 14th year, MJI has partnered with CMA to provide exclusive radio programming and packaging for the CMA Awards.

"Premiere/MJI Programming will continue to offer convenient and efficient means of artists reaching the radio audience," said Lylcia Deitch Chiaromonte, Senior Director, Events at Premiere Radio Networks.

The centerpiece is 50 of the top radio stations at the remote broadcast for both morning and afternoon drives, conveniently located just steps away from Madison Square Garden.

Historically, the CMA Awards remote broadcasts draws an audience of more than 6 million listeners and the cumulative CMA Awards activity reaches more than 30 million listeners.

To accommodate the CMA Awards move to New York, Premiere/MJI adjusted the scope of their 50 station remote broadcast by finding the right combination of ingredients including venue, accommodations and staging plus programming.

In addition to the live coverage of the CMA Awards nominees announcements on Sept. 7, for the first time, Premiere/MJI broadcast the CMA Awards Nominations Special, a 90-minute, fully-produced special featuring the nominations, reactions from the winners and nominated songs, co-hosted by Lee Ann Womack.

The Premiere/MJI radio package will include:

- The CMA Awards Pre-show Special, a three-hour showcase of this year's CMA Award nominees, hosted by a top nominee.
- CMA Awards Live Radio Broadcast, a three-hour live stereo-simulcast of the CMA Awards delivered by StarGuide.
- Live Backstage Post-Show immediately following the Awards broadcast.
- CMA Moments CD, a fully produced CD of audio highlights from past CMA Awards shows.
- Live from the Red Carpet Special will be expanded into a live one-hour, fully produced special hosted by Country Music's top talent featuring interviews with top nominees as they enter Madison Square Garden, delivered via StarGuide.

"Coverage in all of Premiere's Country programming is and has been in full throttle with both editorial and promotional content," said Deitch Chiaromonte. "For listeners who can't be in New York for the Awards, they will have the opportunity to hear their favorite artists on the air, talking about the excitement of Awards week. Listeners live vicariously through the DJ's experience and translate that into their own memories of CMA Awards week."

MJI Programming, a division of Premiere Radio Networks, is the Official Radio Broadcaster of the CMA Awards and CMA Music Festival.

To book acts, contact Donna Hughes at (615) 320-0707 ext. 201 or dhughes@premiereradio.com.

Premiere Radio Networks, Inc. is a subsidiary of Clear Channel Worldwide and syndicates more than 60 radio programs and services to more than 7,800 radio affiliates and reaches more than 180 million listeners weekly. Based in Sherman Oaks, Calif. with 12 offices nationwide, Premiere is the leading radio network in the country.



Alabama, Glen Campbell & DeFord Bailey

**TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE
COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME**

The Country Music Association has announced that groundbreaking musical group Alabama, legendary singer/musician/television host Glen Campbell and pioneering Grand Ole Opry star DeFord Bailey will become the newest members of the coveted Country Music Hall of Fame. Formal induction for the artists will take place during the CMA Awards.

Bailey will be inducted in the "Career Achieved National Prominence Prior to World War II" category, which is awarded every third year in a rotation with the "Recording and/or Touring Musician Active Prior to 1980" and "Non-Performer" categories. Campbell will be inducted in the "Career Achieved National Prominence Between World War II and 1975" category and Alabama will be the first artist inducted in the new "Career Achieved National Prominence Between 1975 and the Present" category created earlier this year.

All inductees are chosen by CMA's Hall of Fame panel of electors, consisting of more than 300 anonymous voters appointed by the CMA Board of Directors. Alabama, Bailey and Campbell will increase the Hall of Fame membership from 32 to 65.

"A Country Music artist's highest aspiration is to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame," said Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director. "The late DeFord Bailey was a star of the Grand Ole Opry during the Great Depression, lifting America's spirits with his harmonica. Glen Campbell brought Country Music to millions of fans in the late '60s and '70s with his numerous classic crossover hits as well as his successful television variety series. Alabama brought a new energy and a broader audience to Country Music in the '80s, becoming the most successful band in our format's history. CMA is proud to induct all three artists into the Country Music Hall of Fame where they will join an elite group of performers and industry veterans who have significantly shaped Country Music over the last century."

Formed in Fort Payne, Ala., cousins Jeff Cook (lead guitar, keyboards, fiddle, harmony vocals); Teddy Gentry (bass guitar, harmony vocals); and Randy Owen (lead vocals, rhythm guitar) teamed in the late '60s to form several bands including Young Country and Wildcountry. The trio, along with a number of different drummers, honed their skills in nightclubs across the Southeast.

Changing their name to Alabama in 1977 and adding drummer Mark Herndon in 1979, the band solidified their lineup and soon signed with RCA Records, where they have remained throughout their amazing career.

Alabama met immediate success with radio and the fans. Their first RCA album, *My Home's in Alabama*, was released in May 1980, featured the chart-topping title cut, "Tennessee River," "Why Lady Why," and was certified Double Platinum by the RIAA for more than 2 million units sold. Their sophomore album, *Feels So Right*, was certified Quadruple Platinum for more than 4 million albums sold and contained the hits "Old Flame" and "Love in the First Degree." *Mountain Music*, the band's third album, sold more than 5 million units with Quintuple Platinum certification and included hit singles with the title track, "Take Me Down" and "Close Enough To Perfect." The band continued to release successful albums and singles throughout the '80s and '90s, producing 42 No. 1 singles. Additional chart-toppers include "Roll On," "If You're Gonna Play in Texas," "The Closer You Get," "Dixieland Delight," "Lady Down on Love," "Song of the South," "Forever's as Far as I'll Go," "I'm in a Hurry," "Angels Among Us," "In Pictures" and many more.

Alabama was more than just a collection of great musicians. The four members of Alabama co-produced every album, showcasing their skills both in front of the microphone and behind the mixing board. Owen wrote several of the classic Alabama songs, including "Tennessee River," "Feels So Right," "Mountain Music" and "Lady Down on Love." Owen and Gentry co-wrote several hit songs, including "My Home's in Alabama," "Dancin', Shaggin' on the Boulevard" and others featured on Alabama albums.

Alabama created a new standard on tour, utilizing state-of-the-art production similar to what the top rock and pop acts of the day were using. Their music and high-energy stage shows brought Country Music to new, young audiences who enjoyed Lynyrd Skynyrd and Yes as much as Waylon Jennings and Dolly Parton.

"Mark and I went to see Bob Seger, and we wanted to get our sound and lights to where we could be competitive with something like that," Owen said.

Alabama's success paved the way for many other top Country Music groups including Diamond Rio, Dixie Chicks, Lonestar, Rascal Flatts and Restless Heart.

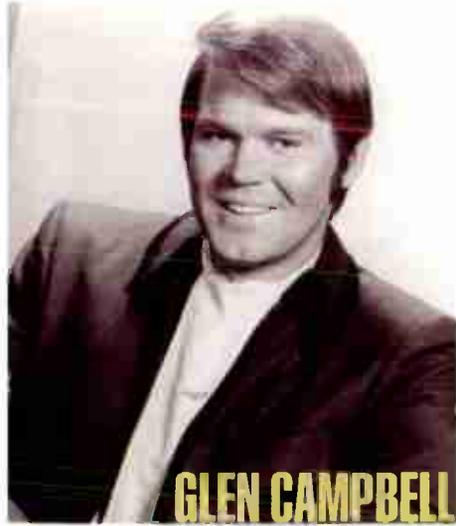
With more than 65 million albums sold, Alabama is the best selling Country Music group of all time. They are among the Top 5 best-selling Country Music acts of all time and among the 20 best-selling recording acts of all time in the United States.

The band has sold more albums in the United States than Boston, Chicago, Eric Clapton, The Doors, Bob Dylan, Foreigner and Journey, among others. Alabama has received nine CMA Awards including the first three consecutive wins as Entertainer of the Year (1982-1984); Album of the Year in 1983 for *The Closer You Get*; Vocal Group of the Year (1981-1983); and Instrumental Group of the Year (1981 and 1982). Throughout their career, they have received more than 150 industry awards and were named "Country Group of the Century" by the RIAA in 1999.

Owen may have explained the group's longevity best when he said, "It's not about me, it's about we."

Alabama retired from the road after a sold-out 2003-2004 "Farewell Tour." A career-spanning 25th Anniversary Box Set will be released on RCA Records in early 2006.





GLEN CAMPBELL

Born in Delight, Ark. in 1936, Glen Campbell received his first guitar when he was 4-years-old. While studying the recordings of jazz guitarists Barney Kessel and Django Reinhardt, Campbell learned to sing at church. At 14, he began performing in Country Music bands across Arkansas, New Mexico and Texas; at 18, his band, the Western Wranglers, toured the South; and at 22, he moved to Los Angeles to become a session musician.

During the early '60s, Campbell played guitar on records for The Association, Bobby Darin, Merle

Haggard, Dean Martin, The Mamas and the Papas, The Monkees, Ricky Nelson, Elvis Presley, Frank Sinatra and many others. He released a couple of pop singles on the Crest and Capitol Records labels with limited success. He also sang and played guitar on "Kentucky Means Paradise" by the Green River Boys, which became a top-20 Country hit in 1962. In 1965, Campbell became a touring member of the Beach Boys for several months after Brian Wilson retired from the road.

Capitol Records, the label home of the Beach Boys, soon offered Campbell his own recording contract, and in 1967, he hit No. 18 on the Country charts with "Burning Bridges." Although promoted as a Country artist, Campbell quickly became a popular crossover artist. "Gentle on My Mind" hit the Top 40 of both the Country and pop charts; and "By the Time I Get to Phoenix" reached No. 2 on the Country chart and No. 26 on the pop chart. His successful singles continued with "I Wanna Live" and "Dreams of the Everyday Housewife." Campbell also made history by winning a GRAMMY in both Country, ("Gentle on My Mind") and pop ("By The Time I Get To Phoenix") categories in 1967.

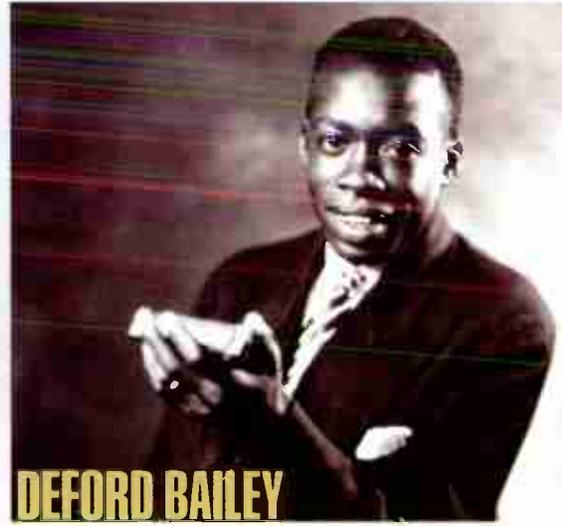
CBS Television made Campbell a household name in 1968 when "The Glen Campbell Good-Time Hour" debuted on the air. For four years, Campbell hosted his successful television series, introducing musical talents such as John Hartford and Jerry Reed to the nation. During this time, Campbell remained a dominant force on the radio with "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "Try a Little Kindness" and other songs. He recorded duets with Bobbie Gentry, resulting in two hit remakes of the Everly Brothers classics "Let It Be Me" and "All I Have to Do is Dream." In 1969, he made his film debut in the John Wayne classic "True Grit." And in 1972, he hosted "The Sixth Annual CMA Awards," which was broadcast on the CBS Television Network.

In 1975, Campbell topped both the Country and pop charts with the song that would become his signature tune, "Rhinestone Cowboy." He continued to have Top 10 success on the Country charts with singles including "Country Boy (You Got Your Feet in L.A.)," and "Don't Pull Your Love/Then You Can Tell Him Good-bye" before returning to the No. 1 spot on both the Country and pop charts with "Southern Nights" in 1977.

Throughout the '80s, Campbell remained a presence on Country radio with songs "Faithless Love," "A Lady Like You," "The Hand That Rocks The Cradle," "I Have You," "She's Gone, Gone, Gone" and many more. Moving into the '90s, Campbell recorded inspirational music and performed regularly at his Goodtime Theater in Branson, Mo. He published his autobiography, *Rhinestone Cowboy*, in 1994.

Throughout more than four decades, Campbell celebrated more than 75 songs on the Country charts; 35 of which crossed over to the pop charts. He received two CMA Awards in 1968, for Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year. He has received one Double Platinum, five Platinum and 12 Gold album certifications from the RIAA. He also received Gold single certifications for "Wichita Lineman," "Galveston," "Rhinestone Cowboy" and "Southern Nights."

"This is a great honor, to join the ranks of some of my own childhood heroes," Campbell commented. "I would like to thank anybody who had anything to do with my nomination."



DEFORD BAILEY

DeFord Bailey was born in Smith County, Tenn. in 1899. Bailey suffered from infantile paralysis, which left him with a deformed back and only allowed him to grow to the height of 4 feet 10 inches. Bailey's father and uncle were noted musicians who played what they referred to as "black hillbilly music." They taught young Bailey to play banjo, fiddle, guitar and, what would become his signature instrument, harmonica.

Bailey began playing harmonica professionally around Smith County at age 14, and moved to Nashville in 1925. Around this time he met Dr. Humphrey Bate, a respected physician and harmonica player who introduced Bailey to George D. Hay.

Hay, who was known as "The Solemn Old Judge," was both announcer and booking agent for the WSM Barn Dance. Bate's support was instrumental in Bailey being accepted as the first African American artist to join the national radio show. In 1927, the WSM Barn Dance was renamed the Grand Ole Opry with Bailey becoming one of the radio show's first solo stars. He performed on 49 of the 52 Opry programs during its first year under the new name, more than any other artist.

Bailey recorded albums in the late '20s on labels including Brunswick, Columbia and Victor. His recordings are critically viewed as the first decently recorded examples of harmonica playing. Bailey's best-known songs included "John Henry," "Fox Chase," "Muscle Shoals Blues" and his signature tune "Pan American Blues." His success helped create opportunities for other harmonica players to record and perform across the country. In addition to recording and performing on the Opry, Bailey often worked road shows with other Opry acts during the '30s, including opening for Roy Acuff and as a package tour with Uncle Dave Macon.

Bailey left the music industry in 1941. He returned to the Grand Ole Opry stage in 1974 to inaugurate the "First Annual Old Timers Show." In 1982, he died at 83. Bailey's pioneering efforts have been an inspiration to many, including fellow Country Music Hall of Fame member Charley Pride.

Bailey's grandson, Carlos Bailey, explained his family's reaction to the news on the induction. "We were so overwhelmed, after waiting such a long time. If you knew DeFord Bailey, you knew that there's just no way he would not have been inducted sooner or later. He was so talented. We knew this day would come eventually."

Scott Stem



BROOKS & DUNN

"THE GAME'S JUST GETTING STARTED"

For weeks now, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn have fielded question after question about hosting "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" in November. They meet each query with a sly grin.

"The one thing we've got going for us that no one expects anything from us," said Brooks, with trademark wicked glimmer flashing in his eyes. "People don't expect us to be funny. We're just talking heads. We're not comedians. We're a Country Music act that's been asked to introduce other Country Music acts. That's all."

His partner shakes his head, acting about as eager as a teenager getting ready for a trigonometry test. "I will be the first to tell you I am not at all comfortable at this," Dunn said. "I think the allure is that people know for a fact that we're going to walk out there uncomfortable. It creates tension right off the bat."

Brooks, getting into the groove now, continued: "Yeah, it's like watching someone skating on the ice who doesn't know how to skate. People watch and say, 'How long is it going to take for them to fall on their butts? This is going to be good!'"

Dunn, showing his poker face, added: "For us, it's just an issue of basic, primal survival."

Then they both crack up. These are guys who say they're not funny? Who say they're not comfortable as on-camera hosts? Don't buy it for a second.

One of the duo's many talents is downplaying their talents. Like all good male duos — from Abbott and Costello to Starsky and Hutch to Mel Gibson and Danny Glover — these two have mastered the pose of playing the fool while making the difficult look easy.

They may come off as the good-timing, honky tonk twins; just two rambunctious roughnecks out for a good time. But look past the swaggering front and you'll find plenty of soul, sensitivity and songwriting smarts.

"We are real competitive," Dunn said. "We see all these hot new acts coming up, and it motivates us to keep our level high. It inspires us."

Now, after 28 million albums sold and 22 No. 1 hits — as well as a whopping 14 CMA Awards, including the 1996 Entertainer of the Year honor — the duo that once graced the cover of a Corn Flakes box are making their best, most soulful recordings yet. The high energy pair has sold more albums than any duo other than Simon & Garfunkel. They recently launched their "Deuces Wild Tour" which continues through Oct. 30, and features fellow duos Big & Rich and the Warren Brothers. Rather than relaxing into senior statesmanship, Brooks & Dunn have stepped up their game.

