

OCTOBER 1998

CloseUp



32nd Annual CMA Awards
Country Music's Biggest Night

features

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STEVE WARINER AND DIXIE CHICKS MULTIPLE CMA AWARD WINNERS: GARTH BROOKS NAMED ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Steve Wariner and the Dixie Chicks were this year's top award winners with two CMA Awards each during "The 32nd Annual CMA Awards" televised live on the CBS Television Network. Wariner won for Song of the Year for "Holes In The Floor Of Heaven" along with co-writer Billy Kirsch, receiving a standing ovation for the win. His signature hit also won for Single of the Year, which also garnered Wariner an award as the single's producer. The Dixie Chicks not only made their debut performance on the telecast with "There's You're Trouble", but they also took home their first two CMA Awards – Vocal Group of the Year and the prestigious Horizon Award. Garth Brooks took home the Entertainer of the Year award for the fourth time and for the second consecutive year.

For the seventh consecutive year Brooks & Dunn won Vocal Duo of the Year. Country Music's noted couple Tim McGraw and Faith Hill each earned CMA Awards. McGraw won for Album of the Year honoring his current disc EVERYWHERE. Faith Hill won Music Video of the Year with director Steven Goldmann for "This Kiss". Hill delighted the audience with a performance of the song as well. Director Goldmann dedicated his work on the video to his two daughters who he said "give him the best kisses in the world."

As presenter Deana Carter referred to him, "pure Country dreamboat" George Strait won Male Vocalist of the Year for the fifth time since he first won in the category 13 years ago. Trisha Yearwood was another consecutive winner, as she was honored with Female Vocalist of the Year for the second time in a row.

George Morgan, Elvis Presley, E.W. "Bud" Wendell and Tammy Wynette became the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame this year. Wynette was honored with performances by Pam Tillis and Lorrie Morgan, daughter of Hall of Fame inductee George Morgan. Wynonna and Travis Tritt honored Elvis Presley by performing some of his greatest hits, while Wynonna was sporting a cape and a belt worn by no one except Elvis himself since the early 1970s.

The three-hour CBS telecast featured more than 36



Faith Hill gives a show-stopping performance of her hit single "This Kiss".



Steve Wariner comes out on top taking home three CMA Awards trophies at this year's show.



Reigning Female Vocalist of the Year Trisha Yearwood and reigning Entertainer of the Year Garth Brooks give a powerful performance of "Where Your Road Leads" as they joined the telecast live via satellite from the Buffalo, New York arena.



Martina McBride performed "Wrong Again" on a set featuring the red leather couch from the cover of her latest album.

Elvis

by Sam Phillips



UPON LEARNING OF ELVIS' NOMINATION AND ELECTION FOR INDUCTION INTO THE COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME, I INSTANTLY KNEW THE PLEASURE THIS WOULD HAVE BROUGHT TO HIM IN LIFE - CONTRARY TO THE BELIEFS OF SOME, ELVIS PRESLEY WAS A PROFOUND FAN OF COUNTRY MUSIC - THE LOUISIANA HAYRIDE, THE GRAND OLE OPRY, EVEN RED FOLEY'S GREAT SHOWS FROM THE OZARK JUBLIEE IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI. HE LOVED HANK SNOW'S UNUSUAL STYLE, WEBB PIERCE, EDDY ARNOLD, KITTY WELLS, BILL MONROE, LORETTA LYNN. HE HAD AN AFFINITY FOR JUST ABOUT EVERY PERFORMER OF COUNTRY MUSIC.

THE MILLION
DOLLAR
QUARTET: SUN
RECORDS
ARTISTS JERRY
LEE LEWIS,
CARL PERKINS,
JOHNNY CASH
AND ELVIS.

Elvis never forgot, for a minute, his first appearance on the Opry heard in the 10:15-10:30 Saturday night segment, hosted that night by Hank Snow. Hank forgot his name and completed his intro by saying, "And now here is (pause)...a young man from Memphis I hope you all will enjoy - Let's give him a big hand."

Hank did not mean to slight Elvis, it was just one of those times when you draw a total blank. Elvis certainly forgave Hank his anonymity on stage for that performance. In fact, he would later on humorously introduce himself as "ole what's his name" privately and on casual performances for months to come.

Elvis was with us physically for all too short a time! He was to me a son, a younger brother, a

Presley

compatriot, and a giant in his compassion for just plain folks.

In my lifetime I have known absolutely no other person with less bias toward any type or category of music than Elvis. His love and appreciation for all musical genres was the essence of Elvis' unbelievable gifts.

Space here will not permit me to begin to tell you the true nature of this most unusual man. His respect for and devotion to the human race, and for those who loved music, and like him, made music, kept his curiosity and love of bringing joy to his "audience" until the day he died.

Second to none Elvis cherished his exposure to Country, Bluegrass, Black Blues, White Blues, Black Gospel, White Gospel, Big Band Sounds and the Ink Spots and Mills Brothers and a whole lot of Jimmy Rogers and The Hank!

Even though it was too long in coming, the omnipresence of Elvis in the Country Music Hall of Fame again ratifies to millions the world over that Elvis left a legacy of the true embodiment of our rich and enduring cultures...the people's amalgam of our widely diverse and lasting American Heritage...IT'S PEOPLE AND IT'S MUSIC!

Henceforth, he will share in the love and admiration and respect that comes to all those enshrined forever in this hallowed hall...

...BECAUSE...ELVIS HAS NOT LEFT THE BUILDING

Sam Phillips, through the legendary Sun Records, opened a whole new dimension in American music culture. The first five Elvis Sun Record releases gave the young singer his start.

Today with his sons Knox and Jerry, he remains active in the music business through the Sam Phillips Recording Studio, an active music publishing operation Hi Lo Music and Knox Music based in Memphis, and a chain of radio stations in Alabama, South Florida, and Tennessee.



ELVIS WITH SAM PHILLIPS.



JOURNALISTS BCB JOHNSON (LEFT) AND LEO SOROKA (RIGHT) WITH SAM PHILLIPS AND ELVIS.



Billy Dean stoops to Sherrie Austin's size as they announce the Vocal Duo of the Year Award.



Brooks and Dunn show off their Awards for Vocal Duo of the Year to the press backstage.



Ricochet honors the Broadcast Personalities of the Year and the Stations of the Year with an original a capella performance.



Musician of the Year winner Brent Mason greets the press at the backstage press conference.



Patty Loveless performs her heart-wrenching ballad "Water Into Wine".



Reba gave an unforgettable performance of "Forever Love".

performances by some of Country Music's most talented artists. The night of excitement opened with Vince Gill and Randy Scruggs in a bluegrass performance of "Soldier's Joy".

Reba McEntire gave her first television performance of "Forever Love" while Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood gave a powerful performance of "Where Your Road Leads" live via satellite from the Buffalo Arena in Buffalo, New York.

Shania Twain lit up the stage with her latest release "Honey, I'm Home" along with 200 local cheerleaders dancing to the tune in front of the Grand Ole

Opry stage.

Other debut performers included The Warren Brothers, The Wilkinsons, Lila McCann and Mark Wills.

"Teen" was a key word during this year's show as there were three 16-year-olds performing on the show – LeAnn Rimes, Amanda Wilkinson of The Wilkinsons and Lila McCann.

The 1998 broadcast of the CMA Awards marked the seventh consecutive hosting stint for Gill. The multi-talented vocalist, songwriter and musician has won 17 CMA Awards – more than any other artist.

