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NASHVILLE MUSIC GUIDE

PUBLICIZING SINGERS, MUSICIANS AND WRITERS TO MUSIC ROW AND BEYOND SINCE 1995

Cover Design By
Artist to the Stars
Corey Friggell









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BLAKE SHELTON

Breaks Through for Good in 2010

Nashville Music Guide & Picks Nashville Present

Tony Boatwright Jr.'s

Lyrics for Lyric



December 8th, 2010

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6:30 Jack Friesby, Jake Donelson, Patrick Devine
7:00 James Iann, Kevin So, Joe Hilton, David Ray
8:00 Mary Hartman, Mark Steven Jones, Joel Shewmake, Trent Jeffcoat
9:00 Pam Belford, Jill Wood, Amanda Hunt Taylor, Jennifer Adan
10:00 Dustin Evans, Trent Tomlinson, Arlos Smith, Aaron Goodvin
11:00 Clare Dunn, Alecia Arnall. Tamara Rey Fosdick, Heidi Raye

Pick's Nashville

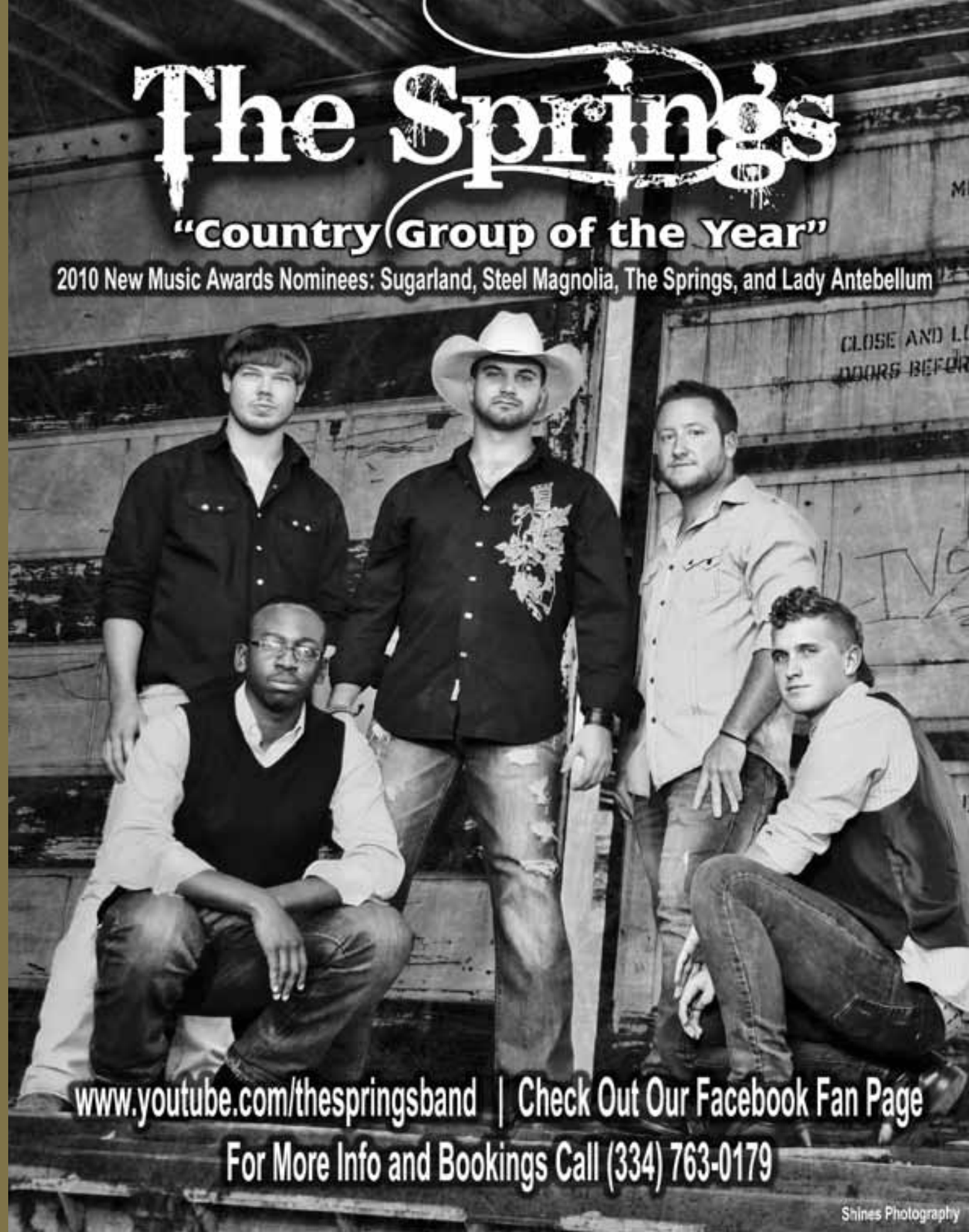
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Editor's Letter



Dear Subscribers, Readers and Customers,

January 1st marks another milestone for the Nashville Music Guide. On this date one year ago we bought the guide. The Guide has came a long ways since then; to full glossy, monthly, all color and the most impressive website in the industry. We would like to thank Dan Wunsch for his guidance and his help. Also, a big thank you to our advertisers and subscribers at NMG you all make each issue possible and a success.

This month, we have a double issue, covering December & January, to make it possible for some new transitions. We are working on the guide's website, combining video and with a digital advertising company partnership. We are also very proud to be working with www.nixacountry.com . Nixa Country is an internet radio station that plays unknown, undiscovered, and upcoming artists; it also streams video from live events around Nashville. Take a listen to this station it is very impressive; it's the only thing I listen to now in the office. A special thanks to the owners, Kevin and Val, for taking the time to meet with us.

We are really proud of our association with Corey Frizzell. Corey designed the front cover this month and is a very talented artist. He has been doing a really great job, I'm sure you will agree. We are also very thankful for all our writers with their great, one-of-kind stories. It's nice to pick up a magazine and read what it's about rather than reading the public records.

November 17th thru the 20th, I made a trip to Canada, where I caught two of Craig Moritz shows. It was impressive, especially since it was in Regina, SK., about 8 hours from his house. Although it was a small Honky Tonk, what was impressive was his fans. He had a couple drive three hours and even a group from Edmonton; that's an eight hour drive. Now that is some good following … the crowd loved each song from the "Stage Five Clinger" to "Drinking and Dialing" I would have stayed for the 3rd show, but a high of 13 below did not impress me. I'll take my chances with the winds and the tornados.

This issue is packed full of artists from all walks of life. From a man who has had his hands on the careers of many powerful stars like Alan Jackson & Randy Travis; a lady who has started her own media social network with a following of over 80,000; an unknown artist hitting the strip in Stillwater, OK.; a legend that just had her birthday and celebrated her 55th year at the Grand Ole Opry; the Opry's newest member and the new male vocalists of the year; and a guy that has decided to make his own album on a wing and a prayer. I hope you find this issue interesting and your comments on the articles online would be appreciated.

Just a reminder that we have relocated the office to 1700 South Hayes at the corner of 17th and Hayes. We hate it that we don't have the chance of running into Jayme Johnson anymore but really happy with our new location.

Remember if you go Honky Tonkin' let somebody else drive! 2011 brings good things to The Guide … be sure and be part of it. If you have any stories or anything of interest you're more than welcome to drop us a line.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Randy & Kymberly Matthews

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Glenda's Christmas Picks

Song: Just Because It's Christmas
Artist: Stephanie Rabus



This is a beautiful song for the season. It lets us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season and just how important it is that we love and care for each other not only at Christmas but all year long. This song will put you in a good, mellow mood. Stephanie has a very soothing voice perfect for this song which was written and produced by Justin Peters. Check it out at www.songsfortheplanet.com

Song: Christmas Down In Mexico
Artist: Craig Moritz



"Christmas Down In Mexico" is a great Christmas song with hilarious lyrics written by Craig. A wonderful horn section gives the tune a real Mexican flair. Be sure to check it out at www.Craig-Moritz.ca and you'll be glad you did! The song is available for a free download for limited time.



SCATTER RECORDS AND THE BIG MACHINE LABEL GROUP ANNOUNCE RELEASE OF THE MUSIC INSIDE: A COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO WAYLON JENNINGS

Vol. I of Star-Studded Tribute to Late Icon In Stores on Feb. 8th
Superstars Alabama Reunite For "Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way"



Scatter Records and theBig Machine Label Group (BMLG) are pleased to announce the February 8th release of a star-studded tribute compilation honoring one of the greatest Country music icons of our time - Waylon Jennings. Distribution and promotion of the Scatter Records release will be handled by The Valory Music Co., of the Big Machine Label Group.

The three volume celebration, THE MUSIC INSIDE: A COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO WAYLON JENNINGS, features some of the biggest stars of Country music -from legends Kris Kristofferson and Alabama to hit makers Jamey Johnson and Trace Adkins to critically-acclaimed Patty Griffin and Sunny Sweeney - performing and paying tribute to Jennings' most-celebrated songs. (The official Vol. I track listing is below.)

Every artist on the project possesses either a personal or professional connection to the Texas-born Jennings, and no one more so than Country star and Jennings' widow Jessi Colter, who performs a heartfelt duet of "Good Hearted Woman" with Sunny Sweeney. Their son Shooter Jennings also pays tribute with "Belle of the Ball," appearing on Vol. I. In addition, every performance on the compilation earned Jessi and Shooter's blessing.

"There have been several tribute albums made in my father's honor, all of which were great tributes to his legacy. But this one has been a true passion project for a lot of artists and friends who truly wanted to remember and give back to the wonderful man he was," says Shooter. "In the years since my dad passed away, I've grown as an artist and I feel this is the first time I've been able to give back truly to the man who inspired, influenced and nurtured me and my musical passion."

Spearheaded and produced by Scatter Records founder Witt Stewart, the project was born in 2007 while Stewart was visiting his hometown of Lubbock, Texas. Recalling the days when Jennings and Buddy Holly used to rehearse down the street from his own home and Jennings' days as a local DJ on KLLL, Stewart contacted Jessi Colter and from their first meeting, they began recording in Jessi's Arizona living room on August 20, 2007, the project -- a labor of love for both -- was born.

"This project started with double rainbows and ended with double rainbows....a promise I'd say; as I think this could have been a prayer Waylon may have prayed....artists doing what they love for love," says Colter. "I couldn't lead such a monumental effort. But, Witt set his face like a flint to finishing what he began and I am expecting Waylon to break the sound barrier again with the help of way cool artists too numerous to name. Thank you God for the vision you gave Witt, the artists who showed love in their music and, Waylon who gave us all a reason to listen again to what music really means. Bravo!!!"

Two and half years and 33 tracks later, Stewart met with Big Machine Label Group President & CEO Scott Borchetta on a cold, windy day in New York City. From the moment they met, Stewart knew BMLG was the right partner to release the hallowed collection.

"It was clear that Scott had really "listened" to the music," explains Stewart. "The comments he made and questions he asked, I knew he had spent a lot of time with the music. And with his track record, he knows a few things about a hit song. Add that, due to his genuine love for Waylon and Jessi, there was no other home for the project but his house."

"The music of Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson was some of the first music I ever fell in love with and one of the biggest reasons I moved to Nashville to work in Country Music," says Scott Borchetta, President & CEO of the Big Machine Label Group. "Ironically, my dad also worked Alabama's first singles when they were with then-independent label Stargem Records. It all seems to have come full circle with Alabama releasing the first single from the Vol. I compilation with our label group."

Leading the launch of the compilation series is legendary super group Alabama, who reunited to record Jennings', "Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way" for Vol. I -- the first new recording from Alabama in a decade.

"What an opportunity for us to go back in the studio, play and record live like we used to, and pay tribute to a TRUE legend in music...not in country music...in music period," says Randy Owen of Alabama.

Adds Alabama's Teddy Gentry,"This is probably as close as I'll get to being a real outlaw...Thanks Waylon!"

"Waylon was one of a kind," continues Alabama's Jeff Cook. "We did a lot of his songs in our early years. It's nice to be a part of this tribute album!"

"Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way", the lead single from Vol. 1 of the compilation series, impacts Country Radio on Nov. 29th with an official add date of Dec. 13th. A preview of the new song can be heard at: www.waylonjennings.com

THE MUSIC INSIDE: A COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO WAYLON JENNINGS, VOL I will be released on February 8th, with additional Volumes II and III to be released later in 2011.

EDITOR'S NOTES by Randy Matthews



Well I watched the CMA Awards and agree with **Marty Martel** the sound and production was off. I was a little confused on the new artist of the year; I was certain **Easton Corbin** would win since he was actually new and has not been recently recognized. While mentioning Easton Corbin, I was very proud that he received his 2nd number one. **Blake Shelton** finally got what he deserved; male vocalist of the year. He certainly has worked his butt off and got his well-deserved recognition. I was hoping he would win entertainer of the year as well, but I am just as proud of **Brad Paisley**. I was also happy to see the legendary **Loretta Lynn** on the CMA's, the pioneer who paved the way for people like **Reba, Martina McBride** and others. Loretta looked as pretty and classy as ever in her beautiful sequenced dress. **Garth Brooks** really showed his appreciation at the Grand Ole Opry and treated her like the beloved Country Queen that she is. Loretta has not only been a role model to country female singers; she has been a role model to many immigrants who have come to the U.S. from poverty-stricken countries. With no hope or future the Smithsonian played "The Coal Miners Daughter" 24 hours a days for more than 20 years to give them a since of hope. A star that gives back, isn't it amazing.

How about the great job Garth Brooks has done with his sold out concerts that are raising $3.5 million for flood victims. Once again Garth has proven he is the biggest artist of all time. Kix Brooks taking up acting, label heads must be furious that he has put his solo career on hold. The Nashville Symphony has announced that country artist **Marty Stuart** will receive the prestigious Harmony Award in Nashville December 11th. The award is given to individuals who have demonstrated interest and support of music in Nashville. Marty has done country music a real honor keeping it traditional. Past recipients include **Amy Grant, Leann Rimes, Trisha Yearwood, Dolly Parton, The Judds, Vince Gill, Rascal Flatts** and more**.**

Wynonna Judd recently reveled on national TV. that she has lost an amazing 55 pounds. Tabloids have reported she had her stomach stapled to an alien that sucked it out. Who cares how she did it, she looks good and regardless she made a healthy choice. For the first time since 1984 Country Legend **Mel Tillis** is back on the Billboard charts. Mel is back in the national spotlight at #3, but not for his country music, this time for his comedy. Since releasing his debut comedy album, "You Ain't Gonna Believe this….(Show Dog-Universal Music)," last September, Tillis has continued his trek up the chart, giving some of America's funniest comics a run for their money. The funniest thing I have heard in a while is on Blake's new CD, where he is introduced by Mel Tillis as Drake Skelton from over with the Warner People.

Country Legend **Willie Nelson** was recently arrested along with a few others in South Texas aboard his private coach. Nelson was booked in the county jail for possession of six ounces of weed. What a trooper, he took the blame for the others and said all of it was his. Now just give Willie a break and leave him alone. He is still just showing his support for farmers.

Mid-November rising country star **Chelsea Fields** and **Ian Somerhalder,** CW Network's hit series, The Vampire Diaries, proved to be a successful tag team, raising just over $100,000 for homeless animals in the southern region of Louisiana. **The Oak Ridge Boys** are back on the road this winter for their annual Christmas tour. This year they will tour from mid-November thru December 22nd, hitting 18 states and 29 cities before topping it off with a grand celebration at the newly-opened Gaylord Resort.

A tribute to **Waylon Jennings** will hit the shelves in February 2011 featuring new recordings from **Alabama** and **Jamey Johnson** there is no doubt that will have to be a good one. **Billy Sherrill** wins BMI honors, Sherrill, 74, received a BMI Icon Award for career achievement from the performing rights organization. Sherrill worked with great artist like **Charlie Rich** and **Tammy Wynette.** He has won more BMI country awards than any other song writer. Sherrill received a tribute from artists singing his songs, **Ronnie Dunn** sang "The Most Beautiful Girl," Martina McBride performed "Til' I Can Make It on My Own." Way too cool, **Kid Rock** will tour the U.S. this winter with Jamey Johnson as his opening act. Recently Kid Rock released his new CD "Born Free" which is edging into the country market. Now I don't listen to Rock but I could sit through this show.

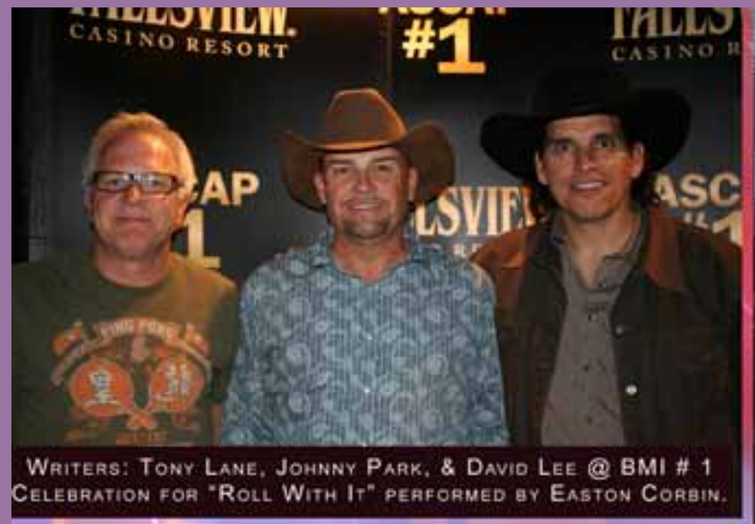


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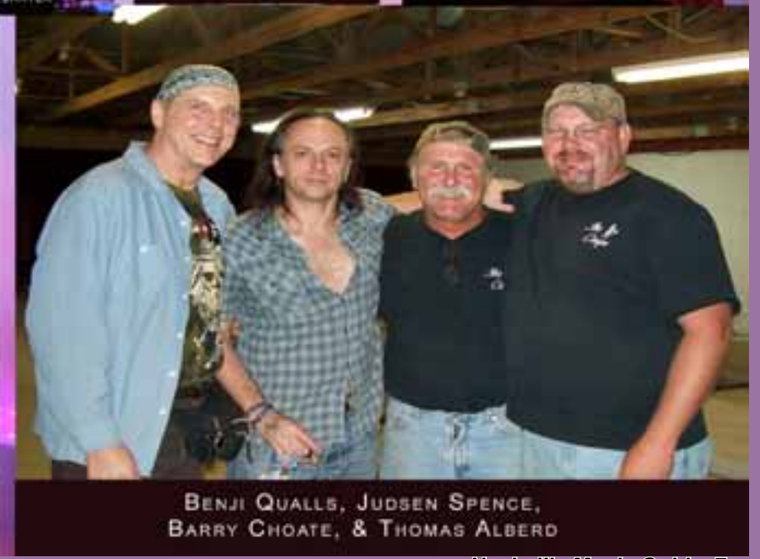

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Star rating based on final average in 7 categories (vocals, soul, production, musicianship, lyrics, melody, and originality) for a maximum of 7 stars. We hope you as a reader rate this page 7 Stars.

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Madonna Nash ***Artist: Madonna Nash***

This self-titled album, by Madonna Nash is a good mix of songs with great musicians and vocals to match. Nash was the winner of the 2010 Female Country Artist of the Year at the Carolina Music Awards. She wrote six of the songs on this thirteen track compilation of tunes and co-wrote on the rest. She rocks it out with "Swingin' Door" (track seven) and puts the honky-tonk in country with track four, "Whiskey Whispers," with killer lead guitar on it as well. "Out of Town" (track six) has a sultry blues feel to it. My personal favorites are numbers four and six. Check it out at www.madonnanashcom.

★★★★★★☆



Always Remember (I Love You) ***Artist: Julie Ingram***

Lifetime member of the Songwriters' Hall of Fame, Julie Ingram, singer-songwriter hailing from Dallas, Texas has once again proved her talent with her newest album titled, Always Remember (I Love You), which was released in October. The title track "Always Remember" is a heart-felt melody written by, Frank Wainwright, about losing dear friends before getting a chance to talk to them. Sam Levine added warmth and style to it with great saxophone playing. "Madder by the Minute" penned by Ingram and Dodson is a good traditional, country song with a Loretta Lynn feel to it. My personal favorites are track eight, "The BD Encore," a twangy honky-tonk instrumental with kickin' steel, piano and guitar; and track three, "Big Dog in Dallas," which is a pedal to the medal classic. Check out Julie's music and videos at www.julieingram.com.

★★★★★★☆



When I Get Home ***Artist: Will Stoltz***

Will Stoltz is making a name for himself in the music industry with his warm voice and great songs. He is singing to sold out crowds all over the country, including a huge sell out in his home town of Lancaster, Pennsylvania. The title track, "When I Get Home" is a song about a soldier serving our country that everyone should hear. Track number three written by the great Jamey Johnson, "Ain't Worth a Dime" is a beautiful ballad stating that money "ain't" everything, on which Will does a great vocal. Funny song, track four is about a "Sunday Driver" and we all know about them! My personal favorites are number six, "Like Tomorrow Ain't Gonna Be" written by Stoltz and number nine, "Like Love Oughta Be." Check will out at www.willstoltz.com.

★★★★★★☆



Wag More Bark Less ***Artist: Chas Sanford***

When hit singer-songwriter, Chas Sanford, releases a new CD you can be sure it's gonna be great. He is the recipient of twelve ASCAP 'Most Performed Song' awards including "Missing You" by John Waite. I love this album; "Broken," track five, is a beautiful ballad that just keeps building with every note driven by powerhouse vocals. Great harmonies on "My Favorite Regret", he brings it on home with "Waiting For the Sun." They are all great songs and my picks are tracks two and twelve. Check him out at www.chas-sanford.com, you'll be glad you did!

★★★★★☆☆







Tony Boatwright Jr's Lyrics for Lyric A Success









If you missed November's ***Lyrics for Lyric*** hit songwriter show, featuring Country/ Bluegrass Star, Ken Mellons then you really missed out. But you have another opportunity to catch a great show for a good cause on Wednesday December 8th when Singer/ Songwriter, Tony Boatwright will be presenting ***Lyrics for Lyric***, in association with ***Picks Nashville*** and ***Nashville Music Guide*** to benefit Lyric Alana Frizzell, featuring Country Star, Trent Tomlinson.

Last month's show had **Picks Nashville** packed with fans, some all the way from Canada to see many of Nashville's hit songwriters and ***The Jukebox Junkie***, Ken Mellons. Some of the writers included Stan Webb (***I'm From the Country*** - Tracy Byrd), Danny Wells (***Check Yes or No*** - George Strait), Gary Hannan (***Tequila Makes her Clothes Fall Off*** - Joe Nichols), Bernie Nelson (***Daddy Never Was The Cadillac Kind*** - Confederate Railroad) and Rich Fagan (***Sold*** - John Michael Montgomery).

The night was topped off when Ken Mellons took the spotlight with surprise guests, The Roys, two-time **ICM Duo of the Year** winners and sang " ***I'll Fly Away"***, getting the whole crowd to join in.

Picks Nashville, Music Row's historical club located at 1407 Division St., Nashville TN, 37203, is ready to do it again! The Decemaber 8th show will be jam packed with Nashville talent, showcasing rising songwriters in the round starting at 6pm and hit songwriters beginning at 8pm, featuring Country Star, Trent Tomlinson (***One Wing In The Fire***).

Songwriters appearing throughout the night will be Bryant Meltzer, Adam Fountain, Cowboy Slim, Jack Friesby, Jake Donelson, Patrick Devine, James Iann, Kevin So, Joe Hilton, David Ray, Mary Hartman, Mark Steven Jones, Joel Shewmake, Trent Jeffcoat, Pam Belford, Jill Wood, Amanda Hunt Taylor, Jennifer Adan, Dustin Evans, Arlos Smith, Aaron Goodvin, Clare Dunn, Alecia Arnall, Tamera Rey Fosdick and Heidi Raye. A portion of the nights proceeds will be donated to the ***Lyric Frizzell Fund***, to offset the costs incurred during the two year olds cancer treatment at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital.

On July 28th, 2009, at ten months old, Lyric Alana Frizzell, daughter of Crystal and Artist to the Stars, Corey Frizzell was diagnosed with an aggressive, rare form of Leukemia and was just hours from losing her life. Not only was it a parent's worst nightmare to hear the dreaded words "Cancer", but to soon find out that Lyric is the only documented case in history to have her form of Leukemia was unfathomable. She has endured six months of chemo, deadly infections and months of seclusion from family and friends in a protected, filtrated wing of the hospital for immune suppressed patients at the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, Myelosuppression Unit.