Dunn recalled a conversation he and Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry had while on tour together. "Why are you guys so dang competitive," Gentry asked Dunn. The veteran responded, "I told him I wasn't shooting for him. I'm just trying to keep my draw as sharp and fast as it possibly can be."

Their latest album, *Hillbilly Deluxe*, co-produced by the duo and Tony Brown, proves that they are indeed as sharp as ever — and that their songwriting is gaining even more depth as the years pass. "We feel we're doing our best work," Brooks said. "Something happened with *Red Dirt Road* that changed us for the better. We knew we were at a crossroads, and we needed to either raise the level or cut our losses. We took some chances, we dug deeper, and apparently something clicked."

Dunn agreed: "We rode that good-timin', honky tonk thing

forever — maybe too long. Obviously it was working, but then you realize you can do more. There's more depth here that we're capable of. Whatever it was going to cost, we had to take that risk. We had to try and do something grittier."

After the success of the true-life tales of Platinum-selling *Red Dirt Road*, there was no turning back. "We feel our mandate now is to write meaningful stuff," Dunn said. "We've challenged ourselves to draw on our lives and to open up and tell the truth in our songs, and frankly it's been real exciting to take this step."

Brooks feels the same sense of inspiration. "I always felt I was a songwriter first and foremost, and now it's as if we're saying, 'OK, buddy, show me what you've got,'" he said. "*Red Dirt Road* was partly there, it was the beginning. But on *Hillbilly Deluxe*, we take it all the way. We weren't going to compromise or settle for anything less."

They still rock, of course. Brooks & Dunn rounded up writers Larry Willoughby, Hank DeVito, Radney Foster and Darrell Brown in addition to co-writing with Bob DiPiero, Craig Wiseman and Terry McBride. "Building Bridges" includes guest performances by Sheryl Crow and Vince Gill. The first single, "Play Something Country," written by Dunn and McBride, shows how Brooks & Dunn have been at the forefront of changing how guitars sound in mainstream Country Music.

"My dad used to use that phrase all the time," Dunn said. "I'd start into something that rocked a little, and he'd interrupt me and say, 'Play something Country!' This song is my revenge, because it has both Country and rock in it."

Brooks sees the song as part Rolling Stones, part Merle Haggard. "What we do isn't Southern rock," he said. "Everything we do has a real Country base to it. It's honky tonk music kicked up a bit. A lot of time when people think of rock associated with Country, they immediately think Lynyrd Skynyrd and that kind of thing. We dig that stuff, but that's not what we do. We take real Country Music and put some swagger behind it."

Also on the album are the Brooks vocal showcase "Her West Was Wilder," and two stellar Dunn co-writes, "Believe" and "She's About as Lonely as I'm Going to Let Her Get."

"Everything we write, and what we write about, comes out of being inspired by Country songwriters," Brooks said. "The same goes for our vocals. Ronnie's such a great, authentic Country singer. So when we take a song and rock it up, it still has that real Country thing to it. To me, that just feels good."

The album title *Hillbilly Deluxe* refers to the Southern blue-collar experience, and its work-hard-and-play-hard ethos.

"*Hillbilly Deluxe* is about people working hard all week, then breaking that chain that's holding them down and getting out and making the most of a Saturday night," Brooks said. "It's about a kind of life that's very much alive today. You can take that message downtown to a big city, or you can take it out in the country to smalltown U.S.A., and they'll all get it."

Which is why these two men, as representative of the Southwestern working class as musicians can get, savor the chance to strut their stuff in New York City during this year's CMA Awards.

"Man, I used to think New York was like going to the moon," Dunn said. "It was that foreign to me. But now I think New York isn't that different than any place in America. It's a big metropolis, for sure, but New Yorkers go through the same things as everyone else."

Brooks sees the ties between New Yorkers and Southerners as sharing some essential character traits. "Their mindset is that they put their cards on the table, and they shoot straight," he said. "Country people are like that too. So there's a lot of similarities as far as ideals, and the way they address things. You don't have to beat around the bush with New Yorkers, and I love that. I think they have a lot of pride, and Country people do too. What you see is what you get."

Michael McCall

On the Web: brooks-dunn.com

BEST 'HEARTBURN' SONG TO EARN WRITER THE STAR TREATMENT

Heartburn is best treated with Prilosec OTC; sometimes the only answer for a burning heart is letting it out in a song.

On Veteran's Day, Friday, Nov. 11 at the American Freedom Festival at the Roseland Ballroom in New York City, a talented contest-winner will perform an original song about either kind of heartburn on a bill with Country star Charlie Daniels. Acclaimed singer-songwriter Phil Vassar will arrange the winning entry.

It's all part of the "Burning to Sing Your Heart Out" contest, sponsored by Prilosec OTC and CMA. Fans can vote for the winning entry at prilosecotc.com/country from a field narrowed to three by Vassar and Daniels.

The American Freedom Festival is a concert organized by the American Freedom Foundation. It features Country Music performers, actors, athletes, dignitaries and other supporters, joining together to raise money and awareness for the veterans of America's armed forces and their families whose lives have been affected by Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"We are thrilled to be working with Prilosec OTC and to help give someone the chance to live out their dream of performing on stage," Daniels said. "The concert will be an incredible evening of performances in honor of our country's servicemen and women at this historical New York City venue. It just doesn't get any better than that."

The American Freedom Festival will be part of the many festivities taking place during "Country Takes New York City," surrounding the "The 39th Annual CMA Awards."

The grand-prize winner and the two other finalists will win a trip to New York, VIP ticket packages to the 2005 CMA Awards in New York City and spa treatments. Online voters have a chance to win tickets to the 2006 CMA Awards in Nashville.



Prilosec OTC is one of the many quality brands of Cincinnati-based Procter & Gamble.

"P&G is excited to see how consumers express their thoughts and feelings through music," said Kip Olmstead, Brand Manager of Prilosec OTC. "We hope this contest not only helps people express what makes their heart burn, but entertains them too."

Entries for the contest were accepted from July 31 to Sept. 7, with lyrics about overcoming a "heartburning" obstacle and getting on with life. The songs must contain the words "heart" and "burn," though they do not have to appear together. The song can be either about the medical condition of heartburn or an emotional state that made their heart burn.

"Prilosec OTC has already helped me by giving me the freedom to perform without worrying about my frequent heartburn," Vassar said. "Now it could help someone live out their dreams of being a star."

On the Web: prilosecotc.com/country

Phil Vassar and Charlie Daniels participate in a Satellite Media Tour on Aug. 10 to help launch the Prilosec "Burning to Sing Your Heart Out" contest. photo. courtesy of Webster & Associates



Big & Rich perform at the "Chevy Music Festival in Union Square Park." photo Amanda Eckard

BIG SHOWS IN THE BIG APPLE AT THE CHEVY MUSIC FESTIVAL

The "Chevy Music Festival in Union Square Park" free, outdoor public concert series hit New York City Sept. 6 - 8, bringing the sounds of Nashville to Union Square Park while revving up excitement for "The 39th Annual CMA Awards." For three days, Chevy treated fans to shows by acts including Big & Rich, Blue County, Cowboy Troy, Billy Currington, "Nashville Star" winner Erika Jo and Gretchen Wilson along with attractions and activities for music fans of all tastes.

"Popular music is an undeniable component of Chevy's DNA," said Kim Kosak, Chevrolet General Director of Advertising and Sales Promotion. "And Country Music is increasingly crossing-over to attract huge, mainstream audiences. That's why we're so excited to bring 'The Chevy Music Festival' to the Big Apple and give New Yorkers a chance to enjoy some great music — while checking out some of our great cars and trucks."

The event dovetailed with the Sept. 7 announcement of the 2005 CMA Awards nominees. To help promote the CMA Awards in New York City, Chevrolet has formed a unique marketing partnership with CMA and the City of New York.

"New York City is proud to partner with Chevy to bring Country Music to the City," said Jim Donofrio, Senior Vice President of Sales for NYC Marketing. "The Chevy Festival is just one way that our corporate partner is helping us promote the CMA Awards and New York City."

"We are thrilled to be working with Chevy and the CMA Awards to create this exciting Music celebration using our City's unparalleled resources on the world's most commanding stage," said Ashley Jacobs, Vice President of Marketing, NYC Big Events. "Hosting the CMA Awards in New York City will generate an estimated \$30 million economic impact benefiting New Yorkers."

In addition to watching the daily concerts at the Chevy Music Festival, visitors were also able to see rare music memorabilia from the 1950s to today, including Elvis Presley's iconic jumpsuit from his 1972 Madison Square Garden concert; the "Give Peace a Chance" drawing by John Lennon; and Big Kenny's hat from the Big & Rich "Save a Horse, Ride a Cowboy" video. Guests competed for prizes in trivia contests, as well as burned a free CD of tracks from today's top rock, pop, hip-hop and Country Music artists at the on-site CD burning station.

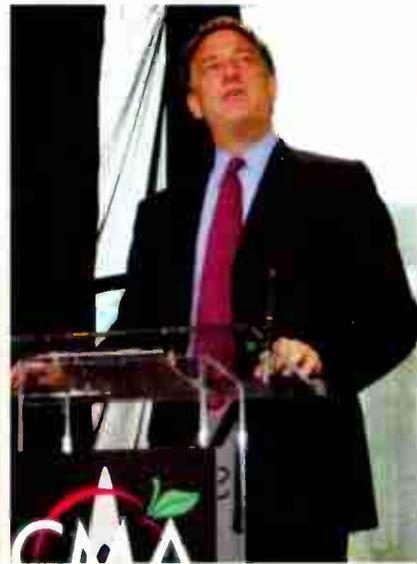
The highlight of the Music Festival is the "Chevy All Access Music Tour," a traveling showcase of pop culture memorabilia, live performances and interactive consumer experiences that kicked off in early June at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville. The "All Access Music Tour" brings Chevrolet's "An American Revolution" campaign to life and was attended by thousands of consumers at high profile events throughout the year, including the Major League Baseball All-Star Game in Detroit, the Brickyard 400 NASCAR race in Indianapolis and the Essence Music Festival in New Orleans.

The tour's last stop is in Dallas on Nov. 15. Visit chevy.com for the schedule. Chevy, an American Revolution, is the official automotive sponsor of the 2005 CMA Awards.



NYC BIG EVENTS ANNOUNCES "COUNTRY TAKES NYC" WEEK

**CMA AWARDS CELEBRATION
HITS THE BIG APPLE WITH
THEMED DAY ACTIVITIES
HIGHLIGHTING NEW YORK
CITY'S TOURIST DESTINATIONS
AND WORLD RENOWNED
ATTRACTIONS**



(far left)
Maureen J.
Reidy,
President of NYC
Big Events, Inc.

Daniel L.
Doctoroff,
Deputy Mayor
for Economic
Development
and Rebuilding.

For the first time, CMA will celebrate its biggest night outside of Nashville when "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" will be held on the world's biggest stage, New York City.

To commemorate this landmark event, Daniel L. Doctoroff, Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding and Maureen J. Reidy, President of NYC Big Events, Inc., announced at the Sept. 7 news conference that NYC Big Events, in collaboration with CMA, is launching a week-long series of celebrations called "Country Takes NYC" leading up to the CMA Awards.

This five-borough, grass roots promotional initiative will highlight the private and public sectors; is designed to weave Country Music into the fabric of New York City; and to create exciting, memorable experiences. Multiple city agencies are partnering in the creation and implementation of this unique effort. "Country Takes NYC" will take place from Wednesday, Nov. 9 through Tuesday, Nov. 15.

"Bringing an event such as the CMA Awards to New York City offers residents and guests alike the opportunity to experience our warmth, hospitality and family-friendly environment," explained Doctoroff. "At the same time, an event that is one of the highest rated awards shows each year will generate tremendous media exposure and, with the thousands of visitors expected, will yield a positive economic impact, projected in excess of \$30 million."

"We are honored that CMA has decided to stage its biggest night on the world's greatest stage," said Reidy. "This week-long series of events, promotions and celebrations is sure to generate unprecedented interest and excitement for New York City, Country Music and our promotional partners. 'Country Takes NYC' week provides great opportunities for New Yorkers from all five boroughs to get involved in this historic event."

"Country Music has become a part of America's pop culture," said Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing. "The City of New York is made up of so many facets from sports to theater to fashion. One of our goals in locating the 2005 CMA Awards in New York was to illustrate the breadth and depth of the music and how it is woven into the fabric of American culture. 'Country Takes NYC' is a perfect vehicle to accomplish this."

During "Country Takes NYC," each day will be themed to showcase NYC's industries, tourist destinations and world-renowned attractions. Following is a sample of events.

CULINARY DAY - Wednesday, Nov. 9

Restaurants will play Country Music, feature special discounts, promotions and Country themed menus. The Food Network will celebrate with a special episode of "Emeril Live" featuring The Charlie Daniels Band.

EDUCATION DAY - Thursday, Nov. 10

The Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum has partnered with NYC's Department of Education to teach kids from selected schools how to write songs with some of Country Music's top songwriters. This two-month curriculum will culminate with a recital performance by the students and their songwriting partners.

HISTORY DAY - Friday, Nov. 11

In honor of Veterans Day, Country artists will support the red, white and blue, and march in the Annual NYC Veterans Day Parade; Trace Adkins will honor Veterans at the Intrepid Museum's Annual Veterans Day Celebration; and the American Freedom Festival, traditionally held in Tampa, will relocate to NYC's Roseland Ballroom and feature performances by Charlie Daniels, Mark Wills and Darryl Worley.

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT DAY - Saturday, Nov. 12

Country Music will be featured in famous downtown clubs and upscale venues; MTA "Music Under New York" performances at Times Square, Penn Station, Port Authority and Grand Central Station; and Joe's Pub will host a Nashville Songwriters' Showcase plus Cliff Richard and guests in concert. The League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc., and CMA will produce a unique and unprecedented event, "Broadway Meets Country." (see next page)

SPORTS AND PARKS DAY - Sunday, Nov. 13

Country Music stars take center field and join the legendary sports scene at New York Road Runner Cross Country Championship Race (5K) in Van Cortlandt Park, plus an artist will sing the national anthem at the New York Giants game.

FASHION AND SHOPPING DAY - Monday, Nov. 14

The fashion capital of the world will present a citywide retail shopping promotion with special discounts and offers at various stores.

CMA AWARDS DAY - Tuesday, Nov. 15

Brooks & Dunn ring the opening bell for NYSE and later host the CMA Awards. Plus, CMA Awards Red Carpet arrivals begin with international media coverage.

In addition to the "Country Takes NYC" themed day activities, there will be A-list Country Music performances throughout the week. Following is some of the performances currently booked:

Friday, Nov. 11

- B.B. Kings: Tracy Lawrence and Montgomery Gentry

Saturday, Nov. 12

- Joe's Pub: Cliff Richard and special guests

Monday, Nov. 14

- Carnegie Hall: A special Grand Ole Opry 80th Anniversary Show with performances by Trace Adkins, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Alison Krauss + Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Brad Paisley, Charley Pride and Ricky Skaggs
- Nokia Theatre: Dierks Bentley, Cross Canadian Ragweed and Pat Green

Sunday and Monday, Nov. 13 and 14

- Irving Plaza: Keith Urban

"Country Takes NYC is a great celebration capturing the city's excitement to host the 2005 CMA Awards with restaurants, retail stores and nightlife venues throughout New York City welcoming Country's Biggest Night with special themed menus, in-store promotions and live entertainment," said Cristyne L. Nicholas, President and Chief Executive Officer, NYC & Company. "This special citywide promotion is a fantastic showcase of the diversity, culture and excitement that make New York a top destination for millions of Country Music fans from around the globe."

A comprehensive citywide decoration program is being planned to promote the CMA Awards and "Country Takes NYC" to include street pole banners, bus stop shelters and phone kiosks.

For a comprehensive listing of all themed day activities and promotions, *The New York Times Magazine* will distribute the official "Country Takes NYC" Guide on Sunday, Nov. 6. In addition, for up-to-the minute "Country Takes NYC" updates, information and activities, tune into NYC Media Group's NYC TV Channel 25; 91.5 FM Radio New York; and visit CMAawards.com.

The Food Network will present a star-studded night of Country Music on Saturday, Nov. 5, kicking off with "Emeril Live" and The Charlie Daniels Band at 8 PM/ET; followed by the premiere one-hour special, "Food Secrets of Country Music Stars" at 9 PM/ET. From Cowboy Troy in New York, to Darryl Worley at the Worleybird Cafe in Savannah, Tenn., to Shelly Fairchild in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and Trent Willmon at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, The Food Network uncovers artists' fabulous Country food favorites.