The winners of the "The 32nd Annual CMA Awards" are:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR:

GARTH BROOKS

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR:

TRISHA YEARWOOD

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR:

GEORGE STRAIT

HORIZON AWARD:

DIXIE CHICKS



Wynonna sports a cape and belt worn by no one but Elvis since the 1970s, as she pays tribute to him being inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.



Tim McGraw proudly accepts the Album of the Year Award for his current album EVERYWHERE.



LeAnn Rimes belts out her newest single, "Nothing New Under The Moon".



Randy Travis pays tribute to Country Music Hall of Fame inductee George Morgan.



Bud Wendell proudly displays his Country Music Hall of Fame plaque at the backstage press conference.



Lorrie Morgan and Pam Tillis honor Tammy Wynette in song during Wynette's induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

SINGLE OF THE YEAR:
"Holes In The Floor of Heaven",
STEVE WARINER
Produced by Steve Wariner

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR:
BROOKS & DUNN

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR:
"This Kiss",
FAITH HILL
Directed by Steven Goldmann

SONG OF THE YEAR:
"Holes In The Floor Of Heaven"
BILLY KIRSCH and
STEVE WARINER

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR:
"You Don't Seem To Miss Me"
PATTY LOVELESS
(with Special Guest George Jones)

ALBUM OF THE YEAR:
EVERYWHERE,
TIM MCGRAW
Produced by Byron Gallimore,
Tim McGraw
and James Stroud

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR:
BRENT MASON

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR:
DIXIE CHICKS

George Morgan

“THE UGLY LIST” by Lorrie Morgan

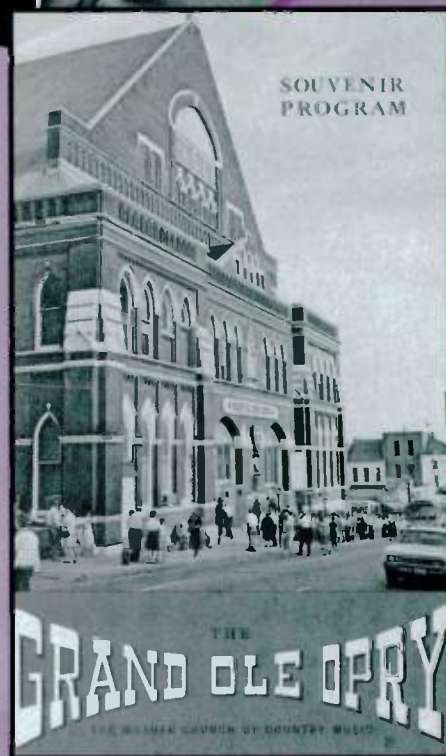
IF YOU’VE EVER BEEN A GUEST BACKSTAGE AT THE GRAND OLE OPRY, YOU MAY HAVE OVERHEARD SOME OF THE FUNNIEST AND GREATEST STORIES EVER TOLD IN COUNTRY MUSIC. ONE STORY THAT IS ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT, AND REMEMBERED WITH FONDNESS, IS THE STORY OF GEORGE MORGAN’S “UGLY LIST”. EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT, ALL OF THE STARS AND MUSICIANS AT THE OPRY WOULD FILE THROUGH THE BACKSTAGE DOOR AND EACH WOULD FIND THEMSELVES STANDING IN FRONT OF THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE BACK HALLWAY, SEARCHING FOR THEIR NAME ON “THE UGLY LIST”. TO BE ON THIS LIST WAS AN HONOR IN THEIR EYES. HOW COULD IT BE YOU MAY WONDER?

When you were on “The Ugly List”, which was normally numbered 1 through 10, fellow artists and musicians would congratulate you, and you knew that George Morgan recognized you for something. There were those who were always on it, but each week there was also someone new. George Morgan had a wonderful sense of humor. Those who didn’t understand it usually found themselves being the butt of his next joke. He dedicated his life to Country Music and to his family and friends. His voice was like that of an angel; his



A SOUVENIR PROGRAM FROM THE LAST PERFORMANCE OF THE GRAND OLE OPRY AT THE RYMAN AUDITORIUM.

GEORGE MORGAN WAS THE LAST PERSON TO PERFORM THERE AND THE FIRST TO PERFORM AT ITS PRESENT-DAY LOCATION.





GEORGE MORGAN
(PICTURED IN CENTER) AS
HOST OF "COUNTRY
JUNCTION", A NASHVILLE TV
SHOW.



GEORGE TOOK THIS PUBLICITY
SHOT WITH TWO OF HIS
FAVORITE LOVES-COFFEE AND
COUNTRY MUSIC.



FELLOW HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEE BUD WENDELL
CONGRATULATING GEORGE
ON HIS SIGNING WITH FOUR
STAR RECORDS

stage presence was like a knight in shining armor. But just as great as these qualities were, it was his kindness and gentleness which outshined them all.

George Morgan was born in Waverly, Tennessee in 1924 to Zach and Ethel Morgan. They later moved to Barbeston, Ohio when he was three along with his brothers and sisters. There were seven children in all. When George was older he took a job at a Wooster radio station. It was on his way to work one day that he wrote "Candy Kisses". At a show in Doylestown, Ohio where he was singing, he met the most beautiful girl he'd ever seen. Her name was Anastasia. They were married at St. Peter & Paul in Doylestown, Ohio in 1949 -- just one year after he was signed as a member to the Grand Ole Opry. George and Anna packed up and moved to Tennessee. They had five children: Candy, Beth, Liana, Marty and Lorrie.

We were lucky enough to see Mom and Dad celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary. On July 7th 1975, George Morgan passed away from complications after open-heart surgery. We will always be grateful for the time he was in our lives. He was the best father and husband anyone could have ever asked for. Christmas was all year long with Dad—not because of gifts, but because he brought spirit and laughter to our lives all year round – the kind of feeling you get in your stomach when you're a child at Christmas time.

I remember one day not long ago I called my mom and told her thank you for being such a good Mom. She paused for a moment and said, "It was all your Dad's doing. He taught me how to give and to love with all my heart." Thanks Mom, but you were his strength. We, the family of George Morgan, are extremely proud that the CMA has honored him by inducting him into the Hall of Fame. This has been a long awaited night. Thank you all for remembering George Morgan and his contribution to Country Music and the Grand Ole Opry. We are proud of you, Dad.