Lyric is now celebrating being declared in a partial remission from the Leukemia but frequents the Vanderbilt Cancer Clinic monthly and will continue to do so for the next four years to







monitor her immune system and blood counts. If she can avoid a relapse during this period, having the greatest chance for one during the next year and a half, she will be declared in full remission. She is, in fact, scheduled for her December checkup the day before the show on the 7th. This is always a nervous time for the Frizzell family, waiting on blood counts and hoping for the best. Please continue to keep Lyric and family in your thoughts and prayers.

Trent Tomlinson, the son of Cleveland Cavalier basket ball star, rose to fame, not as a star athelete but as a Country Star. Trent burst onto the Country Music scene after signing with **Lyric Street Records** with his debut album, ***Country Is My Rock*** in 2006 producing three Top 40 singles on the U.S. *Billboard* Hot Country Songs charts including "***Drunker Than Me***", "***One Wing in the Fire***" and "***Just Might Have Her Radio On***".

Tomlinson also co-wrote "***Missing Missouri***" on Sara Evans' 2005 album ***Real Fine Place***, and "***Why Can't I Leave Her Alone***" on George Strait's 2006 album ***It Just Comes Natural***.

Picks Nashville formally known as the ***Hall of Fame Lounge***, has been a long time fixture in town as a gathering place for hit song writers, music industry exec's. Now under new ownership, **Picks Nashville** is teaming with some of the industries vast body of talent for a monthly series of rounds featuring country stars and hit songwriters, benefiting various causes close to the owner, Wade Johnson's heart.

For more information on Picks Nashville, Lyric Frizzell and Trent Tomlinson, visit the following websites at www.picksnashville.com, www.lyricfrizzell.com and www.trentomlinson.com.

Photos by Jerry Overcast and Alane Anno







Trent Tomlinson Finally Does It His Own Way

By Phil Sweetland

When Lyric Street Records went out of business last summer, LSR artist Trent Tomlinson didn't hesitate a moment. He decided to put his new album out himself.

"Fans have been waiting for three years," Tomlinson says in a phone conversation the week before Thanksgiving. "The LSR record never got released because of the company's demise, but I wasn't gonna wait any longer."

And Tomlinson's huge army of fans couldn't be any happier.

"I put 12 songs on the album," he says, "and they're the best 12 songs I ever wrote. I didn't go by the old formula that says you have to have so many ballads and so many tempos. I just put the 12 best songs I had on one record."

The first radio single has been "Cross My Heart," which like everything else about this project Trent is paying for out of his own pocket. Competing with the millions of dollars the major Row labels to get radio airplay is brutally difficult, but as he's done throughout his career Tomlinson is succeeding, slowly but surely.

"It's hard to get promotion, but I've got a lot of great friends at country radio," he says. "In cities where they're playing the single, like Charlotte, NC, and Des Moines, it's blowing up the phones. I'm gonna be working that single for a long time."



The week after we spoke, Trent planned to mix the last two songs on the new album.

"Then immediately we'll put the album up on iTunes to be purchased," he said. "Doing an album and promotion yourself is definitely expensive and that's the bad part about it. But you have nobody but yourself to blame, and I like it that way."

Lyric Street, the country division of the California-based entertainment giant Walt Disney Company, closed its doors last summer. Rascal Flatts stayed onboard a few months until the radio promotion ended on its final LSR single, then the few label employees who remained were let go.

Labels in Nashville come and go with the tough economy these days, but Trent has remained close pals with many of the old LSR gang, including label co-chief Doug Howard. The two remain very close friends, and Doug is still one of Trent's strongest supporters.

"Lyric Street Records was great, I have a lot of great friends that worked there," Tomlinson says. "I hate that it went down the way it did at the end, and afterwards I shopped around for a deal or two here and there. The people at those other labels were into the music, but the timing was off."

But once again, this Missouri native and son of a former pro basketball player kept right on going. He was writing and recording some of the best music of his already remarkable career, and Trent knew it. Besides, he had one weapon in his favor where he could compete on a totally level playing field with even the biggest record labels and radio promotion outfits. That was social media.

"The people that's gonna buy this record, they're really been Twittering," he says. "I think the social media is where our business is headed. It's a huge part of our industry, to create awareness."



He also retweaked his biz strategy slightly to account for an economy that was still sluggish.

"I dropped my live show price down," he said. "I'm not making a lot of money on the road, but we're bringing music to new people."

Besides, with the final mixes and manufacturing pending for his new album, Trent knew he was about to have a product that would become a major part of the merchandise (known as "merch") table at his shows, and create a significant boost to his income.

It's also an album he's tremendously proud of, which Trent admits in the case of the last album Lyric Street was about to release on him, wasn't always the case.

"With that album, there were lots of opinions from the label," he said. "They said, `no more drinking songs,' but that's what I do! That's my crowd."

So on the new album, Tomlinson says he went thru "every single song I've ever written in my life," and came up with his 12 favorites. Some were "stone cold country things," including many ballads reflecting his early love for stylists like Earl Thomas Conley, Vern Gosdin, and Waylon Jennings.

For Tomlinson fans, and for Trent himself, this new record will truly be a long-awaited musical dream come true.

The Roys Sign With Rural Rhythm Records

Label Is Last Key Element In Duo's New Power Team

Rural Rhythm Records is proud to announce the signing of THE ROYS (Lee and Elaine) to the label and will release a new album in March 2011.

"We are thrilled. The Roys are a perfect fit for our Rural Rhythm family, says President, Sam Passamano, Jr. "Lee and Elaine have a true love and respect for Bluegrass music and its traditions, alongside a deep appreciation for traditional Country and a strong faith that will help Rural Rhythm to expand their musical boundaries. We can't wait for Bluegrass lovers to experience The Roys and their band live."

THE ROYS' signing with Rural Rhythm Records is the last key element in the duo's new power team. Managed by Entertainment Evolution, with publicity handled by so much MOORE media and booking secured with New Frontier Touring, Lee and Elaine are overjoyed to join the Rural Rhythm Records roster, which includes Bluegrass favorites Russell Moore & IIIrd Tyme Out, Lonesome River Band, Bobby Osborne, Grasstowne, Michael Martin Murphey, Lou Reid, Rodney Dillard, Carrie Hassler, Blue Moon Rising, Audie Blaylock, Bill Emerson, Randy Kohrs and many more.

"Rural Rhythm has a great reputation and we are honored that they believe in our music and believe in who we are as artists," says Lee Roy. "We are extremely blessed to be joining their roster," adds Elaine. "We are looking forward to a long journey with them and creating great music in the future." The deal coincides with the label's 55th anniversary, and rounds out a talented team for THE ROYS.

The brother/sister duo hails from Fitchburg, MA, and their music is a surprisingly fresh, Bluegrass sound that includes hints of Roots and traditional Country, and its uniquely identifiable tone has brought them honors - and fans - from around the globe. The two-time Inspirational Country Music Duo of the Year (2010, 2009) made their national television debut on the most-recent Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Telethon in Las Vegas, and they've enjoyed heavy media exposure with multiple People and Country Weekly magazine features to their credit. THE ROYS have performed before President George W. Bush at Andrews Air Force Base; traveled to Bogota, Columbia on an outreach mission for Compassion International, and entertained fans for years at clubs, fairs and festivals.









Blake Shelton

Newest Opry Member One Of Country's Most Versatile And Funny Stars

By Phil Sweetland

Among Warner Brothers/Reprise country star Blake Shelton's favorite memories of growing up in Oklahoma is something his grandmother used to say, after young Blake first began playing music.

"She used to call me her little Grand Ole Opry," Shelton said in a phone conversation in early November, a few days before the CMA Awards.

Grandma's nickname for Blake became reality on October 23, when Shelton's buddy Trace Adkins officially inducted Shelton as the Opry's newest member.

It was a towering achievement for the tall Oklahoman, one of country's most versatile stars and gifted vocalists, and the 2010 CMA Male Vocalist of the Year.

Very few artists in any genre would have the ability to pull off such a huge variety of hits, from Blake's fun-loving "Hillbilly Bone" and "Some Beach" to thoughtful ballads, such as his most requested "Ol' Red" to his 2001 chart debut "Austin."

Radio listeners and programmers knew right away that they had something special when they first heard "Austin" in the spring of 2001. The single quickly rocketed to No. 1 on the Billboard charts, a very rare achievement for a debut single and an honor that even George Strait, Kenny Chesney, and Garth Brooks did not accomplish.

"I'm just fascinated by country music in general," Shelton says, talking about the huge variety in his singles and albums. "I love the traditional country, I also love the hits through the 1980s which are probably my favorites – artists like Ronnie Milsap and Earl Thomas Conley who were kind of pushing the envelope."

Blake continued: "I think that's what I love about the genre of country music as a whole, is how it progresses over the years. That's why it's stayed popular.

"Country changes, and it changes for the youth. It goes back to what I was just saying, I guess I'm probably influenced by all of those eras. Because I pull from these influences like anybody would, I still don't really have a direction. I've kind of been all over the map because that's where my head is musically," Shelton says.

This ability to stay unpredictable has always kept Blake's music and style fresh and exciting to fans of all ages. Young fans especially adore the sense of humor that Shelton showcases on a very new technology – Twitter.

"Twitter's a ball for me and my fans," says Blake, who admits that early on he was reluctant to try Twitter and did it mainly because folks at his label insisted he use Twitter.

"Now I'm having more fun doing Twitter than anything, for me it's just another stage," he says. "I love to entertain and push people's buttons, no matter if I'm pushing the envelope. The things I wrote on Twitter were never a surprise to my fan club, to my hard-core following."

But some at the label grew nervous at some of Blake's comical tweets – "next thing you know, I'm talking about pissing my pants," he says, chuckling – and for about a 3-month period Shelton stopped going on Twitter altogether and took it off his phone.

"But it was so funny that when the Academy of Country Music Awards came up, the label and management said, `Do you think maybe you could start tweeting again?' I said sure, and now if I'm sitting on a bus or on my phone I'm on Twitter and I think it's terrific."

This ability to smile at life – even in tough times such as these – comes in part from Shelton's Oklahoma background. The 1930s humorist Will Rogers was an Oklahoman, as was another of country's most humorous and brilliant 1960s talents, Roger Miller. Shelton is proud to continue their legacy, both with his art and his humor.

"People in Oklahoma, they're just entertainers," Blake says. "I don't care if it's the guy loading my truck at the feed store, people are just funny there. They don't themselves that seriously at all. To stand out in Oklahoma, you have to be more over-the-top. I love what I do. I get to do what nobody gets to do. The worst artists are people that take themselves too seriously."

He grew up in Ada, a town of about 16,000 people in southeast Oklahoma whose surrounding towns have classic country names like Happyland and Homer.

"Man, growing up in Ada was pretty low-key. I had a pretty sheltered childhood," Shelton says. "It's a great place to grow up. I had a situation with my family that we all laugh and have fun, everyone in my family is an entertainer in their own way. It just so happened I was also in country music big-time."

This fascination went beyond the music, right into the business of the music. Who wrote the songs he loved? He noticed, for instance, that Paul Overstreet wrote a Randy Travis song, but Paul also had his own solo album.

"I started putting together the community of Nashville in the back of my mind," he said. "I was kind of obsessed."

That obsession came right to Ada one day, when "Heartbreak Hotel" songwriter Mae Boren Axton returned to her hometown of Ada to receive the Key to the City. Blake was 17 then, and was an entertainer at that event. Afterwards, Shelton spoke to Axton and a career that eventually led to the Grand Ole Opry was born.

"Mae told me that if I would move to Nashville, she didn't think I was ready yet but she would introduce me to some key people that would help put me in the right circles," Blake says. "For whatever reason, that's what she got off on – networking – and I remember everybody on Music Row calling her Mama Mae."

The teen-aged Shelton came to Nashville and stayed at Axton's





home for awhile. "That gave me that window of opportunity, and another thing Mae did within the first couple of weeks was that Hoyt Axton handed me what is still my signature song, 'Ol' Red.' "

Hoyt Axton (1938-99) charted 14 country singles as an artist, but saw his greatest success as a songwriter. He wrote Three Dog Night's "Joy To The World," Billboard's biggest pop hit of 1971. It's the one that begins, "Jeremiah was a bullfrog . . . " Ironically, Hoyt didn't write "Ol' Red" – Don Goodman, Don Goodman, and Mark Sherrill did – but he was the first to play it for Blake Shelton.

Another classic example of Blake's career creativity has been his release this year of a pair of hugely successful SIX PAKs, miniature albums with 6 songs apiece at a reduced price. The idea first came from Blake's producer, Scott Hendricks, and enthusiastically endorsed by WB Nashville's dynamic new President/CEO John Esposito.

Esposito, who came to Nashville in September 2009, and Shelton have become fast friends.

"Besides my best friend growing up in high school, I've never met anybody I'm as close a buddy with as John Esposito," Shelton says. "We were at a club near the Opryland Hotel, and John was literally playing air guitar, and then the guy got up and sang Bruce Springsteen's 'I'm On Fire" with the karaoke machine."

That kind of passion and excitement is felt by many artists and fans, but all too often not shared by many of the suits and accountants who run many of today's cash-strapped labels. So for Blake, the arrival of John Esposito was not just a breath of fresh air creatively, but helped kick-start his career into even higher places commercially.

"When it comes to music with John, there is no filter," Shelton says. "It's amazing in a year, what he's done with my career. He had to be the one to say, `We'll do a SIX PAK. You wanna do a live DVD? We'll do that.' He was willing to do it and supported it 100 percent."

Blake feels right at home with Esposito, which doesn't always happen with artists and label heads. "I want to surround myself with people that like to party, and like to sing karaoke," Shelton says. "Someone who's not afraid to make an ass of theirself. It sucks when you walk into a label and it's a bunch of suits who are not in tune with your music."

The creative and biz pairing of Shelton and Esposito has rapidly become one of the few Dream Teams along today's rapidly changing Music Row.

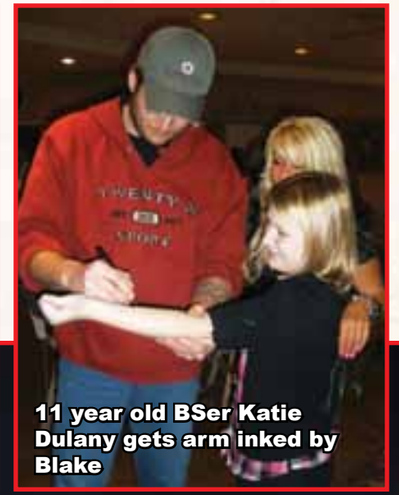
It has been indeed been a year to remember for Blake Shelton and his fans. As they know, he got engaged to another country superstar, Miranda Lambert, this year. And musically, the Grand Ole Opry induction, the CMA Male Vocalist of the Year prize, Lambert's triumphant night as well at the CMAs, the SIX PAKs, and a Greatest Hits package that hit stores in early November have all made for an unforgettable 2010.

"I went from a guy who was just kind of a country music stepchild to where I'm sitting today," he said the week before the CMAs. "I'm up for Male Vocalist of the Year, and I've been trying to beg people for CMA tickets the last 10 years and had a lousy seat. It's clear to see what John Esposito did. My Greatest Hits album comes out next year, so I've had three albums in one year."

So on all fronts, 2010 has been the year that Blake Shelton and his fans have dreamed of ever since he first started singing, writing, and playing back home in Ada.



Nicole Dulany from Edmond, OK with Blake's hometown sign



11 year old BSer Katie Dulany gets arm inked by Blake



COUNTRY MUSIC LEGENDS/VETERANS NEWS



Ferlin Husky is a hometown hero back in Leadwood, Mo. Leadwood officials recently renamed a street Country Music Hall of Famerfor Husky, 84, who was actually raised a few miles from Leadwood, in a town that was then known as Flat River and is now Park Hills. Some of his memorabilia will soon be displayed at a schoolhouse in the town, and Missouri Rep. Linda Black Fischer has plans to rename a highway "Ferlin Husky Parkway Drive." "That's in January, and she has to get through the November election," said Johnny Hartley, who is spearheading efforts to honor Husky. "But even if she loses, the other guy says he'll carry it through to the statehouse." Husky's "Gone" helped usher in the uptown "Nashville Sound" when it became a 10-week No. 1 country record in 1957. A dynamic live performer, he also starred in movies and brought country to new audiences. "There were a lot of years when nobody in the business could follow Ferlin Husky," Merle Haggard said earlier this year. "He was the big live act of the day. A great entertainer."



Here is my take on writing or asking questions to celebrities that are in the news. If you ask them about something negative that might be happening in their life, and you ask in a tactful, polite way, then I believe it is alright to ask a celebrity that question. I do understand that the stress of a celebrity's private life can sometimes be "very painful," but it is something that a journalist or an interviewer feels compelled to ask. If a celebrity agrees to an interview, then they should make it clear to the interviewer beforehand, what subject will be taboo from the onset of the interview, then no one get angry or hurt. Last week's Remote Broadcasts from the 44th Annual CMA Awards will produce many stories and some magical moments, but WCOL/Columbus morning show host, Woody Johnson, has one he'll probably never forget - his short...very short interview with Billy Ray Cyrus. Billy Ray was not pleased when Woody asked about the news of his divorce and although Woody tried to apologize, Cyrus stormed out of the interview. If you want to be a celebrity, there are certain guidelines that are available to you should you not want to talk about a certain subject, so make that known.



I have left the following article just as it was written by Cindy Watts, who I consider one of the best writers for The Tennessean, so what I have to say is no reflection on what Cindy has written. The new Sugarland set is what has happened to what country music once was. Yes the younger artists are here and they have brought with them what they feel is a better way to call it country music. Somebody tell me that this is what we need. Nettles wants their new set to bring peace to their audience….. I have no problems with a new set but if this is not pure rock n roll, then it is so close that there is no recognizing one from the other, except that it bears no resemblance to country music. Sugarland is great, please don't get me wrong, but please the audience with your music, NOT YOUR SET. I guess I would rather see Ray Price come onstage with no smoke machines, no pyrotechnics, no video camera's, JUST STRAIGHT UP MUSIC. I would rather hear Jamey Johnson sing pure country music in his jeans and long beard, than to watch a show where the attention is on the Hollywood set rather than the music. So the following is what Sugarland has to say about this new "COUNTRY MUSIC SET.?????? When Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush of Sugarland began brainstorming ideas for their next tour, the duo quickly realized one thing: They wanted a total overhaul. Nettles describes their desire to "wipe the slate clean" and develop a whole new set and lighting design in Sugarland's Blood Love Hope Lust and Steam DVD, which is included in the deluxe version of their new album, The Incredible Machine. The new approach was inspired by science fiction genre steampunk, which centers on the idea of technological evolution stopping at the steam-driven Victorian era. Sugarland performed The Incredible Machine in its entirety in Atlanta last week, showing off how steampunk's influence translates into a country music stage show. The result stands apart from what country music fans are used to seeing as part of big country tours. Massive boxy screens and runway fashions are eschewed in favor of "things that are made of wood, gears, brass and steam," Nettles said in the documentary. "It's super romantic." The back of the band's organ has been replaced with a transparent covering to show off its moving parts, and the massive screens have been fashioned into a circle and made to look like the face of a vintage clock. Nettles called the stage fashions "punk meets Victorian." (Think silver studs and buckles with black leather, a hoop skirt with the frame exposed and Victorian collars.) The Atlanta crowd responded to the unveiling of the set with massive cheers, and energy remained high as the band worked its way through the '80s rock-flavored songs on Machine. Most fans seemed to already know the words to the new songs, just a day after the album's release. DON'T INSULT MY INTELLIGENCE-THE FANS KNEW THE NEW SONGS ONE DAY AFTER THE ALBUM RELEASE. C'MON "This is the first time I've done this song in front of an audience before," Nettles said from behind a piano before playing "Shine the Light." "I hope it brings peace to you."It brought enjoyment, certainly, the performance earning the loudest applause of the night up to that point. But the Atlanta crowd showed its dedication to the country duo's past hits, erupting fully when the duo came out at the end of the show to play "All I Want to Do," "Settlin'," "Something More" and "Baby Girl," which turned into an energized audience sing-along. ARE YOU KIDDING ME-THEIR PAST HITS AT THE END OF THE SHOW.



Officials in the rural northeastern Oklahoma town of Spavinaw say a $60,000 donation from country star Reba McEntire will help keep the local school district afloat. Superintendent Guy Alloway says the school, built in the late 1920s, was on the verge of closing before the gift from Oklahoma native McEntire. Like other Oklahoma districts, the pre-kindergarten-through-eighth-grade school is struggling with deep state budget cuts.Big Machine Records spokeswoman Nikki Burns declined to discuss the specifics of McEntire's donation. Alloway says the district solicited funds from about 30 celebrities and financial leaders and McEntire was the first to respond.



Johnny Cash's blue jumpsuit, worn during rehearsals for his 1969 San Quentin prison concert, is among more than 300 items being auctioned to benefit MusiCares. View the full auction here. The Man In Black will also be inducted posthumously into the GMA Gospel Music Hall Of Fame Jan. 24.The legendary Man in Black continues to carry his influence into the music industry. We can only wish that he was still with us to have his input into the way things have gone downhill for country music.



Named the "NEW Queen of Bluegrass Music" by the Wall Street Journal, Rhonda Vincent was honored with the first-ever Bluegrass Heritage Foundation "Star Award" when she performed on Saturday, Oct. 16 at Farmers Branch Historical Park. The award was presented by the Bluegrass Heritage Foundation, a non-profit organization that works to preserve and promote the heritage of bluegrass music through public performances of the music as well as through educational programs and workshops



Pictures are worth a thousand words and the following photographs say it all! Southwest Employees in Phoenix gave a great send off to veterans of Operation Freedom Bird on their way to recognize Veterans Day at the Capitol. Little did the Vietnam veterans know that a celebration was being planned for them when they returned. They put together a Welcome Home Ceremony for the returning veterans and invited friends and family along with past beneficiaries of the trip. With about 350 in attendance, the event kicked off with the Presentation of the Colors by Luke Air Force



Base Honor Guard. The highlight of the celebration for many was country recording artist Aaron Tippin who sang "Where the Stars and Stripes and the Eagle Fly" as well as his hit "You've Got to Stand for Something." " For more information on Operation Freedom Bird visit http://www.operation-freedombird.org/.



Media Buzzing as Mel Tillis Nears Top of Nation's Billboard Comedy Chart The Album, You Ain't Gonna Believe This..., Barrels in at #3; Proves Grammy Potential During the 1960s and 70s, landing a Top 10 hit was nothing out of the ordinary for Country Music Hall of Famer, Mel Tillis. Throughout his solid career, the stuttering legend banked 34 Top 10 hits, 9 of which went to #1. In 1984, Tillis saw his last major hit, when his "New Patches" landed at #10 on the U.S. Country Billboard chart. Fast-forward to November 2010, 26 years after his last chart-topper. Tillis is back in the national spotlight and sits high atop Billboard at #3, but not for country music… for comedy.



Country Weekly wants to let you in on a little secret—Pam Tillis, the Grammy Award-winning country artist doesn't like just making music, she loves to cook! And the celebrated country star will bring her kitchen prowess to a new cuisine column for Country Weekly. Her first column will be available in the November 22 issue, which hits newsstands today, November 15. And in the spirit of Thanksgiving, Pam shares her favorite recipe for super delicious chocolate sweet potato pie, which can also be found at Pam's food blog at nocrockbetty.com.



Bill Anderson almost lost his “whisper” during an emotional tribute paid to him recently, when over 30 stars showed up to honor the legendary singer/songwriter with a special episode of Country Music’s Family Reunion Show, which airs weekly on RFD-TV. Anderson, who regularly hosts the show, found himself “switching sides”, while Vince Gill took over as emcee of the star studded spectacular that will be televised early next year. A specific air-date has not yet been determined. Taped on the set of CFR, amidst golden-clad tables and huge backdrops of Anderson’s career photos, the show was produced by Larry Black and offers viewers an amazing array of stories and songs----all of which stemmed directly from the honoree’s past 50 years as a songwriter and recording artist. Every song sung was written or co-written by Anderson, who is a member of the Nashville Songwriter’s Hall of Fame, and is acclaimed as the most recorded songwriter in the history of country music. Among recording artists featured on the show are Roy Clark, B.J. Thomas, George Hamilton IV, Bobby Bare, Ed Bruce, Jamey Johnson, Jon Randall, Jessi Alexander, Jan Howard, Rhonda Vincent, Mary Lou Turner, Con Hunley, Jeannie Seely, Jean Shepard, The Whites, T. Graham Brown, Gene Watson, Moe Bandy, Jim Ed Brown, and Lynn Anderson. In addition to watching the show on RFD-TV, fans will also be able to purchase Bill Anderson’s 50th Anniversary Celebration on DVD. For further info go to cfrvideos.com

NASHVILLE Traditions

Keeping in the grand tradition of Nashville entertainment & star-studded programming, we are proud to announce the launch of a new country music and variety show. Nashville Traditions will be tapped in front of a live studio audience in both video and audio at the Texas Troubadour Theater on Music Valley Drive . The taped show will then be broadcast on the air castle of the South, 650 WSM/AM and online at wsmonline.com, home of the Grand Ole Opry. The show will then air on Friday at midnight following the Opry just as the Midnight Jamboree follows the Opry on Saturday nights! The following are the taping and the air dates:

December 16th	2 @ 7pm-Taping	(2) January 7-Air Date
	3 @ 9pm	(3) January 14
January 6th	4 @ 7pm	(4) January 21
	5 @ 9pm	(5) January 28
January 20th	6 @ 7pm	(6) February 4
	7 @9pm	(7) February 11

Each artist will perform three songs per show to promote their current hit, new release or current CD and have the ability to interact and or promote with their fans via meet and greet tables set up in the venue after the show!!!