BROADWAY AND COUNTRY MUSIC COME TOGETHER IN AN UNPRECEDENTED EVENT AT "BROADWAY MEETS COUNTRY"



Broadway will be giving the CMA Awards a star-studded welcome this year when "Broadway Meets Country" comes to Manhattan in November. As part of a week-long series of events during "Country Takes New York City," The League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc. and CMA are collaborating on the unique and unprecedented event, which celebrates the universality and crossover appeal of these two popular genres and their performers.

On the evening of Saturday, Nov. 12 at Frederick P. Rose Hall in Lincoln Center, superstars from the worlds of Country Music and Broadway will join together in a cabaret-like setting, performing classic Country and Broadway selections.

The special charity performance is a fundraiser for The Actors' Fund of America and the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, benefiting victims of hurricane Katrina.

The lineup includes Broadway performers Idina Menzel, Brian Stokes Mitchell, Bernadette Peters and Patrick Wilson paired with Country stars Trace Adkins, Raul Malo, Lee Ann Womack and Trisha Yearwood.

"It is truly history in the making that the Country Music world is coming to New York, and joining with Broadway for such a wonderful, unusual and entertaining event," commented Jed Bernstein, President of The League of American Theatres and Producers, Inc. "This special concert, performed by some of the superstars from both worlds, will not only highlight the similarities and universality of these two seemingly different genres, but also help expand the audience for each style of music."

"In fact, the two genres aren't as different as you may think," said Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director. "Storytelling is at the heart of what we do. We both strive to capture and reflect the full range of human emotion, whether it is on a stage or in a song."

"The Actors' Fund has always provided essential support to the people of Broadway, the world of Country Music, and everyone who works in film, television, dance and more," said Joseph Benincasa, Executive Director of The Actors' Fund of America. "We are proud to stand with them all in times of need, and honored to be the beneficiary of this very exciting event."

In the 1950s, the first full length, all Country Music motion picture, "Country Music on Broadway," was filmed starring Lester Flatt, George Jones and Hank Williams, Jr.

Since then, Country continues to be at home on the Great White Way. In 2001, Reba McEntire, starred as Annie Oakley in the Marquis Theatre production of "Annie Get Your Gun." Other Country celebrities that have taken their turn on stage are Pam Tillis in "Smokey Joe's Café," Mac Davis and Larry Gatlin in "The Will Rogers Follies," and Gary Morris in "Les Miserables." Recently, Dolly Parton announced she is writing the score for a Broadway musical based on the motion picture "Nine to Five," in which she starred.

Broadway musicals including "Oklahoma," "Best Little Whorehouse in Texas" "Shenandoah," and "Big River," are among the musicals that have introduced Broadway fans to Country storylines, settings and music.

For tickets or information about "Broadway Meets Country," visit LiveBroadway.com/BroadwayMeetsCountry.

LOOKING FOR A HOTEL IN THE BIG APPLE?

CMA is making it easy and affordable to get a hotel room in New York with special group rates exclusively for attendees.

Visit: CMAawards.com/2005/special/hotel/ for more details and to book your room online. Please note that the special rates will be available through the cutoff dates listed next to each hotel online and are based on availability so make your reservations today!

BROADWAY WELCOMES CMA MEMBERS WITH SPECIAL OFFERS

As Country Music brings its best to the Big Apple, New York welcomes CMA members to Broadway's hottest shows. For special promotional offers and information on how to purchase tickets for Broadway shows, visit livebroadway.com/CMA.

REMINDER: MEDIA AND PUBLICIST CREDENTIALS REGISTRATION

Applications for publicist and media credentials are due by 5 PM/ET on Friday, Oct. 28. Visit CMApress.com to apply online. A registration request does NOT guarantee a credential. Space is limited. Applicants will be notified by e-mail before Friday, Nov. 4 if credential request has been granted or not.



What A Trip! CMA Awards promotional trip packages are SOLD OUT but other options are available. Contact Grace Reinbold Grace@whatatrip1.com or Darlene Williams Darlene@whatatrip1.com at What A Trip! (615) 269-0039 for additional custom trip options including CMA Awards tickets, airfare and event support.

AMERICAN AIRLINES THE AIRLINE FOR YOUR CMA AWARDS TRAVEL

AmericanAirlines®



American Airlines, the world's largest airline, is the official airline of the 2005 CMA Awards. CMA has made special arrangements with American Airlines for discounts on coach and first class fares and booking terms for air travel from Nashville to New York (LaGuardia Airport). All bookings on AA direct flights from Nashville to New York over the peak dates of the CMA Awards will be required to go through CMA's designated travel agents, Entertainment Travel (615) 256-8900 and Travel for the Stars (615) 329-2020. Please mention the CMA discount and your CMA membership number. A travel agency fee will apply.

CMA Sterling and Organizational members receive discounts from American Airlines year-round as a benefit. These discounts start at 5 percent off applicable discounted fees and 10 percent off full-fare, first class or coach class in the United States and Canada.

American Airlines, American Eagle and the American Connection regional carriers serve nearly 275 cities in 50 countries and territories with approximately 4,300 daily flights. The combined network fleet numbers more than 1,100 aircraft. AA's award-winning Web site, AA.com, provides users with easy access to check and book fares, plus personalized news, information and travel offers. American Airlines is a founding member of the oneworld Alliance.

JAMES STROUD: SOUND QUALITY TOP PRIORITY AT CMA AWARDS

Country artists appearing at the 2005 CMA Awards can be confident that they sound their best while performing on the nationally televised ceremony. Members of each performer's team are encouraged to advise CMA production engineers on how to maximize sound quality.

"We've invited the music producers who make the records to come in during Awards rehearsals to discuss the sounds that were used on the records and the mixes of the records," said James Stroud, Co-Chairman of Universal Music Group Nashville and CMA Board member who is part of the CMA Artist Relations Committee.

"We've also invited the artist's team that works with them on the road to work with our Awards show engineers to achieve the monitor balance that the artist uses when they are performing.

"The other thing we've done is to invite the artist's actual house mixer to talk to the show's engineers about how the band sounds, how the artist likes to set up and be mixed, and all of the things that they normally do on the road."

The Artists Relations Committee was formed to help CMA get more in touch with the needs of artists, said Committee Member and CMA Board Chairman Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn.

"The CMA is committed to making every effort so the show can sound as good as it possibly can," Brooks said.

Madison Square Garden is much larger than the Grand Ole Opry House, where the CMA Awards have been held in the past. The move will dictate a different approach to sound.

"We're going into a place where there has not been a CMA Awards show before," Stroud said. "There is going to be a lot of difference in the size of the room and the people with whom we're working. However, we still have the nucleus of the CMA Awards show that we do here. We feel like by the time we get to New York we'll have any problems ironed out."

Stroud is determined that sound quality at the 2005 CMA Awards will be a benchmark for future shows.

"I hope we can learn what the artists want and need and then apply that in a professional way, so that they can walk away from the show saying and feeling that they had the best performance possible," he said. "I want every artist that is involved in our show this year to look forward to next year."

Gary Voorhies



NEW CD

HELPS PROMOTE CMA AWARDS

CMA created a multi-track promotional CD to help promote CMA Awards nominees and 2005 Country Music Hall of Fame inductees while driving excitement and tune in to the Awards broadcast in November.

Music from nominated artists Dierks Bentley, Big & Rich, Brooks & Dunn, Alison Krauss + Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Miranda Lambert, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, Sugarland, Shania Twain (with Billy Currington), Keith Urban, Van Zant, Gretchen Wilson and Lee Ann Womack and more are featured on the CD. Signature hits from new Hall of Fame inductees — "The Closer You Get," from Alabama and "Rhinestone Cowboy," from Glen Campbell — are also on the CD.

The CD will be distributed to outlets including key members of the media, CBS affiliates, MJI Broadcasting affiliates, plus sponsors and contest winners for promotional and marketing purposes.

A link to CMAawards.com for quick access to the most up-to-date information is on the CD.

FIRST ROUND OF PERFORMERS ANNOUNCED FOR CMA AWARDS

BROOKS & DUNN, KENNY CHESNEY, FAITH HILL, ALAN JACKSON, BRAD PAISLEY, GEORGE STRAIT, KEITH URBAN AND LEE ANN WOMACK TO PERFORM ON "COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST NIGHT™"

The star-packed lineup for the CMA Awards is taking shape with the first announcements in early September that hosts Brooks & Dunn; reigning Entertainer Kenny Chesney; former Female Vocalist Faith Hill; the superstar artist who holds the record for most career CMA Award nominations Alan Jackson; the legendary George Strait; reigning Male Vocalist Keith Urban and the two top 2005 CMA Awards nominees Brad Paisley and Lee Ann Womack will perform on the CMA Awards.

"The CMA Awards is the industry's biggest single event for expanding the format and reaching a broad audience," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "And we have a strong slate of nominees and an incredible pool of music to draw from. The move to New York City for this one year is not about changing the CMA Awards program, but taking our best show and our most compelling performers to the media and marketing capital of the world and changing minds about the viability and popularity of the format there. We are dedicated to delivering the best-of-the-best and this is a great start."

World Radio History



CMA AND FAMOUS 3-D POP ARTIST CHARLES FAZZINO

UNVEIL OFFICIAL ARTWORK COMMEMORATING "THE 39th ANNUAL CMA AWARDS" IN NEW YORK CITY

Pop artist Charles Fazzino was commissioned by CMA to create official artwork commemorating "The 39th Annual CMA Awards." The artwork was unveiled Sept. 7 at the CMA Awards Nominees News Conference in New York City. Fazzino is the first artist selected as official artist of the CMA Awards.

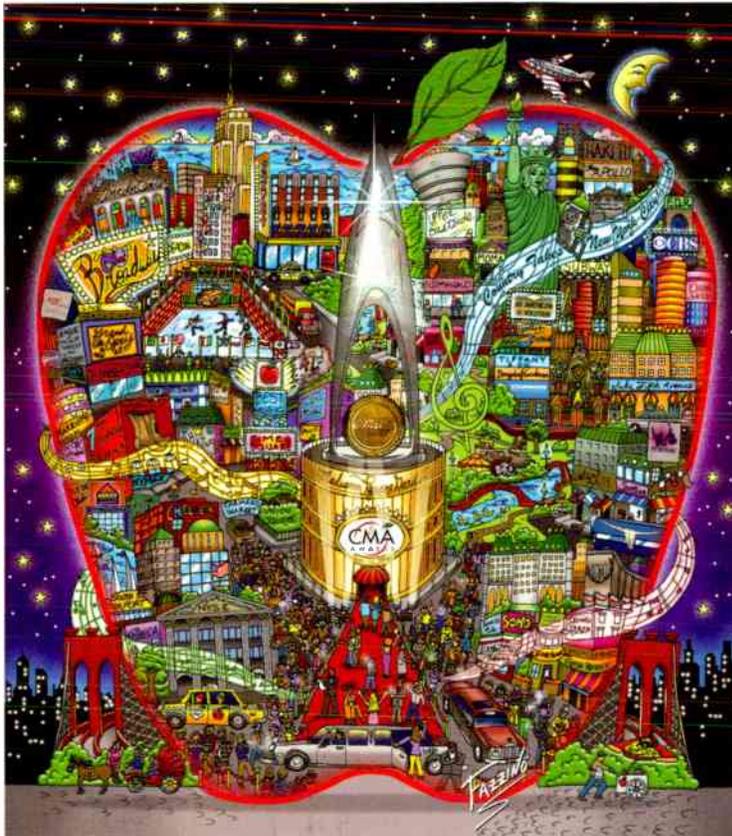
"This one-time move out of Nashville and into the heart of the media and marketing capital of the world presented a terrific opportunity to work with a noted New York based artist to create something that would be unique to the event, incorporate Country Music and still capture the heartbeat of this exciting city," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "Charles' enthusiasm for the project

and world-wide reputation made him an obvious choice, and we are delighted to be working with him and his talented team."

Fazzino's CMA Awards artwork will grace the cover of the official CMA Awards Program Book and is adapted into an official 250-limited edition 3-D Giclee Art Print and Open Edition Fine Art Poster.

"I want to thank the Country Music Association for inviting me to participate in this fantastic event," Fazzino said at the news conference. "As a New York pop artist, it's particularly exciting to see the CMA Awards in the Big Apple and I'm honored to have the opportunity to commemorate this milestone in what is already a rich and much celebrated tradition. I hope you enjoy the work and that it reminds you of what is certain to be an exciting week here in November."

Fazzino is the most popular 3-D pop artist in the world today. He is the creator of 3-D limited edition fine art serigraphs and is best known for detailed renderings of New York City's most famous streets and attractions, his obsession with bold colors and his unique, hand-assembled layering technique that virtually



brings his images to life.

"I am proud to have been selected by CMA to commemorate this incredible music spectacular," Fazzino said. "I am a big fan of Country Music and I'm so happy that CMA is bringing their premier event to my hometown this year. It's truly a thrill and I hope that my image succeeds in weaving the essence of Country Music throughout the fabric that makes up the great city of New York."

Fazzino's CMA Awards artwork, including limited edition, signed and numbered pieces, are available to order online at CMAawards.com. Visit the Web site often for updates on the art program including appearances by Fazzino at CMA Awards events.

With more than 600 galleries in more than 15 countries exhibiting his

work, his artwork has been added to many prestigious private collections, including those of President George H. Bush, President Bill Clinton, Katie Couric and Morgan Freeman. He has also created specially commissioned tributes to many famous icons including Marilyn Monroe and James Dean, as well as the characters of Walt Disney and Warner Bros. Studios. One of the most in-demand artists in the world, Fazzino has been the official artist for the Indianapolis 500 (2004); Super Bowl (2001-2005); Major League Baseball All-Star Game (2003-2005); U.S. Olympic Teams (2000-2004); U.S. Tennis Foundation, GRAMMY Awards (2004); NBC's "Today Show" Summer Concert Series; Rosie O'Donnell's For All Kids Foundation; and the President William J. Clinton Presidential Foundation.

Recently, Fazzino contributed the official artwork for the Belmont Stakes and is working on the NASCAR NEXTEL Cup's 12th Brickyard 400 and Super Bowl XL. For additional information about Charles Fazzino and to view his artwork, visit Fazzino.com.

ORDER 2005 OFFICIAL CMA AWARDS ARTWORK by CHARLES FAZZINO CMA MEMBERS RECEIVE FREE SHIPPING/HANDLING



18" x 24" fine art poster, on bright white gloss premium paper stock, unframed.

\$15 unsigned; \$25 signed by Charles Fazzino

\$695 hand-assembled, 3-D, 250-limited edition giclee fine art print, 17" x 19" full-sized, unframed, signed by Charles Fazzino and numbered.

\$165 hand-assembled, 3-D, open edition giclee fine art print, 7" x 8" mini-sized, with frame painted and signed by Charles Fazzino.

Visit CMAawards.com for additional artwork available and to download an order form



ON THE AIR:

CBS SATELLITE TOUR AND CMA AWARDS VIDEO NEWS RELEASE

After co-hosting the CMA Awards nominees news conference on Sept. 7 with Keith Urban, Lee Ann Womack participated in the CBS Satellite tour to help build awareness of the nominations and the Awards in November. Womack was interviewed live by on-air personalities from CBS television affiliates in markets including Baltimore, Dallas, Denver, Knoxville, Lexington, Miami, Minneapolis, Nashville, Philadelphia, Raleigh and St. Louis.

In addition, the CMA Awards Nominees News Conference Video News release, featuring interviews with Urban, Womack and Miranda Lambert, and behind-the-scenes footage, was made available to television media outlets for satellite download. Media outlets included nationally syndicated entertainment magazine shows, national news networks and news programs on all television affiliates stations.

CMA AWARDS BALLOT SCHEDULE

THIRD BALLOT

A member must have received a second ballot to receive a third ballot and be current in the payment of membership dues.

MONDAY, OCT. 3 CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on third ballot. (only CMA membership that expired after Aug. 1 is eligible for renewal to vote on third ballot)

TUESDAY, OCT. 4 Third CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

THURSDAY, NOV. 3 Return third CMA Awards ballot to Deloitte & Touche LLP 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 LLP no later than the exact date noted by 5 PM/CST at their offices located at: 424 Church Street, SunTrust Center, Suite 2400, Nashville, Tenn. 37219-2396. The deadline is when the ballots must be received by Deloitte & Touche LLP, NOT when they are postmarked. Online votes must be cast by 5 PM/CST. 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.

LISTEN AND VOTE ONLINE

CMA voting members can easily cast their votes online for the CMA Awards but first, they can hear music clips of the final nominated Single, Song, Musical Event and Music Video of the Year categories.

Check your CMA Awards ballot for the Web site address to visit, then enter your CMA membership number, listen and vote online. It's that simple.