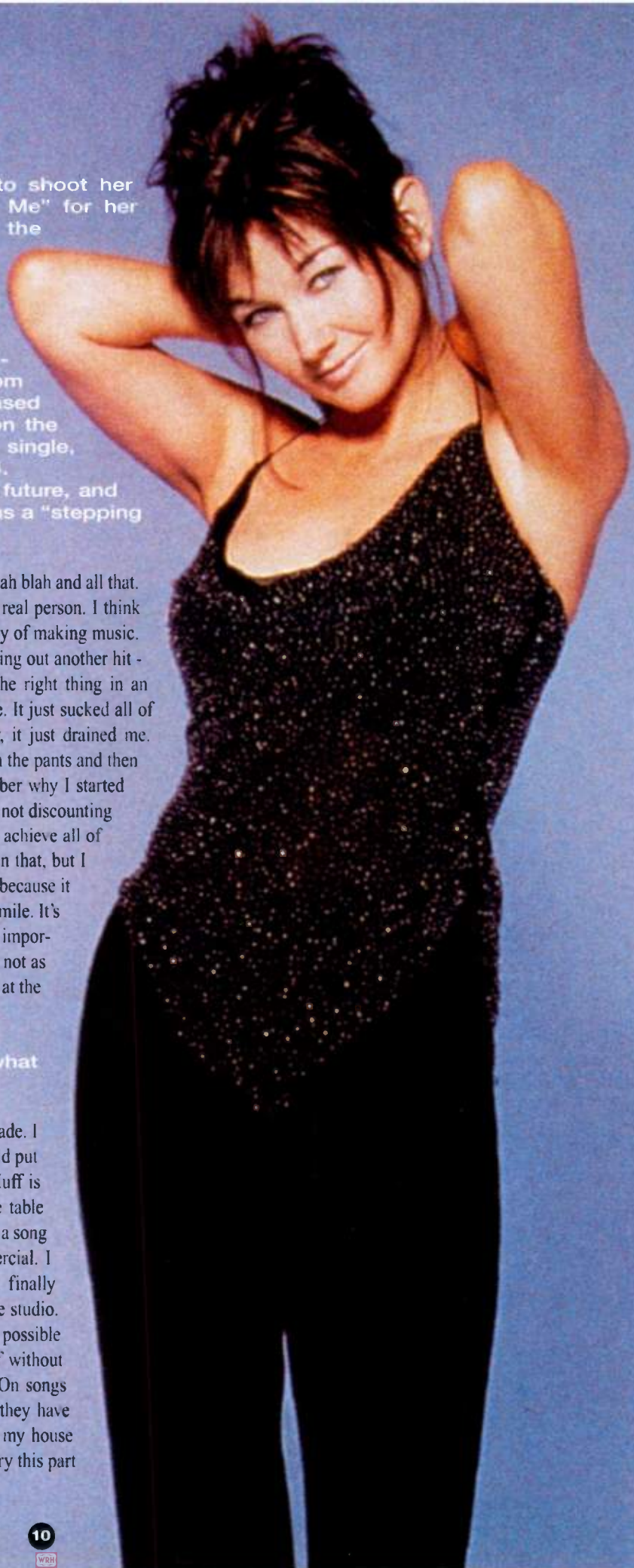
Sincerely,
Lorrie

Before taking off to shoot her first video "Take Me" for her new label, the Disney-owned Lyric Street Records, on a New York street set in the Disney-MGM Studios, Lari White took time out to talk to CLOSER UP about the success of her new label, new album and new producer. The first single, and the title track from her album, "Stepping Stone", was released on July 28 and became a top-10 hit on the Country charts. The album's second single, "Take Me", went to radio September 14. Lari has a lot of exciting plans for the future, and she hopes to use her past experience as a "stepping stone" to help her reach her goals.

"I could say platinum albums, and world tours and blah blah blah and all that. Duh! I think what is much more important is that I'm a real person. I think toward the end of my RCA days I had lost some of the joy of making music. I think it was because I was so deep in the grind of cranking out another hit - building that momentum, building that career, saying the right thing in an interview and being cute and nice and sweet and likeable. It just sucked all of the life out of it for me and exhausted me. Spiritually, it just drained me. Fortunately, God just blessed me with a nice swift kick in the pants and then some time to heal and get my heart back and to remember why I started singing and writing and making music to begin with. I'm not discounting the goal or the desire to have number-one records and to achieve all of that commercial success. I'm working very hard to obtain that, but I sure didn't start singing because of that. I started singing because it just makes me joyful and because I can make somebody smile. It's what I think I was put on the planet to do. I think the most important thing to me is that I make music as a real person and not as a caricature of a person. I can look at myself in the mirror at the end of every day and feel like I didn't cop out."

Lari believes that good songs are what makes this album stand out.

"I think the material is better than any album I've ever made. I think we were able to find some outside songs that I would put up against any songs that come from this town. Dann Huff is just an unbelievable producer. He brought things to the table that I don't think anyone else could as a player, but also as a song man and a spirit of something fresh and a little commercial. I think the vocals overall are definitely the best yet. I'm finally singing. I cut the vocals at my house. I have a little home studio. We set the microphone up in my dining room. It made it possible for me to experiment, be creative, play and push myself without worrying about the studio clock ticking and the budget. On songs like 'That's What You Do' and 'Stepping Stone' where they have really involved vocal arrangements, that was just me at my house playing. I'd say, 'Okay open up another track and let me try this part and let's double that and give me another track.'"




DOORS WHILE



Acting is also something that Lari is looking forward to in the future.

"I think doors are waiting to be opened and certainly with Disney. I've already met people from the film divisions and the feature animations divisions. There's just so many exciting opportunities in that company. But I think it all begins with good songs. I think if we have good songs off this album, and this album is a hit, a success, that all those doors will open. I want to step into those arenas off of a hit. I've got the training. I'm ready. I'm prepared. I've done a lot of stage acting here in town before I got my



"I THINK THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO ME IS THAT I MAKE MUSIC AS A REAL PERSON AND NOT AS A CARICATURE OF A PERSON."

record deal. I also did a piece for CBS and for the Disney channel. So I'm ready and just waiting for the hit. I'll just walk right into it."


With a degree in music engineering from the University of Miami, Lari is able to identify with the great sounds that can come out of a studio. The school has recently invited her back to be their honored alumni of 1998 at its Homecoming weekend. She will also sing the National Anthem to open the UM vs. Boston College football game.

"I got that degree just so that I could know my way around the studio, I could talk to an engineer, I could be effective as a producer. I never wanted to be an engineer. They work so hard and are the most transparent part of making music. You kind of expect a really excellent engineer to be almost invisible. They just make everything sound great and you never really know why. The audience certainly doesn't ever know why. God bless them. They have – I think – one of the toughest jobs in the music business."

"I have to say that I did get so much out of the University of Miami – because there wasn't a lot of Country Music down there so I had to kind

of hole up in my little apartment and write my Country songs and do my four-track demos there on my own. I got experience in all kinds of other styles of music just to make a living, just to pay my rent to survive. It was a great experience. It's fun because we would get the studio from 10 o'clock at night until 8 o'clock in the morning, and that's when we would go in and play and do our demos and experiment. I don't think I slept the last three years of college. We were up 24 hours a day, but it was a great experience. I'm really flattered that they have invited me to come back down there. That's a real honor. I was actually the only girl in my graduating class. I was the Overall School of Music Award recipient and Outstanding Music Engineering Student the year that I graduated too. I was totally into it, and I really loved what I was learning. So it's very flattering that they are inviting me back. I'll take a little Country Music down to the University of Miami."

Lari clears up any confusion about why she left RCA.

"Something that has really bugged me in some of the interviews I have done is that there have been some people that have wanted to get dirt because of the way I left RCA. Get something stirred up. 'Ooh, I bet she felt this way,' or 'I wonder what she would say about this.' I'm so over that. It's so counterproductive and negative. I guess for the record officially, I want to make it very clear that the staff at RCA started me out on a great career. They gave me a lot of hit records, and they supported me and believed in me. They gave me a great start on a major label. I love them. They're a great company. In fact, several of the promotions guys – when I run into them – they're still like, 'Oh, you're doing great. I'm so proud for you.' I would not have chosen to leave, but as it happens as in many artist careers if you're not in the right place, you need to go and find the right place. I just think it's unfortunate that some people would rather dig up dirt than write the truth. I think it's a really excellent industry, and I'm really proud to be here. My husband, Chuck Cannon, and I are developing a publishing company and hope to start a record label this year. An independent thing. So we are both very committed to Nashville and to the music industry as a whole. We are looking forward to growing with it and being part of it for years and years and raising our kids here. As painful as it is to have to go through the valley of the shadow of doubt, you have to get your butt kicked and fall down to really find out what you're made of. And how committed am I? And where the real challenges here? You never get an opportunity to grow, to rise above something, unless you've got the challenge there." 