SEASON GREETINGS FROM MARTY MARTEL

My thoughts at this time of each year take me back to my childhood days when life was so much simpler then it is today. This is a special part of each of our life’s, because it is the joyous season of love and giving, where we give thanks for our blessings followed by the beautiful holidays of Christmas and the coming New Year. Sometimes I know that we go through trials and tribulations not knowing what tomorrow might bring, but there is someone who keeps a watch over us and will not forsake us. I am thankful to be alive and well. I thank Randy and Joe Matthews for allowing me the space of writing for Nashville Music Guide, and their confidence to allow me to speak my mind with freedom of press. I thank each of you for reading my comments even when you might not agree. I am just thankful for living in the United States of America to enjoy this freedom that belongs to each of us. I wish each of you a most blessed and happy holiday season during 2010. And I ask you to remember our military men and women who give so much to preserve our freedoms. May The Good Lord Watch over our country and each of you with his blessings of happiness, health, and prosperity. A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Marty Martel



LYNN ANDERSON inducted into the “Texas Walkway of Stars” in Fort Worth. Her “STAR” is at the Box Office at “Billy Bob’s Texas” ... right between to Gene Autry and Bob Wills Other “STARS” include John Chisum (The Chisum Trail), Sons of the Pioneers, John Wayne, and Rodeo Legend Larry Mahan. December 3 marks the 40th Anniversary of “Rose Garden” hitting Number One in the Pop Charts!!! Spending several months in Nashville, working on TV and Records and working in Texas with Western Music Producer Rich O’Brien for another Western CD. Also in the works is a new duet with Spanish-Language artist CERRITO singing in Spanish. Lynn sings in eight different languages ...Attended the “Cowgirl Hall of Fame Luncheon” in Fort Worth (Nominee). Will again ride a cutting horse at the NCHA World Championships in December in Fort Worth. Other Celebrities include Randy Travis, Joey & Rory, and Joe Nichols.



Thanks for reading, and if you have any questions, please send me an email at the following: martymartel@bestdamnshows.com Make sure you order your subscription to Nashville Music Guide so that you will be able to keep up with the news and what is happening in Music City USA.
Marty Martel

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View Frizzell’s online gallery at www.coreyfrizzell.com & commission your own fine art portrait, graphic design or flash website design.



JOHN A. HOBBS and HIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

This article is not the life story of John Hobbs, because it is much too soon to be writing that story. It is just some observations that I have made, and it is only one little corner of his world, but a very important part for many of us. I hope I do John A. justice with my thoughts in this article.

John A. Hobbs was born on February 11, 1928 right here in Nashville, TN. That makes him 82 years young, and I DO MEAN YOUNG. He is the youngest 82 year old person I have ever known, and I only hope and pray that I can be as healthy and vibrant as he is, IF I am lucky enough to make it to 82. This article will never be written in its entirety because there is not enough room in the magazine, and there are way too many stories to be told, but I am going to try and give you a short version of this man we call John A. who in my thinking, has never been given his just dues for the many things that he has done for so many during his lifetime, especially in the music industry, the City of Nashville, and surrounding suburbs. He has a stretch of BrileyParkway named in his honor, by then Mayor Bill Purcell. He is one of Nashville's most successful businessmen, and has built his business empire with honesty, integrity, and most of all hard work. It is what I call a "family affair." They keep their businesses rolling through whatever adversities come up, even the recent devastating flood here in Nashville. Ronnie, Joe, and John C. and their staff have built a solid reputation over the past 60 years, and from what I can see, the family continues to make sure it continues to grow. John A. has taught his children and grandchildren well. It is always business as usual with John A. and his staff, but you trust me when I tell you that he takes care of his people.

He joined the Merchant Marines at the age of 15. His final ship during his tour of duty was Brigadier General Alfred J. Lyons. It had a crew of 500 Merchant Marines, and still a few of these mates of John A's have a reunion here in Nashville, but most are not able to travel any longer. This ship had to maintain some of the first medical evacuation helicopters ever used. It was the first vessel, along with a hospital ship to enter Tokyo Bay, just days before the arrival of the 3rd Fleet at the surrender of the Japanese Empire.

When John A. returned home he got a job in construction as a carpenter where he became a foreman with just over a year of experience. In the next 10 years John learned his trade of being in construction where he learned early on how to manage his money and when he started his family. In 1957 he risked everything he had and started the John A. Hobbs Construction Company and as they say, "The rest is now history." John A. no longer has a construction company. With all of his successful other ventures he got out of construction.

In the mid-70's John, along with some partners, began to take on new businesses. They opened Fiddler's Inn South at Briley Parkway and I-40, then his next huge step was to build the Fiddler's Inn on Music Valley Dr. But John's biggest venture was being part of the corporation that built the World Famous Nashville Palace, and several museums in the same area. Next he and his partners built the Ramada Inn (Radission Inn now) at McGavock Pike and Music Valley Dr. To say that he is a successful businessman is an understatement, but his success came from dedication and hard work, which he still lives by. He works hard and he plays hard.

John A. has been involved in so many charitable projects too numerous to mention, and there are probably so many other charitable things that he has done that only he knows. His heart is as large as his life. Oh by the way, John A. is a devout Catholic and has always been involved in many religious fundraisers through the many years.

I have known John A. for over 35 years, ever since I moved to Nashville in 1969. Most of my life as an entertainer I spent touring on the road up through 1994. I worked at the Nashville Palace for John back in my early days when Steve Hill was the house band at the Palace. On Monday nights Steve would be off, so John would use different bands to fill in, and I was lucky enough to be one of those bands. I guess he liked us, but he did impress on me one night to never touch the PA control











board!!!!! That is a story in itself. And another thing I did not get to do all that much is to sit in the Nashville Palace special area where John A. and his friend's would sit to "discuss business." But there was never a night that I went into the Nashville Palace that John A. did not invite me to come and have a drink with him and his buddies, and there were nights I did just that. I never realized then, that when the John A's Little Palace was built, that I was going to be lucky enough to be around him and his great group of people. I know that my knowing Joe West the umpire surely had a lot to do with it, because I believe that Joe told John A. that I was a great sports enthusiast just like John A.

As everyone knows, John lost his beloved Libby 2009 to cancer, and it was hurtful for so many of us that are friends of John's. He loved her as much as any man I have ever known, and we all know how he still misses her presence alongside him. John A. stays busy almost 16-18 hours a day, and is never at a loss of friends who join him every night that he sits in the corner of John A's Little Palace. That's right "Little Palace." John was the original owner of The Nashville Palace until he sold it in 2003. He was not content not having a place to be with his friends, and his heart and soul were still in the restaurant and entertainment business, so he had a plot of land that he saved to build his new Palace and he named it John A's Little Palace. The Little Palace was built exactly to his specifications, for what many consider, the best food in Nashville, great entertainment, great guests and great people, no smoking, no problems, and there in the back corner, is The Most Important Corner of Nashville, The Music Industry, and Politicians, but most of all that is where John A. Hobbs holds court almost every night.

There is a special grouping of John's friends that gather each week at some time or the other in that special corner of John A's, and that is where great stories are told, some whoppers from all of us, and more laughter comes out of that section of the restaurant than any other place I have EVER BEEN. It kind of reminds me of the Rat Pack in the old days out in Las Vegas-maybe a little more age, but just as crazy, and probably more. The walls are covered with priceless pictures of those that have become friends of John A., from local and national politicians, the biggest and most important people in country music and other genres', and also to the tourist and fans who come to Nashville and have been told their visit to Nashville will not be complete unless they visit John A's in the greatest corner of the world. Also, on the wall, and probably the most enjoyable part of the wall is John A's sporting memorabilia which he is so proud of. His friendship with former LA Dodger Mgr. Tommy LaSorda and other sporting great's, goes back many, many years. If you want to sit in the special corner with John A., you better know your sports or it is going to be a long evening for you. All TV sets are set with sporting events going constantly. Just some of the great names in entertainment who have spent time at John A's to have dinner or just to enjoy the atmosphere of John A's, are Charlie Pride, Garth Books, Dick Clark, his longtime friend Sam Lovullo (Creator/Producer of Hee Haw), Troy Aikman, Al Gore, and the list is endless. Just drop in at John A's some night and check out the pictures on the wall and that will give you a small idea of John A. Hobbs. Before I forget, you will also see sports memorabilia from one of John's greatest friends, and one of mine also, MLB Umpire Joe West. Joe gave John a signed home plate from one of the World Series that he was a part of the umpire crew. There is so much to see when you walk through the doors of John A's Little Palace.

There is a grouping of John A. buddies, who have been his friend for many years. Eddie Bryan, Jimmy Grubbs, Eddie Paschall, Paul Hatfield, Trucker (Wayne Beck), his friends of many, many years, Tom and Christine Powell, Carolyn McClain, Libby Griggs, Nancy Quinn, Ann Fowler Smith, his sons, and his step-daughter Kim. Incidentally John A. has 12 grand children, 11 great grand children.. And you will find MLB Umpire Joe West there as many times as he can get to town,

cont. next page

and after a few beers, you can be assured he will be up on the bandstand singing his favorite Merle Haggard songs. You never know who will walk through the door from the Grand Ole

Opry, or maybe some big artist who just completed a concert at the Bridgestone Arena downtown, and wants to have dinner, and to see and meet John A. The catfish and lasagna are awesome!!!!! John A's is a special place for special people, and those special people are the ones that enter into this building to enjoy themselves. But to be able to sit in the most important corner of John A's world is not a given by any means.

John founded a group that he named the Ladies of the Black Widows, and they meet on the second Friday of every month for dinner. John named this group of ladies the Black Widows because they have lost a husband (or two or three, etc.) Their theme song is"I'll Be Glad When Your Dead, You Rascal You."

John, Boxcar and Lloyd Lindroth (Deceased)

How I was lucky enough to sit in that corner is another story, but I will tell you this, I have been privileged and honored to be accepted by John A. and his friends, and not one day goes by that I can understand why I was allowed to be a part of their group, and when I say that sitting in the most important corner of Nashville is an honor, you probably would not understand, unless you get the opportunity to be with these people on a regular basis. They have brought me in like one of their own, and they have become my friends. It is a special society of people that sit with John A is his own special corner of the world. If you find me in that corner on any given night, you can bet I will be in the middle of their discussions and most of the time they are really riding me, but I would not have it any other way. There is more business transacted by good old fashioned conversation on how to do something, how to help someone, how to change things for the better and to meet the challenges of everyday life, and then there is the guys just shooting the breeze about everything in general.

On the last Saturday of every month for the past three years, John A has established a tradition of having an open and free breakfast, for his friends, the politicians, those that are in office and those who might be running for office, and anyone who walks through the doors. If you have never attended, then you have no doubt missed the best breakfast meet and greet you have ever been to. John A. takes over the festivities with microphone in hand as he introduces those politician's friends and wears them out-dealing with tax

issues, road construction, new laws, old laws, and any kind of politics that is ongoing in local, State, and even Federal government. And you can always depend on John to have an idea or two of his thinking of things should be done. Governor's, Mayor's, Congressmen, Senators, Alderman, Judges, Gaylord's CEO, Opry Stars, music stars, and booking agents like me, are all invited to partake of one helluva breakfast, AND IT IS FREE. You need to be there by 8:30AM. Remember, it is the last Saturday of every month and I promise you that you will not be hungry when you leave, you will laugh, and you will learn about City, State, and Federal government,

and John A. will be the man with the gavel. It has become a tradition for the past 3 years, and I hope it never ends. John A. is theMASTER OF INSTIGATION. If you come to the breakfast and expect to hide somewhere in the building, that will never happen, because John A. Hobbs is the perfect host, and those that walk through the doors are 99% his friends, or soon to be friends, or just spectators that found out there is a free breakfast, not knowing what they are about to hear and see. It is part of my monthly

calendar. I could tell stories of how he had a Judge who dealt with divorces, and John A. wanted me and my lady friend Julie to know that the Judge was there on this particular Saturday Breakfast, and he could marry us right then and there and if it didn't work out, the Judge could also grant a divorce. The place must have laughed for an hour about how John A. got me and Julie up in front of everyone and put us both to the test.

I don't think Randy Travis, Alan Jackson, Ricky Van Shelton, Lorrie Morgan, and others, would be where they are today if it were not for John Hobbs. The Nashville Palace was a place where some of the stars of today were given the opportunity to perform in front of the many fans that filled the Palace nightly. I remember on one Monday night I was playing with my band and I could see back in the kitchen, there was a guy washing dishes and working hard. About an hour into the evening Libby Hatcher (She was manager of the Nashville Palace at the time) came up to the bandstand and asked if I would let Randy sing, and I said "I guess that is alright." I invited him up to sing and when he was finished with his two songs, I told the guys in the band, 'this guy is a good country singer, but he has no stage presence and he will have a hard time being successful in this business." Little did I know what was going to soon happen, but John Hobbs gave Randy his first start. The list is endless of the people that John has helped not just in the music business, but throughout his life. There have been young singers down on their luck or sleeping in their cars, that John A. helped with a hotel room and food, or just friends who are in need. There are so many people who John A. Hobbs has helped, and if it were not for his advice and generosity, they would not have been able to pursue their music dream. Some we know, and some we do not know, and he is the only one who knows them all, but he is still helping from his special corner of his world.

Let me not forget the great music people that play music at John A's. Dan Schafer on Mond, Tues. & Wed. night. Dan's credits in country music as a guitarist are as good as anyone I know. Just the fact that he worked for Shania Twain is enough or me, but there was also George Jones, Barbara Mandrell, and Lorrie Morgan. Dan will play your requests, old songs, new songs, his original songs, everything from the 50's to the present. A one man show, and one of the best in Nashville.

And I assure you that Thursday through Sunday night you will hear one of the best four piece bands in Music City-John A's Band.Jerry Skeen-Keyboard/Vocals, Shar Stephens-Base/Vocals, Randy Smith-Guitar/Vocals, & Mike Romeo-Drums/Vocals. They are the music makers on Thurs, Fri. Sat. & Sun. You will hear Ray Price, Kitty Wells, Jamey Johnson, New York-New York, Neil Diamond, but when the night is completed, you will have heard some of the greatest harmony in music, and they are super musicians, and most of all great people. On any given night, John allows the new artists the opportunity to get up and showcase their talents. Sunday nights are Open Mike for anyone who wants to get up and play or sing with the band, but you never know who will join them on stage on any night.

So if you live in Nashville and never have taken the time to go out to John A's, make it a point to drop in and enjoy some great food, great music, and great people, and take a minute and walk back into John A's Corner of the World and meet one of the great people in Nashville and Country Music. It is on Music Valley Drive right behind the Radission Hotel. You will never be a stranger when you walk out the doors. Recently John had a luncheon for his friend, former LA Dodger manager, Tommy LaSorda, and I was honored to be invited, and seated at the tables were some influential people, one being Jeff Fisher, coach of the Tennessee Titan's. When Jeff walked through the door and sat down, I could tell he was not sure of what to do, but before he left he told John, "I did not know this place was here, but I promise you, this is not my last time here-I love it, and thanks for inviting me."

This is too short of the real story, but to write it properly, it cannot be done at this time, because John A. is still running the ball, making decisions, building new relationship, helping others, guiding the future of his world where he you can laugh, talk, listen to great country music, meet new friends, see old friends, and the stars of country music.

A special thank you to John A's sister JoAnn for her special help with information that she supplied to me so I could complete this article on John A. Hobbs and His Corner of the World.

Story by Marty Martel

2010 A Year Of Change For Country Music, Radio, And NMG

By Phil Sweetland

In 2010, Nashville saw a great many changes and one constant.

The constant was Taylor Swift, the Big Machine superstar who was the top-selling artist in any genre in 2009 and the only one to sell a million copies of her album in one week this year. The new album, "Speak Now," is Swift's most autobiographical to date. Taylor, now 20, wrote all the songs herself.

One of the many changes on Music Row this year was the sale of the Nashville Music Guide last winter from original co-founder Dan Wunsch to Randy Matthews, a highly successful Oklahoma entrepreneur with a passion for country music and for Nashville.

Brad Fischer, Dan's original co-founder of NMG in 1995, passed in February at age 73.

Randy, his wife Kymberly and nephew Joe and office manager Glenda Montgomery, aggressively expanded and relaunched the NMG both in print and on the Web, and also grew its market and coverage areas to include the Texas dance halls for the first time in NMG history.

In the first two days of May, Nashville and Middle Tennessee were devastated by rain and floods whose effects were still being felt months later. The Opryland Hotel reopened around Thanksgiving after a Herculean effort, but the adjacent Opry Mills Mall remained closed except for one or two stores.

Meanwhile, 2010 was a strong year financially for country radio, as an advertising rebound improved the bottom line for many broadcasters.

But it was likewise a very successful time for Sirius XM, the satellite radio company whose 100-plus music stations feature no commercials at a time when many morning drive country stations often include 20 minutes per hour of ads and more and more listeners are turning to portable tech devices for their music. Sirius XM, which broadcasters have long claimed was doomed to failure since it charges its users about $15/month, instead surpassed 20 Million subscribers for the first time and saw its share price climb.

Country radio's brutally slow playlists were demonstrated when a Lee Brice single lingered for over 52 weeks on the charts. Many in the press and in radio celebrated the achievement, but it was instead a harsh demonstration of how broken the current play and promotion models have become.

On the other hand, country radio had an excellent year at helping create new stars including Zac Brown, Easton Corbin, and Josh Thompson. Their music returned country radio to its blue-collar, working-class roots, and showed that listeners longed for male stars who went thru the same real-life struggles they were feeling in the Great Recession, and who weren't just pretty boys off reality shows.

At the 2010 CMA Awards in November, the big winners were Brad Paisley, Miranda Lambert, and Blake Shelton, signaling a changing of the guard from the longtime winners including George Strait, Kenny Chesney, and even the 2009 CMA champion Taylor Swift.

From a financial standpoint, not only did the sale of physical country CDs continue to slip more than 10%, but the touring industry got pounded as well. Fans began staying away from concerts in droves over the summer, feeling that promoters had priced themselves out of the market in the Recession with ticket costs that kept skyrocketing despite the tough economic times.

This will also be remembered as the year that the most powerful Row label executive of them all, Sony Music's Joe Galante, resigned after over 35 years with the company. This happened about two years after Tokyo-based Sony bought BMG, the German-based conglomerate whose Nashville operations had been run very successfully by Galante for years.

The new man in charge at Sony Music was a Nashville veteran from outside the company, EMI Music Publishing's Gary Overton. The fact that Overton came from one of Sony's biggest competitors showed that the company's owners wanted new management strategies and ideas, and several longtime executives, notably Sony's former head of radio promotion Tom Baldrica, departed the company.

This was also the year that the Walt Disney Company's country label, Lyric Street Records, closed its doors after more than 12 years in business. LSR was the label home of one of the most successful country bands in history, Rascal Flatts, whose eye-popping CD sales and tour numbers the last decade were often the talk of the industry.

But try as they might, Lyric Street struggled to break any other artists. Eventually, the massive cost that brings so many record companies down – radio promotion – became too much for Disney to bear. Rascal moved on to Big Machine, the label home of Taylor Swift.

Another trend in 2010 was the Zac Brown Band's success with another comparatively new label, Bigger Picture. The ZBB is an active business and financial partner with its label in touring, marketing, and promotion, heralding a biz model that many other artists and labels seek to emulate as 2011 dawns.

PRODUCER'S SPOTLIGHT

Ron Haffkine

by James Rea

December

Despite contracting polio at age 12 and being completely paralyzed for 2 yrs, part of God's plan, among other things, for Ron Haffkine to become a "Historic Figure" in ROCK N' ROLL history started to take shape, in the early 70's.

At 21, Ron was a self-professed "average" musician, but his love for music drew him to Grenwich Village, in his home town of New York, where he wound up becoming buddies with famed songwriter Shel Silverstein, who was 28 at the time and had already penned numerous hits. Ron had formed and was managing a band called The Gurus at the time and he wanted them to record. So he walked into Regent Sound and explained to a not yet famous engineer named Bill Simpson, who later produced The Eagles, that he wanted to make a record, but knew nothing about the process and Bill said he'd like to help. During the sessions, Ron would tell Bill: "I'd like to hear this or I'd like to hear that, or…there's not enough of this or there's too much of that" and Ron produced his first project. When finished, Ron played it for his buddy Shel and he was so impressed that he told Ron about a couple of films that he was writing the music for and he needed someone on the inside to produce the music for both films and protect his creative interests. The two films were "Who is Harry Kellerman", which initially wasn't a hit, but later become a cult film, in which Dustin Hoffman, who had already done The Graduate, Midnight Cowboy and Little Big Man, played a songwriter and "Ned Kelly" starring Mick Jagger. The soundtrack of the 1970 film features Silverstein songs performed by Waylon Jennings, and Kris Kristofferson.



Although he was broke at the time, Ron recognized the opportunity and took "the gig" for free. One scene in the Hoffman film required a band on stage, but Ron didn't like the band, so he recommended a band called DR. Hook, that he'd heard in a bar called The Sands, in Union City, New Jersey, where they were playing for $ 40 bucks a week. But the producers, Shell and Dustin all said "No". Un-relentless, Ron said he would pay for a showcase on the condition that they all attend. They all attended and they all agreed to use Dr. Hook in the film. Ron was astute enough to know that he had to get a record deal for the band before the movie came out, so he called and got in to see Clive Davis at CBS, on the clout of Hoffman's name. Once in, Ron tried to talk Clive into letting Dr. Hook do a live showcase in his office but Clive wasn't interested, so Ron bluffed Davis into believing that Ahmet Ertegun, President of Atlantic Records, would. Clive agreed… So Haffkine, in preparation for the meeting told the drummer to turn over Clive's wastepaper basket and use it as a drum. He told the keyboard player to jump up on Clive's desk and kick off whatever is in the way and he told Ray to never sing anymore than 2 ft away from Clive's face. To get the guys up for the task, he had them drink "half a bottle of booze" before they went in. Clive was immediately knocked out and called his business affairs guy Elliot Goldman, (who later became president of RCA) and told him to take Ron into his office and "don't come out until they were signed.

From hanging out with Schel Silverstein, Ron had learned the difference between good songs and great songs and was also quickly becoming Dr. Hook's #1 A&R man, as well as their producer and manager. Later, after Sylvia's Mother Ron locked horns again with Clive Davis for 3 months over Silverstein's Cover of the Rolling Stone because of the lyrics "We take all kinds of pills to get all kinds of thrills" and "I got a freaky old lady named Cocaine Katy". Ron said: "If you put out another Sylvia's Mother…Dr. Hook is done! Clive finally exhausted, went back and told the label to release it. Ron, against all opinions, now interjects on the record all the fun talking "Hey Ray…etc" and now Clive wanted drums on it but Ron said: "Don't **** with it…it's perfect just the way it is". Cover of the Rolling Stone was not their biggest hit, but it turned out to be the most significant song of Dr. Hook's career.

Ron recalled: "I went up to see, Jann Wenner, one of the founders of Rolling Stone Magazine, I walked in and said; "You guys are a bunch of piss-ants". Jann said "WHAT?" Ron said: "I've just given you guys the best commercial for that rag you'll ever get" and the rest became music history. They sent Cameron Crowe who later wrote and directed "Jerry McGuire" to do the interview, who at the time was their 16 yr. old wiz-kid reporter and in March, 1973, issue 131, Dr. Hook and the Medicine Show appeared on the cover of Rolling Stone thanks to the very savvy Ron Haffkine. Later albums produced by Ron featured Sharing The Night Together, When You're In Love With A Beautiful Woman, Sexy Eyes, Baby Makes Her Blue Jeans Talk and their biggest hit A Little Bit More, which Ron found at a flee market in San Francisco for 35 cents.