CMA AWARDS MAILING AND E-MAIL SERVICE

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

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SONY & BMG

MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

one word, three letters and a whole lot of history

The merger last year of two of the record industry's few major distributors united giant corporations based in Japan and Germany. In Nashville, it also brought two of the companies with the longest track records in Country Music literally under one roof. The staff at SONY's labels — Columbia, Epic and Monument — packed up its file cabinets and abandoned the conglomerate's historic home in the heart of Music Row to re-establish operations in the RCA Label Group building — now renamed SONY BMG Music Entertainment building — a few blocks over.

In doing so, the companies merged two impressive legacies: nearly half the members of the Country Music Hall of Fame — 43 out of 95 — have ties to SONY BMG. Here's a brief primer on the company's illustrious background:

SONY MUSIC

Japanese electronics firm SONY entered the Country Music business when it bought CBS Records in 1987. CBS was itself a conglomerate with tentacles reaching back to the early days of Music Row and the recording business itself.

Columbia Records was established in 1889, a dozen years after Thomas Edison invented the phonograph. Columbia planned to sell its new technology for office dictation, but voice recording soon became a novelty attraction at fairs and carnivals.

Columbia started issuing music in short order, with *John Philip Sousa Marches* among its first product. In 1924, the label recorded its first Country Music in Manhattan, and within two years Columbia purchased rival Okeh for a united catalog that included Country pioneers Fiddlin' John Carson, Vernon Dalhart, Charlie Poole and Gid Tanner.

Through 1938, a series of deals pulled even more labels into CBS' orbit. In the process, British native Art Satherley took command of Columbia's rural-focused product and directed such Country legends as Roy Acuff, Gene Autry, Patsy Montana and Bob Wills, while also guiding the recordings of blues artists Blind Lemon Jefferson and Ma Rainey.

Satherley retired in 1952, turning over the reins to Don Law, another Englishman who also straddled the "hillbilly" and "race" genres. Law produced the legendary blues work of Robert Johnson, but also Johnny Cash, Lefty Frizzell, Ray Price and Marty Robbins, ushering Columbia into the era of the Nashville Sound.

In 1962, the label purchased the Bradley Recording Studio, the site that formed the foundation for what is Music Row today. Columbia built its offices around the studio, which would house sessions by Bob Dylan, George Jones, Tammy Wynette and more until it was closed in 1982. The CBS labels remained in the same 16th Avenue building until this July, when the current staff, headed by John Grady, President of Sony Music Nashville, decamped to the SONY BMG offices.

CBS, then SONY, labels have included:

- Columbia, which continued to build upon its past successes through such artists as Mary Chapin Carpenter, Rosanne Cash, Willie Nelson, Ricky Van Shelton, current hitmakers Buddy Jewell and Montgomery Gentry and newcomers Jessi Alexander, Shelly Fairchild, Van Zant and Trent Willmon.
- Epic Records, an imprint started in 1954 and added to the CBS Country stable in 1963. Wynette and Jones stamped the label's history, as did Charlie Daniels, Joe Diffie, Merle Haggard, David Houston, Patty Loveless, Johnny Paycheck, Charlie Rich, Ricky Skaggs and newer acts Jace Everett, Miranda Lambert, Christy Sutherland and Gretchen Wilson.
- Monument Records was founded by Fred Foster in 1958. It provided Larry Gatlin, Kris Kristofferson and Roy Orbison with their foundations before CBS purchased it in 1987. The label was long dormant until its 1997 revival with the Dixie Chicks.

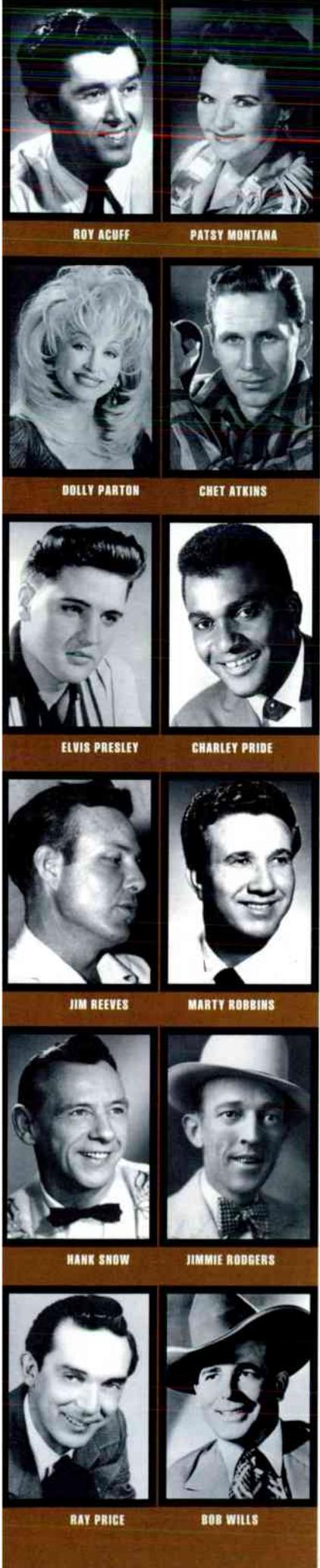
RCA LABEL GROUP

In June 1922, fiddlers Eck Robertson and Henry Gilliland visited the Victor Studio in New York and talked their way into a recording session. The event marked the first time that Country Music was ever put to disc and established an impressive history for what would become RCA Records.

Victor's catalog already included the 1902 recordings of opera singer Enrico Caruso, whose sales helped establish the fledgling recording industry.

Victor executive Ralph Peer recognized a market in the rural South, and his journeys to make so-called "field recordings" led to a 1927 trip to Bristol, Tenn., where he produced the first sessions by Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family.

Nearly half the members of the Country Music Hall of Fame — 43 out of 95 — have ties to SONY BMG.



photos: courtesy of the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. Logo used by permission.

continued on page 46...

2005 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

OCT. 16
COUNTRY GOLD
 Kumamoto, Japan
 On the Web: countrygold.net

OCT. 17-26
STARS FOR STRIPES TOUR WITH TRICK PONY
 Army Bases in Korea
 On the Web: starsforstripes.org

OCT. 28-29
LILLEHAMMER RHYTHM AND ROOTS FESTIVAL
 Lillehammer, Norway

*Events and dates subject to change. Visit CMAworld.com/international/touring for more information.



Tilburg, Netherlands Mayor Ruud Vreeman (left) presents Dutch Country Music star Ruud Hermans (right) a Royal Medal, on behalf of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands. The surprise presentation took place at Tilburg City Hall.

photo: Rineke van Beek

Ruud Hermans Lauded by the Queen of the Netherlands

Dutch Country Music star Ruud Hermans was presented with a Royal Medal at a surprise ceremony at Tilburg, Netherlands City Hall by Tilburg Mayor Ruud Vreeman on behalf of Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands.

Hermans was awarded the medal earlier this year in recognition of his tireless efforts to advance Country Music in the Netherlands — as an artist, radio personality and industry stalwart.

Hermans, whose influences include Bob Dylan, Elvis Presley, Merle Haggard and James Taylor, joined his first Country band, The Tumbleweeds, in 1973. Their first single, a cut of Merle Haggard's "Somewhere Between," topped the Dutch pop charts in 1975, and led the band's self-titled debut album to Platinum in 1976.

A year later, Hermans formed the band, Tulsa, and toured Europe for many years. Tulsa was the

backing band for Country artists including Vince Gill, Eddy Raven, Steve Wariner and Townes Van Zandt while they toured Holland. Tulsa made their way to the United States and performed throughout Texas and Oklahoma.

Hermans recorded four solo albums, including the 2003 acoustic album *Stills*, which celebrates his 35th anniversary as an entertainer.

Hermans is a long-time personality for the region's K.R.O. (National) Radio that featured his first program "Country Time" for 22 years, and a founding member of the Dutch Country Music Association. A frequent visitor to Nashville, Hermans has performed on the Grand Ole Opry, interviewed Nashville notables for his hometown radio station and in 2004, was a featured performer at CMA's Global Showcase and two-time CMA Global Country Artist Award nominee.

Gary Voorhies

On the Web: rudhermans.com

Special thanks to Rineke van Beek of *Country Gazette* for reporting from this event.



((l-r) Sergei "Spooky" Olkhovsky, Alexander Arzamastev, Natasha Borzilova, Lydia Salnikova and Alexander "Sasha" Ostrovsky

Forget the Novelty: Bering Strait is a Great Band

Yes, Bering Strait is a Country Music band from Russia. More to the point, Bering Strait is a great Country Music band.

A listen to the band's music, including current single "You Make Lovin' Fun" (a remake of the Fleetwood Mac hit), makes it clear that Bering Strait is a group of highly talented, versatile musicians who make music worthy of the GRAMMY nomination they have received.

As the band heads into its 12th year in Nashville, with a second album released in August, the musicians are comfortable with the city they now call home and the many veteran Country Music songwriters and producers they call friends.

Carl Jackson, who produced the group's first demo during their initial trip to Tennessee in 1993, is a vocal supporter.

"They are some of the best musicians I've ever worked with," said Jackson, who has worked with Merle Haggard, Emmylou Harris and produced the GRAMMY-

winning Universal South Records album *Livin', Lovin', Losin': Songs of the Lowin Brothers*.

Jackson produced Bering Strait's second album, *Pages*, which he and others agree show how the band members have matured while living in the United States.

"I've seen them mature. They were kids (when they first came to Nashville). They were all great musicians, but they were kids," Jackson said. "It's evolved into something that is wonderful."

Bering Strait's core remains Natasha Borzilova on lead vocals and acoustic guitar; Lydia Salnikova on vocals and keyboards; Alexander "Sasha" Ostrovsky on dobro, steel guitar and lap steel; Sergei "Spooky" Olkhovsky on bass; and Alexander Arzamastev on drums. Mike Kinnamon, Senior Partner, Music Central Management and owner, JMK Music, has been the band's manager for eight years.

continued on page 47 ...

SAVE THE DATE FOR GLOBAL FORUM

Monday, Nov. 14
 Joe's Pub, 425 Lafayette Street
 New York City
 R.S.V.P. to Catherine Thompson at
CThompson@CMAworld.com or
 (615) 664-1615.

Faith Hill, Toby Keith, Tim McGraw and Keith Urban

Among Performers at Live 8 Concert

It was Rome's Circus Maximus — hardly one of the honky tonks of Tim McGraw's early career — and the crowd erupted with enthusiasm to his hit "Live Like You Were Dying." McGraw felt humbled by the response, and the invitation to participate.

"Through the music, which is something all people share, we were able to focus world attention on one of the world's biggest issues," McGraw said. "Both Faith (Hill) and I were proud to represent Country Music on the world stage."

McGraw and Hill were among four of Country Music's biggest stars to perform this summer on July 2 in the Live 8 concerts, staged in 10 cities worldwide to urge world leaders to cancel African debt and double aid to that continent. Keith Urban and Toby Keith performed in Philadelphia. McGraw's journey from Southern honky-tonk to European landmark in some ways resembles the broadening reach of Country Music.

"You want to reach every kind of person with an event like this, and Country has a unique ability of reaching into a lot of America," said Jeff Pollack, a Los Angeles-based music consultant who worked with Live 8 as a producer. "This is about acknowledging that Country Music is a mainstream pop genre."

Live 8's audience reached into the billions. The concerts, staged in South Africa and each of the eight countries that sent leaders to July's G-8 summit in Scotland, drew giant crowds, and many more listened and watched feeds from the Internet and television picked up in the United States by CMT, MTV and VH1. ABC-TV aired highlights. Sir Bob Geldof, who organized Live Aid in 1985, organized the event.

Country Music already enjoys success in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Its involvement with Live 8 is another example of growth, said Urban, who performed "You'll Think of Me" and other songs in Philadelphia.

"Country Music is and always has been great music, and now more people are finding it and embracing it," Urban said. "It was a thrill for me to be part of such a global event. ... It was a really wonderful thing to see all genres collide into one great music for a great awareness-building cause."

Live 8 organizers sought diversity — both musically and politically — in their lineup and that's why they invited Country artists to perform, Pollack said. The genre has become more market-driven and pop-influenced, but continues to hold to its core musically.

"You certainly couldn't say 'Redneck Woman' is a pop song," Pollack said of the Gretchen Wilson hit. "Country has a very big tent, and that tent includes pop and bluegrass and traditional Country, and so that's the mark of a huge genre."

McGraw and Hill got a warm reception in Rome, where they performed for some 100,000 fans. The venue also featured performances by Duran Duran and Italian artists. As Hill sang "Piece of My

Heart," an Italian crew working backstage sang along.

"This is just more of an acknowledgment of the power of our music and the fact that we have a lot of fans throughout the world that love Country Music, and to really be a diverse musical genre event they needed representatives from the Country Music format," said Scott Siman, McGraw's manager.

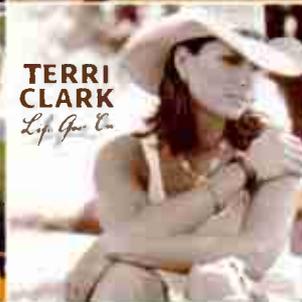
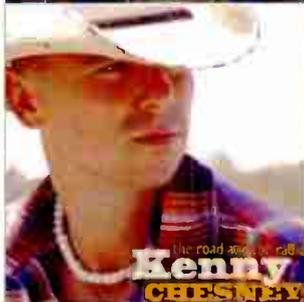
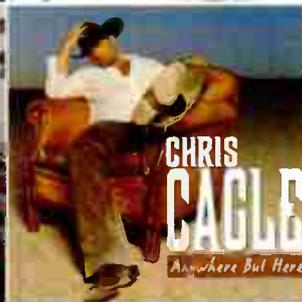
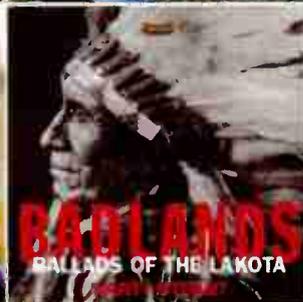
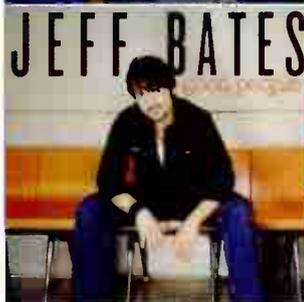
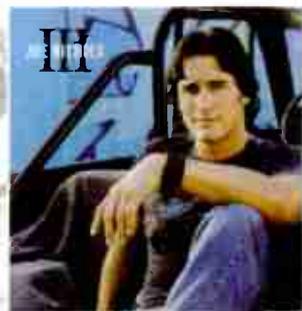
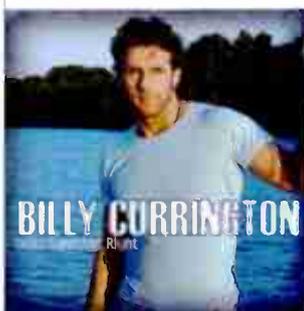
Live 8 presented a unique opportunity for Country Music, Pollack said. "It's pretty remarkable that somebody was living in Shanghai and heard Toby Keith for the first time."

On Nov. 8, Capitol Records and EMI Music will release DVDs of this summer's Live 8 concerts to raise awareness of African poverty. A percentage of profits from the DVD will go to charities working in Africa. The multi-disc set will feature the complete concerts from London and Philadelphia, and highlights from seven other shows from around the world. In addition, EMI will issue separate single-disc sets with concert footage from Belrin, Paris, Rome and Toronto. **Amy Green**

On the Web: live8live.com

FilmMagic

Live 8 photos provided by FilmMagic.com, a leading digital photo agency that supplies photography and related services to the World's professional media. They conduct business primarily through their Web site using an in-house sales force and a digital delivery network connecting local picture agency affiliates from more than 10 countries. **FilmMagic.com** has a team of acclaimed photographers that cover major entertainment, music and fashion events. FilmMagic is CMA's photo partner for the 2005 CMA Awards.