Jana Albritton

awards

The **1998 International Bluegrass Music Awards** will take place October 22 at the Kentucky Center for the Arts in Louisville. Bands receiving the most nominations include all of the Entertainer of the Year finalists: **Lonesome River Band**, **Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder**, **The Del McCoury Band**, **Illrd Tyme Out** and **Blue Highway**. Ricky Skaggs and the members of his band received 11 nominations.



The last **Grand Ole Opry** show at the **Ryman Auditorium** was performed nearly a quarter of a century ago. History repeats itself on October 18 at 7 p.m. when the curtain goes up featuring Grand Ole Opry members for a Ryman Reunion Celebration.



Scott Hendricks has been named president and CEO of EMI's new **Virgin Records Nashville** label. He brings over a decade of experience to the job and has worked with artists including Restless Heart, Brooks & Dunn, Alan Jackson, Faith Hill, Steve Wariner, John Michael Montgomery, Lee Roy Parnell, Aaron Tippin, Hank Williams Jr. and others. The label is now located at 48 Music Square East, Nashville, TN 37203; (615) 251-1100; fax (615) 313-3700.

Rick Shedd has been appointed to vice president, sales and marketing for **Arista/Nashville**. He was formally senior director, sales and marketing for the label. **Dave Dame** has been promoted to senior director, national promotion for the label. He



During a recent trip to Seattle, Garth Brooks surprised Steve Wariner's son, Ross, by taking him to a Seattle Mariners' batting practice and introducing him to the Mariners' Ken Griffey, Jr. Here, (l to r) are Chris Haney, of the Kansas City Royals, Ken Griffey, Jr., Steve Wariner and Garth Brooks with Ross Wariner in front.

was formerly director, national promotion and started at the label in 1993 as manager of regional promotion. **Teddi Bonadies** has been appointed to director, field promotion for the label. Bonadies is taking on the added responsibility of dealing with select radio consultants.

Carrie Moore has joined **Great American Talent** where she will be in charge of the booking department. She will continue to work with her roster including Whispering Bill Anderson but will also take on booking responsibilities for Eddy Raven and Mel Tillis.

Angie Brix and **Tracy Collins** have been added to the staff of **Wortman Works Media & Marketing**. Brix, manager of publicity, is responsible for tour press on all recording artists. Collins, radio tour marketing, is responsible for all radio marketing for the touring acts.

Kimmy Wix has been promoted to music writer/producer for **country.com** in CBS

Cable's Interactive Media department. He joined the company in 1996 and will continue to create and produce music-oriented features and columns. **Fran Galloway** and **Max Moss** have joined the company as writer/producers for TNN's website. Galloway will oversee the TNN module of **country.com** that covers TNN's wide variety of Country Music and lifestyle programming. Moss will oversee the website's outdoor module. **Katherine Haggerty** has been promoted to manager of E-Commerce for the website. She will be responsible for **country.com's** musicstore, Country Music Boulevard, and the bookstore.

Australian producer/writer **Mark Moffatt** has been appointed as director of A&R for **Ten Ten Music Group**. He will oversee several rock/pop acts currently in development for both Europe and the U.S.

Guy Guillett and **Susan Johnson** have been added as two new directors for Nashville-based **Studio Productions**. Guillett has directed over 60 Country Music



Columbia Records artist Wade Hayes shares a happy moment with the McCune family in Shawnee, Oklahoma. Hayes presented the family with keys to their new home that he helped finance and construct under the auspices of Habitat for Humanity.

videos. His work includes hit MTV videos as well as top videos for artists like Rhett Akins, Gary Allan and Steven Curtis Chapman. Johnson will become one of a handful of female video directors in Nashville. She has directed award-winning videos for Country artists like Sara Evans and Lila McCann.

Peggy Shaw has joined CBS Cable as publicist, TNN Motorsports. She is responsible for expanding public relations efforts for all TNN motorsports programming. **Gwen Robinson** also joins the company as publicist for TNN/CBS Cable. She most recently served as director of corporate relations for The Buntin Group, Nashville.

Rick Moxley has been appointed to senior director national promotion for BNA Records. He will oversee day-to-day operation of the BNA promotion team. He was most recently vice president national promotion for Rising Tide Records.

Lisa Preston has joined the staff of PLA Media, Inc. as senior publicist. With over 12 years of experience, she most recently did independent publicity work for FORCE.

Brandy Reed is a new addition to the company as publicity and marketing assistant.

and **Suzette Klopotek** recently joined the staff as public relations assistant/publicist. Since January 1998 she has worked on handling publicity accounts for several artists.

Angelo Bruno has been promoted to assistant vice president financial planning and audit for BMI. He was previously senior director, external audit and financial planning for the company. **Michael O'Neil** has been promoted to vice president sales & administration, media licensing for the company. He was most recently assistant vice president, media licensing.

Gaylord Entertainment Company announced that it has purchased a Music Row building (formerly Capitol Records, Inc.) that will be used to house much of the company's music-based interests. Also being housed at the new Music Row office will be the artist management division of CMT International. About 100 Gaylord Entertainment employees will begin moving into the building by October 1.



Westwood One presented the live album premiere, of Alan Jackson's "High Mileage", hosted by Charlie Cook. Pictured here (l to r): Pam Greene, director artist relations for Westwood One; Charlie Cook, VP programming for Westwood One; Chip Peay, Jackson's manager; Jackson and Ed Salamon, president/programming, Westwood One.



Cledus T. Judd practices his computer skills while shooting his new video "First Redneck On The Internet."



PUBLISHING: **Jon McElroy** to Hamstein Publishing ...**Jennifer Sherrill** to Charlie Monk Music...BOOKING: **Juice Newton** to Bobby Roberts Company, Inc....**Don Williams** to Agency for the Performing Arts, Inc....**T. Graham Brown** to The Bobby Roberts Company, Inc.... PUBLICITY: **The Great Divide, Dave & Sugar and Hal Bynum** to PLA Media.



artist/label

Cledus T. Judd/Razor & Tie
Lari White/Lyric Street Records

title

"First Redneck On The Internet"
"Take Me"

director

John Lloyd Miller
Peter Zavadil

- The Fourth Annual Country Music fair in Berlin, Germany is scheduled for February 6-7 at Fontane – Haus, Berlin. For more information, contact +49-20-4170-2960.
- BR5-49 spent most of September traveling throughout the UK and Europe playing shows and festivals as well as doing media. The band visited London, Munich, Berlin, Hamburg, Amsterdam, Bonn, Frankfurt, Glasgow and several other cities.
- Reba McEntire is scheduled to appear Oct. 31 on "Verstehen Sie Spass", a highly rated live show that marks her first appearance on German television. It is part of an overall marketing plan backed by Universal. Reba spent three days in Hamburg in early September in support of the international plans.
- The 10th Annual Gstaad Festival in Switzerland last month was another hit. Promoter Marcel Bach was presented various awards including gold records and plaques from Arista, MCA and Warner Brothers/Reprise, as well as letters of appreciation from the Governor of Tennessee, the mayor of Nashville and CMA for the long-standing success of the event. Journalists from all over Europe were on hand to grab the latest news from the the Mavericks, BR5-49, and Lee Ann Womack and Brady Seals.