Ron moved to Nashville in 1975 and at 72 yrs old still resides here, on Old Hickory Lake in Hendersonville, with his wife Sydney. In all, Ron produced 10 studio albums and 2 live albums on Dr. Hook, which garnered 10 top tens on the pop charts in the US and 67 gold and platinum awards world wide. To music historians, it's no secret that at least two of Ron's albums are ranked and archived, with the best music produced in the Seventies. Like the band he discovered and put on the cover, "Legendary" record producer, manager, A&R man Ron Haffkine is still in a class of his own.



I remember thinking at the time; "They did it…They got The Cover…Perfect"

To me…that was HUGE...and it still is.

PRODUCER'S SPOTLIGHT

David Z

by James Rea

January

David Z. (David Rivkin) is a legendary music producer, engineer, mixer, and writer from Minneapolis, Minnesota who currently resides in Nashville, Tennessee. He is most well known for his long-standing work with Prince, but has also contributed to award winning albums by Etta James, Billy Idol, Neneh Cherry. He also produced the USA #1 single "She Drives Me Crazy" by Fine Young Cannibals, creating the song's signature snare drum sound.

David is eldest of three brothers each of who work in media entertainment. His youngest brother Bobby Z. was the original drummer in Prince's band The Revolution whilst his middle brother Stephen E. Rivkin is notable for his work as a film editor, particularly as editor of the Pirates Of The Caribbean trilogy of films. He has four children. Charley Rivkin, Amy Joy Rivkin, Joshua Rivkin and Shelby Rivkin.

After spending much of his teenage years in a variety of local rock'n'roll bands around Minneapolis, Z. spent time between Minneapolis and Los Angeles throughout the early 1970s songwriting and engineering. His early work is perhaps most known over this period in his writing contributions for Gram Parsons' first solo LP GP, particularly the track 'How Much I've Lied', before going on to play a major role in establishing not only the Minneapolis sound but through his innovative use of drum machines, loops and samples, much of the production aesthetic now synonymous with music from the 1980s.

During the mid-1970s, David encountered Prince playing around the Minneapolis scene. The pair went on to record a set of demos with Z. engineering which ultimately led to Prince signing a recording deal with Warner Bros. Records. Although much of the detail of Z.'s exact contributions to Prince's albums is lost in the myth surrounding Prince and his prolific writing and recording, it is clear that his input, recording technique and production are intertwined intrinsically in to those recordings. His most well documented contributions to Prince's folio of work are his writing, production and engineering on 1985 hit Kiss - originally a song given to the band Mazarati by Prince for their debut album which Z. was producing- and most notably, his recording and engineering of Purple Rain.

Z. continues to work successfully in the field of film soundtracks and scoring. Aside from his early work with Prince on Purple Rain and Under The Cherry Moon, Z.'s work can be heard on the 1996 John Travolta film Michael directed by Nora Ephron, where he produced songs by Al Green and Kenny Wayne Shepherd. His songs with Tevin Campbell "Stand Down" and "I 2 I" are featured in Disney's film A Goofy Movie.

David 's phenomenal career has been blessed with the opportunity to work with some of the most significant artists of our time…Z's body of work includes Jonny Lang, Fine Young Cannibals, Steve Cropper and Felix Caveliere, John Mayall, Eric Clapton, Kenny Wayne Shepherd, Collective Soul, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Government Mule, Elvis Costello, Billy Idol, Janet Jackson, Big Head Todd And the Monsters, Neneh Cherry, Gram Parsons, Freddy Jones Band, Buddy Guy, The Jets, Jody Watley, Leo Kottke, Sisters Of Mercy, Al Green, Sheila E, Jermaine Jackson, Jesse Johnson, The Go- Go's, Mark Collie, Tim McGraw / Co Produced with Tony Brown and 2 Grammy's in 2003 and 2004 for his work with Etta James.

Last year David flew to Memphis where The Blues Foundation honored him with the "Keeping The Blues Alive" Producer Lifetime Achievement Award.

David Z will be appearing on The Producer's Chair on Friday, January 28 @ Jefferson's Showcase @ 6pm.

Full details at www.theproducerschair.com

NOTE: January 28, 2011 will be the first taping of the The Producer's Chair in the new location at Jefferson's. To reserve seats for the show, please contact James Rea @ 615.244.7555, or email james@theproducerschair.com



50 YEARS OF HONKY TONKIN'

TOOTSIES CELEBRATION AT THE RYMAN

BY Dan Wunsch

In 1960, Hattie Louis Tatum Bess, aka "Tootsie," purchased a honky tonk on Lower Broadway in Nashville, Tennessee. Who would have ever imagined that 50 years later, the name "Tootsies" would become synonymous with honky tonk music and become known as the world's most famous honky tonk bar. Country stars, music industry and country fans gathered together on Sunday November 7, 2010 to celebrate 50 years of honky tonkin'.

What better place for "The Fifty Year Anniversary Celebration of Tootsies" than the stage of the Ryman, a house that was instrumental to Tootsies legendary status today. The Ryman in the 60's was the home of the Grand Ole Opry, and alcohol was not allowed in the former church building. It just so happened that the stars' entrance to the Ryman and the back door of Tootsies were across from each other in a back alley. Country stars could sneak a drink at Tootsies before and after their performances on the Ryman stage, and Tootsies quickly became their regular hangout.



Photo: Mel Tillis and Kris Kristofferson at the County Music Hall of Fame "Walk Of Fame" Induction Event Prior To The Ryman Celebration.

Some of the legends who made Tootsies their home away from home were Willie Nelson, Faron Young, Roger Miller, Mel Tillis, Tom T Hall, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, Hank Cochran, Webb Pierce and many others. The hundreds of country singers, musicians and songwriters that were patrons of Tootsies is no exaggeration as evidenced by the photos that grace the walls of Tootsies Today.

The night started out with a red carpet media event in a tent on lower Broadway in front of the legendary honky tonk and was followed by a grand "Fifty Year Anniversary Celebration" on the stage of the Ryman. The event at the Ryman started at 7:30pm, and hints of a spectacular show to come were quickly evident. The stage filled up with over 200 school children with guitars to accompany Scott Collier on the song "I'm From The Country," a legendary tune written by Stan Webb and fast becoming an anthem symbolic of country music. The sold out audience gave a standing ovation to the performance, one of many such jubilations throughout the night.

It was truly a parade of stars on the stage of the Ryman for this event with performances by Kris Kristofferson, Terri Clark, Little Jimmy Dickens, Mark Chesnutt, Mel Tillis, Randy Houser, Jamey Johnson, Lorrie Morgan, the Grascals, Colt Ford, Mandy Barnett and Ronnie McDowell. Many would relate their own personal experiences about Tootsies, crediting the start of their careers with giggin' in the honky tonk bar.

Mel graced the Ryman stage with the tune "It's A Love Revival" and then showcased his comedic side with countless jokes that had the audience in stitches. Mel has put the icing on the cake of a successful entertaining career with a recently released comedy album, which is currently in the top ten of comedy album sales. Little Jimmy Dickens, aka "Willie Nelson after Taxes," also revealed his comedic talent with a pink panther skit where he dressed up in a trench coat and delivered punch line after punch line, filling the Ryman with non-stop laughter. Needless to say, both legends received standing ovations.

The highlight of the evening was, without a doubt, Kris Kristofferson performing his mega-hits: "Me and Bobby McGee," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," and "Help Me Make It Thru the Night." The Country Hall of Famer has a long tradition with Tootsies for Willie Nelson and Kris actually lived in the back room of the bar as struggling songwriters. A treat for the audience was Dean Miller, the son of the late Roger Miller, performing his dad's hit, "King of the Road." Another highlight was Ronnie McDowell who seduced all the older ladies in the audience with his crowd-pleasing 1981 hit, "Older Women." His standing ovation was well desired, and he proved once again he is one of the best singers and entertainers in the business. Another superb vocalist performance was from Mandy Barnett singing the Patsy Cline hit, "Crazy." If you closed your eyes, you'd have a flashback of Patsy Cline gracing the same stage and singing her signature hit.

Terry Clark showcased her versatility as a performer by doing an acoustic set of country standards. She credits Tootsies with being a big part of "her rise to fame story," for Tootsies is where she performed on a regular basis before "being discovered." Another performer, who played at Tootsies before his record deal, was Randy Houser, who sang a couple of new originals songs, one entitled "Dog House" which promises to be one of his next hits. He was joined on stage by Jamey Johnson, who ended the set by singing his hit, "In Color."

The core of the Tootsies success story, from the time Ms. Bess opened her honky tonk club to the present, is the undiscovered and unknown country singers that perform each night, showcasing their talent to both industry and music fans. In keeping with this tradition, it is not surprising that along with the performances of "the stars", the Ryman show featured Tootsies current crop of new artists, Scott Collier, Nathan Young, Dallas Sword and Joanna Smith. Smith is Tootsies' most recent success story having just signed a major recording contract after playing at Tootsies regularly for four years.

In closing, Tootsie herself must have been smiling down on the Ryman on November 7th with all the great music that was played that night in her honor and knowing, because of her, honky tonk music is alive and well in Music City.

"The Good Times" Ahead For Brandon Jackson

Story by Abby Gibson
Photos by Devon Strickland

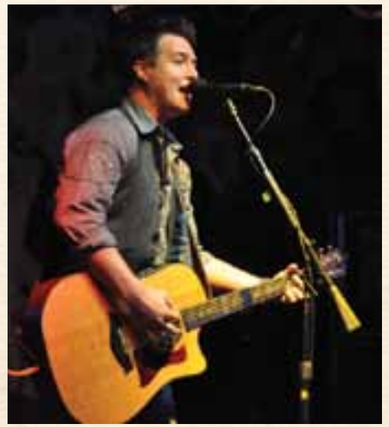
If you are familiar with the Red Dirt/Texas scene then the name Brandon Jackson should not be new to you. What you might not know is that Brandon has been performing since the age of 5. "The very first performance I ever had I sang a duet with my dad at church," Brandon says. "He plays guitar, banjo, and mandolin, so I grew up singing along with my dad and sister around the house. In ninth grade I started learning how to play the guitar and put a band together. We would play the school talent show and art festivals around Oklahoma. I continued to perform with bands and in the theater throughout high school and college. I pretty much grew up on stage performing, and have never stopped."

Brandon is also one of the many talented artists who have benefited from the Stillwater music scene. "I first started playing in the Stillwater music scene while I was in college. I was in a rock band called Twelve Pearls, and played shows at venues all up and down the Strip as well as fraternity and sorority parties," Brandon explains. Brandon also had a weekly acoustic gig with fellow Twelve Pearls member Jordan Doolen at the original Wormy Dog on the strip in Stillwater. He later started playing acoustic shows with Steve Rice who he had met a couple years earlier when Steve opened up acoustic for 12 Pearls. "He had just joined No Justice and had an acoustic night on Monday nights," Brandon states. "He asked if I wanted to join him one time and we played that acoustic show together for the next 6 years." That meeting led to Brandon joining the regionally successful band No Justice in 2003. "I spent 5 years in the band and enjoyed it greatly, but I reached a point where I just really felt like it was time for me to continue on and try making it on my own," Brandon says. Brandon co-wrote several songs on the self titled No Justice album released in 2006. He continued to write



throughout his time with No Justice. "I had several songs that I had written that I really thought were great tunes but didn't really feel like they would make it on a No Justice album, so I started thinking about my next step," Brandon states.

After leaving No Justice in 2009, Brandon starting writing songs for his first solo album. "Most of the time I write on my own, but have done some co-writing," Brandon explains. "Usually when I write a song I start with the



music. Music is by far my strong suit, lyrics are not so much. I have to really work to get some great lyrics down. In the past when I've hit a road block on lyrics in a song, I've handed it over to another songwriter to fill in the gaps."

In August of this year Brandon went into the studio to record his first solo album with producer Eric Delegard. "I was pleased and surprised at how the songs took on a life of their own in the studio," Brandon says. "I had no preconceived notions of how it would sound and it was cool to hear the songs grow up from the song I wrote on my acoustic guitar to the big full sound they had at the end. It has some real rock sounding songs and some great country sounding songs. It is truly my music."

Brandon's album that is expected to drop in February will be titled "The Good Times."

"I wanted the title of the album to be a song from the album," Brandon says. "It also represents how things are now and my optimism about the future."

Brandon will then be hitting the road with a full band to promote the album release. Until then he travels throughout Oklahoma and Texas playing acoustic shows. "Acoustic shows for the most part are more intimate and they make it easier to interact with fans during the show and take requests," Brandon says, "while full band shows tend to be just that, a show. You have a set list and you give the crowd an experience through your music. Those shows tend to have a little more structure so you can take the crowd on a musical ride so to speak."

Brandon hopes the fans like his sound and can relate to what he worked so hard to create. "If one of my songs can give a fan something that creates a moment in their life, brings back a great memory or just gives them something they understand and can relate to, then I feel I've done a good job," Brandon says. "I can think of certain songs that take me back to a time in my life the minute I hear it. There is nothing cooler than that."

Phil Sweetland's

Biz Buzz:

CMA Awards Advertisers Opportunity for Artists, Labels

It's much easier to sell someone who's already your customer, and many of America's biggest corporations just invested millions of dollars in country music.

If you're a country artist, manager, or label, you might be able to approach these same companies as possible investors or business partners for your music.

The corporations we're talking about are the firms that bought the pricey, prime-time ads during the Nov. 10 CMA Awards Show telecast. Just about all of us on the Row and at radio watch the show – or are in the audience at the Bridgestone Arena – but it's vitally important to know who sponsored it.

TV advertising for awards shows is packaged in what are called "ad blocks" – groups of several ads of varying lengths that appear several times each hour in the 3-hour broadcast.

The very first block at the CMAs led off, fittingly, with an ad from Chevy Trucks. No company has been more prominent in CMA telecasts in recent years than Chevrolet.

That may make a perfect opportunity for you and your music. Maybe you could approach your local Chevy or Chevy trucks dealer and thank them for their sponsorship of the CMAs. Then you could pitch the dealer on having you do a performance or a live radio remote at their dealership.

That would give the Chevy dealer a chance to draw more people into his lot, and give you a chance to expand your audience. You likely wouldn't be able to charge the dealer much for your show, but you could certainly sell a boatload of CDs and merch. Besides, it would be in the dealer's best interest to promote your show as a special event, and that helps you expand your brand to a demographic that clearly gets and loves country music.

Olay, Progresso, Best Buy, and J.C. Penney were also featured in that opening ad block. Again, opportunities abound with those companies. Best Buy and J.C. Penney are giant retailers who rely on the Christmas season for a huge chunk of their annual sales. How about approaching those stores in your area about doing an in-store appearance?

Even though country has radio has traditionally drawn a female-based audience that is a little older than other formats – the so-called "Soccer Mom" audience – the advertisers are also investing in country's growing interest among other segments as well. The Toys'R'Us and Friskies Cat Food ads in the third commercial block obviously targeted females and moms, but another advertiser there was the Apple iPad. Tech products typically are targeted more at male and younger auds.

Again, think of the chances that may give you, your station, or your artist. Seen how many cell phone stores have popped up around town lately? Even Wal-Mart, which traditionally a huge biz partner for country, was a company whose only ad at the CMAs this year was about portable phone service.

Could you do a live remote at a new cell phone store? Lord knows, they're busy places nowadays as everybody wants to see and buy the new phones and the new apps. And check out a big-box retailer who bought a ton of CMA ads when Wal-Mart didn't. That would be Target.

Like Chevy, Target not only bought the ads but produced several customized for a country audience. One Target ad featured Keith Urban backstage. Various Chevy ads included Hank Williams's "Move It On Over" and even the vintage country classic "You Are My Sunshine," which was written in 1940 by Jimmie Davis, who scored 5 Top 10 country hits between 1944 and 1948, while he was Governor of Louisiana.

These custom ads cost far more to create than a stock ad that Chevy or Target already had in the can. That's big bucks. So as we often say to those who feel the music business is in desperate trouble, the fact is that the money is still out there. It's your job to find it, since the record companies that used to be the storehouse of so much music financing can no longer foot that bill.

Target even featured a custom ad for the new Taylor Swift album, a spot that ran moments after Taylor's live performance on the CMAs. Again, classy advertising and great planning by the CMA, the artist, her label, and by Target. And even though it's far easier for Taylor to attract Target interest and bucks than for a new artist, the fact that Target has already invested big bucks in the country format make them an easier sell than a non-CMA advertiser.

Finally, CMA advertisers later in the show like the AT&T Windows Phone or even Victoria's Secret could well provide some creative marketing opportunities for your music. And the number of awards shows on TV seems to increase each year. Another country awards show – this one on FOX – the brand-new American Country Awards on Dec. 6.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb. 13 – GRAMMY Awards, Los Angeles
March 2-4 – CRS 2011, Nashville Convention Center

Smeraldo's Destination Location

Smeraldo's Restaurant: Last of the Legendary Nashville Haunts

In its heyday, the Hearth restaurant and nightclub on Gallatin Road in Madison was the place to party and be seen. One of Nashville's most elegant nightspots, it was where the best musicians played, the stars drank (often too much), and the politicians danced. But by the early 1980s, the club wasn't the destination it had been during the previous decades.

Then Biagio Sosta came to town.

A native of Nicosia, Sicily in southern Italy, the industrious Sosta had operated a number of restaurants and pizza parlors in New York, Florida and Georgia before coming to Nashville nearly three decades ago. In 1983 Sosta bought the club, renaming it Smeraldo's, after the Italian word for "emerald."

Not much has changed inside since the days of the Hearth; Smeraldo's still maintains much of the same ambience it did when Sosta bought the club, with original wallpaper and fixtures that hearken back to a more carefree time when Nashville was more about real country music and personalities and perhaps less about commerce. The building has character, with a couple letters burned out on the neon sign on the side of the side of the building and the same huge parking lot in the back that was once filled every night.

"The economy has changed everything," Sosta said in his thick Italian accent, from behind the bar in the classic basement, which features two pool tables and large-screen television, as well as a stage and dance floor which now only sees action on the weekends. "It's not the same, but we keep on going."

For many years Smeraldo's featured live bands six, even seven nights a week. But like so many club owners, Sosta has had to scale back as times have changed, though the club still features live music on weekends. Lately, the Rockin' Oswalds have been holding court on Friday and Saturday nights. The band is comprised of four veteran Nashville musicians, including drummer Randy Davis, who is also a co-owner of Crest Records, the label that at one time featured such artists as Eddie Cochran, Jimmy Bowen and Glen Campbell and recently issued new product by country singer Johnny Rodriguez. Davis said the band is happy to be working at a place with so much history.

"We love the acoustics in there, for one thing," Davis said. "And we love the atmosphere as well; it's got that retro atmosphere like the old days, and it's a classy place. And Biagio is great to work for. He expects us to be professionals, and we like that and respect it." The Rockin' Oswalds play a mixture of Americana, classic rock, country and more, and often invite guest musicians, such as top Nashville session vocalist Bekka Bramlett, to sit in.

"A lot of well known musicians have worked at Smeraldo's over the years, guys with the Opry and lots of professional players," Davis said. "It's a great place, it's a fun gig and there's a lot of history there."

Sosta said that bands like the Rockin' Oswalds, though, are just one in a long line of acts that have performed at the club. Sosta has seen countless bands come and go in his establishment, and most of those musicians were happy to just be making gas money on a Saturday night. One member of one of those bands decided not to settle for spending his life playing drums in a cover band. He was now-legendary songwriter Craig Wiseman, and Sosta remembers him well.

"Craig was always writing, and always trying to beat me at Pac-Man," Sosta laughed, "but he never did. But I'm proud of him, he did so well for himself. He's one rich guy now."

There's a lot more to Smeraldo's than the music, though. Noted for his fine cuisine that originates from all regions of Italy, Sosta's menu is Italian all the way, and is reasonably priced.

"I'm probably too reasonable," Sosta said, rolling his eyes. A number of spaghetti dishes and lasagnas are available, and Sosta's own homemade sausage makes his dishes unlike anything else in the area. "Everything is made with love and passion," he said. And to cater to the working man, the club's downstairs bar offers free pool in the bar from 5-7 p.m. daily with a variety of bar food available.

"This is a place where people come to relax," Sosta said in a thick Italian accent. "I stay out of people's business, just serve them and let them have a good meal and a good time. Smeraldo's is open seven nights a week from 4 p.m. until close, which can be as late as 2 a.m. on a weekend night if the band draws a crowd.

Sosta said that, while people come and go, he still maintains a clientele of people who have called his restaurant their second home for years. "I've got a lot of good friends here," he said, "and I've been very fortunate to have had the success and the great life I have in Nashville."

For more information or reservations, call Smeraldo's at 615-865-6533.

By Rick Moore



Biagio Sosta, owner of Smeraldo's Restaurant on Gallatin Road in Madison.



Rockin' Oswalds rocking Smeraldo's (Photo by Eileen Sisk)



Smeraldo's Restaurant is legendary in Nashville.