OCT. 4

- Sonny Burgess / *Stronger* / CPI Records
- Clint Black / *Drinkin' Songs and Other Logic* / Equity Records
- Ronnie Bowman / *It's Gettin' Better All the Time* / Koch Records
- Chris Cagle / *Anywhere But Here* / Capitol Records Nashville
- Cross Canadian Ragweed / *Garage* / Universal South Records
- Drew Davis Band / *Back There All the Time* / Windswept
- Sara Evans / *Real Fine Place* / RCA Records
- Kevin Gordon / *o Come Look at the Beginning* / Crowville Collective
- Royal Wade Kimes / *Snow* / Wonderment Records
- Little Big Town / *The Road to Here* / Equity Records
- Leland Martin / *Leland Martin* / Magnet Records
- Craig Sellers / *Something Worth Fighting For* / Cozy Records
- Joy Lynn White / *One More Time* / Thorch/Redeye
- Various Artists / *The Disney Songbook* / Walt Disney Records

In October, Olivia Newton John's new album, *Stronger Than Before*, is available exclusively at Hallmark Gold Crown® Stores — in support of National Breast Cancer Awareness Month — with two dollars of each CD purchase donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

OCT. 11

- Gary Allan / *Tough All Over* / MCA Nashville
- Mark David Manders / *Cannonball* / Big Karma
- Dolly Parton / *Those Were the Days* / Sugar Hill Records
- Kate Rusby / *The Girl Who Couldn't Fly* / Compass Records
- Hank Williams / *Turn Back the Years: The Essential Hank Williams Collection* / Mercury Nashville

OCT. 18

- Billy Currington / *Doin' Somethin' Right* / Mercury Nashville
- Billy Ray Cyrus / *Left Handed* / Koch Records
- Todd Fritsch / *Todd Fritsch* / Diamond Music Group

- Tracy Lawrence / *Then and Now: The Hits Collection* / Mercury Nashville
- Matt Jenkins / *I'm Just A Man* / Universal South Records
- Martina McBride / *Timeless* / RCA Records
- Ricky Skaggs / *A Skaggs Family Christmas* / Skaggs Family Records
- Aaron Tippin / *TBD* / Lyric Street Records
- Various Artists / *To: Kate: A Benefit for Kate's Sake* / Western Beat/Emergent Music Mktg/RED

OCT. 25

- Jeff Bates / *Good People* / RCA Records
- The Highwaymen / *The Road Goes On Forever* (CD/DVD) / Capitol Nashville/EMI
- Joe Nichols / *III* / Universal South Records
- Collin Raye / *Twenty Years and Change* / Aspirion
- Marty Stuart / *Badlands* / Superlatone/Universal South Records

NOV. 1

- Bobby Bare / *The Moon Was Blue* / Dualtone Records
- Johnny Cash / *Live from Austin City Limits 1/3/87* / New West Records
- June Carter Cash / *The Church in the Wildwood* / Dualtone Records
- June Carter Cash / *Ring of Fire: Best of June Carter Cash* / Dualtone Records
- Terri Clark / *Life Goes On* / Mercury Nashville
- John Hiatt / *Live from Austin City Limits 12/14/93* / New West Records
- Eric Johnson / *Live from Austin City Limits 12/14/88* / New West Records
- Montgomery Gentry / *Something To Be Proud Of — The Best of 1999-2005* / Columbia Records
- The Peasall Sisters / *Home to You* / Dualtone Records
- Robinnella / *Solace for the Lonely* / Dualtone Records

- Texas Tornados / *Live from Austin City Limits 10/16/90* / New West Records
- Dwight Yoakam / *Live from Austin City Limits 10/23/88* / New West Records

NOV. 8

- Kenny Chesney / *The Road & The Radio* / BNA Nashville
- Charlie Daniels / *CDB DVD LIVE* / Koch Records
- Danny Owen / *The Environmental Sounds of Crawford, Texas* / Koch Records
- Various Artists / *Christmas Angels* / EMI Music Group

NOV. 15

- Big & Rich / *Comin' to Your City* / Warner Bros. Records
- Honeybrowne / *Something to Believe In* / Compadre Records
- Carrie Underwood / *TBD* / Arista Records
- Various Artists / *Walk the Line Soundtrack* / Windup Records

NOV. 22

- Reba McEntire / *No. 1s* / MCA Nashville
- Ray Scott / *My Kind of Music* / Warner Bros. Records

DEC. 6

- Amber Dotson / *TBD* / Capitol Records Nashville

JANUARY

- Norman and Nancy Blake / *Back to Sulphur Springs* / Dualtone Records
- BR549 / *Dog Days* / Dualtone Records
- John Corbett / *TBD* /
- Jack Ingram / *Live — Where Ever You Are* / Big Machine
- Raul Malo / *You're Only Lonely* / Sanctuary
- Mark McGuinn / *One Man's Crazy* / Blue Flamingo Records
- Darden Smith / *Field of Crows* / Dualtone Records
- Sons of San Joaquin / *Way Out Yonder* / Dualtone Records

*Release dates are subject to change.

Compiled by Athena Patterson



Schroder on set of "Whiskey Lullaby."



Brad Paisley, Schroder, Alison Krauss and Director of Photography Steve Gainer.

RICK SCHRODER



finds new groove in the director's chair

In the Hollywood spotlight since age 8, Rick Schroder stepped behind the camera last year to make his music video directorial debut for Brad Paisley and Alison Krauss' "Whiskey Lullaby." The result won the award for 2004 CMA Music Video of the Year.

The 35-year-old New York native started his career as a child actor in 1978's "The Champ" and 1980's sitcom "Silver Spoons." Schroder has since starred in films and television including "Crimson Tide," "Lonesome Dove," "NYPD Blue" and most recently, Lifetime's "Strong Medicine." In 2004, he wrote and directed the film "Black Cloud," an inspirational story about a Native American boxer. Tim McGraw made his acting debut in a supporting role in "Black Cloud."

Schroder and wife Andrea reside in Arizona with their sons Holden and Luke, and daughters Cambrie and Faith Anne.

CMA Close Up spoke with Schroder about the video and Country Music:

CMA Close Up: Have you had a lifelong connection to Country Music?

Schroder: I never played an instrument or was part of a band, but I love all kinds of music. When I was a teenager, my parents got me a voice coach and I recorded one song about being sweet at 16 or something like that, but it bombed. I am tone deaf, and that was obvious in my singing.

I grew to like Country Music about 10 years ago when I lived on my ranch in Colorado. Out there it was Country or nothing, so I grew to love it, and now I listen to it by choice because I love it.

CU: How did you become involved in this video?

RS: I became friends with Steve Gainer, the cinematographer who shot my movie "Black Cloud," which I wrote and directed. Steve thought I would be good at directing videos, so he hooked me up with Chandra Laplume, who [worked] for Picture Vision. Chandra sent me "Whiskey Lullaby."

I cried like a baby the first time I heard the song; it was such a tragic love story. I began writing on it immediately. My wife and I collaborate together, and the whole concept just came together. The challenge was finding a happy ending to a double suicide, and that's where the little girl at the end came in. That is actually my daughter, Cambrie, at the end of video.

CU: Did you write the video treatment?

RS: I did. I sent it in and heard nothing for a couple of months, because I think the record label wasn't even sure if they were going to do a video. I was very excited when they gave us the green light, because it was the first directing job I got that I hadn't given myself. They held a casting call in Nashville and then forwarded me the tapes and the photos. I was involved with everything, from casting to even wardrobe decisions. I am a very hands-on guy. Picture Vision put the crew together, which was excellent. It was a crazy two-day shoot. I just did setup after setup, making sure there'd be a lot of choices in the editing room.

CU: How is shooting a video different from making a movie?

RS: Making a video is different because you have to work very fast. I only had two days, where with a movie you have a more than a month. Also with a video, the director has to showcase the singers. That's really important.

CU: How did it feel winning the CMA Award for Music Video of the Year?

RS: Words cannot describe how it felt to win. I have been working in the business for more than 25 years, and it is not every day when you win an award. It was great to be recognized for good work. I am grateful to the fans who really responded to the video and drove its popularity. It was great to be recognized as a director, because I have wanted to direct for so many years, but was never given the chance.

CU: How was it working with Brad Paisley and Alison Krauss?

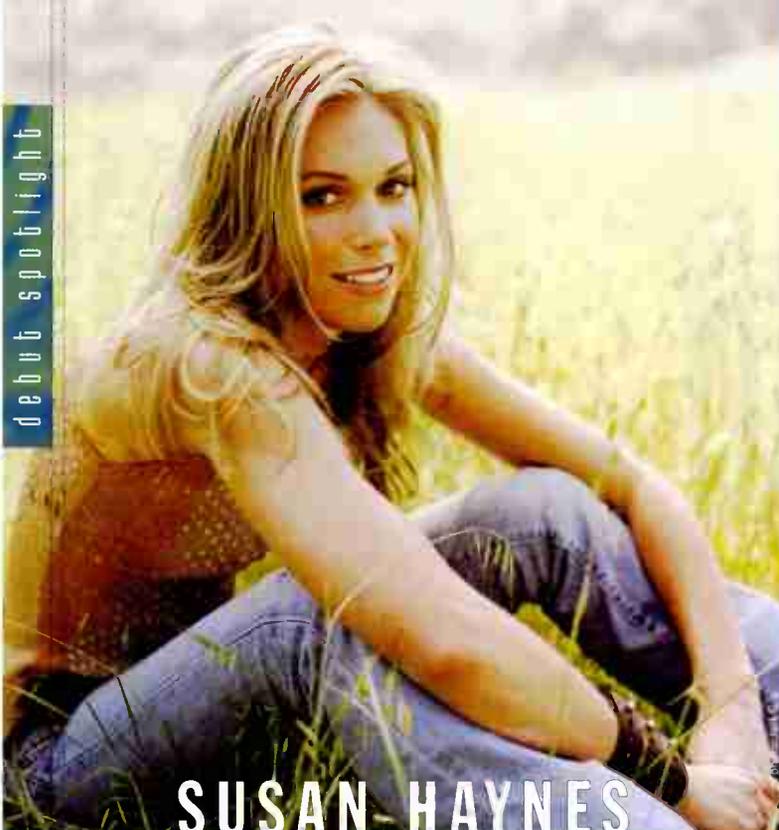
RS: They were both great, very easy to work with, gracious and kind. That is another thing that I like about Country Music — the people. Everyone in Nashville was friendly, with no egos or attitudes to deal with. It always amazed me how huge stars, like Brad or Alison, can remain so humble and down to earth. I guess those Country roots are strong.

CU: Are there more videos in the works for Rick Schroder?

RS: I hope so. I love Picture Vision. Don Lepore and Jon Small are great guys, and trusted me with "Whiskey Lullaby," so for that I will be forever grateful. I have written great treatments for Blaine Larsen, Andy Griggs, Big & Rich, George Canyon, Alison Krauss, and some others, but am still waiting to nail another job. There's a lot of competition out there, but I'm looking forward to directing more videos.

Mark Crawford

On the Web: rick-schroder.com



SUSAN HAYNES

Susan Haynes always wanted to be a professional singer, but took a long time to publicly admit it.

"I was raised in an atmosphere where it wasn't appropriate to claim a lot of space or call attention to yourself," Haynes said. "So it took me awhile to be willing to put it out there."

The Atlanta, Ga. native — daughter of a corporate litigator and a homemaker — thought "music would be a hobby, although it was always at the very core of who I am."

As a college freshman at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Haynes interned in the A&R department at BNA Records. Upon graduation, she was hired as studio manager at Loud Recording Studio, owned by producer James Stroud.

One day, a co-worker heard her singing while she typed a lyric and told the unsuspecting Stroud that Haynes had a good voice. To her surprise, Stroud said he'd listen if she ever recorded anything.

That encouragement spurred Haynes to finally start pursuing a career as a singer. "I knew I had to honor that part of my spirit if I was going to be happy," she said.

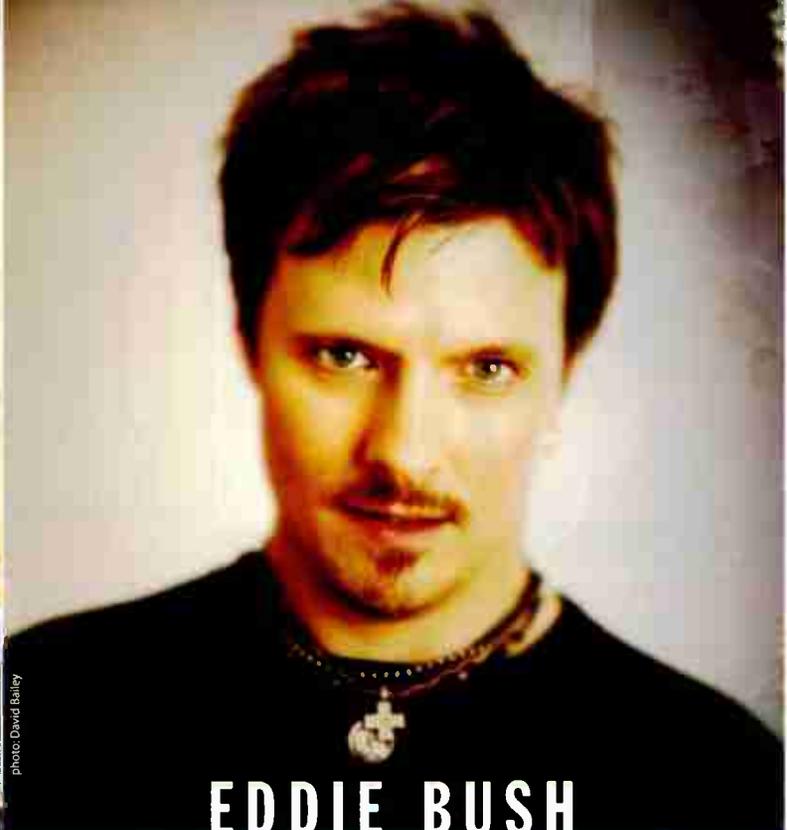
Haynes played her demos for Dann Huff, who was then Stroud's right-hand man and an aspiring producer. He offered to work with her, but was soon busy with his own growing career. While Haynes waited on Huff's schedule to clear, she signed with EMI Music Publishing and began to develop her songwriting.

She penned "Crooked Little Heart," the first single and title-cut of her debut album for Epic Records, produced by Huff and Mark Bright.

Haynes said the project is an accurate reflection of her personality, her music and the transformation she's made since she finally began to pursue her dreams. She wrote or co-wrote five of the 11 tracks.

IN HER OWN WORDS:
What song would you like to cover? "You Don't Know Me" by Cindy Walker."
What moment in your life would you relive if you could? "Visiting my grandmother for the last time."
Do you have a lucky charm? "A little microphone pin my friend and co-writer Jim Reilley gave me."
Who are your dream duet partners? "Dolly and Rhonda Vincent."

On the Web: susanhaynes.com



EDDIE BUSH

Eddie Bush was introduced to the guitar at 4 years-old in his hometown of Charleston, S.C.

By 12, he had discovered Jimi Hendrix, Kiss and Eddie Van Halen. He formed his first band before entering junior high school and was playing club dates by the time he was 16.

"Once I decided that music would be my career," Bush said, "I was completely dedicated to becoming a *great* guitar player."

Guitar great Eric Johnson became a major influence.

"I saw Eric play and was absolutely blown away," he said. A friendship grew between the two and before long, Johnson had invited Bush to open a series of shows. "With Eric's guidance, I started paying attention to my singing and the fact that I'd developed into a serious songwriter — things I'd been taking completely for granted," he recalled.

In 2001, Bush wrote "Spirit of America," an anthem about the September 11th terrorist attacks. The song got widespread airplay and motivated Bush to write a second tribute song, "The Thin Blue Line," which pays homage to police officers.

Bush's self-titled debut album presents 13 songs, 11 of which he co-wrote, that demonstrate the Country, classic rock and pop influences of his childhood.

Released by Tone-Box Records in March, *Eddie Bush*, produced by Jason Bradford, Phil Symonds and Brent Lamb, includes the single "Hard to Stop a Train," written by Craig Wiseman.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:
What song do you wish you had written? "Glen Campbell's 'Wichita Lineman' (written by Jimmy Webb) or anything by The Beatles."
What word or phrase do you find yourself saying over and over again? "C'mon over driver."
Do you have a lucky charm? "My wedding ring and my crucifix."
Who is your dream duet partner? "Bonnie Raitt."
If you wrote an autobiography, what would the title be? "The Man Who Never Gave Up."

On the Web: eddiebush.com





SHAWN KING

photo: Rander St. Nicholas

Shawn King grew up in show business as the daughter of Karl Engemann, a record company executive, and a top Hollywood studio singer Jerri Engemann, who recorded with Elvis and Bob Dylan.

A native of southern California, King began performing at the age of 3 as a child studio vocalist, and later sang back-up vocals for motion pictures, television and records.

In the 1980s, King frequently guest starred on prime-time television shows and co-hosted "The Spectacular World of Guinness Records" with David Frost. From 1990-1996, King hosted USA Network's weekly entertainment news show, "Hollywood Insider."

After marrying CNN's Larry King in 1997, she took a career hiatus to start a family. Now that her children are older, King has returned to entertainment and is focused on singing.

In a return to her musical roots, King has completed *In My Own Backyard* produced by Keith Follese, Steve Tyrell and Carl Jackson.

The album was released on Lofton Creek Records in September and features the title-track debut single written by Harry Stinson and Chapin Hartford.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

Who is your musical hero?