CMA 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST HOMECOMING SET FOR OCTOBER 21

The “CMA 40th Anniversary Celebration: Country Music’s Biggest Homecoming” is shaping up to be a unique, star-studded gala event. Some of the industry’s biggest and brightest stars have already been tapped to join CMA in this celebration:

- Former triple Entertainer and Vocal Group of the Year winner **Alabama**
- Reigning Vocal Duo of the Year and past Entertainers of the Year **Brooks & Dunn**
- Winner of 1997’s Single of the Year for “Strawberry Wine” **Deana Carter**
- Record-holder for the most CMA wins **Vince Gill**
- Former Entertainer of the Year **Alan Jackson**
- 1997 Vocal Event winners **Faith Hill** and **Tim McGraw**
- Winner of Song of the Year in 1970 **Kris Kristofferson**
- Former Music Video and Vocal Event of the Year winner **Martina McBride**
- Horizon Award winner **LeAnn Rimes**
- Past Female Vocalist and Vocal Event of the Year winner **Pam Tillis**
- Former two-time Vocal Event of the Year winner **Travis Tritt**

musical event of the year

1. HOW DID THE COLLABORATION COME ABOUT?
2. WHAT WAS IT LIKE WORKING WITH EACH OTHER IN THE STUDIO?

NOMINEES

Anita Cochran Duet
with Steve Wariner
"WHAT IF I SAID"

Anita: "When I wrote the song I had Steve Wariner in mind. I had



Faith Hill (with Tim McGraw)

"JUST TO HEAR YOU SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME"

Faith: "We were in the studio when this song came in. We had time to do one more song for the record and it became apparent after cutting it that it was the perfect duet for Tim and I. We essentially slipped this one in under the wire and were very pleased with the result."

Tim: "This was chosen for Faith's project at the last minute, and she suggested I sing it with her. And the song rings true for us. There's nothing like hearing those three words from the one you love. It was only natural for us to record it together."



Faith: "Well, actually I don't know! Tim and I have been present at each other's sessions, but we've never recorded together at the same time. Perhaps we'll try that approach the next time we record a duet."

Tim: "We were not able to be in the studio at the same time, but it was still magical hearing our voices blended on tape. We are very proud of this song."

Trisha Yearwood and Garth Brooks

"IN ANOTHER'S EYES"

Trisha: "Everyone knows by now that Garth Brooks and I want to make a duet album together. Finding songs isn't easy, but 'In Another's Eyes' was perfect. We didn't have to change the key to be able to sing it together, which we liked. I hope it's the first of many."

Trisha: "I've been working with Garth in the studio for 10 years now, so it's a very comfortable atmosphere. It's always fun, and always about the music."



Patty Loveless (with Special Guest George Jones)

WINNER

"YOU DON'T SEEM TO MISS ME"

Patty: "When we re-cut the song, the steel part reminded me of some old George Jones records. His voice was the finishing touch the song needed."

George: "Patty and her producer called me and I was honored."

Patty: "It was absolutely scary!"

George: "It was great working with a traditional Country voice like Patty and, believe me, she is no phony, just pure Country, and I love her for keeping it Country."



New directors have been elected to serve on the CMA Board of Directors. Bud Wendell, has been elected chairman of the board. Lon Helton, RADIO & RECORDS, has been elected president of the CMA board. Directors, who serve two-year terms, were elected at the organization's annual meeting September 24 at the Bell South Building in Nashville. CMA members from throughout the world were present for the 40th annual membership gathering. Officers, who serve for one year, were elected by the directors. CMA officers and directors serve gratis and pay their own expenses to attend meetings. By category, directors are:



Bud Wendell



Lon Helton

<p>Advertising Agency/PR</p> <p>Dick McCullough Space-Time</p> <p>Jeff Walker AristoMedia</p> <p>Artist/ Musician</p> <p>Kix Brooks</p> <p>Brenda Lee</p> <p>At Large</p> <p>Rick Blackburn Atlantic Records</p> <p>Connie Bradley ASCAP</p> <p>Allen Butler Sony Music Nashville</p> <p>Luke Lewis Mercury Nashville</p> <p>Nancy Shapiro Nashville Chapter of the Recording Academy</p> <p>Bud Wendell</p> <p>Composer</p> <p>Bob DiPiero</p> <p>Stephony Smith</p> <p>International</p> <p>Paul Fenn Asgard Promotions Ltd.</p> <p>Thomas Stein BMG Ariola Music GmbH</p>	<p>Music Publisher</p> <p>Jerry Bradley Acuff-Rose Music Publishing</p> <p>Tom Collins Collins Music, Inc.</p> <p>Personal Manager</p> <p>Larry Fitzgerald The Fitzgerald Hartley Company</p> <p>T.K. Kimbrell TKO Artist Management</p> <p>Publications</p> <p>David Ross MUSIC ROW Publications</p> <p>Irby Simpkins Edgenet</p> <p>Radio Management</p> <p>George Toulas Chancellor Media Corporation</p> <p>Larry Wilson Citadel Communications Corp.</p> <p>Radio Programming</p> <p>Alan Sledge WUSN</p> <p>Rusty Walker Rusty Walker Programming Consultant, Inc.</p> <p>Record Company</p> <p>Tim DuBois Arista Records</p> <p>Bruce Hinton MCA Records/Nashville</p>	<p>Record/Video Merchandiser</p> <p>Lew Garrett Camelot Music, Inc.</p> <p>Terry Woodward Wax Works, Inc.</p> <p>Talent Agent</p> <p>Bobby Cudd Monterey Artists</p> <p>Rick Shipp William Morris Agency</p> <p>Talent Buyer/Promoter</p> <p>Marc Oswald Avalon Entertainment Group</p> <p>Russ Simons Leisure Management, Nashville</p> <p>Television/Video</p> <p>Robert Deaton Deaton Flanigen Productions</p> <p>Kitty Moon Scene Three, Inc.</p> <p>OFFICERS ARE:</p> <p>President Lon Helton RADIO & RECORDS</p> <p>Executive Vice President Donna Hilley Sony/ATV Tree Publishing Nashville</p> <p>Senior Vice President Joe Galante RCA Label Group</p> <p>Vice Presidents Charles Anderson Anderson News Corporation</p>	<p>David Conrad Almo/Irving Music</p> <p>Tony Conway Buddy Lee Attractions</p> <p>Paul Corbin CBS Cable</p> <p>Mike Curb Curb Records</p> <p>Jim Free The Smith-Free Group</p> <p>Dick Gary The Gary Group</p> <p>John King Capstar Broadcasting</p> <p>Terry London Gaylord Entertainment</p> <p>Roger Sovine BMI</p> <p>Pam Tillis</p> <p>Tim Wipperman Warner/Chappell Music</p> <p>International Vice President Bruce Allen Bruce Allen Talent</p> <p>Paul Krige Universal Music Australia Limited</p> <p>Secretary Stan Mores Mores Nanas Entertainment</p> <p>Assistant Secretary Barry Coburn Ten Ten Management</p> <p>Treasurer Wayne Halper DreamWorks</p>	<p>Assistant Treasurer Jaye Albright Jacor Broadcasting</p> <p>Sargent-At-Arms Bob Titley Titley/Spalding & Associates</p> <p>Assistant Sargent-At-Arms Sam Milicia Handleman Company</p> <p>Historian Merle Kilgore Merle Kilgore Management, Inc.</p> <p>Assistant Historian Richard Krumme</p> <p>CMA's Lifetime Board Members Are:</p> <p>Bill Denny National Tape & Disc</p> <p>Ralph Peer II peermusic</p> <p>Frances Preston BMI</p> <p>Joe Talbot Talbot Music Publishing, Inc.</p> <p>COUNSEL:</p> <p>Dick Frank Frank & Frank</p> <p>Horton Frank Frank & Frank</p> <p>SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR DEVELOPMENT:</p> <p>Joel Katz Greenberg Traurig</p>
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Over The Top For The CMA Awards Down Under

Australia's National Nine Network aired a two-hour edited version of "The 32nd Annual CMA Awards" on Monday, September 28 on more than 130 affiliate stations across the country. The broadcast was a special presentation during the timeslot of "Midday With Kerri-Anne", a popular TV variety show. "Midday" reaches a million viewers Monday through Friday, which generates an incredible 50 percent audience share.