NASHVILLE MUSIC VENUES

12TH & PORTER 114 12th Ave N
615-734-1981 * www.12thandporterlive.com
3 CROWS BAR 1024 Woodland St.
615-262-3345 * www.3crowsbar.com
3RD & LINDSLEY 810 3rd Ave N
615-259-9801 * www.3rdandlindsley.com
5 SPOT 1006 Forest Ave
615-650-9333 * www.the5spotlive.com
ADVENTURE SCIENCE CENTER 800 Fort Negley
615-862-5160 * www.adventuresci.com
THE BASEMENT 1604 8th Ave S
615-254-8006 * www.thebasementnashville.com
BB KINGS BLUES BAR 152 2nd Ave N
615-256-2727 * www.bbkingblues.com
BELCOURT THEATRE 2151 Belcourt Ave
615-383-9140 * www.belcourt.org
BIG BANG PIANO BAR 413 Broadway
615-747-5851 * www.thebigbangbar.com
BIKINI BEACH BAR 1207 Antioch Pike
615-831-1370 * www.bikinibeachbar.com
BLUE BARRACK ROOM 1911 Broadway
615-327-8001 * www.myspace.com/bluebarracknashville
BLUEBIRD CAFÉ 4104 Hillsboro Rd
615-383-1461 * www.bluebirdcafe.com
BOBBY'S IDLE HOUR 1028 16th Ave S
615-726-0446 * www.myspace.com/bobbysidlehour
BONGO JAVA AFTER HOURS 2007 Belmont Blvd
615-385-1188 * www.bongojava.com
BOURBON STREET 220 Printers Alley
615-242-5837 * www.bourbonstreetblues.com
BRIDGESTONE ARENA 501 Broadway
615-770-200 * www.bridgestonearena.com
BROKEN SPOKE 1412 Brick Church * 615-226-3230
CABANA 1919 Belcourt Ave
615-577-2262 * www.cabananashville.com
CADILLAC RANCH 306 Broadway
615-747-9078 * www.cadillacranchnashville.com
CAFÉ COCO 200 Louise Ave
615-321-2626 * www.cafecoco.com
CANNERY-MERCY LOUNGE 1 Cannery Row
615-251-3020 * www.mercylounge.com
CARIBBEAN HUT 1316 Antioch Pike
615-832-3547 * www.myspace.com/thecaribbeanhut
CITY HALL 408 12th Ave S
615-313-9846 * www.myspace.com/cityhallnashville
CLOSING BELL 1524 Demonbreun * 615-255-6004
COMMODORE 2613 West End Ave
615-327-4707 * www.debichampion.com
COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME 222 5th Ave S
615-416-2001 * www.countrymusichalloffame.com
COYOTE UGLY 154 2nd Ave N
615-254-8459 * www.coyoteuglysaloon.com
CRAGNACKERS 4700 Old Hickory Blvd.
615-889-6242 * www.cragnackers.com
CROSSROADS 419 Broadway
615-650-9333 * www.nashvillecrossroadsbar.com
DAN MCGUINESS 1538 Demonbreun
615-252-1991 * www.danmcguinnesspub.com
DECADES 207 Broadway
615-354-7420 * www.decadesnashville.com
DOUGLAS CORNER 2106A 8th Ave S
615-298-1888 * www.douglascorner.com
EDGEHILL STUDIOS 1201 Villa Place
615-301-8539 * www.edgehillstudios.com
THE END 2219 Elliston Place
615-321-44557 * www.myspace.com/theendnashville
EXIT/IN 2208 Elliston Place
615-321-3340 * www.exitin.com
F. SCOTT'S 2210 Crestmoor Dr
615-269-5861 * www.fscotts.com
THE FACTORY 230 Franklin Rd
615-794-4777 * www.factoryatfranklin.com
FIDDLE & STEEL 210 Printers Alley
615-251-9002 * www.fiddleandsteel.com
FLYING SAUCER 111 10th Ave S
615-259-3039 * www.beerknurd.com
FRENCH QUARTER CAFÉ 823 Woodland St
615-227-3100 * www.frenchquartercafe.com
FRIST 919 Broadway
615-244-3340 * www.thefrist.org
FUEL 114 2nd Ave S
615-379-2120 * www.fuelbarandnightclub.com
GABE'S 1402 Artic Ave * 615-226-2919
GAYLORD OPRYLAND 2800 Opryland Dr
615-889-1000 * www.gaylordhotels.com
GOLD RUSH 2208 Elliston Place
615-321-1160 * www.goldrushnashville.com
GRAHAM 126 2nd Ave N 651-251-9583
www.grahamcentralstationnashville.com
GRAND OLE OPRY HOUSE 2804 Opryland Dr
615-871-6779 * www.opry.com
HARD ROCK CAFE 100 Broadway
615-742-9900 * www.hardrockcafe.com
HOLLYWOOD DISCO 1907 Division St
615-329-3472 * www.hollywooddisconashville.com
HOTEL PRESTON 733 Bilby Pkwy
615-361-5900x7800 * www.hotelpreston.com
HOTEL INDIGO 1719 West End Ave
615-329-3843 * www.hotelindigo.com
HOUSE OF ROCK 901 Cowen St * 615-291-9977
JOHN A'S 2421 Music Valley Dr
615-885-1540 * www.johnasrestaurant.co
LEGEND'S CORNER 428 Broadway
615-248-6334 * www.legendscorner.com
LIMELIGHT 201 Woodland
615-780-3099 * www.limelightnashville.com
LIPSTICK LOUNGE 1400 Woodland
615-226-6343 * www.thelipstricklounge.com
LISTENING ROOM 209 10th Ave S STE# 200
651-259-3600 * www.listeningroomcafe.com
LONNIE'S WESTERN ROOM 208 Printers Alley
615-251-1122 * www.lonniewesternroom.com
LORETTA LYNN RANCH 44 Hurricane Mills Rd
931-296-2800 * www.lorettalynn.com
LOSERS 1911 Division St
615-327-3115 * www.losersbar.com
LOVELESS CAFÉ 8400 Hwy 100
615-646-9700 * www.lovelesscafe.com
MAD DONNA'S 1313 Woodland
615-226-1617 * www.maddonnasnashville.com
MAXWELL HOUSE 2025 Rosa L Parks Blvd
615-259-4343 * www.millenniumhotels.com
MCFADDEN'S IRISH PUB 134 2nd Ave N
615-256-9140 * www.mcfaddensnashville.com
MISS JEANNE'S DINNER THEATER 600 5th Ave S
615-902-9566 * www.missjeannes.com
MS. KELLI'S KARAOKE BAR
207 Printers Alley * 615-255-4423
MUNICIPAL AUDITORIUM 417 4th Ave N
615-862-6300 * www.nashvilleauditorium.com
THE MUSE 835 4th Ave S
615-251-0100 * www.themusenashville.com
MUSIC CITY BAR 2416 Music Valley Dr
615-883-2367 * www.musiccitybar.com
MUSICIANS HALL OF FAME 301 6th Ave S
615-244-3263 * www.musicianshalloffame.com
NASHVILLE CENTER STAGE 514 4th Ave S
NASHVILLE CONVENTION CENTER 601 Commerce
615-742-2000 * www.nashvilleconventioncenter.com
NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE 2808 Music Valley Dr
615-885-5201 * www.nashvillenightlife.com
NASHVILLE PALACE 2611 McGavock Pk
615-884-3004 www.nashvillepalace.net
PICKS 1407 Division St
615-242-1631 * www.picksnashville.com
REBAR 1919 Division St * 615-345-6258
RED DOOR SALOON 1916 Division St
615-320-4525 * www.thereddoorsaloon.com
RICHARD'S CAFÉ 4420 Whites Creek Pike
615-299-9500 * www.richardscafe.com
ROBERT'S WESTERN WORLD 416 Broadway
615-244-9552 * www.robertswesternworld.com
ROCK BAR 305 Broadway
615-244-7989 * www.myspace.com/rockbarnashville
ROCKETOWN 609 4th Ave S
615-843-4001 * www.rocketown.com
THE RUTLEDGE 410 4th Ave S
615-782-5858 * www.therutledgetix.com
RYMAN AUDITORIUM 116 5th Ave N
615-889-3060 * www.ryman.com
SAMBUCA 601 12th Ave S * 615-248-2888
SCHERMERHORM 1 Symphony Place
615-687-6500 * www.nashvillesymphony.com
SECOND FIDDLE 420 Broadway
615-244-3535 * www.thesecondfiddle.com
SILVERADO'S 1204 Murfreesboro Pike
615-300-2003 * www.originalsilverados.com
SILVERADO'S 7004 Rivergate Pkwy
615-851-4400 * www.silveradosnightclub.com
SOUNDCHECK NASHVILLE 700 Cowen St
615-726-1165 * www.soundchecknashville.com
THE STAGE 412 Broadway
615-726-0504 * www.thestagerobicademy.com
STATION INN 402 12th Ave S
615-255-3307 * www.stationinn.com
TEXAS TROUBADOUR THEATER 2435 Music Valley
615-885-0328 * www.ernestubb.com
TIN ROOF 1515 Demonbreun St
615-313-7303 * www.tinroofbars.com
TN REPERTORY THEATRE 197 Rains Ave
615-244-4878 * www.tennesseerep.org
TOOTSIE'S 422 Broadway
615-726-0463 * www.tootsies.net
TPAC 505 Deaderick St
615-255-2787 * www.tpac.com
WANNA B'S KARAOKE 305 Broadway 615-742-6078
WILDHORSE SALOON 120 2nd Ave N
615-251-1000 * www.wildhorsesaloon.com
WINNER'S 1913 Division St
615-340-0004 * www.losers-w.com
ZANIES COMEDY CLUB 2025 8th Ave S
615-269-0221 * www.zanies.com

COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME & MUSEUM®

Friday, December 03, 7:00am: Coffee, Country, Cody and Christmas
Saturday, December 04, 1:30pm: Interview and performance: Curly Seckler
Sunday, December 05, 1:00pm: Dobro and Guitar Demonstration: Mike Webb and Charlie Collins
Thursday, December 09, 5:00pm: Football at the Hall: Titans Tailgate and Game Screening with Shawn Camp
Saturday, December 11, 11:30am: Songwriter Session: Alissa Moreno and Sarah Buxton
Saturday, December 11, 1:00pm: Family Program: Make Letterpress Art with Hatch Show Print
Saturday, December 11, 1:30pm: Poets and Prophets: Salute to Legendary Country Songwriter Dallas Frazier
Saturday, December 11, 10:00am: A Visit with Santa Claus
Sunday, December 12, 2:00pm: Family Program: Jason Coleman in concert
Sunday, December 12, 1:00pm: Dobro Demonstration: Al Goll
Saturday, December 18, 11:30am: Songwriter Session: Tim Nichols
Saturday, December 18, 1:00pm: Performance and Autograph Signing: Richie McDonald
Sunday, December 19, 1:00pm: Fiddle and Hammered Dulcimer Demonstration: Craig Duncan
Sunday, December 19, 2:00pm: Film Screening: Johnny Cash: A Merry Memphis Christmas (1982)

WEEKLY EVENTS

MONDAY
3RD & LINDSLEY: Battle on 3rd & The Podunk Sessions
BBKINGS: Stacy Mitchhart
BLUEBIRD: Open-Mic h/Barbara Cloyd, 6pm; Mike Henderson Band 9:30
HARD ROCK: Cowbot Troy
PICKS: Open-Mic h/Ray Giles, 7:00pm
NASHVILLE PALACE: James Breedwell Writers Night
TUBB: Tribute to the King

TUESDAY
BASEMENT: new Faces Nite
BBKINGS: Stacy Mitchhart
BLUEBAR: Rich Owens & the Farm Bureau, 9pm
COMMOD: Debi Champion Writer's Night,7pm debichampion@hotmail.com
COYOTE: Singing Coyote; Poker Night
CRAGACKERS: Blues Jam; chuck@mindspring.com
DOUGLAS: Open-Mic h/Donnie Writers
FLYINGSAUCER: Trivia Night; 7:30 pm
FRENCHQUARTER: Nashville Jazz Orchestra, 7pm
HOGWILD: NAA's Musicians Jam; 7:30; thirdcoastlive@yahoo.com
HOOT: James Breedwell Writers Night; nashvillemusicgroup@yahoo.com
NASH NIGHTLIFE: Best of Country Dinner Show
PICKS: Ty Brando Writers' Night; tytunes@comcast.net
TIN ROOF: Billy Block Show

WEDNESDAY
3RD&LINDSLEY: Wooten Brothers, 9:30
BBKINGS: Burning Las Vegas
BLUEBAR: O'Shea, 6pm; Jay Collins, 8pm
CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY: Writers Night, 7pm; 615-687-4600
CLOSING BELL: Jeff Pearson Writers Night
COMMMODORE: Debi Champion Writers Night, 7pm
GRAHAM: Midweek Blow-Out Party
IVORIES PIANO: Delores Hershey & Melissa DuVall
JESSE ZANES: David Reed
Writers.therpundtableentertainment@yahoo.com
INDIGO: Lee Rascone Writers Night; youlookbad@bellsouth.net
PLAY: College Night
SILVERADOS (Rivergate): Game Night
WESTERN SWING: Carolyn Martin & the Nashville Swingers

THURSDAY
3CROWBAR: Trivia Night, 8pm
12TH&PORTER: Lounge, 8pm
BBKING: All Star Show & Blues/Bike Night
BOBBY'S: Songwriters Night, 6pm
CAFECOCO: Open-Mic
COMMODORE: Debi Champion Writer's Night, 7pm
COYOTE: Ladies Night
GRAHAM: College Night
INDIGO: Lee Rascone Writer's Night
IVORIES PIANO: Delores Hershey & Melissa DuVall
MCFADDENS: College Night
NASH RUSH BAR: David Reed Writer's Night
NASH PALACE: James Breedwell Writer's Night
PICKS: Tony Stampley Writer's Night, 7:30pm
PLAY: Ladies Night
SILVERADOS (Rivergate): VIP Night
TUBB: Tribute to the King

FRIDAY
12TH&PORTER: Lounge, 8pm
BBKING: All Stars Show
BLUEBAR: DJ Dance, 9pm
COMMODOR: Rick Steward, Tammy Stewart & Lorna Flowers Writers 7pm
GRAHAM: Weekend Kick-Off Party
INDIGO: Lee Rascone Writers Night
SILVERADOS (Rivergate): Ladies Night

SATURDAY
12TH&PORTER: Lounge, 8pm
BBKING: All Stars Show
CHICKFILA: James Breedwell WritersNite;nashvillemusicguide@yahoo.com
COMMOD: Rick Steward, Tammy Stewart & Lorna Flowers Writers 7pm
GRAHAM: Ryno's Keg Party
PIZZA ITALIA: David Michael Writers Night, 7pm
SILVERADOS (Rivergate): Weekend Blow-Out Party
TUBB: Midnight Jam Taping. 10pm

SUNDAY
BKING: Bart Walker Band
BLUEBIRD: Sunday Spotlight, 6pm; Steve Goodie Writers Night, 8pm
CAFECOCO: Jazz Jam
COMMODORE: Debi Champion Writers Night
INTERNET RADIO: Writers Night Show; nashvilleradioshow@yahoo.com
PIZAA PELON: Out of Sight Writers Night; writersnight@pizzapelon.com
REVIVE LOUNGE: James Breedwell Writers Night
TUBB: Nashville Cowboy Church 10am
TOOTSIES: Locals Only Night

December

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
			1 **12th & Porter:** Neelure & Justin Branam; Ravelli; Ravenhill; Clemency; Josiah Jones **3rd & Lin.:** Stephanie Layne; Katha Harris **Allen Arena (Lipscomb):** Jewel **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **Exit/In:** Binney Addington; Marie Hines **French Quarter:** Jack Scotts Band; Jay Stoddard, Bedhed & Blonde **Hotel Indigo:** Cassidy Lynn **Listening Room:** Saints of Havana **Loveless Cafe:** Folk Soul Revival **Mad Donna's:** Kristina Kidd **Mercy Lounge:** Darling Parade w/ Grayfit, Newsmatic & Starfarere **Muse:** Alucard; BLITZKID; Spookhand **Picks:** Million Dollar Dog **Richards:** Erica Rei **Rutledge:** Sean Snook **The Stage:** Johnny T **Tin Roof:** Ward G **Wildhorse:** Jami Grooms
5 **12th & Porter:** Benefit Concert for The Literacy Council of Williamson County **3rd & Lindsley:** Last Straw; O'Shea **The 5 Spot:** Lion & Bear **Bourbon:** Dan Hagan Productions **Bridgestone:** Michael Buble **Commodore:** Mitch Kamp; Sam Cooper **Exit/In:** Anotherthereswa/Hvar; Mandy **Hotel Indigo:** Hannah Bethel **Lipstick Lounge:** Vicki Peid **Muse:** WEE3; TLOVE; Faded Boy; Thalz C; **Tootsies:** The Billy Block Show	6 **12th & Porter:** Amy Benton & Volunteer String Band; Chris Nathan; Betsy Long; Jenny Ray **Exit/In:** Fan-Tan; Channing & Quinn **French Quarter:** The Brian Langlinais Band **Muse:** The World We Knew; Sirens Fall Silent **Nashville Palace:** Ulrika Olund **Red Rooster:** Josh Grider **Rutledge:** Snow Black Sunday; Out of the Ashes; Ila; Hip Kitty **Springwater:** Bad Cop	7 **12th & Porter:** Adam Percy, Ben Cameron, Derek Stroker, Kate Hansen, Josh Noren; The Romany Rye; The Kingston Springs; The Rogue **3rd & Lindsley:** Bucky Covington; Joanna Cotton; Patrick Davis **Commodore:** Jamie Davis & Soul Gravy; Kimberly Page **Dan McGuiness:** Tailgate South; Tony Lopacinski; Mike Kelley **Factory:** Helping Healing Hearts Holiday Fundraiser **Hotel Indigo:** Winfield's Locket; **LP Field:** Randy Houser **Mercy Lounge:** The Low Anthem w/Carolina Chocolate Drops **Richards:** Derik Hultquist **Rutledge:** Frequency Fifty Four; Derek DaPrano	8 **12th & Porter:** Drew & Lacey Xmas **3rd & Lindsley:** Jay Nash; Tony Lucca; Matt Duke **Bongo Jaxx:** Kiernan McMullan **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **Commodore:** Dan Rivers; Mike Mitchell **The End:** Yumi & the System; Behold the Brave **FooBar:** Koffin Kats; Sarah Gayle Meech **Hard Rock:** The Will Callers **Hotel Indigo:** Lee Rascone; Kristina Kidd **Picks:** Lyrics for Lynx; **NHG XMAS PARTY** **Stage:** Johnny T
12 **12th & Porter:** The Garden Leo; The Inscape; Covergeist; Seth Alley **3rd & Lindsley:** Jason Reeves; Anderson East **Bridgestone:** Trans-Siberian Orchestra **The End:** Stefuinne **Hard Rock:** Looking For Alaska; Gasoline Heart; Camillo The Ocean **Listening Room:** Blair Burnette **Muse:** Dimensions; The Burial; Adelaide **Sambuca:** Rachel Pearl **Station Inn:** 11th Annual Xmas Bluegrass Benefit for the Homeless **Tootsies:** The Billy Block Show **Wildhorse:** Snow Black Sunday	13 **12th & Porter:** An Acoustic Christmas w/Stephen Salyers & Friends Benefit For Needy Children **Exit/In:** Overzealous; The Temangerines; Junkyard Gals; Aloud **Mercy Lounge:** Black Shades **Rutledge:** Jonathan Sexton; Big Love Choir	14 **12th & Porter:** Erin Ashleigh; Tonja Rose; Beth Cayhall; Shanna Crooks; Phoenix Mendoza **3rd & Lindsley:** Les Kerr's Christmas on the Bayou; Dinosaur Feathers; Clare Burson **Exit/In:** Love's Tragedy **Listening Room:** Lauren Mazur **Mercy Lounge:** Country Music Cures "Toy-for-Tots" **Muse:** I the Breather; In the Midst of Lions; King Conquer; As Blood Runs Black; Burning the Masses **Music City Bar:** Clinton Gregory **Opry:** Diamond Rio **Picks:** Anna Johnson **Rutledge:** Memorie Gayle **Ryman:** Dan Gokey; Rascal Flatts; Diamond Rio **Station Inn:** Seth Walker	15 **12th & Porter:** WES SPB; Tyler Flowers; O'don Piano **Douglas Corner:** Boogie-Woogie Jesus Project **Exit/In:** Keegan DeWitt; Adam Popick; Madi Diaz **Listening Room:** Victoria Banks **Mercy Lounge:** Seabird **Muse:** Summit Booking; Memphis May Fire; Destruction of a Race; Amianta Reign; Affiance **Rocketown:** Conditions; Haste the Day; Our Last Night **Rutledge:** Day's Distance; From Pieces, Kevin Hubbard; Vegas Skin Graft **Wildhorse:** Black Hawk; Restless Heart
19 **The 5 Spot:** Stallion **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **Hard Rock:** David Leon **Loveless:** Suzy Boggus(thru 23rd) **Muse:** Behold the Messenger; They Were Heroes; Broken Omen; Annabelle Lee **Richards:** Kingsley **Station Inn:** Mike Farris	20 **12th & Porter:** McKenzies Mill **3rd & Lin:** The Invite; Grant Fisher; Erin Sylvester **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **F.Scotts:** Eric Bilinsky **Listening Rm:** Jessica Ford; Jordan Kirkdorfler **Muse:** Scenery **Nash. Palace:** Vallyn Elise; Jeremy Dean **Rocketown:** Misery Index; Job For a Cowboy; Skeletonwitch	21 **3rd & Lindsley:** David & Audrey Ball **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs; Hillybilly **Commodore:** Joe Michael; Bill; Jarred Dickenson; Vernon Hovey **Richards:** Mitch Kamp **Rocketown:** Bam without Bones; Maelocks Last Show; The Fake Boys **Ryman:** Vince Gill; Amy Grant	22 **3rd & Lindsley:** An Aquavelvet Xmas **Commodore:** Jack Frisby; Mitch Kamp; Renee Wahl **Rutledge:** Darling Parade; Lovers + Liars; 37 Floors **The Stage:** Johnny T
26	27 **Bridgestone:** Usher	28 **3rd & Lindsley:** Jack Pearsons Pickin' Party; Super Session The Music of Jeff Beck **Commodore:** Scott Greenwalt; Ashley McBryde; **John As:** Barry Langford **Roberts Western World:** Nighttime Music Company-Home of DB Harris	29 **12th & Porter:** Scratch Track **Bridgestone:** Zac Brown Band **Listening Room:** Wayne Baird **Muse:** Catalepsy **Richards:** Carrie Mills **Station Inn:** David Peterson & 1946

Thu	Fri	Sat
2 **12th & Porter:** Jacob Jones; Stuart Mathis; Mason Reed; Class of '98; Blackpool Lights, Foes, & Shotgun Lovers **3rd & Lindsley:** Lydia Balmkova; Saul Zonana; Siren **The 5 Spot:** Wallis Canes **Buck Wild:** Josh Green; JB Aaron **Exit/In:** Sean McConnell **French Quarter:** Kenny Freeman; Robert Welsch; Laura Mazur; Blacklist Royals **Hotel Indigo:** Morgan Tobias **Listening Room:** Edwina Hayes; Jane Ellen Bryant **Liquid Smoke:** Loud McVey jazz; Matt Lund Music **Mai:** French Horn Rebellion **Muse:** Shovelboth; **Nashville Palace:** Jeremy Dean **Richard's:** Winfield's Locket **Rutledge:** Hip Kitty **Springwater:** Case Conrad **Wildhorse:** Jami Grooms	3 **12th & Porter:** Heavy Sole; Cold Stares; Loko Davi; Vibesquad; KiloWatts; Martian; ART IAN **3rd & Lindsley:** The Consulers; Music City Unsigned Fam. Xmas **The 5 Spot:** Old Union **Bongo Jaxx:** Alyssa Bradley; Emily Fitzmaurice; Dustin Barksdale; Steve Johnson **Bridgestone:** Winter Wonderland Slam **Cadillac Ranch:** NightFall **Cheekwood:** Band 24/7 **The End:** Super Bowl Rocket Ship; Why I Like Robins; Scale Model **FooBar:** Charlie Louvin; Porter Hall Tennessee; Robert Allen **French Quarter:** Hope's Wake; Lyn Taylor/Red Caps; Forget Me Knots; The Slowdown **Hard Rock:** Shotgun Diary **Mercy Lounge:** Darker my Love; Delta Spirit; The Fling **Muse:** Downers of the World Unite; Misery Index **Opry House:** Joe Diffie **Red Rooster:** Nick Carver Band **Richards:** Morgan Tobias **Rocketown:** Robert K; Linear Downfall; DIGA; Kirk Ador; Deas Vail **Rutledge:** Icon for Hire; The Young International	4 **12th & Porter:** The Nighthawks; Andy Davis; Natalie Prass; Madi Diaz **3rd & Lindsley:** Midnight Riders ; Monte Montgomery **The 5 Spot:** Uncle Pat's Picnic **Bongo Jaxx:** The Lo Marie Jazz Trio **Douglas Corner:** Cappo's Christmas Party **The End:** Los Hijos Del Diablo; The Good Wolves **Exit/In:** 2000MR; Noise **FooBar:** Stuck Lucky; Hillbilly Casino; Liberty, Whiskey Daredevils **French Quarter:** Million Dollar Dog; Nightmare Theory; Spark Fire; Alchemy from Ashes **Listening Room:** Go Girls Nashville **Mercy Lounge:** Rhett Miller; Hayes Carll **Muse:** Fate of Adam; You Knew Me When; Essence of Immortality; Recycled Flower **Nashville Palace:** Tyler Matt; Zac Hart Music **Red Rooster:** Memorie Gayle **Rutledge:** Noisecult; Love's Tragedy; Absinthe Junk; Piranah; Hagers **Ryman Auditorium:** Bo Bice
9 **12th & Porter:** Julia Salter; Greg Crowe; Dave Carlson; Jimmy Stanley; Dan Adams; Honeymoon Thrillers; Sweet Lady Jane; Reno Bo **3rd & Lindsley:** A Christmas Happening For Kids **The 5 Spot:** Dylan Deacon **Basement:** Isaac Hayden; Jimmy Wallace **Belcourt:** Dave Stewart **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **Commodore:** Cara Evans; Jeff Ruby **The End:** mr. Goome; **Exit/In:** Captain Midnight Band; George McConnell **Hotel Indigo:** Lee Rascone, Marie Hines **Nashville Palace:** Cassidy Lynn **Rocketown:** Chase Coy; Blackseat Goodbye; Flag in Stereo	10 **12th & Porter:** Eddie Gore Band;Iconic Rockwear Xmas Party **The 5 Spot:** Trevi Deuce **Crossroads:** Johnny T **FooBar:** Jacob Jones; Paleface; Chicken Little; Allen Thompson **French Quarter:** Chicks in the Round; Kecia; Southern Frost; Dan Bel Band; Stream Boiler **Hotel Indigo:** Lee Rascone **Lipstick Lounge:** Ashley McBryde **Mercy Lounge:** Space Capone **Muse:** Street Dogs; Flatfoot 56; Have Nots; Commonwealth of American Natives **Richards:** Twangtown Paramours **RockBar:** Forgotten Fable **Rocketown:** The Plot in You; A Plea For Purging; Hundredth; When the Ruins **Station Inn:** Dan Tyminski	11 **12th & Porter:** Matt Woods; Chris Milam; Nick Payton **3rd & Lindsley:** Against Nature Steely Dan Experience **Buck Wild:** JB Aaron; Josh Greene **Cadillac Ranch:** Compass Rose; Small Town Productions; Ashley Bynde **FooBar:** The Bohemians **French Quarter:** Don Aquio Quartet; Late Show; Sometimes Saturday; Pretty Orphan; Altercation; Dead Chain **Hotel Indigo:** Lisa Dotolo; Mike Mitchell, Colton & Zara; Ulrika Olund **Listening Room:** Ashley Gearing **Mercy Lounge:** Candy's Roundouse, Savoy **Richards:** Jay Stoddard; Bedhed&Blonde; Frain Jackson **Rocketown:** With His Blood; Adelaide **Rutledge:** Bo Bice
16 **12th & Porter:** Evan McHugh; The Little Bear; Erin Manning; Tyler Bryant; Andrew Rigg **3rd & Lindsley:** Bryan Greenberg **The 5 Spot:** The Cure Through Tents **Bridgestone:** Garth Brooks (16,17, 19 & 20-22) **Cadillac Ranch:** Warren Silvers **Exit/In:** One Less Reason **Hotel Indigo:** Cassidy Lynn **Mercy Lounge:** Shane Tutmarc **Muse:** Wolfpac; Mask, The Gallows; Dirty Adelle, Kungfu Vampire, Yung Dee **Red Rooster:** Bo Bice **Richards:** Tammy & Johnny Mabrey **Rutledge:** Matt Campbell **Ryman:** Andrew Peterson; Jason Gray **Springwater:** The Pursuits	17 **12th & Porter:** Travis Singleton; Jessica Dawn; Stephen Ellis; Kirk Ador **3rd & Lindsley:** Elle Macko **The 5 Spot:** Brian Ritchie **Cadillac Ranch:** The Springs **Commodore:** Matt Mat; Sam Cooper **Decades:** Bryan Beller **Douglas Corner:** The Broadcast; Michael W. Davis; **Liquid Smoke:** Unemployees **Lipstick Lounge:** Leslie Dysinger **Listening Room:** David Bradley **Mercy Lounge:** The Roses **Muse:** Pacifist; Conducting From the Grave; Demeanor; Bridge to Oblivion; They Shake the Earth; TSTE **Richards:** Donna Frost **Rutledge:** Perry Danos	18 **12th & Porter:** Isaac Russell; Josh Hoge; Todd Carey; Steve Means **3rd & Lindsley:** FAB **The 5 Spot:** Hans Condor **Bourbon:** Josh Garrett & the Bottomline **Cadillac Ranch:** Paul Stout **The End:** New Planet, Apetrio; KAOS **FooBar:** Sarah Gayle Meech **Hard Rock:** Tyler Matt; Lindsay Lewis; David Leon; Kayla Padgett; Bridget Reynolds **Listening Room:** Published Integrity; Lorrita Flowers **Nashville Palace:** Lindsay Lewis **Opry:** Steel Magnolias **Red Rooster:** Barefoot Renegades **Richards:** Adam Pope Music **Rocketown:** Hollywood; Love is Red, Modernfell, Bruce-
23 **Commodore:** Warren Silvers; Scott Greenwalt; Tyler Matt; Heather Morris; Colton & Zara; Daniel Van Dyk **The End:** Innocent Flannel **Hard Rock:** Amtrac; Chris Durst; Love is a Story, Austin Morris **Opry:** Dailey & Vincent; James Intveld	24 *Christmas Eve*	25 *Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!* **12th & Porter:** Y2K Christmas Party **Opry:** Dailey & Vincent; Karen Pendley; Heartstrings **Wildhorse:** Jamie Grooms
30 **3rd & Lindsley:** The Invite; Glen Fisher; Erin Sylvester **Bourbon:** Charles Walker Band **Cadillac Ranch:** Music City Bowl **Commodore:** Sam Cooper **Douglas Corner:** Donna Frost; Skeeter Davis **Frist:** Twangtown Paramours **John As:** Barry Langford	31 *New Years' Eve* **12th & Porter:** Mickey Ebke; Kyle Andrews; Honeymoon Thrillers **3rd & Lindsley:** New Years' Eve Celebration 2011 **The End:** Cy Bartley; Turbo Fruits; Pujol **Exit/In:** Moon Taxi **Opry:** Wranglin' Jeff Siegrist **Riverfront:** Will Hoge **Ryman:** Old Crowe Medicine Show	

Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 *Happy New Years!* **3rd & Lindsley:** Webb Wilder **Exit/In:** Oblivion Myth **Rutledge:** Uncle N; Higgins **Ryman:** The Bowling Family; Jett Williams **Station Inn:** Westbound Rangers
6 **12th & Porter:** Tori Sparks **The 5 Spot:** Reno Bo **Commodore:** Greg Barrough; Joe West **The End:** Stirfrume **Hard Rock:** Joel Sebring **Muse:** Micawber; A Night at the Quiet **Nash. Palace:** Colton & Zara **Station Inn:** CarolynMartin **Symphony:** Beethoven & Mozart (thru-8th)	7 **12th & Porter:** Sixty-Four Band **3rd & Lindsley:** Annual Courtyard Castaways; The Scoot Hogue Conspiracy; Five Small Time Rock Stars **The 5 Spot:** Duncan May **Basement:** The Sleep-ins **Bongo:** Nick Young **Bridgestone:** Monster Jam **Cadillac Ranch:** Nightfall **Commodore:** Union Pulse **Exit/In:** Abbey Road: Beatles Tribute **Frist:** Mean Mary **Ryman:** Chris Young	8 **12th & Porter:** Beauty School Dropouts **3rd & Lindsley:** The Midnight Riders Allmn Brothers Revue; Soul Sacrifice Santana Experience **The 5 Spot:** Tom Petty **Bridgestone:** Monster Jam **Flying Saucer:** The Cover Shot **Muse:** Every Word a Prophecy **Rocketown:** Adelaide; With His Blood; Dimensions **Rutledge:** Benji Brown's Bday Bash: Adslene; Fools for Rowan; Darling Parade; Mindset Defect
13 **Commodore:** Casey Benefield **Mercy Lounge:** Avery Sunshine **Muse:** Innocent Flannel **Ryman:** Kendall Phillips **Station Inn:** Norah Jane Struthers **Symphony:** Peter Ceters (thru-12th)	14 **3rd & Lindsley:** Ashley Cleveland **The 5 Spot:** Lynn Taylor **Basement:** Miles Neilson; Rusted Hearts **Exit/In:** The Dynamites ft. Charles Walker**French Quarter:** The Slowdown; Alan Thompson Band; Superficials **Hard Rock:** Katie Kerkhover; Snow Black Sunday; Out of the Ashes **Richards:** Morgan Tobias	15 **Cadillac Ranch:** Hillbilly **Exit/In:** The Walkmen **Hotel Indigo:** Hannah Bethel; Colton&Zara **Listening Room:** Shelly Rann **Rocketown:** The Mongoloids; Casey Jones; Death Before Dishonor; Handredth **TPAC:** Bill Cosby presents The Cosmerati
20 **12th & Porter:** Brad Long Showcase **The 5 Spot:** The Hollywood Ten **Belcourt:** Ethan Bortnick **Hard Rock:** Tell Tale Nights **Ryman:** Cake **Symphony:** Sibelius Violin Concerto (thru-22nd)	21 **The 5 Spot:** Business; The Worsties **Station Inn:** Donna	22 **12th & Porter:** David Hart's B-day Bash **The 5 Spot:** Sharon Van **Basement:** Chris Pureka **French Quarter:** Innocent Flannel **Rocketown:** Count Me In **Rutledge:** Charlie Mars
27 **Commodore:** Diana Kelley **Exit/In:** Chris Knight; Bleu Edmondson **Listening Room:** Tarryn Smith **Mercy Lounge:** Donna the Buffalo; Roy Jay Band	28 **12th & Porter:** Papadosio; Appetrio **Bridgestone:** Bill Engvall **Cannery Ballroom:** Yonder Mountain String Band **Exit/In:** Casey Donahew Band **Lipstick Lounge:** Ashley McBryde **RockBar:** UncleaN **Rutledge:** Manic Bloom	29 **12th & Porter:** Adalebe; Vegabond **Basement:** 6 Weeks to Live **Cannery Ballroom:** Drive-By Truckers **Commodore:** Leah Barkey **Hotel Indigo:** Mike Mitchell; Colton&Zara **Listening Room:** Kage Sanderson **Rutledge:** O.A.T.H.; Fervor **TPAC:** Shrek the Musical

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
If you would like for your events to be added to the Nashville Music Guide Calendar (online & print). E-mail your information to: akanderson@nashvillemusicguide.com or call 615-244-5673 All events for print calendar must be received NO LATER THAN the 15th of the month PRIOR to the publication. Online calendar events should be sent approximately one week prior to the event			
2 **3rd & Lindsley:** Graham Colton **The 5 Spot:** Goodyestone **Basement:** Jowers; Tigers Jaw; Build a Year **Commodore:** Raven Wold; Roger Green; Brad Isaacs; Ben Smith **Mad Donna's:** Beth Trepagnier **Rutledge:** Winter Breakout; Keep Shot Your Heart; Believer; Oh No No;	3 **Nash. Palace:** Billy Philips	4 **3rd & Lindsley:** Jack Pearson's Picker Party **Basement:** Dwight Lewis; Jessie Lafser; Zuzz **Commodore:** Josh Holmes **Dan McGuiness:** Tailgate South; Tony Lapsanski; Mike Kelley **Muse:** VeryShortShorts; Reason to Rebel **Rocketown:** Stick Together; Naysayer; Dead End Path	5 **12th & Porter:** Eric Lee Beddingfield **Commodore:** Mitch Kerg; Jack Feiley; Zerrin **Mercy Lounge:** The Seven; Jason Eskridge
9 **Commodore:** Scott Greenwell **Hotel Indigo:** Mike Mitchell **Muse:** Join the High Flyers; Oh Be Let Go!	10 **12th & Porter:** Steely Midnight **3rd & Lindsley:** Jeffery Jones **Hard Rock:** The Runaway Sons; Josephine Collective **Mercy Lounge:** Organs; Galactic **Muse:** Destruction of a Race; This is the Apocalypse; An Early Ending; Deception of a Ghost	11 **Commodore:** Rachel Morgan Perry **Picks:** Anna Johnson	12 **12th & Porter:** Christine Jones; CJ Solar; Natalie Royal **Loveless Barn:** The Secret Sisters **Loveless Cafe:** Woody Fees
16 **Municipal:** Isley Brothers **Ryman:** Brian Regan **Schermerhorn:** ODESSA; Preddy Havens; Settles Connection	17 *MLK Day* **Dan McGuiness:** Shellshock Living **Rutledge:** Staci Glenn; Mindset Defect	18 **Commodore:** Roger Green; Diana Kelley; Sam Cooper; Pat Anderson	19 **Basement:** O'Dea Pierce; Heartsickle; Lupo Chorale Society; Adam Arcuragi **Commodore:** Jay Stoddard; Bedlred&Blondy; Daniel Mason; Sleepwalkers **Loveless Barn:** Music City Roots **Loveless Cafe:** Anna Johnson **Rutledge:** Joshua Schulman; Darling Parade; Labeling Delores; Fred Schaffer
23 **3rd & Lindsley:** Megan McCormick **Commodore:** Greg Barrough **Listening Room:** Sam Cooper	24 **Blue Bar:** Jack Grace; The Grinding **Exit/In:** No Age	25 **12th & Porter:** Josh Thompson; Kree Johnson; Andi Zack **Basement:** Light a Fire **Listening Room:** Diana Kelley; Vicki Rose; Mare Winchell; Anne E DeChant **Muse:** Blood of the Prophets; Middle Deathcamp;	26 **12th & Porter:** Amy Boxbreaux Industry Show **Commodore:** Joe West **Exit/In:** Gaelic Storm **Hard Rock:** Jim Foster **Loveless Cafe:** Cade Curtis; Black Mules **Muse:** Bonded by Blood; Early Man; Hellen
30 **3rd & Lindsley:** The Edwin McCain Band	31		

An Interview with Grand Ole Opry Legend Jean Shepard

By: Marty Martel











Q: Congratulations on being inducted into the Oklahoma Country Music Hall of Fame in November, also celebrating your 77th birthday (you told me your age), your 42 years of marriage to Benny, and for being the longest and continuous member of The Grand Ole Opry, with 55 years of seniority. How does this feel with so many great events happening all at one time.
A: First, I feel very blessed to be in good health, to be married for 42 years to Benny, my husband and partner, and I am especially proud of carrying the banner of The Grand Ole Opry continually for 55 years and hopefully many more to come. As for being inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, it was an honor and I am happy that they gave me the opportunity to be honored by my home state. My friend Vince Gill kept telling me that I should be inducted, but the times that they wanted to do the induction, I was already committed with my schedule. I am so happy I was able to be a part of this induction, and they treated me so good, and I thank them for this great honor.

Q: Is retirement in your mind or will it ever be?
A: Maybe semi-retirement, but as long as my voice and health are holding up I probably never will retire. I guess my voice is so strong from hollering at the grand kids.

Q: You and Benny have been dear friends of mine for over 40 years, so this question is not a loaded question, just maybe a reflection of how you feel. What changes have you seen in country music over the past, let's say 10-15 years, and what bothers you the most with the music of today?
A: I have witnessed many changes, some I agree with, some I disagree with. We have some great artists and some great entertainers, but I just wish they would sing country songs, and I am not sure if there are any great country songs being written like they used to be. You can only write so many songs about cheating, drinking, and divorce, but I really would like to hear more fiddles and steel guitars on the new artist's records. I understand that the days of Webb Pierce, Carl Smith, and all of the great country music artists of the past, are gone, but there was no blaring guitars or loud drums to take away from the singers back then. Maybe I am ole hat, but I am happy with the music of yesterday and I hope I can hear it again.

Q: One of the most important questions I have been wanting to ask you is "Who do you feel is the Queen of Country Music and why?"
A: That is a dumb question Marty, and I know why you are asking me, so my answer is the same today as it has been through all of my years in country music-KITTY WELLS IS THE UNDISPUTED QUEEN OF COUNTRY MUSIC, ALWAYS HAS BEEN, AND ALWAYS WILL BE. She was there in the beginning and I was right behind her. She is such a kind and loving lady and I love her for what she has given to country music. Anyone who disagrees is an idiot.

Q: Jean, do you have a favorite artist in today's country music?
A: I really like Brad Paisley and Faith Hill. Brad sing's country music, and he loves traditional country music, and I would love to hear Faith do a traditional country music album with fiddles and steel guitars. I think she would be great doing real country songs.

Q: This is a tough question, but tell me what you think needs to be done for country music to regain its status as the best music genre in the world, and if you could make one change in the country music of today, what would it be?
A: If artists would get rid of those blaring guitars and loud drums, find great country songs, and there are some great songs still out there that no one has recorded because, they are country songs. All in all I feel that country music as I know it has passed its time, but I hope and pray it is not gone forever. It would be sad not to hear it again. I don't want to sound like sour grapes, and I understand changes take place throughout our life's, but when you lose something by not taking care of it, it dies, and I hope with all of my heart, that I am wrong.

Q: When will your fans and the country music industry hear new Jean Shepard music?
A: Marty, I am going to do one final album of songs. Songs that I have loved for years, but I will listen to new songs and if I find one that is vintage Jean Shepard, and of course it has to be country, pure traditional country, I will record it. I don't have a timetable for the new album as of yet, but it will be soon. I am still touring as much as I want, and my fans are still attending my concerts, so I am thrilled that they have not forgotten me, although they do not hear my music on "country radio" anymore.

Q: You have a great new website, in fact, your very first website, so let's give them your website address.
A: Yes it is my first and official website and I am very proud of it. I hope my fans and everyone will take a look see and leave me a message. Everything is on the site so that gives them information about my career, how to purchase CD's, where I will be appearing, just everything that should be there, is there.
http://jeanshepardcountry.com

Q: Does Benny still play guitar on your shows, and does he sing harmony with you, because Benny Birchfield is one of the greatest harmony singers that country music and bluegrass music has ever know. Benny performed many years with the Osborne Bros. and was part of their great harmony sound. I would have loved to hear him and PayCheck sing together.
A: Benny still plays guitar on my shows and we do a lot of joking around when we do our shows. Funny stories and we just have a great time, and yes he is one of the great harmony singers of all time. That would have been a great pairing of Benny and Johnny singing together. Now that is country.

Q: How do you want Jean Shepard and her music to be remembered when you are inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame?
A: Marty, that is a loaded question, but should that happen someday, and I hope that it will, I would like my fans and the country music industry to know that "I loved what I did, and I did what I loved." People have probably forgotten a lot of my music, just because time moves on, but I am very, very proud of what I have done up to this point in country music, and I am still doing it. And I am proud that I was a part of the Golden Era of Country Music.
There doesn't seem to be any Golden Era out there today, but there are great new country artists who could sing great country music, "if they wanted to." I pray to God they will come forward. Everything I have said, I did not mean any harm or disrespect to anyone in the business, it is just how I feel.

Q: Final question for you. You are the Grand Lady of The Grand Ole Opry, so what does that mean to you?
A: It means that I love the Grand Ole Opry and that I have been there longer than anyone and I am so proud of that, and to be a Grand Lady along with Jan Howard, Wilma Lee Cooper, Jeannie Pruett, Jeanne Seely, and Skeeter Davis (deceased). The Opry has been a most important part of my life and my career and I hope that I have brought to the Opry something that was good for everyone and for country music because the Opry was good for me.

Jean, thank you for taking time out of your busy career and family schedule to allow me to have this interview with you, and most of all for being so outspoken and candid with your answers. You have been one of the pioneers in country music, helping pave the way with Miss Kitty for all of the females of today and for all artists who are traveling on the road that you were so instrumental in helping to build the foundation of Country Music and The Grand Ole Opry. Congratulations on a platinum career that continues to gather steam and popularity. I cannot wait to hear your new music, and if there is one thing I want to happen to Jean Shepard, it is to hear your name called out as one of the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame, so that you can join all of your friends in that Circle at the Hall of Fame. I, along with your family, friends, your fans, and the country music industry are anxiously awaiting that day for you.









Frankie Ballard, Reprise Records "Tell Me You Get Lonely"

"Tell Me You Get Lonely" debuted at #59 on Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart in June and has become a big hit on Country radio stations across the country. The song has an easy-going, steady up-tempo rhythm with a lot of instrumental Rock influence mixed with Contemporary Country sounds. This song tells a story of a relationship that has failed and even though they both want each other back, neither concedes because of their own personal pride. At first, you think that the man wants the woman to feel miserable and lonely and comes off as if he's done with her. This is a well-written song that has great potential because everyone can relate to the message and it's a catchy tune. Ballard has a great Country voice with a Southern Rock edge to it and is sure to gain success in the Country music world. On November 6, 2010, Frankie is releasing a 3-song EP on iTunes featuring this single, "Get On Down The Road" and "Lonely." **www.frankieballard.com**



Various Artists, Sony "Country Strong" Movie Soundtrack

Gwyneth Paltrow is generally known for being an award-winning actress, but recently she released the movie's theme song "Country Strong" in July. The song was written by well-known writers Jennifer Hanson, Tony Martin, and Mark Nessler. Sara Evans also released a powerful ballad titled "A Lit Bitter Stronger" which was co-written by Lady Antebellum's Hillary Scott. The song has a great melodic structure and Evans was the perfect voice for the song. Liz Rose, one of Taylor Swift's main co-writers, co-wrote two songs for the soundtrack which are "Chances Are," sung by one of the movie's leading actors Garrett Hedlund. The tune is a Classic Country song about decision making struggles on general decisions that always lead to the lesser outcome. "Liars Lie" is also a Classic Country song about cheating but is beautifully sung by LeAnn Womack. Finally what is a soundtrack for a movie about Country music without some drinking songs? Ronnie Dunn lends his voice to sing "She's Actin' Single (I'm Drinkin' Double)" and Hank Williams Jr. rightfully adds in singing "Thirsty," which was co-written by Rhett Akins and Brett Eldredge. **www.countrystrong.com**



BadHorse, Global Maximus Record "Mississippi Rain"

A new band to the Country scene hailing from Georgia is taking on a new stylistic approach to the current Country genre by infusing more piano-based Southern rock influences a la Blackhawk style. The current tune of "Mississippi Rain" is a ballad complimented by the Band's vocals but held primarily together by the amazing instrumental melody. One thing that I personally would like to hear is more harmonic vocals from the group as a whole. Overall the song is a nice easy listening tune that will bring back the days of Country bands with strong melodic hooks. **www.badhorsemusic.com**



Jason Aldean, Broken Bow Records "My Kinda Party"

Jason Aldean releases another strong musical album for the fans by adding a different musical direction on a few tunes, as well as a very well done duet with Pop star Kelly Clarkson. Aldean hand-picked Clarkson for this ballad styled tune blending the two singers' vocals impeccably. The tune co-written by well-known writer Jason Sellers, which is not surprising since Sellers, writes nothing but great quality tunes. Another unexpected twist to the album is Jason's Country rap part in the track "Dirt Road Anthem" co-written by Country rapper, Colt Ford. Jason was obviously open to experimenting in a slightly new sound and style giving more musical layers to his established Southern Rock style. The first single and album titled "My Kinda Party" reprises that previous rowdy Country rock style he knocks out of the park. **www.jasonaldean.com**



Alan Jackson, Sony "34 Number Ones"

The effortless singer Alan Jackson releases his impressive 34 Number Ones album including new tunes as well as the unreleased remake of the Cash song "Ring of Fire"- receiving help from friend and singer Lee Ann Womack. The classic tune is a great choice for the superstar who delivers a traditional musical variation. The two new tunes include Alan's collaboration with the Zac Brown Band on "As She's Walking Away" and his solo tune "Look At Me"- a beautiful ballad showcasing Alan's tenor side in an innocent almost nursery rhyme way. The other 31 tunes are a full on compilation of Alan's greatest from "Chattahoochee" to "Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning." **www.alanjackson.com**

FOLLOW THE NASHVILLE COUNTRY CLUB ON:

Leslie Armstrong of www.goncc.com lesliea@nashvillecountryclub.com

Tracy Lawrence Proves Mission is Possible



The Country scene is well-known to give a lending hand where there is need and the Turkey Fry benefit that **Tracy Lawrence** organized is just one of those needs which is fulfilled from the help of artist friends and volunteers. The benefit **"Mission Possible"** held its 5th annual event at Nashville's Rescue Mission in downtown. Tracy obliged to talk with us about the beginning of a much-loved event as well as told us for possible plans to spread more of the same benefit to other locations including his hometown of Little Rock, AR. Over 500 Turkeys were donated to the Nashville Rescue Mission for the homeless' Thanksgiving meal. The donated turkeys are brought mostly by corporate sponsors and various donations throughout the year to the Mission. Some of the artists that helped fry gobblers were **Bo Bice, LoCash Cowboys, Brad Arnold of 3 Doors Down** & many more Each year the list builds with more artist support including volunteers and fans. Over the years Tracy and his friends have fried more than 5,000 turkeys, provided nearly 35,000 meals for the homeless and funds raised have exceeded $100,000. You can find out more at **www.tracylawrence.com**

French Quarter Cafe to Host Artist Event

Nashville recording artist *Electric Catfish* are proud to announce they have completed the recording and mixing phase of their new CD and the work is now ready for mastering. The band hopes to have the new CDs ready for distribution in December (just in time for Christmas?).

Many fans have asked when the band plans to get back out in public and the answer is soon. *Electric Catfish* have booked their first show for 2011 and are happy to be working with their friends *The Glenda Montgomery Band*.

Electric Catfish members are Joe Vaden on Guitar, Adam Carlisle on Keyboards, Harmonica and Mandolin, Tim Binkley on Drums and Matt Carlisle on Bass. All the Catfish sing. Expect some powerful vocals and soaring harmonies in their mostly original repertoire.

The Glenda Montgomery Band fronted by Glenda Montgomery on Guitar and Lead Vocals and features Jon Carlisle on Lead Guitar/Vocals, Eddie Stinson on Drums/Vocals and Daryl Miller on Bass. Glenda and Band provide a refreshing blend of soulful rock with a unique flair. Glenda has some great original material as well as some tasteful covers.

The French Quarter Café, located at 823 Woodland Street will be hosting the event Saturday January 15, 2011 8:00 PM. Tickets are $5 in advance (www.electriccatfish.com) or $7 at the door. Come early and enjoy the excellent Cajun cuisine. *The Glenda Montgomery Band* will take the stage about 8:00 and *Electric Catfish* will follow with a dose of Electric madness.

IDOL INSPIRES FORMER FINALISTS' FAN-DRIVEN RADIO CONTEST

Josh Gracin calls on radio listeners to audition and be his duet partner

Nashville, Tenn. – Average Joes Entertainment's Josh Gracin, the country artist responsible for hits "We Weren't Crazy," "Nothin' To Lose," "I Want To Live," among others, has launched a search for a duet partner by going directly to the fans through radio!



Gracin is opening the contest to additional stations (to date, 19 country stations across the country are currently running the promotion including WSIX, KBEQ, WFMS, WBCT and KRTY), encouraging their female audience to submit a video of themselves singing to a track of Gracin's self-penned "When It Rains."