"I don't have just one. I love Wynonna, Dolly, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt, Trisha Yearwood and so many others."

Do you have a lucky charm?

"Yes, but if I told you what it is, it would lose all its charm."

What is your pet peeve?

"Someone with 11 items in a not more than 10 item lane at the market."

Who is your dream duet partner?

"Way too tough to name just one, but my husband wishes it could be Sinatra!"

What moment in your life would you relive if you could?

"The very first time standing in the circle on stage to perform at the Grand Ole Opry!"

If you wrote an autobiography, what would the title be?

"*Larry King's Wife — For Dummies!*"

On the Web: loftoncreekrecords.com



SHOOTER JENNINGS

debut spotlight

Waylon Albright Jennings, nicknamed Shooter, was born to life on the road.

The only child of Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter, he lived his first few years in a crib on his parents' tour bus. "I thought everybody's family was like mine," he said. "We'd check out of hotels and travel all night. I loved it. To this day I sleep better on the bus than anywhere else."

Beginning at age 5, he learned drums, piano and guitar. By 14, Jennings was an avid guitar player.

Then he discovered rock 'n' roll, and left at 18 to seek his fortune in Los Angeles. "I had to get out of Nashville because I didn't feel it was my place at the time," he said.

In L.A., Jennings assembled the band Stargunn and had local success. But something didn't ring true for him.

"I was posing as a rocker," he said. "A Country guy trying to be something he wasn't."

In 2003, Jennings dissolved Stargunn and went to New York for a break. He returned to Los Angeles with a stack of songs, assembled a band he dubbed the 357s, and recorded a new album.

In 2004, he signed to Universal South Records, which released *Put the 'O' Back in Country*. The album, produced by Dave Cobb, was released in June and features 11 songs co-written by Jennings, including the summer single "Fourth of July."

Jennings makes his big-screen debut in November, playing his father in the Johnny Cash biopic, "Walk the Line," starring Joaquin Phoenix as Cash and Reese Witherspoon as June Carter Cash.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

What CD is on your stereo? "On my bus I've been cranking a Steve Young collection called *Lonesome, On'ry and Mean*."

Which song would you like to cover? "Stranger in a Strange Land," by Leon Russell."

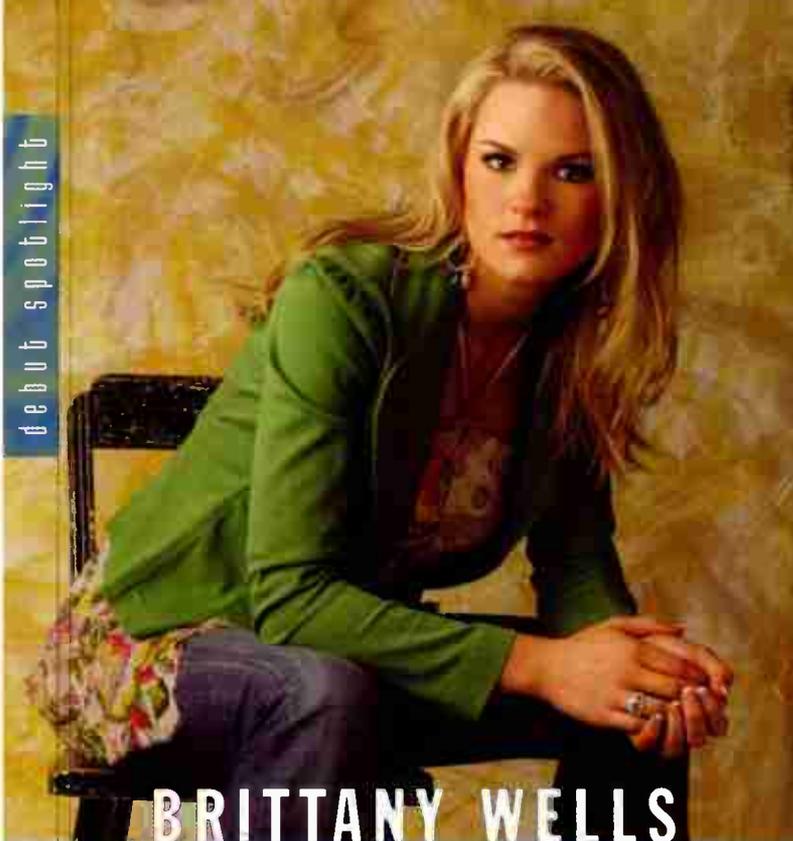
What moment in your life would you relive if you could? "Playing at Lollapalooza 1996 with my dad. That was a blast."

Do you have a lucky charm? "My girlfriend, Drea."

Who are your dream duet partners? "Emmylou Harris or Lee Ann Womack."

On the Web: shooterjennings.com





BRITTANY WELLS

Brittany Wells has become accustomed to reaching her goals. Ranked nationally by the United States Tennis Association until she walked away at 14, Wells is also a former Miss Teen Texas America.

Now, she has collaborated with producer/songwriter Wyatt Easterling on her debut album on Spindletop Records, *Loving Every Minute of It*, released in October 2004.

Wells, the daughter of a U.S. Air Force Fighter pilot, was named for Brittany, England, the city where she was born. Her family moved when she was still a toddler to Wichita Falls, Texas.

As a young child, Wells enjoyed belting out songs for friends and family, and went on to study piano and voice.

She also excelled at tennis. The sport helped her understand the discipline required to excel, Wells said. But her love of entertaining won out, and she quit to devote herself to music.

Wells' vocal coach suggested she try the Miss Teen Texas America pageant, and she won in 2002, leading to a year of speaking and singing engagements.

Soon after, Wells began making trips to Nashville and met Easterling.

Two singles have been released from *Loving Every Minute of It*, "From Harm's Way," written by Easterling, John Marlin and Jeff Vice, and "Somebody's Somebody," written by Steven Bliss, Sherrie Austin and Will Rambeaux.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

Do you have a lucky charm? "I really don't have a lucky charm. I don't even believe in luck. I feel like if you work really hard and try your best, whatever is supposed to happen will happen. Plus, I rely on my faith and belief in God to pull me through tough situations."

What song do you wish you had written? "Gosh, there are so many. But I would probably say Keith Anderson's song 'Pickin' Wildflowers,' written by John Rich.

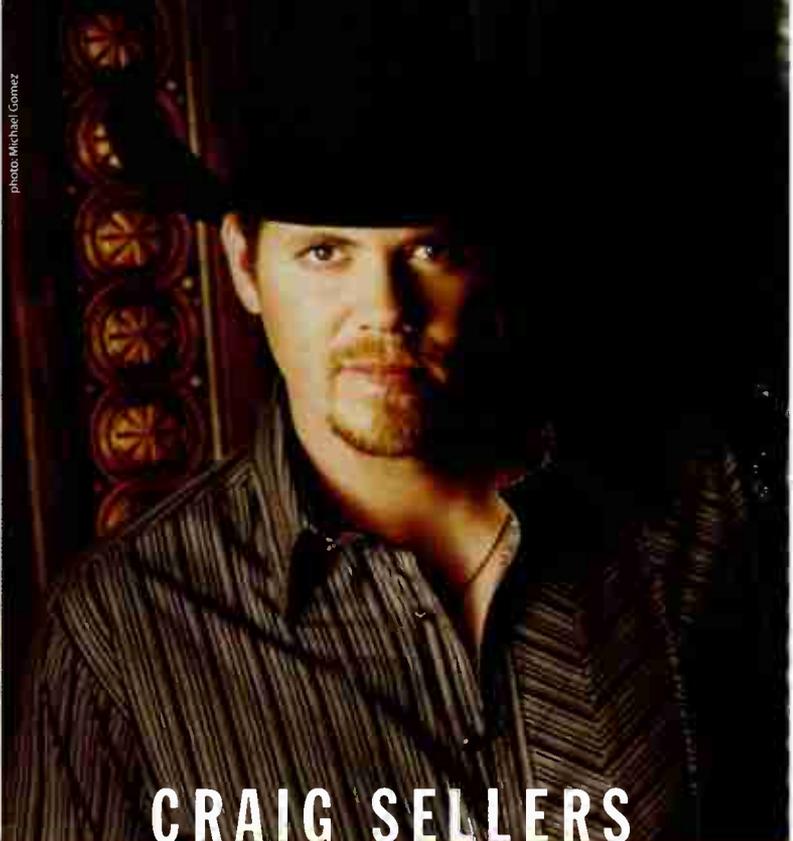
Who are your dream duet partners? "Well, besides Keith Urban since he is my musical hero, I think Garth Brooks would be fun. He's so entertaining on stage, and just great all around."

If you wrote an autobiography, what would the title be? "*Loving Every Minute of It*, because I've loved every minute of everything I've done this far in my singing career."

On the Web: brittanywells.com



photo: Michael Gomez



CRAIG SELLERS

Craig Sellers grew up in the Great Smoky Mountains of East Tennessee, steeped in music and farming. His father was a local Country Music performer, and his mother played piano and sang in church.

Sellers began playing guitar at 10, learning a variety of styles. He began singing in earnest in high school, when he fronted his first band.

He became a regular on the Knoxville circuit, opening for national artists who toured in the area.

After years of balancing music and a law enforcement career, Sellers left his job as a police officer in the spring of 2004 to concentrate on music.

Sellers co-wrote eight of the 12 songs on his debut album, *Something Worth Fighting For*, produced by Kenny Holloway. The album will be released in October.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

Which song would you like to cover?

"I would love to record Jerry Reed's 'Amos Moses.' I perform this song at about every show I do."

What song do you wish you had written?

"'Friends in Low Places' written by Dewayne Blackwell and Bud Lee."

Do you have a lucky charm?

"No lucky charms. I lose everything."

What book is on your nightstand?

"*Tick Tock* by Dean Koontz."

Which mode of transportation do you prefer — planes, trains or automobiles?

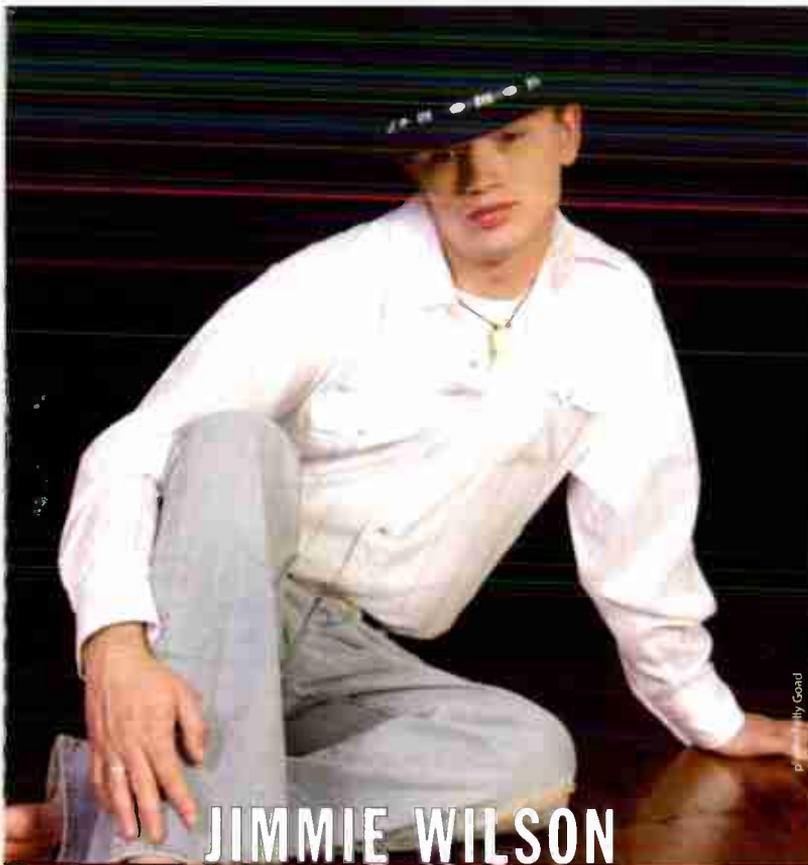
"Automobiles for short trips. I don't like long rides in a car, so I'll pick a plane over that."

Who is your dream duet partner?

"I've always thought it would be awesome to do a song with Jerry Reed."

On the Web: craig sellers.net





JIMMIE WILSON

Photo: Kelly Good
Photo: Gloria Barnes

Jimmie Wilson is from the small town of Pine Knot, Ky., on the Tennessee border. He originally planned to go into medicine, as he has a particular interest in children's health issues. He opted instead to pursue music, but is very involved with the Make-a-Wish Foundation and the Children's Hospital of Jackson, Miss.

Wilson has worked the county fair circuit extensively. He names George Strait, Alan Jackson, Tracy Lawrence and Martina McBride as influences.

"What Else Could Go Right," Wilson's current single written by Chris Waters, is a song that takes the typical "What else could go wrong?" mentality and gives it a positive spin. The debut album, *What Else Could Go Right*, was released in May on Platinum Plus Records. Wilson co-wrote two of the 12 tracks.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

What book is on your nightstand?

"Basic Computer Guide for Idiots."

What actor would portray you in a biopic about your life?

"Leonardo DiCaprio, for his energetic poise. Instead of 'acting' he brings the film to reality."

What moment in your life would you relive if you could?

"The moment of having my daughter all over again, without the severe illness."

What song do you wish you had written?

"'Norma Jean Riley' performed by Diamond Rio and written by Monty Powell, Dan Truman and Rob Honey."

Do you have a lucky charm?

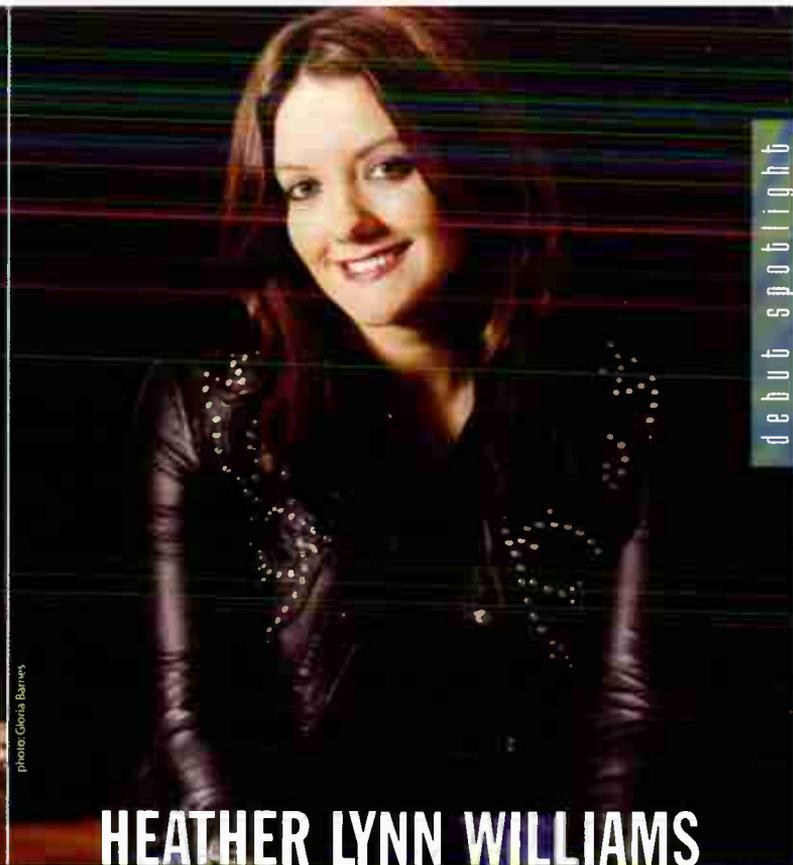
"Yes, my arrowhead I wear around my neck."

When they look back on your life in 50 years, what do you hope people say about you?

"Jimmie helped change my outlook on life by bringing poems of reality to life, to make an easier understanding of them."

On the Web: jimmiewilson.com

Platinum Plus
RECORDS



HEATHER LYNN WILLIAMS

Born in Orlando, Fla., and raised in Augusta, Mo., Heather Lynn Williams had won more than 200 trophies in dance competitions by the time she was 10.

At 12, she shifted her focus to singing, and traveled the eastern United States to participate in singing and karaoke contests.

Williams, who cites Ray Charles, Patsy Cline, Celine Dion and Martina McBride as major musical influences, moved to Nashville in 2001 to work full time on her music career. She signed to Roundabout Records, which released her first album, *Collections*, self-produced with Buzzy Orange. It features a mix of Country, pop, blues and bluegrass styles that reflect Williams' interest in a wide range of genres.

Williams is touring to promote the Sept. 1 release of *Collections*, playing a circuit of festivals and making appearances at Ammons Boots stores, Affinity Luxury Shops and Saks Fifth Avenue stores.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

What book is on your nightstand?

"My grandmother's Bible."