In addition, the event will be broadcast on 70 radio stations sponsored by Toyota.

"These programs will create Country Music history in Australia," says CMA Australia Representative Trevor Smith. "The CMA Awards have never been on that many radio stations before and never been sponsored by Toyota before."

In conjunction with their airing of the CMA Awards, "Midday With Kerri-Anne" moved production to Nashville to broadcast four shows from Music City, USA during CMA Week.

Taking the show on the road isn't standard procedure for "Midday", but producer Kerry Roberts says the surge of interest in Country Music in Australia made Nashville an obvious choice. "We've noticed in the last year, particularly, that Country Music has increased in popularity. Every time we've had a Country artist as a guest, the response would get bigger and bigger...We think Country will be as big in Australia in the coming years as it is in Nashville."

Several CMA Awards nominees and some of the biggest names in Country Music appeared on the program including Sherrié Austin, Brooks & Dunn, Billy Ray Cyrus, Charlie Daniels, Vince Gill, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire, Dolly Parton, LeAnn Rimes, Pam Tillis, Shania Twain and Trisha Yearwood. Other guests include Sylvester Stallone's mother Jackie, the popular Christian/pop group Newsboys, and Oscar-winning actor Rod Steiger ("Dr. Zhivago", "Oklahoma", "Mars Attacks"). "One of reasons he agreed to come to town is because he's a big Country Music fan," says Roberts. The show also included segments titled "Postcards from Nashville" to give viewers a flavor of the sites in and around the area.

In addition, more than 100 "Midday" viewers came to Nashville with the show's production crew to be in the studio audience. "We have had a huge response to the Nashville trip, and other shows are looking at doing similar things next year," Roberts says.

On the retail front, to boost awareness of "The 32nd Annual CMA Awards", a CD compilation titled "The Cream Of Country, Volume 2" will be issued by Australian labels BMG, Sony and Universal. The CD features as many as 18 tracks from this year's CMA Awards nominees including Alabama, Diamond Rio, the Mavericks, Martina McBride, Collin Raye, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood and more. "The Cream Of Country, Volume 1" was issued last year and sold more than 10,000 units. The CD is available at record stores all over the country.

Several other countries will broadcast "The 32nd Annual CMA Awards" as well: the UK, Canada, Holland, Ireland, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Finland.



Trevor Smith

music videos of the year

THIS YEAR WE SOUGHT OUT THE TALENTED DIRECTORS NOMINATED FOR VIDEO OF THE YEAR TO GET BEHIND-THE-SCENE TALES ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED ON THE SET. THEIR REPLIES TOOK US FROM HAUNTED HOUSES TO RUSH-HOUR TRAFFIC TO LIVING OUT OF THE FAIRYTALE THUMBALINA.

- 1 Did anything unique happen on the set of the video?
- 2 Describe how you came up with the concept for the video.

Martina McBride

"A BROKEN WING," MARTINA MCBRIDE
DIRECTED BY ROBERT DEATON AND
GEORGE J. FLANIGEN IV

1 "The location which was used for the making of 'A Broken Wing' was quite unusual. The house was built pre-Civil War and was inhabited by the same family until the late 70s. Two sisters, of whom were the last to live in the mansion, actually died in the upstairs bedroom and reportedly still haunt the property. This possibly explains why an old clock, which hadn't worked in years suddenly, started working during filming. In addition, the sister's furniture was actually left in place, thus giving an eerie feel to the location."

2 "The idea for the video was designed simply to showcase Martina's powerful vocal performance. The conceptual footage was kept to a minimum and was there only to support the lyric. Thus keeping the focus on Martina and her dynamic delivery."

Jo Dee Messina

"BYE BYE," JO DEE MESSINA
DIRECTED BY JON SMALL

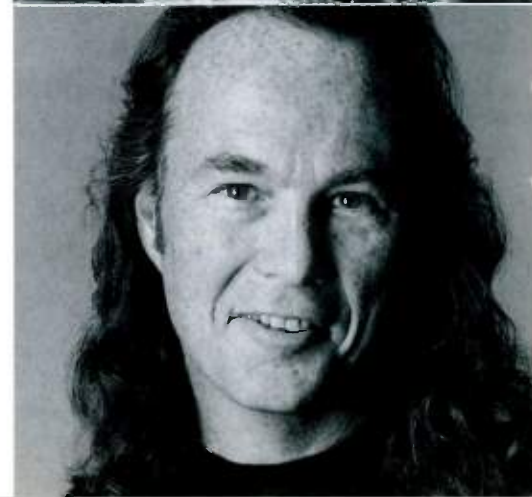
1 "The set was the middle of the street in Nashville. Not any street, but BROADWAY at rush hour. My direction to Jo Dee was to run across the street through traffic. We had some near misses, but I knew she could handle it. She's a firecracker. Then the rain came, causing us to re-shoot a second day."

2 "The concept was Jo Dee's. She wanted to sing in the middle of the street with traffic all around. I wanted to give the viewer a little insight into Jo Dee, what I call 'lifestyle footage.' I got her to drive a cool car. She did all the stunt driving herself. I wanted her to act as she does off-camera on-camera. As the director I had a performer from whom I was able to elicit a great performance."



ROBERT DEATON

GEORGE J. FLANIGEN IV



- 1 Did anything unique happen on the set of the video?
- 2 Describe how you came up with the concept for the video.

George Strait

"CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME," GEORGE STRAIT
DIRECTED BY CHRISTOPHER CAIN

"The best thing about doing a George Strait video is George Strait. There is a purity and clarity about him and his music that I felt should be continued in the visual style of the video for 'Carrying Your Love With Me'. I wanted to create the feeling of being alone on the road but not lonesome, so the images needed to be colored with warmth."



Deana Carter

"DID I SHAVE MY LEGS FOR THIS?," DEANA CARTER
DIRECTED BY ROGER PISTOLE

- 1 "We all fell in love."
- 2 "White Lightning"



Faith Hill

WINNER

"HIS KISS," FAITH HILL
DIRECTED BY STEVEN GOLDMANN

"Faith announced she was pregnant while we were trying on all the lovely fashions we were going to use in the video. We found all these wonderful outfits that fit perfect on Sunday...well by the time we were ready to role camera on Tuesday - just two days later - most of the clothes didn't fit.

"We also found out how great Faith is on a trampoline...three months pregnant, no less."

"The perfect kiss can take you to another place, send you flying, swooning. It can take your breath away. I wanted to capture all that and more on film. Faith and I felt that the video needed to be something blissful, fantastical, unique and special in the way only the perfect kiss can be. Taking a little inspiration from my daughter's Thumbalina book and a lot of wild imagination, Faith and I created the video for 'This Kiss'."