Entrants will be accepted through December 31, 2010. One winner will then be chosen to fly to Nashville to record in the studio with Josh on "When It Rains" – a featured track on Gracin's upcoming 2011 album release, Redemption.

For more information or to enter the contest, please visit www.joshgracin.com/makeitrain.

Social Media Expertise Helps Jessica Northey Expand Radio and Row's Reach



One of the least understood aspects for modern record companies, and radio executives is social media, a business which unlike radio and records is seeing explosive growth in the second decade of the 21st Century.

Their lack of expertise helped the Tucson, Arizona native and veteran radio executive Jessica Northey become a, "SocialMediologist, taking over Country Music, and Radio one Tweet at a time!"

That's truly a mouthful, and a year or so ago some label and radio types would have said that anyone describing herself that way must be some kind of a modern, tech-based, snake-oil saleswoman. Some still might. But the results show that Jessica, her companies FullThrottleCountry.com and Finger Candy Media, are having a major impact, and helping new, tech-savvy artists like CJaye LeRose, reach millions of viewers, listeners, and Twitter followers on the Web.

"What I'm finding by making a living working with artists, companies, celebrities – is that the realness and the lifestyle is more than just the music," Jessica says in a conversation from her office near Tucson, the desert city which is the home of the University of Arizona. "This is a whole new ball game and I love to help people use social media strategically to achieve online and real life goals!"

Northey knows that the old-school media – including radio, whose advertising she sold with great achievement for years – is slow to embrace the potential of new, tech-based media including Twitter and Facebook.

"Radio is a little behind," she says. "That reminds me of the guys who sold phone books. They used to say, `we're a phone book company, not an Internet company' but where are they now?"

Jessica began as an on-air reporter for SkyView Traffic/Metro Networks, and sold TV advertising, "There were lots of opportunity for someone who sold ideas not just spots," she said, "I went far with that, having the creativity of a radio mind. I migrated back over to radio and had such instant success, becoming a top Salesperson right out of the gate."

In the process, she discovered what radio programmers call NTR – Non Traditional Revenue, an opportunity to create income from something other than on-air or commercial spot advertising. Around 2005, Northey says she "discovered MySpace, and kept wrapping my brain around how radio and social media, but we didn't actually call it that yet, could connect to create Non Traditional Revenue, making money."

Ironically, at about the same time, another female, this one in Nashville, was taking her first steps into the MySpace world. That female was Taylor Swift, who blew up as a MySpace sensation with millions of enthusiastic followers before she had ever scored her first No. 1 single or album.

When the Great Recession hit the last few years, Northey says she noticed "more people using Social and New Media strategies and after all the years of making other people money, why not start my own business?"

In fact, she started several Web-based businesses, and grew her personal brand and those of her clients every step of the way.

She partnered with Chuck Geiger in FullThrottleCountry.com, which bills itself as "Country Music Radio's new idea sharing platform." Geiger says: "Jessica translates the confusing points into an easy to understand platform."

And people are noticing. With over 100,000 followers on Twitter and a second order influence of over 4 million she is ranked in the top 500 most influential people on Twitter (in the world)-ranking #211 and according to Fast Company Magazines Influencer Project one of the 150 most influential people on Social Media ranking at 109.

With blogs, tweets, and features, Northey and her clients are reaching countless existing and potential new clients, fans, radio stations, and artists each week.

This involves a new set of business models for many in radio, music and touring.

"With social media or any new media, you have to think way past what's happening right now," she says. "Are you trying to connect with people, send traffic to your website, iTunes or fan pages? You need to be clear what your goals are. People call me and say, `I need to be in social media.' I say, why or what are your goals? I can almost hear the 'deer in the headlights look on their face'."

And unlike mainstream radio, whose playlists change at painfully slow paces, social media allows for lightning-quick changes in tastes.

"We are trailblazing right now," which coincidentally is the award she was recognized for by SMAZ-Social Media Arizona. "I am passionate about helping other people reach for their dreams! Creativity is my calling and I am blessed to do what I love, and love what I do."

By Phil Sweetland

FINGER CANDY media

The Music of Illness

Story by Deborah Boutwell

What started out as a pastime while recovering from a leg injury has turned into a reunion and a few songs.

Ken Boutwell was kicked by a mule which broke his leg and laid him low for about six months. Being an active man that worked mostly in construction and who even tried his hand at prize fighting, Ken needed something to occupy his time while his leg healed. A guitar was placed in his hands and music helped to dispel the time of his mending.

Just a few years later, Ken would once again use music as a tool for healing as he tended to his father during his battle with lung cancer.

But before that, about 30 years back, Ken became friends with Lucky Kelson. The two of them would ride the streets of Pensacola, Florida, on custom-made choppers, created in back yards and mechanic shops. They became legends that have stories that grow with every biker reunion.

As with most legends, the real world invades the story and each man has to put their noses to the grind and work for their families. As Ken operated the heavy equipment, Lucky turned to electrical work, however, in his spare time he developed his love for music into a recording studio that, today, puts out some major sound in Pensacola thru the Lucky K Recording Studio.

Time and distance would separate the friends for many years. Their reunion came right after the mule incident for Ken at a biker reunion. To get a few laughs, Ken picked some songs for his buddies that he had written. Lucky was amazed at Ken's songs. He asked to take one of the ballads Ken had written and work on it at his studio. That song began a new relationship between the friends as Ken would write and Lucky would produce.

Many songs would go back and forth between the two over the next few years. Then Ken's songs took on new meaning as he would write to entertain his father as he was dying. His father would pass away shortly before the next biker reunion.

One month after he buried his dad, Ken called Lucky. Expecting to hear that Ken was in town for the reunion, Lucky was dumbfounded to find out why Ken was helping his dad, his own body had succumbed to cancer as well, colon cancer for him.

But Ken told Lucky not to worry, it was no big deal. "I'll beat this thing," Ken assured him, and he did, for five years now.

While Ken sat at the doctor's office hooked up to IV's for his chemo treatments, he wrote. It was his own personal therapy for dealing with his illness. He wrote about the coat that he took from his father's closet after he died and that Ken wore to every chemo treatment. It was a way to have his dad around. They had done everything together; Ken felt that it was only right that they do cancer together too.

When Ken played the song for Lucky, Lucky knew this was something special. Working together, they produced a demo that a local radio station has picked up and listeners have responded to. But it's the story behind the song that seems to touch their hearts the most. Everyone seems to have lost someone to cancer and just want a way to connect to them still, even through a coat. The song is called "I Wear My Father's Clothes"

Lucky and Ken still ride bikes together as often as they can, but more often now they are writing and working on songs together, just waiting for that one that will speak to listeners' hearts. Their music has offered laughter and healing and continues to do so.



Ken resides in the Pinewood community, outside Nashville, Tennessee, and Lucky still hails home in Pensacola, Florida.



SONGWRITER'S SPOTLIGHT

John Capek

By Debi Champion



John Capek has achieved international acclaim as an award winning composer, songwriter, keyboard player, producer, arranger and scorer for feature films and television. Rod Stewart leads the list of popular music icons who have recorded Capek compositions. Others include Diana Ross, Joe Cocker, Cher, Toto, Chicago, Olivia Newton John, Little River Band, Heart, Manhattan Transfer, Bonnie Raitt and Amanda Marshall.
John Capek's most performed award winning songs include : "Rhythm of My Heart", "This", "Soul on Soul" and "Carmelia". Capek's most performed productions include Dan Hill's Billboard hit duet with Vonda Sheppard, "Can't We Try" as well as work with Ken Tobias, Gene McLellan, Good Brothers and Downchild. As a keyboard player, John has recorded with Diana Ross, Olivia Newton John, Stan Rogers, Ian Thomas, Marc Jordan, Dan Hill, Kermit, The Chipmunks, The Simpsons and countless other international performers. For more information go to www.johncapek.com

How long have you been writing?
I was always a bit dyslexic when it came to sightreading music. Never quite made the eye/hand connection. So when my father sent me for piano lessons at age three, I started making stuff up to compensate. I guess I have always been making up music for almost as long as I could talk.

Tell us about the first song you wrote and what inspired you to start writing?
Because I have been creating music for almost as long as I could talk, music is my primary language. If you were to ask me how I'm feeling today, I could express my answer much better on a piano than I could in words. Music is my main language.

Who are your biggest infllluences?
Little Richard, Pablo Picasso, Al Green, Marc Rothko, Lowell George, Frank Lloyd Wright, Arif Mardin, Henry Miller, Bob Dylan, Humberto Eco, Mahalia Jackson, Jose Saramago, Oscar Levant, Emile Zola, Jelly Roll Morton, Franz Kafka, Fred Astaire, Lenny Bruce

What was your first big break?
When I got my first writing deal with Welk Music way back last century the big cuts to get were Kenny Rogers and Ann Murray. I'm still waiting for that big Kenny Rogers cut. What actually got my first real action was my rejection of "in the box' or "out of the box" rules. I decided to defy the box, or even deny that one ever existed. The result was a song called "Pieces of Ice" which became a Billboard top forty pop hit for Diana Ross. The highly produced video was recently re-released and is still around

How long did it take to get your first publishing deal and how did you get it?
In addition to songwriting, I have primarily been a piano player and producer. My piano playing opened many doors for me and I became a busy studio musician. One of the jobs of a studio musician is to improvise or come up with melodic hooks. I was and still am particularly good at doing that. A publisher heard my playing and set me up with a lyricist. Songs that got cut came out of that first ever songwriting session.

Where are you currently writing?
Into the wind. The current culture seems to be bound by an extremely restrictive box. The cycle will change. In fact I am writing a lot, focussing on new artist development. A recent session with Australian guitar virtuoso Joe Robinson has been the most fun of recent sessions.

Do you believe you need a publishing deal to get a major cut?
Yes. Partnerships are what it's all about.

What was your first major cut and how did it come about?
My first major cut was a song called "Pieces of Ice" which became a Billboard top forty pop hit for Diana Ross. The cut came as a result of a relationship that my songwriting collaborator had with Diana's producer. He was a fan of our songs. That relationship began through a publishers introduction.

Is it true that after you get your first cut it is easier to get other cuts?
Absolutely not. It's always like pulling teeth. Try getting a script read or a song listened to when there are 10,000 competitors out there who yell louder than you, or like to play golf.

What do you believe is the secret to getting your songs recorded by major artists?
I could say, networking and golfing....I have nothing in particular against golf....just never found the time.
In fact I believe that writing an anthem is the secret. By "anthem", I mean "Yesterday", "Crazy", "On the Road Again" or "Stairway to Heaven".

What do you think about the music industry, how it's changing and where it's headed?
Illegal downloading has created a vicious cycle. Any creative work of lasting quality takes time and attention to detail. I don't believe that spontaneity has any great value. Most overnight successes actually relate to decades of work to create their overnight success. Artists have to eat, pay rent and survive.
When you take away financial incentive, then it becomes difficult and perhaps impossible to create great lasting art. The financial incentive has almost disappeared from the songwriting profession. Therefore it could be said that no great lasting anthems are being written. That has a profound effect on society and culture. When the Chilean miners were first seen on TV, trapped half a mile underground, they sang a song, an anthem, their National anthem. The use of music and song has deep implications far beyond the superficial.

What is one of your greatest moments in your career?
It happens almost every day. It is always a great moment, when I turn on my car radio, walk through a supermarket or watch a movie and hear one of my songs.

What is one of your worse moments in your career?
Getting fired from a movie score because the star of the movie had a boyfriend who played guitar. He got the score. The movie was never released.

What do you think of writers nights, and do you think they benefit the writers? In what ways?
Always great! Any form of networking is always beneficial.

Do you co-write with other writers and how do you choose who you write with?
Co-writing is like dating. Mostly the chemistry is not there, but sometimes it's magic. Elton and Bernie, Lennon and McCartney created magic.

Do you co-writer with aspiring writers?
I do write with signed artists who write, however collaborating with an aspiring writer can be a challenge.

Have you ever had writers block, and if so, how did you get over it?
Never. I can write a song in my sleep and often do.

Do you think you need to have a fully produced demo of your song to be able to pitch it, or can you use a work tape (Guitar-vocal)?
My personal experience is that in today's technological culture, we write the recording. That means a fully produced master. There is no such thing as a demo.

What "tips" do you have for writers when they are going to a meeting with a publisher or someone in the business?
Bring examples of established ongoing success. Bring finished product or cuts. Artist and writer development does not seem to exist any more in my experience.

Is there anything else you would like to say to aspiring writers that you feel will help them?
The current culture is artist based, not song based. Focus on an artist or your own artist career. Alternatively, write an anthem.

Are you playing anywhere or have any current projects you would like to tell us about? Do you have CD's for sale?
I have never been a "singer/songwriter". I am often introduced at various events, as singer/songwriter, John Capek. I am not. There is an important distinction between a songwriter and a singer/songwriter. A singer/songwriter performs. A songwriter like myself does not perform.
I have spent my professional life sitting in a room with a keyboard and a computer making up music that I have never ever performed. The culture has changed. Kicking and screaming and protesting, I am now out there performing my tunes. Please don't throw any rotten tomatoes!!

My book 'HOW TO WRITE A HIT SONG WITHOUT REALLY TRYING" is available from my website.

"Kaylor Girls" Take Street Teaming to Another Level

by Rick Moore

Many musical acts, such as country group Rascal Flatts, owe a lot of their success to their "street teams," groups of fans that publicize a band's music, and particularly its live shows, in cities around the world. Now, three enterprising young Alabama sisters have decided to take the street team concept a step further, developing what they hope will become a business that doesn't just focus on publicizing a single artist, but on providing personalized promotion services to many artists, primarily in the country genre.

Mary Ann Kaylor and her sisters, Lisa Kaylor and Cindy Smith, have embarked on a journey working the streets for their favorite acts, which can include anyone from an up-and-coming rock artist to a well-established Nashville country band and beyond. Calling themselves the "Kaylor Girls," the promotions enterprise goes beyond just the three sisters. The group now has members in Auburn and Decatur, Alabama, Indiana, Nashville and other locations, women who do whatever it takes to help promote an artist, from the big dogs to the locals just starting out.

Mary Ann is what her sisters call the "ringleader," and while Cindy and Lisa are still headquartered in Alabama, Mary Ann recently moved to Nashville to pursue her passion for working with musical artists.

"I am, I guess, the CEO of it all," Mary Ann said modestly. "Cindy does our website, which is pretty involved, and Lisa drives the street team in Alabama. And I was commuting to Nashville at least twice a month to work with artists anyway, so I figured I might as well move here."

The sisters and their accomplices have worked to help promote shows featuring Easton Corbin, Luke Bryan, Colt Ford, Brantley Gilbert, Justin Moore, Randy Houser, Big Loud Shirt songwriter Clay Cumbie, and others, and have sold merchandise for Clay Walker and Randy Travis. They also have helped promote numerous local bands in Alabama, especially for after-parties of major artists in clubs. The Kaylor Girls have more than 85,000 friends on their MySpace page, and are getting requests from around the country for their services in helping spread the word about artists of all types. The concept started off slowly and accidentally in Auburn, Alabama, where two of the sisters attended college. "We started doing it just for the fun of it, helping promote shows at clubs and working with friends of ours and bands we liked," Mary Ann said. "Next thing we knew, I had the bars in Auburn calling me all the time, and little by little it started to grow. While country music is my favorite, we also work with rock acts."

While the goal is to make the Kaylor Girls a bonafide, profitable music business enterprise, the sisters and their members have yet to see a substantial financial return. But the biggest perk, and what motivated all of them to do this in the first place, is that they get into shows for free and get to be around the artists they enjoy so much.

"We know how hard it is to get started in the music business from the friends we've made," Lisa said. "So while we hope to make it a successful business, we get to experience the joy of watching music and getting to hang out with some great people."

"Our idea originally was to promote local bands, people we knew, our friends," Cindy said. "Eventually we began to realize it could become something bigger. We were all still in college at that point, and started to think about the future and how this might be part of it."

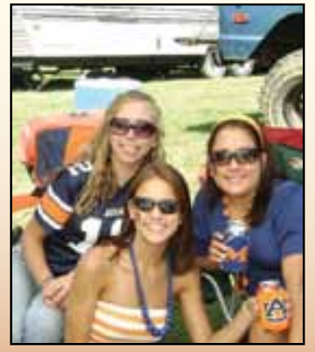
Mary Ann said that moving to Nashville will help her make connections for Kaylor Girls in other states, as well as to further her own "school of hard knocks" education by learning the ropes of Music Row firsthand. She plans to attend MTSU next year in pursuit of a music industry degree.

Somewhere, every weekend, a Kaylor Girl is working a show, and that can happen several times a week, sometimes even three shows a night. The sisters, particularly Cindy, also spend time utilizing social media including Twitter and Facebook, as well as their own website, to keep in touch with friends and fans and to promote the bands they're working with.

When it comes to performing, the sisters are unanimous about their own musical abilities: they don't have any. They're just fans. "We were all in marching band and all played trumpet at one point," Cindy said, "but none of us have any real musical talents."

So for now, with Mary Ann making connections in Nashville and the other girls continuing to do business in other states, it seems to be only a matter of time before the Kaylor Girls become an in-demand part of doing business in the concert and club world. "We have so much fun with it," Mary Ann said. "We're still earning what works and what doesn't."

For more information go to: www.kaylorgirls.com
www.myspace.com/kaylorsisters



From left: Lisa Kaylor, Cindy Smith and Mary Ann Kaylor of the Kaylor Girls



From left: Mary Ann Kaylor, country star Randy Houser and Cindy Smith

J. Dallas Sword: Ryman Dreams Come True For Florida Singer

By Phil Sweetland

When Nashville's iconic Tootsie's Orchid Lounge opened a new location on Florida's Panama City Beach a few years ago, area native and country singer J. Dallas Sword was naturally excited.

Little did he know that the new Tootsie's would eventually lead him to perform at the Ryman Auditorium, opening the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Tootsie's and sharing the stage with his lifelong country idols, including Little Jimmy Dickens and Kris Kristofferson.

After years of trying, J. Dallas had glimpsed the music mountaintop for the first time.

"The Web site just exploded after that, it just flat blew up," Dallas says in a Thanksgiving week conversation from the office of the heavy-equipment company in Florida where he works as a safety coordinator.

"It went from a couple hundred hits a month to a couple hundred a DAY," he continues.

Sword is not only from Panama City, he's a fifth-generation product of the resort town in the Florida Panhandle. His Dad played and sang in area Gospel bands, and was also the Chief of Police in a small town outside Panama City. For a long time, there was a venue in town called the Ocean Opry, which attracted many top Music Row stars.

Like lot of aspiring country artists, Dallas was a fairly anonymous performer playing karaoke nights and club dates near his hometown. He'd come to Nashville occasionally to play venues including the Nashville Palace, and even released a single to country radio a few years ago that didn't do much. But in the process he became very close with Shane Collins, the morning co-host on WPAP, the city's powerhouse Clear Channel country station. Shane eventually introduced Dallas's Ryman performance.



Tootsie's Panama City announced a contest that would result in a 5-week gig playing at the club, and a trip to Nashville. More than 300 entered, 21 became semifinalists, and Dallas won.

"The winner was determined by popular vote," Sword says. "At the end of the five weeks, the vote total was calculated. One of the things that you won was the right to sing at the 50th Anniversary Celebration of Tootsie's Orchid Lounge in Nashville.

"That was held at the Ryman Auditorium on Nov. 7," Dallas says. "They flew us up to Nashville, and I got to sing at Tootsie's in Nashville. Then the coup de grace was opening the show at the Ryman, singing Hank Jr.'s `Family Tradition,' on the same bandstand with Kris and Jimmy. It was probably the coolest thing I've ever done."

Sword's wife Deanna and their two daughters Anna and Alyssa were among the 30 or so family members who came to the Ryman that night and shared Dallas's magic moment.

It was a peak for a career that had started decades before, when Sword's Dad took Dallas with him to sing in church and at shows. Early on, Dallas fell in love with all kinds of music, and particularly the country of traditional stylists including Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Jr. As it turns out, Bocephus's "Family Tradition" has been one of Dallas's personal favorites for years, and the chance to perform it at the Ryman in November was a dream come true in more ways than one.

For this strong Christian from Florida, it was certainly a God moment. But was Dallas nervous, playing at such a high-profile event, in front of friends and families and his own musical idols?

"Nervous? Not really nervous," Sword says. "I've been playing and singing for so long. But I'll tell ya what. That was exciting. Anxious would be the word to describe it."

His longtime friendship with Shane Collins and WPAP has helped spread the news fast in late October about Dallas's victory and upcoming Nashville appearance. For a fifth-generation Floridian in a state largely populated by transplants from the cold Northeast, Sword was delighted to be able to share the victory with area friends and fans who have supported him through thick and thin for years.

"Those guys really helped out," Dallas says. "I had a week in town before coming to Nashville where everybody knew that I won. There's one place where I normally do karaoke, and when I walked in there that week they gave me a standing ovation. They asked me to come on stage and sing."

In fact, Dallas has always felt that the Panhandle's fabulous country fans have been a giant part of his team and his music.

"Now, it's like they all kind of won something," he said, smiling.

And Dallas hasn't let the grass grow under his feet even after his impressive victory. He's already cut a new single, with the ideal country title of "Chasin' It With Beer," that's quickly attracting fans at his newly exploding Web site.



MUSICIAN'S SPOTLIGHT

Pete Drake

©2010 by Bronson Herrmuth

Pete Drake left a musical legacy that will live forever in American music history. As a musician his instrument was the steel guitar and he played it in a way like no other, even though he was always quick to credit other great players for their talent and influences on his ability to play and to create. To try to list all the musicians, songwriters, artists, singers, and bands that he played with, recorded with, and or/produced, was their publisher, or mentor, could fill this entire magazine. Meet Pete Drake.

Born in Augusta, GA on Oct. 8, 1932, Pete built his first steel guitar when he was 18 years old after hearing one played in Nashville and quickly became one of Atlanta's first pedal steel guitar players. In 1954 he started his band, "The Sons of the South", which included superstars Jerry Reed, Doug Kershaw, Roger Miller, Joe South and Jack Greene. In 1959 he moved to Nashville and went on the road with Aubrey Williams, Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper, and Marty Robbins. 1960 found him playing on The Grand Ole Opry and recording with Roy Drusky on his 1960 hit "Anymore" and then George Hamilton IV's "Loveliness All Around Me", and Pete began his incredible career as a session player. He played on so many hits that on one Billboard Top Country Hits chart his steel guitar was featured on 59 of the 75 songs listed.

In 1961 and '62, Pete was signed as a recording artist on Starday Records releasing "For Pete's Sake". In 1963 he signed to Smash Records where he had his million selling hit record, "Forever", where he picked up the nickname, "King of the Talking Steel Guitar". He also released the solo album "Steel Away" for Word Records. Some of the scores of classics Pete played on were "He Stopped Loving Her Today", George Jones, "'Lucille", Kenny Rogers, "Stand By Your Man", Tammy Wynette, "Behind Closed Doors", Charlie Rich, "I Never Promised You A Rose Garden", Lynn Anderson. He played on Elvis Presley's "How Great Though Art" album and on the soundtracks for the films, "Double Trouble", "Clambake", "Speedway", "Spinout", and "Easy Come, Easy Go". With Bob Dylan, he played on the albums, "Self Portrait", "John Wesley Harding", and "Nashville Skyline".

In 1962, along with Tommy Hill, Jerry Shook, Ralph Emery and his brother Jack Drake, Pete founded Window Music Publishing and Tomake Music. Some of writers he helped develop included: Bill and Dottie West, Ed Bruce, Frank Dycus, David Allan Coe, Mary Ann Kennedy, Buzz Rabin, Lathan Hudson, Rick Beresford, Linda Hargrove, Sonny Throckmorton, Jeff Tweel, Susan Longacre, Pam Rose, Larry Kingston and Michael Clark.

Pete could play any style of music. Check this list out: Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, George Harrison, Ringo Starr, Tammy Wynette, Elvis Costello, Bob Dylan, Johnny Cash, Ernest Tubb, Marty Robbins, Roy Rogers, Loretta Lynn, Joan Baez, Hall and Oates, George Jones, Patty Page, Jerry Lee Lewis, Dolly Parton, Carl Perkins, the Everly Brothers, Perry Como, Charley Pride, Tracy Nelson, Reba McEntire, The Monkees, Kenny Rogers, Kitty Wells, Conway Twitty, Joe Simon, Steven Stills, Tex Ritter, Julie Andrews, Charlie Rich, Vicki Carr, Waylon Jennings, Lynn Anderson, Earl Scruggs, Leon Russell, Don Gibson, Del Reeves, Kris Kristofferson and Stonewall Jackson, are just a small sample from many hundreds of artists on whose albums Pete played.