What do you sing in the shower?

"'Hero' by Mariah Carey."

What is your pet peeve?

"People driving too closely behind."

What moment in your life would you relive if you could?

"The excitement of the day that my parents adopted my two little sisters."

When they look back on your life in 50 years, what do you hope people say about you?

"That I was a very caring person and music was her life and her life was giving to others."

Who is your dream duet partner?

"Ray Charles."

If you wrote an autobiography, what would the title be?

"*They Said It Couldn't be Done*" by Heather Lynn Williams. (Would You Like Fries With That)"



CMA Strategic Marketing Department Gets Face Lift

Due to increased initiatives and marketing opportunities involved in the 2005 CMA Awards moving to New York for one year and 2006 being filled with more opportunities with the CMA Music Festival and the 40th Anniversary of the Awards in Nashville, CMA has promoted several members of the Strategic Marketing department and has merged New Media and Technology Services with the department.

“One of the strengths of CMA has been the ability for the staffing model to react with the business environment,” said CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray. “The marketing needs of our members and sponsors have meant a stronger focus on sponsorship activation, accelerated online marketing efforts, new marketing initiative development and managerial leadership. Each of these individuals will take on new responsibilities in an aggressive operational structure that will continue to meet the marketing objectives of the organization. They have proven to be insightful, experienced, passionate and driven team players who understand the needs of today’s marketplace.”



Tammy Donham was promoted from Senior Manager of Marketing and Promotions to Director of Marketing Services. Donham began her career at CMA in 1996. She is responsible for overseeing advertising and promotional campaigns in print, broadcast and online for CMA Music Festival and the CMA Awards. Prior to joining CMA, Donham worked for Fruit of the Loom in Bowling Green, Ky., in several marketing capacities. She has a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Western Kentucky University and a Master of Business Administration from Middle Tennessee State University.



Catherine Thompson was promoted to Membership Services Coordinator. Thompson joined CMA in September 2004. A native of Ohio, she attended Nashville State Tech Community College and studied several subjects. She joined Cigna Healthcare in 1999 and later worked at Spring Hill Music. Thompson processes membership applications, CDX service, general member support and oversees the CMA Broadcast Awards.



Lara Henley was promoted to Senior Manager of Sponsorship Activation. The Columbus, Ohio, native graduated from Middle Tennessee State University and joined CMA shortly after. Henley has worked with CMA for 14 years and is responsible for the execution of all sponsorship contracts, overseeing the development and execution of all corporate VIP programs and managing CMA’s partnership with NBC Daytime.



John Pyne moves over from the Executive Department to Industry Relations Coordinator. Pyne is responsible for overseeing all music industry related events including artist visits, *CMA Directory*, artist orientation, member special events and more. Pyne studied advertising at Utah State University and spent more than 10 years in the finance industry, before joining CMA in 2003.



Kyle Quigley was promoted from Marketing Coordinator to Manager of Strategic Marketing Initiatives. Quigley joined CMA in 2003 after several years in marketing and communications for Studio Productions, Murray State University and Spring Hill Music Group. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a bachelor’s degree in communications. Quigley oversees many of the New York City-based activities leading up to the 2005 CMA Awards, plus new marketing initiatives for 2006 and beyond.



Jennifer Norsworthy joins CMA as Coordinator of Partner Programs. Norsworthy, who hails from Brewton, Ala., graduated from Auburn University in August with a bachelor’s degree in communications after completing an internship with CMA.



Josh Mullins also joins CMA as Coordinator of Partner Programs. A native of Westminster, Md., Mullins interned for Greg Hill Management, Scott Welch Management, Warner Bros. Records and Springfish / Teracel Music Publishing / Mark Bright Productions before graduating in May from Belmont University with a bachelor’s degree

in music business.

Norsworthy and Mullins will report directly to Henley and coordinate sponsorship activities.



As part of the merger of the New Media and Technology Services and Strategic Marketing departments, **Daphne Larkin's** title changes to Director of Membership and Online Marketing. In addition to overseeing CMA's online initiatives and technology needs, Larkin will supervise membership development, industry relations and international activities.



Daniel Owen was promoted from Manager to Senior Manager of Information Technology. Owen graduated from Murray State University in 1999 with a degree in computer information systems. Owen joined CMA in 2000 and manages all aspects of CMA's technology, including computers, servers, networks and phone systems.

Web Developer **David Beronja** also moves to the Strategic Marketing department and will continue to oversee design and content of CMA's six Web sites — **CMAawards.com; CMAfest.com; CMAworld.com; CMAboard.com; CMApress.com; and MyCMAworld.com.**

Amanda Eckard

Events and Special Projects' Grealis and Kennedy Promoted



CHRISTY GREALIS

CMA announced the promotions of **Christy Grealis** and **Kris Kennedy** to Senior Managers of Events in the Events and Special Projects department.



KRIS KENNEDY

"I have watched these talented women continue to excel in their areas of responsibility, especially in the last year, and I couldn't be happier to recognize their contributions with very well-deserved promotions," said Bobette Dudley, CMA Vice President of Events and Program Development. "They manage an enormous amount of work for CMA events, and they both approach it with good attitudes, team philosophy, integrity and strong work ethics. I am very proud to have them in our Events and Special Projects department."

Grealis graduated from Southwestern College in Kansas and joined CMA in 1998 as an intern in the Communications department and became a full-time employee. After a short stint at Warner Bros. Records in 2000, Grealis returned to CMA as part of the Events and Special Projects department. Grealis oversees all of the logistics and site preparation for The Coliseum during the CMA Music Festival, plus serves as show production coordinator; event logistics and support for the CMA Awards, including Madison Square Garden in New York City for the Awards in 2005; and media activities throughout the year.

Kennedy came to CMA in 1995 as an intern from Belmont University in Nashville. She earned a full-time position in the Events and Special Projects department in 1997. Kennedy's responsibilities include all logistics and staffing involved in the Fan Fair (Exhibit Hall) at the Nashville Convention Center during CMA Music Festival; managing the ticketing process and seating for the CMA Awards, including the transition to a large capacity venue at Madison Square Garden in 2005; and supervising the intern program for the department.

Amanda Eckard



CMA is a proud sponsor of **iebaLive! 2005**, a convention for international entertainment buyers and members of the music industry, that will take place on Sunday, Oct. 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 4 at the Downtown Hilton in Nashville.

The planning committee, led by Mike Smardak, has put together an outstanding conference agenda that includes:

A golf tournament, Harley ride, new member orientation and opening night reception, panels and roundtable discussions, a salute to the Grand Ole Opry's 80th Anniversary, a bash at BB King Blues Club and Grill, a membership meeting, breakfasts, luncheons, a cocktail reception and the **iebaLive! Awards Banquet.**

With performances by touring veterans BlackHawk and Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver and introductions to new acts Jason Aldean, Amber Dotson and Miranda Lambert, the stage is set for fantastic entertainment.

ieba's membership includes talent buyers and sellers, artists, managers, agents, venue managers, entertainers and entertainment organizations plus related entertainment professionals and services including newspaper / radio / TV, advertising, publicity, equipment, lighting & sound, staging / production and music business. Gary Voorhies

On the Web: **ieba.org**

what they wanted. When I saw how SIRIUS is changing the way radio is being heard, I welcomed the opportunity for Radio Margaritaville to join them."

Buffett launched Radio Margaritaville in 1998 as an Internet-only channel, which will still be available at radiomargaritaville.com. But now for the first time, Buffett fans across America will be able to hear the channel in their cars, on their boats and on the go by becoming SIRIUS subscribers. The channel will also broadcast in Buffett's Margaritaville restaurants.

SIRIUS broadcasts more than 120 digital-quality channels, including 65 channels of 100 percent commercial-free music and more than 55 channels of sports, news and talk, to listeners across the country. The programming for these channels comes from such top names as ABC News, BBC, CNBC, ESPNRadio, E! Entertainment, Maxim, NPR and Radio Disney. The company also broadcasts live play-by-play of NFL and NBA games, and is the official satellite radio partner of the NFL. The unique listening experience is available to more than 10 million DISH Network satellite users and SIRIUS Satellite Radio subscribers.

In February, an agreement was announced to give SIRIUS North America satellite radio rights to broadcast NASCAR racing events that will bring unprecedented programming and marketing opportunities to NASCAR fans. Beginning in 2007, SIRIUS will broadcast all NASCAR Nextel Cup Series, NASCAR Busch Series and NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series races live on a specially created, 24/7 NASCAR channel, and SIRIUS will be the only place on satellite radio to listen to NASCAR.

As part of the agreement, SIRIUS will become the Official Satellite Radio Partner of NASCAR, with exclusive trademark and marketing rights, and the right to sell advertising on its NASCAR channel and during broadcasts. And they will work together to develop an extensive consumer marketing and outreach campaign for NASCAR fans.

SIRIUS radios for the car, truck, home, RV and boat are manufactured by Alpine, Audiovox, Blaupunkt, Clarion, Delphi, Jensen, JVC, Kenwood, Pioneer, Sanyo and XACT Communications. Available in more than 25,000 retail locations, SIRIUS radios can be purchased at major retailers including Best Buy, Circuit City, Crutchfield, Costco, Office Depot, Sears, Target, Wal-Mart and RadioShack. SIRIUS is also available at heavy truck dealers and truck stops nationwide.

SIRIUS radios are currently offered in vehicles from Audi, BMW, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Infiniti, Jaguar, Jeep, Land Rover, Lexus, Lincoln-Mercury, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, MINI, Nissan, Scion, Toyota, Porsche, Volkswagen and Volvo. Hertz offers SIRIUS at major locations around the country.

John Hood

On the Web: SIRIUS.com

*XM Satellite Radio was featured in the Aug./Sept. issue of *CMA Close Up*.

Clark's goal to offer something new in her music coincided with a major life change. Clark and her road manager, Greg Kaczor, were married Sept. 17 in the Canadian Rockies.

"There's a natural evolution in your music when your personal life is changing," she said. "I'm reflecting a little more of a grown-up vibe."

Clark, however, has not totally departed from the high-energy, sassy music that has made her one of the most popular live entertainers in Country Music.

"Honky Tonk Song," written by Kent Blazy and Leslie Satcher and "Damn Right (I'm Gonna Miss You)," written by Julian Gallagher and Craig Wiseman, are among the new songs on *Life Goes On* that have Clark's signature energy from the first beat.

While changes abound in Clark's life, the one constant in her career has been Luke Lewis, who signed the Canadian singer/songwriter to Mercury Nashville in 1994, and who is quick to praise one of his label's top hitmakers — with three of her six albums reaching Platinum.

"Terri has made a distinct mark on the Country landscape. She has never been one to give in to conformity, and that works for her. It's gotten her to the height she is today and will continue to make her stand apart from the rest," said Lewis, Co-Chairman, Universal Music Group Nashville, a title he shares with James Stroud, who was on board for the final revisions to Clark's album.

"Making the decision to sign Terri to Mercury was a no-brainer," Lewis said. "She's tough competition — a talented writer, performer and unique voice. And headstrong for what she believes in. Terri was adamant about her image when others in Nashville weren't so sure that's what women should be, but she's stood by that and now it's what she's known for. When I met Terri I knew she was a good fit and even today, seven albums later she continues to raise the bar with her creativity and position in the marketplace."

Crystal Caviness

On the Web: terriclark.com

Independents' Day ... continued from page 9

both countries through RCR/CBUJ Entertainment.

Kevin Sharp made his Country Music bow on Asylum Records in 1996 with the No. 1 hit "Nobody Knows," which helped propel his album, *Measure Of A Man*, to Gold. A cancer survivor, Sharp had a story that was as compelling as his voice. He kept a low profile after his original record label closed down. But now he's back with *Make a Wish*, his first album for Cupit Records.

Billy Holland, Cupit's Executive Vice President, noted that the label is giving Sharp the standard promotional and media treatment — radio tours, newspaper and TV interviews, in-store appearances, music videos, e-mail campaigns, fan club promotions, "some print advertising" and "a lot of praying."

As is often the case with independent artists, Dualtone Records' Jeff Black found a receptive ear at National Public Radio. He debuted selections from his second album on the label, *Tin Lilly*, on the network's popular afternoon news and feature show, "All Things Considered," in early August. Black also made available via iTunes *Black Tuesday*, a free podcast of live shows, unreleased tracks and selections from his early catalog. He has instituted another appreciation-building promotion, the "Black on the Tracks" tour, that enables fans to travel with him by train to selected concerts in the U. S.

Country traditionalist Leland Martin first attracted widespread attention in 2002 when his whimsical "If I Had Long Legs (Like Alan Jackson)" edged into the *Billboard* charts. "Thankfully, my music has been embraced by enough radio folks to at least give me a fighting chance to reach the listener," said the one-time sideman for Freddie Hart. "When given that chance, I've placed my bets and promotion dollars on the belief that my music measures up in the places it's heard. I've gotten a lot of requests for shows from venues and festivals in areas where I've gotten airplay."

A long-time favorite with truckers, Martin is distributing his new self-titled album on Magnet Music/Aspiration Records through truckstops and the normal retail chains. The album earned him a five-hour special on Dave Nemo's trucker-oriented XM Satellite Radio show. Martin has cemented

continued on next page ...

his traditionalist credentials with a new music video, "Country as the Day is Long."

Still basically an East Coast phenomenon, the Povertyneck Hillbillies are already showing the kind of muscle a big label act might envy — right down to owning their own tour bus and gaining national sponsors. Operating out of the Pittsburgh area, the Hillbillies credit much of their success to two mentors, songwriter/producer Bob Corbin, who was formerly with the Corbin/Hanner Band on Mercury Records, and George Moffett, the head of Variety Attractions, a major buyer of talent for fairs. Since uniting under their name in 2002, the seven-man band has parlayed every little break into a bigger one.

Corbin, in addition to managing the band, produced its latest album, *Don't Look Back*, wrote their most popular single "Mr. Right Now," and set up the label, Cort Records, that the band now records on.

Chris Abbondanza, the Hillbillies' lead singer and a marketing whiz on his own, said that Moffett first saw them play at their local county fair in 2002. He was sufficiently impressed to book them for a series of fair showcases in Pennsylvania and several other states. That led to lots of fair bookings. "George has kind of taken us under his wing," Abbondanza continued. "Along with the fairs, comes working with the radio stations and getting radio play." Even without the intervention of promoters, some Clear Channel stations have programmed the Hillbillies' records, and Abbondanza said that four "Froggy" format stations in the area gave "Mr. Right Now" a total of 1,000 spins.

After Corbin wrote a jingle for the 85-store Eat'n Park restaurant chain, Abbondanza persuaded the company to carry counter displays of the band's new album. The Hillbillies has also enlisted Pittsburgh PBS station WQED in their cause. "They came to one of our bar shows, and that kind of sealed the deal," Abbondanza explained. In addition to running an initial feature story on the band, WQED followed with an hour-long documentary. Recently, the station filmed a live in-studio concert of the band that will air throughout September, as well as offer for sale as a DVD. Besides the concert proper, the DVD will include two additional songs and the original documentary. Viewers will also be offered the *Don't Look Back* CD. The special is being made available to other PBS stations.

The Hillbillies will perform 205 shows, mostly along the East Coast, by the end of 2005. Their bus now bears the sponsored logo, "84 Lumber Presents The Don't Look Back Tour." Cricket cellphones and Coors Light have signed on as sponsors as well. Wal-Mart stores in the East and Midwest have agreed to carry the band's albums — although not in the Pittsburgh area, Abbondanza said, in deference to the earlier agreement with Eat'n Park. Abbondanza is negotiating with Mountaineer Race Track in West Virginia to sell sponsorship space on the band's equipment truck. In the first six weeks of its release — before the Wal-Mart and Eat'n Park connections kicked in — *Don't Look Back* sold 4,500 copies.

Business has been so good, Abbondanza concluded, that the Povertyneck Hillbillies plan to showcase in Nashville this fall to attract a major label deal.

Edward Morris

them all in my truck when he died. So I had this crazy high in my career, and then my dad died a month later. Then I found out I was pregnant a month after that. We brought our son Levi home from the hospital exactly nine months to the day after my dad died. And we'd gotten married right before all of that. So between the death, and getting married and then finding out I was pregnant, it was really so emotional."

Mayo believes honesty is the key to writing Country Music songs.

"Everybody probably said this, but, just write from the heart," she said. "I think it was Kenny Chesney who said, 'People are suckers for the truth.' If you're just being honest, you're going to be a lot more effective than if you just make a bunch of stuff up. The biggest songs I've had have all come from an honest place, not 'What does this person want to cut?'"

The joy of hearing her songs performed never gets old.

"I love hearing my songs on the radio," Mayo said. "It's also great because I'll be driving down the road and hear my dad's songs, and it's like he's still here. It's so unpredictable. You never expect it.