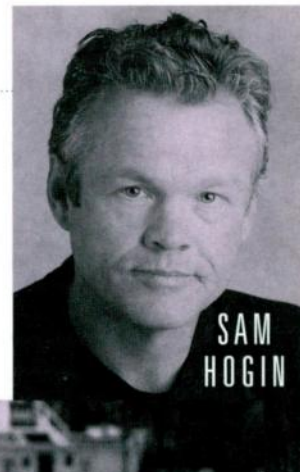
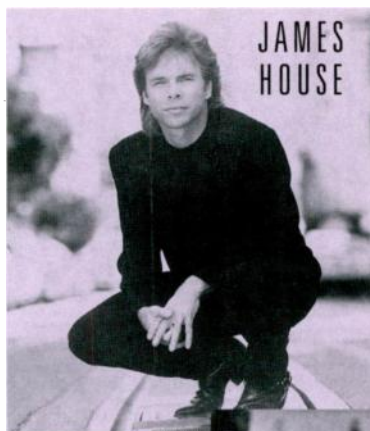


song of the year

"A Broken Wing"

JAMES HOUSE, SAM HOGIN AND PHIL BARNHART

James House, Sam Hogin and Phil Barnhart have achieved something very special with the heartfelt subject of abuse behind "A Broken Wing". Martina McBride loved the song so much that she not only put it on her current album, but also turned it into a hit single. James House arrived in Nashville in 1998 and landed a recording contract with MCA. In the years between record deals he became one of Nashville's most successful songwriters with hits such as "In A Week or Two", the Grammy nominated "Ain't That Lonely Yet", and "This Is Me Missing You". Hogin grew up in Brucceton, Tennessee and moved to Nashville in 1977. His first number-one song was "I Believe In You". He teamed up with Barnhart, who moved to Nashville in 1984 to write "I Wanna Be Loved Like That" and "No News". Barnhart received ASCAP's Song of the Year Award for "No News" in 1997 and has had songs recorded by Waylon Jennings, Mark Chesnutt, Sammy Kershaw, Daryl Singleary and David Kersh.



PHIL BARNHART

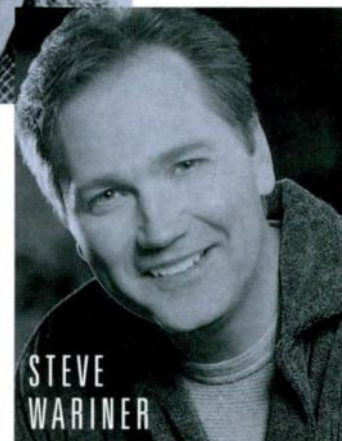
"Holes In The Floor Of Heaven" **WINNER**

BILLY KIRSCH AND STEVE WARINER

Steve Wariner and Billy Kirsch are no strangers to hit songs. Wariner has penned more than a dozen number-one hits and has 30 top 10 singles under his belt. His career as an artist/writer began when he was just 17, and by 1977 he had his first deal as a solo artist. Kirsch has had songs recorded by Clay Walker, John Berry, Doug Stone, Faith Hill, Mark Wills, Collin Raye, Keith Stegall, Lorrie Morgan, Alabama, Wynonna among others. Kirsch recalls that the initial reaction from Steve's band was mixed. One of the band members said of "Holes In The Floor Of Heaven", "Don't tell me you're going to kill someone else!" Just the opposite was experienced by Wariner when he received a letter from a girl who lost her mother recently. When she heard the song, she pulled over to the side of the road and started crying. After she stopped crying she started smiling, because the song made her think of her mom in a good way. "That's the greatest compliment for a songwriter to hear that your lyrics have moved someone in that way," says Wariner.



BILLY KIRSCH



STEVE WARINER

"How Do I Live"

DIANE WARREN

For two decades the music of Diane Warren has been at the top of the charts constantly. The number-one hit "How Do I Live" was nominated for a 1997 Oscar for Best Achievement in Music (original song) from the Disney film, "ConAir". The song also won Trisha Yearwood a Grammy Award for Female Vocal Performance, as well as Grammy nominations for Warren for Song of the Year and Song Written Specifically for a Motion Picture or Television. The song also recorded by LeAnn Rimes, became a double platinum seller for Rimes. Warren's other hits include "Because You Loved Me", "Unbreak My Heart", and "Rhythm of the Night". She recently wrote "What If", a song recorded by Reba McEntire to help support the Salvation Army Holiday Fund.



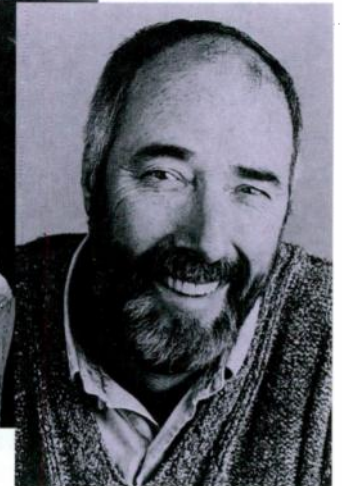
"I Just Want To Dance With You"

JOHN PRINE AND ROGER COOK

From singing in bars to recording albums as an artist with Atlantic Records, and then Asylum Records, to founding Oh Boy Records, John Prine has experienced success as both a recording artist and a songwriter. His most current album is LIVE ON TOUR and his most recent hit as a writer is the number-one hit "I Just Want To Dance With You" written with Roger Cook. Cook has had more than 70 top 30 hits. He is best known for "I'd Like To Teach The World To Sing". A native of England, Cook moved to Nashville in the 70s and then back to Europe and returned to Nashville in 1994. Within a year, he was back at the top with George Strait's "One Night At A Time". In 1998 Cook was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.



JOHN
PRINE



ROGER COOK

"It's Your Love"

STEPHONY SMITH

Stephony Smith topped the year-end charts this past year with her mega-hit "It's Your Love". It broke records when it remained at the number-one spot for six consecutive weeks. She has also penned "What Do I Know", "How Was I To Know" and "Go Away, No Wait A Minute". Smith began her career as a professional songwriter in Memphis writing jingles for an advertising agency. She moved to Nashville in 1988. To date she has had cuts by artists including Shania Twain, Shelby Lynne, Joe Diffie, Lorrie Morgan, Reba McEntire, Chely Wright, Lari White, Matraca Berg, Tim McGraw, Ricochet and most recently the number-one single for Trisha Yearwood "Perfect Love". Smith also is a popular background vocalist and has recently had a hand in producing new Asylum artist Melodie Crittendon.



Wayne Halper



Upon entering the offices of DreamWorks, one of Nashville's newest record labels, things seemed to be calm and collected. In fact, the office of General Manager and Head of Label Operations Wayne Halper is perhaps the most calm...in a Wayne Halper kind of way. The New York City native brings a little bit of "relaxation" to the fast-paced life of the music industry. His office, covered in CDs, a basketball goal, even a PeeWee Herman doll, could make almost anyone feel relaxed and comfortable.

Halper stresses that the work environment is one of the key elements to making a project a success. In this case, the project is helping to establish a new record label.

"DreamWorks is a challenge. As long as we keep focused on what the right goal with our philosophy and our mission is, it will be real easy. James Stroud (president of DreamWorks) certainly comes from the school of 'hire the right people, take care of people, empower them to do their jobs.' When you look for people to fit into a group with that kind of attitude about what you are going to let them do, it's real easy because you are trusting them to do their jobs, and you're not second-guessing them on a day-to-day basis. There was great support from Los Angeles. We were pretty much given free reign to establish the culture and the climate that we wanted here in Nashville.