"And now I'm experiencing it with my brother, too (Mayo's brother, Cory Mayo, wrote the recent George Strait hit, "You'll Be There"). Because I'll be driving around and Cory's song will come on. I think some of that song is about our dad.

"I love that part of being a songwriter."

Wendy Newcomer

On the Web: bmi.com

Jon Randall ... continued from page 11

jumped off the deep end."

Randall's misery was about to give birth to one of the greatest duets in modern day Country Music.

"I was laying around on my manager's (Monty Hitchcock) couch with a bottle of whiskey, and I said, 'I'm just feeling sorry for myself right now.'

"And he said, 'Hey man, every now and then you've got to put a bottle to your head and pull the trigger. Everybody does it.'

"And I thought, 'OK, I'm going to have to write that down.' And it stuck with me, and I was trying to figure out how to use that in a song, and I came up with this guy who kills himself drinking, and then Bill Anderson and I got together and ... 'Whiskey Lullaby' was born."

Alison Krauss and Brad Paisley recorded the song, scoring a major hit and 2004 CMA Musical Event and Music Video of the Year Awards.

Randall accepted a songwriting deal with Ree Guyer at Wrensong Music Publishing, and his career started turning around. Lyle Lovett and Bush tapped him to go back out on the road, and soon John Grady, Sony Music Nashville President, offered him a chance to record a new album.

"Jon Randall is an incredibly gifted artist, who grew up in Texas, and has been around Country Music his entire life," Grady said. "He and his talents are a gift to the Country Music industry."

Randall asked George Massenburg to produce and the two went with a different approach — recording live in one room all together.

"I'm better when I perform live," Randall said. "We decided this record needs to be built around me — the band needs to follow me. All the imperfections are there, but the imperfections to me are better than when I try to do it perfect."

The album features 12 songs written by Randall that highlight the tenor harmonies that are so often sought by other artists in the studio. Randall's girlfriend Jessi Alexander sings harmony on the title track, and his father Ronnie co-wrote the beautiful "North Carolina Moon," featuring harmonies by Sonya Isaacs. As a nod to his love of bluegrass, the album is capped with the Robert Lee Castleman tune, "My Life." The song is meaningful to Randall because it includes instrumental work by Bush, Bela Fleck and John

Cowan from one of his favorite bands, New Grass Revival.

"That song is my tip of the hat to New Grass," Randall said. "One of the greatest moments of my whole life was being onstage at Telluride with Sam, and John Cowan, and Larry Adamaniuk, and they wanted to do a set of bluegrass and Bela came out and we did all this New Grass stuff. That was my most favorite thing I've ever done — for me, that's like getting to play with the Stones."

Randall is touring periodically with Earl Scruggs and his band, and will soon sing on a Scruggs album. He is promoting his Sony album, and looking forward to the next one.

"At one point I was ready to leave this town, Randall said. "I had already put it in my head that I'm gone. But then everything turned around. ... I'm still doing my artist thing, and still go out and play with my heroes. And I like making that work."

Lorie Hollabaugh

On the Web: jonrandall.com

MusicCares and Opry Trust Fund ... continued from page 12

person's financial situation and determine how the fund can assist. Then we would put it before our Beneficiary Committee, who would approve what we think is an appropriate amount."

The fund is not exclusively for Grand Ole Opry cast members.

"The Opry Trust Fund is actually more of an effort on behalf of the Opry members to support other people who work throughout the music industry," he said. Buchanan encouraged those who have questions about the fund to contact Stephanie Fortner at (615) 316-6174.

In 2003, the Opry Trust Fund announced its commitment to donate \$250,000 to the Country Music Retirement Community. There was an initial donation of \$50,000, and a pledge for an additional \$200,000.

CMRC is working to provide a living facility for qualified music industry retirees, regardless of their income. It will be strongly identified with the Country Music industry, and will provide a sense of community for its residents.

The CMRC is seeking a tract of land, focusing on Williamson County in Tennessee, said Katie Gillon, CMRC Executive Project Coordinator.

"We did a market survey, and the respondents said they would like to live south of Nashville, but close enough to the city that it would be easy for Music Row workers and artists to come out and interact with the residents," Gillon said.

CMA has been a major supporter of the project for many years. In 1994, a CMA task force initiative started developing the idea for a retirement community. The CMRC grew out of this, eventually evolving into an independent organization with a 30-member board of directors.

From 2001 to 2004, the CMRC was the largest single recipient of funds from CMA's "Cause For Celebration!" program. As part of the program, half the net proceeds from CMA Music Festival are divided among charities designated by participating artists. To date, CMA has donated \$400,000 to these charities. Artists who perform at CMA Music Festival donate their time and often attend at their own expense.

Features of the planned CMRC facility being discussed include a performance hall, a recording studio, a fitness center, a museum, retail shops, an equestrian stable, walking trails and a fishing pond. The first phase of the project will be the construction of an independent living facility. Ultimately, the CMRC will offer three categories of residential opportunities: independent living, assisted living and skilled nursing/full-service medical.

The CMRC facility will be modeled after the Motion Picture & Television Fund retirement community, a 41-acre campus located near Los Angeles. Gillon and other members of the CMRC board of directors have toured that facility.

"We saw a community where the residents have everything they need," Gillon said. "They have medical facilities right on the property, transportation to grocery stores and lots of social activities planned. The residents are happy to be living amongst people of like interests. The movie and TV industry is taking care of its own. We love the idea that we in the music industry could take care of our own."

Gillon can be reached at (615) 298-3533.

Bobby Reed



Two years later, RCA bought the label, which would be referred to initially as RCA Victor (later becoming simply RCA). With its dog-and-gramophone logo — the pooch was affectionately called Nipper — as its corporate symbol, the company aided the careers of future Country Music Hall of Fame members Eddy Arnold, Pee Wee King and Hank Snow.

Sixteen years after joining Victor as a messenger, Hall of Fame member Steve Sholes became head of the Country and R&B genres, working out of New York. Needing a Nashville aide, he turned to guitarist-producer Chet Atkins, who would eventually work autonomously in Music City.

Sholes purchased Elvis Presley's contract from Sun Records in 1955, and while the Hillbilly Cat turned big profits for the label, his success with rock 'n' roll hurt Country sales.

With that in mind, Atkins helped create the Nashville Sound, a softer, pop-influenced form of Country. He matched it to talents Arnold, Skeeter Davis, Don Gibson and Jim Reeves, and kept the label afloat in Music City. Many of the label's legendary hits were recorded at tiny RCA Studio B, opened in 1957.

In ensuing years, Jerry Bradley and current RCA Label Group Chairman Joe Galante would oversee the company, which represented Alabama, Waylon Jennings, Ronnie Milsap, Dolly Parton and Charley Pride during their commercial peaks.

During 1990s expansion, the company renamed itself the RCA Label Group, with the following imprints:

- RCA, which built upon its history with such acts as Clint Black, Keith Whitley and contemporary bellwethers Sara Evans, Andy Griggs and Martina McBride plus newcomers Jeff Bates, Catherine Britt, Bobby Pinson and The Wrights.
- BNA, a sister label established in 1991, using the Nashville airport's three-letter symbol for its name. BNA's short history has included John Anderson, Lorrie Morgan and current roster members Kenny Chesney, Blaine Larsen, Aaron Lines and Lonestar.
- Arista, the Nashville division that was founded by Tim DuBois in 1989 and absorbed into RLG during a 2000 corporate makeover. The label established Brooks & Dunn, Diamond Rio, Alan Jackson, Carolyn Dawn Johnson, Brad Paisley and Phil Vassar and features newcomers Keith Anderson and Rebecca Lynn Howard.

Tom Roland

On the Web: sonybm.com; rcalabelgroup.com; sonymusicnashville.com

CMA Close Up will feature a four-part series representing a historical look at the label groups that have shaped the Country Music format for more than 80 years.

Some of the band members have been musical colleagues since they were children in Obninsk, Russia, a town two hours from Moscow. Their parents enrolled them in music school when they were 6- or 7-years-old, where they received formal training in music theory, choral singing or whatever instrument they chose.

The musicians first traveled to Tennessee in 1993, to Oak Ridge, the sister city of their hometown in a cultural exchange program. One year later, they performed at the International Bluegrass Music Association convention in Kentucky, primarily because the band's instrumentation included banjo and dobro.

"Our (classical music) teacher (in Russia) wanted to improve our fingering and get us to play faster, so he introduced us to bluegrass," Ostrovsky said. "We started playing bluegrass festivals and touring Europe, but when we discovered real Country Music artists like Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson, we transformed into a Country band."

Making a living playing Country Music in Russia was not an option.

"Since coming to Nashville we do get homesick, so we go back home once a year, but once we're there we can't stand it for too long," Ostrovsky said. "After I see friends and family, I miss Nashville. There's nothing going on in Russia as far as music is concerned. We're an international band that's Russian and Country, but music is the key to us. Nationality doesn't define our music. It's music that makes you who you are."

As trips to the United States became more frequent, and the visits extended for longer periods of time, the transition to living permanently in the United States occurred.

"We all realized that if you're playing Country Music, you need to come to the U.S.," Salnikova said. "I didn't really realize at first that pursuing this might mean I'd have to move to America. I don't think I ever made a conscious decision, 'Okay, this is what I'm doing for a career.' It just kind of happened. I was just finding myself coming over more and more for longer periods of time, until one day I realized that succeeding with the band was my priority."

There have been bumps in the road. The band has gone through four record labels, with corporate shakeups causing the demise of deal after deal. Living arrangements have been difficult at times, with six members of the band living with Kinnamon and his wife for extended periods.

There have been rewards for all the struggling.

The group is the subject of the acclaimed documentary *The Ballad of Bering Strait*, directed by Nina Gilden Seavey, which won the Audience Award at the International Documentary Association Festival. Bering Strait has been featured on "60 Minutes" and has sold more than 100,000 copies of their first album, *Bering Strait*.

The first album also garnered a GRAMMY nomination for best Country Instrumental Performance, making Bering Strait the first Russian band to be nominated for a GRAMMY outside of the classical categories.

"It felt like the Olympics," Salnikova said, "and it gave our parents a taste of how big this could be."

The band has high hopes for its second album.

"It's very easy to get discouraged," Salnikova said. "People who came to town at the same time (that we did) are having success. But when you have a product you're proud of and, in the long run, you are progressing, (then) creating music you're passionate about makes all the difference."

On *Pages*, members of the band co-wrote with a number of Music Row's top songwriters and producers. "Long Time Comin'," was co-written by Salnikova with Billy Montana, who wrote Sara Evans' hit "Suds in the Bucket;" and "It Hurts Just a Little," penned by Ostrovsky and Brent Maher, who produced Bering Strait's first album. Plus, Salnikova penned "Safe In My Lover's Arms;" and Borzilova wrote "Cruel Man."

The objective on *Pages* Jackson said, was making a Country album while retaining the band's unique style — music influenced by Alison Krauss and Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas, Coldplay, Dire Straits and Sting.

"They are not the traditional Country band," Jackson said. "You can't just put them in a box."

Crystal Caviness

On the Web: beringstraitonline.com

Chief Operating Officer. "SoundExchange continues to explore creative and efficient ways to locate those entitled to royalties."

SX charges a 20 percent administration fee, "which for a small collecting society is low and fair," said Simson, who urges artists to not just register but to become members of SX. "Beyond registering and getting your payment, membership means that obviously you're lending your support," he said. "And we try to give members a little bit higher level of service when it comes to things like the way you receive your statements, or if you have particular issues or data needs. We do a quarterly phone call for our members where we bring someone on the call from places such as iTunes or MusicNet or Microsoft to talk about how to get your music on their service."

Most importantly, membership allows artists to get involved in committees that are helping develop policies and guiding the growth of the fledgling organization. SX will be at the forefront of efforts to extend this new royalty to any other emerging technologies as well as the admittedly distant possibility of securing it from broadcasters, as happens in much of the rest of the world.

"We need the support of artists if we're ever going to do that," Simson said. "I believe that the only way we'll win that is if somehow the artists and the equity and fairness aspects of it help make the case."

Artists who are already in this royalty stream are certainly happy with the additional income. "I started getting their checks, and I thought, 'Wow, look at that,'" said Dualtone recording artist Darden Smith. The Texas Country-folk singer-songwriter already receives airplay royalties for his songs, but now he is also getting them for his singing and playing.

"I think it's fantastic," Darden said. "It's one more example of how there are all these money streams. And with electronic stuff, it's easier to track it." Because the digital services that pay this royalty are computerized, SX is able to allocate royalties with a high degree of accuracy.

"As someone who got a check from us said, 'This is like free money,'" Simson recalled. "No, you spent a lot of time making that record, and this is just another revenue stream from that record. But it's one that you didn't expect, and it showed up in the mailbox, and that is why it was so exciting."

Rob Patterson



SX Executive Director
John L. Simson

On the Web: soundexchange.com

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2005 CMA EVENTS

OCTOBER

Sunday, Oct. 2 – Tuesday, Oct. 4

IEBA LIVE! / Hilton Suites Downtown / Nashville / ieba.org / CMA is a proud sponsor.

Monday, Oct. 3

CMA membership renewal payment must be received at CMA to vote on third CMA Awards ballot. (only CMA membership that expired after Aug. 1 is eligible for renewal to vote on third ballot)

Tuesday, Oct. 4

Third CMA Awards ballot mailed to eligible CMA voting members.

Tuesday, Oct. 18

Election of Directors / Vanderbilt Stadium Club / Nashville / 10 AM/CST

NOVEMBER

Thursday, Nov. 3

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

Wednesday, Nov. 9 — Tuesday, Nov. 15

"Country Takes New York City" Various Events / New York City /

Wednesday – Culinary Day

Thursday – Education Day

Friday – History Day

Saturday – Culture and Entertainment Day

Sunday – Sports and Parks Day

Monday – Fashion and Shopping Day

Tuesday – CMA Awards Day

Tuesday, Nov. 14

CMA Global Forum / Joe's Pub / New York City / R.S.V.P. Cthompson@CMAworld.com

Tuesday, Nov. 15

"The 39th Annual CMA Awards" / The Big Apple hosts Country Music's Biggest Night™ / Madison Square Garden / 8-11 PM/ET live broadcast on the CBS Television Network



COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST STARS

ON THE WORLD'S BIGGEST STAGE!

The Big Apple Hosts Country

Music's Biggest Night™

"The 39th Annual CMA Awards"

live from Madison Square Garden

Tuesday, Nov. 15

8-11 PM/ET on CBS



RCA recording artist Catherine Britt visits with CMA staff and performs songs from her *Too Far Gone* album, including "Where We Both Say Goodbye" and "Hot Doggin'." (l-r) Mike Martinovich, The Consortium; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; Catherine Britt; Stan Moress, The Consortium; Al Shultz, The Consortium; Mike Wilson, Vice President, National Promotion, RCA Nashville. photo: Amanda Eckard



Koch Records Nashville group 3 Fox Drive visits CMA to sign up for membership. Their first album, *Listen to the Music*, released in August, debuted at No. 9 on the Nielsen SoundScan Bluegrass Albums Chart. (l-r) Chuck Rhodes, Director Creative Services, Koch Records Nashville; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Jim Reed, Joel Fox, Barb Fox, Kim Fox and Megan Lynch of 3 Fox Drive; Amy Murray, Marketing Manager/Bluegrass, Koch Records Nashville; Mike Anglin of 3 Fox Drive; and Hank Adam Locklin, CMA Senior Manager of Industry Relations. photo: John Pyne



Country Music Hall of Fame member Bill Anderson visits with CMA staff and performs songs including his CMA Award nominated song "Whiskey Lullaby," which he wrote with Jon Randall. (l-r) Hank Adam Locklin, CMA Senior Manager of Industry Relations; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Bill Anderson; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; and CMA Board Member Paul Corbin, Vice President; Writer-Publisher Relations, BMI Nashville. photo: Amanda Eckard



MCA Nashville group Hot Apple Pie heat up CMA, performing songs for the staff from their debut album, including "Hillbillies" and "California King." (l-r) Keith Horne; Trey Landry; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Brady Seals; and Mark "Sparky" Matejka. photo: Amanda Eckard



Capitol Nashville recording artist Keith Urban makes memories with Rodney Crowell, songwriter of "Making Memories of Us," at the ASCAP No. 1 party. The single, featured on Urban's *Be Here* album, held the No. 1 position for five weeks. (l-r) Fletcher Foster, Capitol Nashville Senior Vice President, Marketing; Dann Huff, *Be Here* producer; Rodney Crowell; Connie Bradley, ASCAP Senior Vice President; Keith Urban; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; and Woody Bomar, Sony/ATV Music Publishing Senior Vice President. photo: Scott Hunter

World Radio History

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