"The number-one goal for DreamWorks has always got to be about being true to the music, being true to the artistry, and being true to your people. This will be the motivating force. DreamWorks is in this for the long haul. They understand the set-up, they understand long-

"The number-one goal for DreamWorks has always got to be about being true to the music, being true to the artistry and being true to your people."

term plans, they understand that we're not in a world of instant gratification. When you don't have that pressure over your head of having to make your numbers the first six months out of the box, you have the luxury to continue to do it the right way. The right way is to create a work environment that fosters creativity, encouragement and offering an environment where people want to come to work, and look forward to coming to work on a daily basis. It's offering an environment where all opinions can be expressed without fear of retaliation. It's offering an environment where there's no politics, no back-stabbing and people are all working for the same power and the same mission. My mission is to do everything I can to create this environment, and the culture that helps foster that."

While the idea of pursuing a career in the music industry was not the first choice for Halper, the reality came about through a different avenue: law school.

"As a youth I took piano lessons from the age of 5. When I was 7 years old, I actually performed at Carnegie Hall. There has always been music in my blood, in my family.

When I went to college I became program director and station manager of the campus radio station. My law school just happened to be located on the same block as the Lone Star Café in Manhattan, which became my hang-out. At the time, I didn't know that I was going to go into Country Music, I was just involved in music as a passion. My apartment in New York City was within five blocks of the Ritz, the Bottom Line, Max's, Kansas City, and The Lonestar. Every night I was doing something. After graduating from law school I went to work for a general practice firm doing contracts, divorces and litigation. I was bored to pieces. A friend of mine called and said that he was leaving his position with an entertainment lawyer. He knew how much I was interested in the field, and wondered if I would be interested in an interview. I jumped at the chance. After the interview the lawyer said that I was perfect for the job, but he couldn't afford to pay me. Instead, I worked free for six months. I did what I preach to all college students as the way to get ahead. I made myself indispensable because you get into a gig and you don't say, 'This is my job.' You look at the whole operation and figure out how many different pieces you can fit into. During a six-month period I really learned the business. We were into foreign publishing, sub-publishing deals and licensing. It just so happened that we represented Grace Jones and Bruce Springsteen at the time."

After working in New York with Rick James, Tina Marie and Grace Jones amongst others, Halper found himself working with legends in the Country Music field such as Mel Tillis, Roy Clark and the Oak Ridge Boys.

"Working for The Halsey Company ultimately resulted in the Oak Ridge Boys extending an offer for me to come to Nashville to serve in a management capacity for their operations. After law school, I really didn't have a focus other than knowing that I wanted to be around music and artists. Moving from the Big Apple to Nashville in the early '80s was the best thing for me. The Nashville community afforded me the opportunity to learn and grow and participate. Plus, it seemed like a natural progression from being a fan of the Byrds, the Eagles, Linda Ronstadt and Jackson Brown.


"In 1984, I left the Oak Ridge Boys and started a business management firm. James (Stroud) was my first client. When he went to work with Jimmy Bowen at Universal, and then they switched over to Capitol, it was James who recommended me to Jimmy for the position of head of business affairs and administration. About three years later, I entered into extensive negotiations and there was an opportunity to come to work at Giant Records with James, which didn't happen for fruition reasons. When the DreamWorks opportunity presented itself to get back involved with James on a daily basis, it was something that I couldn't pass up. Working with James is like working with my brother. I can say anything I want to him. I can say it anyway it needs to be said. He expects and demands that of me, plus it involves honesty and openness. It is real easy

to operate when you don't have to worry about having your head chewed off. You don't have to worry about being shot because you're the messenger."

One of the best lessons Halper has learned from the music business came from Jimmy Bowen. This lesson wasn't one to be learned in the office or about the industry, but one that involves his biggest love and accomplishments: his family.

"Working for Jimmy Bowen was truly life changing. During the time when Stroud was head of A&R and Joe Smith ran the North American sector, Capitol was great fun. And that is how it is now at DreamWorks with Stroud and Mo Ostin. But on another note, my life is my family. Bowen was the one who insisted that I not spend more than eight hours a day in the office when I was working 12-15 hours a day. He offered me the opportunity to get more in touch with myself, my feelings and my family. At the time, I was a 35-year-old practicing co-dependency who was more into titles, positions and stature, and really had low self-esteem. So, I have certainly been on the other side of the spectrum, and the person who helped me get through that, believe it or not, was Jimmy Bowen. But now all of that has changed because of my family. My son Neal is 6 and Josh is 4. They are love machines, and are as crazy and full of life as their father (or so I am told). However, I thank God they look like their mother. My wife and kids are the joy of my life, and I would give it all up for them."

As if raising a family and helping to establish a new label were not enough for Halper to handle, he also takes an active part in the business in which he works. As a member of the Country Music Association, Country Music Foundation, NARAS and RIAA, he also has found time to be involved on the Country Music Retirement Center project.

"Nashville is unique where you have everybody competing against each other, but at the end of the day we are really striving for the same purpose. The project that probably gives me the greatest satisfaction right now is working on this Country Music Retirement Center. It's been a project that has been bandied about now for about five years, and we're getting very close to becoming a reality. I'm real proud of the work that has been done in keeping this going. I am proud to currently serve as the chairperson of the steering committee that is putting this together. And it really is a testament to the necessity for this thing that it stayed together, and that it's still an on-going process and hasn't fallen apart. It's been a learning process because so many of us are so good at what we do it's hard to think 'Well, of course we'd be good at something else'. Everyday there's been a new question or a new issue that has arisen that we've had to research and figure out what's the best course of action. I'm proud of the fact that it's taken five years, because it shows how strong and important this kind of situation is." 

Christy Grealis

"My wife and kids are the joy of my life, and I would give it all up for them."

musician of the year

A W A R D N O M I N E E S

WE APPROACHED THE MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES WITH WHAT WE THOUGHT WAS A SIMPLE QUESTION - "IF YOU COULD PLAY ON A SESSION WITH ANYONE, DEAD OR ALIVE, WHO WOULD IT BE?" - AS IT TURNS OUT THIS WASN'T A SIMPLE ANSWER FOR THESE GUYS TO GIVE. BUT AFTER MUCH THOUGHT, EACH OF THESE TALENTED MUSICIANS CAME UP WITH A "DREAM SESSION" (OR TWO).



Matt Rollings

"The list of people on my 'session wish-list' is quite long, I'm afraid. Among the top ranking would be Miles Davis, Jeff Porcaro and Ella Fitzgerald."

Brent Rowan



"My favorite thing in the music business has always been great songs ...the songs that become classics. So more than playing on any one artist's session, I would want to be a part of a session that produces a song that becomes a classic."



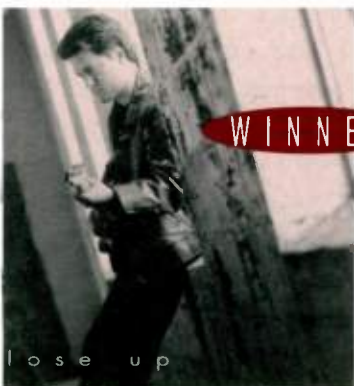
Eddie Bayers

"Paul McCartney, Jimmy Rogers...the more I think about it I could go on and on."

Paul Franklin



"The Beatles"



WINNER

Brent Mason

"James Taylor"

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sentative; Trevor Smith, Australia
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Suzy Bogguss



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cma events

October

- 21** Taping Date for CMA 40th Anniversary Special / Nashville Arena / Nashville, TN
- 22** Board of Directors / Renaissance Hotel / Nashville, TN

Don't forget CMA's website at www.countrymusic.org

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FOR INFORMATION ON CMA EVENTS,
CALL (615) 244-2840; FAX (615) 726-0314.
www.countrymusic.org.

CMA Executive Director Ed Benson with Mercury Nashville recording artist Mark Wills in the CMA atrium, when Wills performed for the CMA staff.