As a Producer, some of the artists he produced include: Ringo Starr, BJ Thomas, Billy Walker, Jan Howard, Ernest Tubb, Ferlin Husky, Jean Shepard, Tracy Nelson, Slim Whitman, Jean Shepard, Oak Ridge Boys, Melba Montgomery, Johnny Bush, Justin Tubb, Ronnie Robbins, Linda Hargrove, Pam Rose, Leon Russell, Bobby Vinton, Ray Pillow, Tommy James, Marshall Chapman, Lonzo & Oscar, George Hamilton IV, Wilma Lee and Stoney Cooper, the Vic Willis Trio, Otis Williams, Larry Kingston, Box Car Willie, and I'm honored to add my band from Iowa, The Ozone Ramblers. In 1981 Pete won a Grammy Award and a Dove Award producing BJ Thomas's "Amazing Grace" album.

In 1970, Pete traveled to England to play on the classic George Harrison album, "All Things Must Pass", where he also met Ringo Starr who came to Nashville soon after when Pete produced his solo country album "Beaucoups of Blues". While in England, Pete turned Peter Frampton on to his famous "talk box", giving him one as a gift.

In 1964, Pete was voted "Instrumentalist of the Year" by the Country Music Association and "Instrumentalist of the Year" by Cash Box magazine along with "Fastest Climbing Instrumentalists" by Record World. In 1970, he was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fames "Walkway of Stars". In 1987, Pete was inducted into the International Steel Guitar Hall of Fame and he was awarded the "Master Award", by the Nashville Entertainment Association. In 2007, he was inducted into the Musicians Hall Of Fame as a member of the Nashville Studio "A" Team, and most recently on Sept. 11, 2010, into the Georgia Music Hall of Fame, in Atlanta, GA.

Pete Drake died on July 29, 1988. He was quite a guy, an extraordinary talent, and he opened my eyes to the world of recording, professional songwriting, music publishing and production. I owe him a great deal and I am proud to have known him, and to have been honored and blessed to have him as a producer, a publisher, and as a friend. Pete even gave me a "real" job after I moved to Nashville, working for him at his house. A tremendous musician and a great man.

Visit Pete Drake online at his very cool site where you can watch videos, see photos, and read more at www.petedrakemusic.com



Ben Peters Receives Country Music Trail Marker



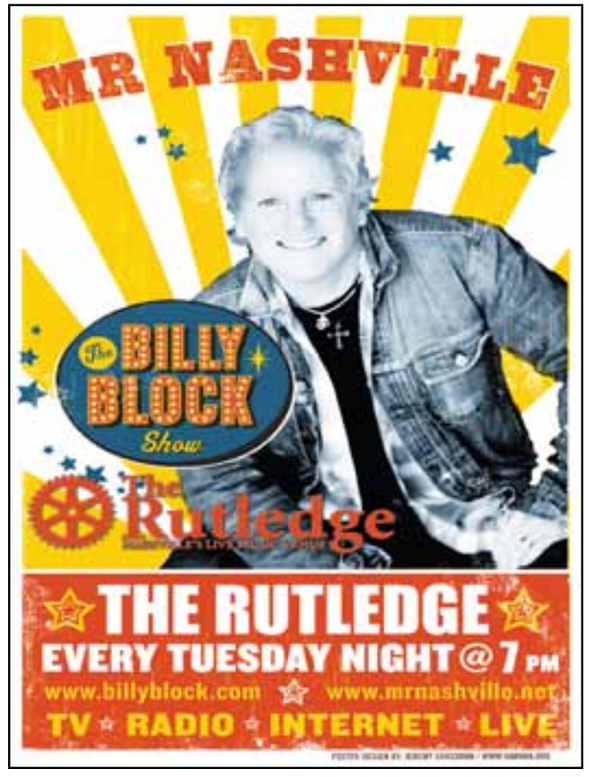
On November 4, 2010, the State of Mississippi recognized native son and renowned songwriter, Ben Peters with a marker along the Mississippi Country Music Trail. Although born in Greenville, the marker stands in Hollandale, where he was raised. Ben Peters blazed his own historic country music trail beginning with his first #1 hit, "Turn The World Around The Other Way," recorded by Eddy Arnold in 1966. To date, his credits include 14 #1 hits and a string of awards including a 1972 Grammy (Best Country Song) for "Kiss An Angel Good Morning. In 1975, he was named Songwriter of the Year by the Nashville Songwriters Association and inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1980. At the height of his career, on average, a Ben Peters song played every six seconds! Understandably, he was honored with BMI's Writer of the Century in 2000.

Peters' rise to stardom was not an easy one. He learned music early by singing with the tenant farmers where he picked cotton. At thirteen, he started playing saxophone and by fourteen, he was performing at local clubs with a swing band. Even while earning his Bachelors of Business Administration degree from the Mississippi Southern College (now the University of Southern Mississippi) the music never stopped; although his heart did for a minute during those last few moments on campus when he met Jackie Macon, his future wife. Together 48 years, it was Jackie that encouraged him through the tough times and was the inspiration for many of his songs. The idea for his monster hit, "Kiss An Angel Good Morning" was sparked when Jackie reminded Ben to "kiss his Angel good morning," "Angel" being their daughter, Angela. Looking back on those times, Jackie comments, "I knew the talent he was given, and I told Ben to keep on keeping on. We worked a lot of jobs in the beginning including selling Christmas trees in Jackson. I'll never forget those times."

On March 1, 2010, the State of Mississippi introduced the Country Music Trail. Building on the success of the Mississippi Blues Trail, Mary Beth Wilkerson, Tourism director for the Mississippi Development Authority commented, "As we continue to spotlight the state's slogan, 'Birthplace of America's Music,' we are excited to unveil such a key element in that message, the Mississippi Country Music Trail." Peters joins other country music notables on the trail including Jimmie Rodgers, Charley Pride, Conway Twitty, and Faith Hill. Ben Peters is the fifth recipient and only songwriter included to this point.

Although the world lost Ben Peters in 2005, his music and legacy continues. Present to receive this honor on his behalf were his wife, Jackie Peters, his daughters, Angela Lauer and Deborah Peters Thomas and his son, Justin Peters. Also in attendance were noted radio personality Paul Ott, longtime friend, Shine Thornton and the Honorable Melvin L. Willis, Sr.





CJaye LeRose

Texas Artist Becomes YouTube, Twitter Sensation En Route To Radio

By Phil Sweetland

For years, Music Row artists have used the tried-and-true and brutally expensive model of reaching country fans through radio and touring.

But a Texas singer and songwriter named CJaye LeRose has been reaching huge audiences of potential listeners and buyers through self-produced YouTube videos and via Twitter. LeRose has also been working closely with an Arizona-based new media specialist named Jessica Northey.

In August, Music Row magazine noted that LeRose had racked up more than 1 Million video views on YouTube and amassed over 10,000 followers on Twitter. By late November, that number had zoomed to more than 16,000.

She also received national airplay, when the XM 11, the satellite radio company XM's Nashville Channel, spun her song "The Porch."

"I was so surprised that happened because I didn't even know about it," she says in a phone conversation from Texas in November. "My uncle called and said, `You're on the radio right now!' I was driving with a friend of mine, and we pulled over and we just froze. Our faces were kinda, `Ahhh!' I was thinking, is this happening? Then I started dancing."

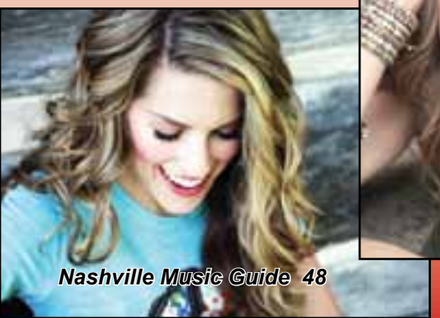
CJaye has already attracted Music Row attention. She posted her cover version of a new Kenny Chesney song on YouTube before Kenny's album came out, and Sony Nashville folks contacted her to ask CJaye to run a YouTube contest to win autographed Kenny CDs.

In a way, LeRose, who lives in the Houston suburbs and commutes to Nashville occasionally to perform, find new songs, and record, has become her own CMT. As soon as she finishes writing a song, she performs it in her living room and posts it on YouTube, with the lyrics scrolling down the right side of the page – an idea CMT and GAC would be wise to copy.

Her constant use of Twitter in growing her own fan base also has put LaRose far ahead of many country artists with the new tech. Taylor Swift has been one of the only country stars to draw huge number of teen fans in part because of Taylor's early embrace of MySpace, and CJaye is doing likewise with Twitter, a 3-year-old company and technology which allows a maximum of 140 characters per message – per Tweet, that is.

"I think kids set at their computers all day," she says. "I'll get them commenting on my Twitter in the middle of the day, and I write back to say `I know you're not old enough to be out of school.' "











Last February, LaRose contacted Northey about social media.

"I got the funniest call with the cutest Southern accent," Northey says from Tucson. "She said, `I've been stalking you on Twitter, and want to talk to you about going to the next level with my music.' "

These leading ladies soon teamed up, and the with huge help from Northey's company the CJaye brand kept growing and growing. This attracted even more attention from the mainstream biz.

"I guess they're noticing me. They're sniffing around, that's what my lawyer told me," LeRose says. "This has worked to my benefit."

Hiring a lawyer is another hugely positive step CJaye has taken, and one that too many young artists overlook. Another major factor is her husband, a successful executive in the oil and gas business in Texas. That allows CJaye to devote focus on her debut album, slated for a March release.

"Most people have found me on YouTube," CJaye says. "I do the videos right here in my living room, I don't have much technical savvy. I just set up the camera."

That's the first part of the process, and Twitter helps her seal the deal.

"Twitter has gotten me to know the fans more," she says. "It's like going to a little party every day."

Lots of Music Row labels, and perhaps those in LA and New York as well, are following CJaye's little parties very closely nowadays.

"People are bored, so it works to your advantage," she says of her phenomenal Web growth. "I love songwriting. I just basically hone in and finish the song on YouTube."

Double E Promotions Leading The Pack In Artist Promotions

Nestled in the small Mississippi town of Booneville, you will find the headquarters of Double E Promotions, a Southern Gospel and Christian Country promotional company quickly becoming a leader in the industry.

Booneville, MS, located just thirty minutes north of Tupelo, may seem like an unlikely hang out for some of today's biggest names in Southern Gospel and Christian Country music, but on any given day that's who you may find visiting with Double E President, Perry Edge. With artists like Marty Haggard, The Dalton Gang, former Statler Brother, Jimmy Fortune and Shenandoah's founding member and lead singer, Marty Raybon on the Double E roster, it's no wonder their crowding the charts with hit singles.

You'd be hard pressed to pick up any Gospel and Christian Country chart magazine and not find several Double E promoted singles and artsits. Since deciding to focus more on the Country Gospel genre over the last couple years, Double E has witnessed the fruits of their labor as many of their clients songs have charted on national Christian music charts, most recently promoting Grammy winning, Statler Brother, Jimmy Fortune's solo single "***In God We Trust***", to number one on the Christian Voice, Christian Country Top 100 Chart for December of 2010, Cindy Hughlett's single, "***Soar***" to number one on the CGC Top 100 Chart for November, former Nashville recording artist, Allen Frizzell's single "***Until Then***" to number one on the Christian Voice Christian Country Top 100 Chart for October of 2010 and Country Gospel Great, Sandra Dee's single, ***"Keep The Faith"*** to number one on the Christian Voice, Christian Country Top 100 Chart for June of 2010.

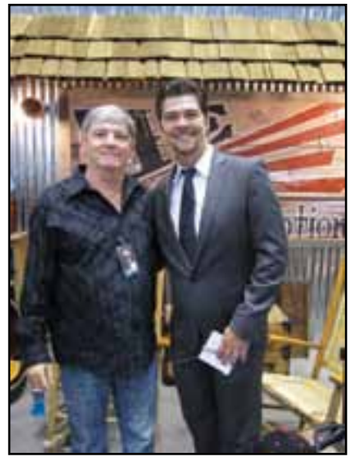
Double E Promotions was founded in 1980 by brothers, Perry and Maynard Edge. The brothers worked for several years, primarily in radio promotions, servicing their clients and aiding their songs as they climbed the country music charts. After deciding to pursue other business interests, Maynard transferred his part of Double E to Perry's wife, Vikki.

In 2007, after meeting Allen Frizzell, younger brother to Legendary Country Music Stars, David and Lefty Frizzell, Perry and Vikki made the decision to transfer their promotional expertise from Country to the Country Gospel genre. This change would prove to be a successful one. As the first Country Gospel artist to be signed to Double E, Allen Frizzell would see four singles record in several gospel music charts with three climbing all the way to the number one position.

Perry Edge credits most of the radio chart success to Norma Beene, Airwaves Promotions Manager and her staff for all the dedicated hard work.









"Norma works everyday with Program Directors and DJ's all across the country working the phones, making sure their playing our songs and reporting them. She loves are artists and what she does and she's good at it." – Perry edge.

In fact, the results of Norma and her staff's hard work is evident in that seventeen Double E Artists have charted on five national Southern Gospel and Christian Country charts for the month of December. Double E Promotions offers a wide variety of services for the Artist and the Talent Buyer.

Radio Promotions Department -- Nationwide distribution of your song to major Gospel charting stations. They make daily calls to charting radio stations across the country and provide a detailed report of tracking of your song that is reported to the National Gospel Charts.

Nashville Studio Recording & Producing -- Professional quality, with 24 track recording, along with the best studio musicians Nashville has to offer.

Booking Services Department -- Whether your an Artist looking for booking representation or a Talent Buyer looking to book talent for your event. Double E represents both new and legendary artists.

Flash Web Design -- Double E has also recently teamed with Nashville's Artist to the Stars, Corey Frizzell to offer special pricing on professional flash web design. If the name Frizzell sounds familiar, it should because Corey is the nephew of Country Stars David and Lefty Frizzell and the son of Country Gospel Artist Allen Frizzell. Corey is a visual artist in high demand, creating custom portraits, stunning graphics and web design. With royal country music blood running through his veins, Frizzell has come full circle and been named the Artist to The Stars for his artistic collaboration with some of Country Music, Bluegrass and Country Gospel Music's biggest names.

If you are interested in Double E Promotions representing you with a range of services from radio promotion and booking to press-kits and recording, please visit www.doubleepromotions.com

ARMY VET PUTS HEART AND SOUL INTO SONGS

By Phil Sweetland



Country artists often sing about decorated military veterans, but Weston James is one of very few 12-year Army veterans and Bronze Star recipients now working as a singer and songwriter on Music Row.

James, who retired with the rank of Captain, is a Gulf War veteran with a Master's degree in Logistics Management. The Bronze Star became an official Army honor during World War II, and "is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the Army of the United States after 6 December 1941, distinguished himself or herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service," according to Chapter 3 of the Army Regulations.

In other words, Weston James is not exactly your average Joe on Music Row.

"I was in the Army almost 12 years, starting off in reserves as an enlisted man in the Infantry," James says during a phone conversation in late November. "I then went active duty, graduated college, got commissioned as an officer, made it up to Captain, and did all kinds of stuff."

One of his strongest songs is "What An Honor," about a soldier being laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery and welcomed by the ghosts of the heroes who have gone before. After Weston posted the song on the Web, he received Emails from folks who were veterans or were families whose own sons or daughters had been killed in action, requesting that "What An Honor" be performed at their memorials. Weston was humbled, honored and touched, and proud to be able to honor his fellow soldiers.

James won a talent competition in elementary school, singing an Andy Gibb song. He played drums in high school and college in cover bands, but didn't begin writing songs until later. After retiring from the Army in 1996, he was a manager for Circuit City in New York City, a place he loved.

"That job was fun, it was lots of hours," he said. "That kind of job allows you to get your creative juices going, like songwriting."

One day in New York, he left his wallet at a girlfriend's apartment, so he had to walk three miles and across Central Park to get home.

"I started off pissed off, but this melody started coming to me," he said. "By the time I got home, I had a song done."

Even an Army Captain was impressed by that. Weston asked himself: "Whoa, what did I just do?"

When the economy went south in the late 2000s, Weston began thinking of moving to Nashville. That move was hastened after he had posted some songs on the Web, and got a call from the veteran country programmer and AllAboutCountry.com founder Bill Hennes.

Not long after arriving in Nashville in November 2008, he had built an impressive songwriting catalog with tunes like "Jose, Jack & Jim," "Caught Somewhere In Between," and "American, That's Who I Am." He developed a strong vocal and writing style, which some say would be like the fusion of Neil Young and Bruce Springsteen, if that famous pair teamed to write a country album.

One year to the day after getting to Music City, Weston found out he had been chosen as the runner-up in CMT's Music City Madness Competition. Then his song "Sweet Watermelon Girl" earned Honorable Mention recognition in the International Singer/Songwriter Association Awards in 2009.

Also that year, he released his first album, fittingly called "Country & Weston," which picked up considerable radio airplay at indy stations.

This summer, Weston won yet another contest, this time a song competition for Tennessee Concerts.

All the while, Weston has been honing his chops in writing, performing, and recording.

"Up in New York, I had owned two stores selling Ray-Bans. But all of a sudden I couldn't sell crap. On the other hand," he says, "I was writin' songs like crazy. I realized that I'm here for a reason, and somebody was telling me to get the heck out of New York and was opening up windows in Nashville. So I started putting my home recordings on the Internet."

Like a lot of today's indy artists, ex-Army Captain Weston James didn't sit around and wait for the major labels or major radio group owners to take notice. He realized that the Web gave him equal footing with them in terms of new tech like Facebook, MySpace, and Twitter, and used that to reach new listeners all over the country and even around the world.

He's already seen a great deal of that world in service to his country, and now Weston James and his music are perfectly poised to begin a new mission on Music Row and at country radio.



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Louisiana Captain's Songs Making Waves on Music Row

By Phil Sweetland









Captain Joe Kent has one of the most unique jobs you can imagine for a country songwriter: He pilots giant 90-foot ships that often push two or three barges at a time across inland waterways from his home base near New Orleans to ports as far east as Florida, as far west as Texas, and as far north as Minnesota.

It's a job not all that different from what Mark Twain was doing over 150 years ago, when Twain worked on and wrote about steamboats in the Mississippi River. But in large part thanks to some very modern technology that Mark Twain could only have dreamed of – Facebook videos of Joe's songs – Joe Kent's music is at long last starting to get heard along Music Row.

"I don't do this for a living, I do it for fun," Captain Joe says of his day job in a phone conversation as he prepares for another river voyage. "I get to drive a frigging boat. I'd do it for free."

Happily he does get paid for this difficult and vital work, and early on Kent believed that the unusual work schedule of shipping, with 28 days and nights on board followed by a week or two off at home, would give him an ideal chance to pitch songs on Music Row between voyages.

But like countless aspiring tunesmiths for decades, most of what he encountered here for years was rejection.

"I was sending out 100 letters to Nashville each time I got home," he said. "I would go broke running tape copies, giving tapes away and sending out demos."

At first his wife was as excited as Joe was, but as the rejections kept piling in and chipping away at her husband's pride, she got to the point she never wanted to hear anything else about music or Nashville.

"At one time I almost did quit songwriting," he says. "But I don't quit, because I just can't. I wrote my first songs at 7 years old. For many years, I wanted to be a songwriter but didn't have nothing to write about. When I went thru my divorce, songwriting kept me sane. I went thru some wild times after I got divorced, and I went from having written a handful of songs to from 300-400."

His greatest influences are Hank Williams Jr. and singers from the Outlaw Movement, such as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, and Willie Nelson. Captain Joe considers himself far more a songwriter than a singer, though his gritty vocals on autobiographical tunes like "Son Of The Highway" and "Dark Cloud Blues" are also strong and unique.

Hank Jr. is often known as Bocephus, so it's not surprising that Joe sometimes bills himself as "Captain Jocephus." Another of Joe's heroes is the late, great Merle Kilgore, a prolific music publisher and songwriter (he co-wrote "Ring Of Fire"), who worked for years as Hank Jr.'s manager.

Kilgore had been a role model for Kent for years from afar, so naturally Joe mailed a package of his songs to Merle's office. As usual, he didn't hear anything back. But one Saturday afternoon when Captain Joe was ashore, he mustered up the nerve to phone Kilgore's office.

"When the phone call went thru and Merle Kilgore answered it himself, man, it was cold chills went all over me," Captain Joe recalls. "I introduced myself, and we had a great, awesome conversation. He gave me permission to submit 4 or 5 songs. Of course, the songs got turned down, but he called me personally afterwards and he was very supportive."

Kilgore told Joe, "son, just keep on writin' them songs. You never know, you just might write a No. 1 song."

After years and years of rejection, that series of calls from Kilgore was enough to inspire Captain Joe Kent to keep writing and keep pitching forever. "Here's a guy in that position that called me personally," Joe still recalls, with a smile.

Kilgore, a fellow Louisianan who also charted 8 Billboard country singles as an artist including 1960's Top 10 "Love Has Made You Beautiful," died in 2005 at age 70.

Hurricane Katrina was a traumatic period on the Gulf Coast, and Joe's next video "My New Orleans" was originally penned for the victims of Katrina. When the hurricane struck and devastated New Orleans, Captain Joe was on a boat doing government contract work on the inland waterways between Houston and Panama City, Florida. For several days, he couldn't find out what had happened to wife or his home near New Orleans.

"I had a friend of mine pick me up off the boat at a bridge," Joe says. "Despite sheriff's orders that nobody go into that area, I went and found my wife and told her I was okay."

His home and yard had suffered some damage, including the destruction of a chicken coop that left dozens of chickens squawking around the yard. For weeks, friends and neighbors had to use Joe's swimming pool for bathing.

"My wife went 31 days without electricity. She lived off the eggs from the chickens," Joe says. "I'd stop and get groceries on the way home, and would bring her bags of ice since we had no power for the refrigerators."

Captain Joe Kent has lived a life that is in many ways like a country song. Now at last his own songs are being heard and his videos are being watched.









Inside Track on Music Row

by Preshias

Send me music stuff, I love to get it! / Preshiaswriter@hotmail.com TN/USA. Google “Preshias” & www.nashvillemusicpros.com/preshias

VERSE OF THE MONTH: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me - Phil. 4:13

QUOTE OF THE MONTH: “Music is the soundtrack of our lives.” - Dick Clark

ARTISTS NEWS: Pam Tillis has started a second career: writing a new cuisine column for Country Weekly. The self-proclaimed “foodie” and “top chef wannabe” grew up around good cooking and has a history of culinary explorations which she plans to share monthly with Country Weekly readers in her new column, Pam & Company. Pam also writes a food blog at http://nocrockbetty and says her Country Weekly column will “push the envelope a little bit and make it interesting so you don’t get bored with cooking.”… Aaron Tippin takes his show overseas again this holiday season. Entertaining troops and their families who are stationed away from home, Tippin shares his time with the men and women who risk their lives daily for our country. After performing in a Thanksgiving show for troops in Iraq, he headed out for his first visit to Japan for a Christmas performance in Okinawa for the United States Marine Corps at Camp Hansen.

BABY NEWS: Who is Country Music newest Granddad? Aaron Tippin. Congratulations to Aaron’s daughter Charla Tippin Smith and husband Kenneth Smith on the birth of their daughter Lorelai Piper Smith. Lorelai is Aaron’s first grandchild.

BENEFIT NEWS: Emmylou Harris hosts a December 18 Holiday pet adoption event at Corroboree Spa, 1014 17th Ave South in Nashville from 9:00 to noon. “Miracle on Music Row with Emmylou” benefits Bonaparte’s Retreat, an organization in Nashville dedicated to providing nurturing foster care and homes for shelter animals. Though the event is free and open to the public, a suggested donation of $10 will be taken at the door. Miracle on Music Row is an effort to bring attention to the need of shelter for many homeless. Bonaparte’s Retreat was created for rescue dogs that were unadoptable from Nashville Humane Association and at Metro Nashville Animal Control. More at www.corroboreespa.com.... Charlie Daniels Annual Christmas 4 Kids November 22nd Concert SOLD OUT!!

CD NEWS: Blue Steel Records - Burns And Poe (Keith Burns and Michelle Poe) officially introduced the new music from their self-titled CD at the SESAC offices on Music Row, celebrating with friends, family and music industry executives. Produced by Mark Oliverius, the 2-disc project contains 13 original Burns & Poe songs. A special autographed LP/CD package is available for fans at www.burnsandpoe.com with the official release to retailers in late February 2011.

CD RELEASES: Alan Jackson has just released 34 NUMBER ONES, a career-spanning, double-disc collection featuring all of Jackson’s #1 hits to date, including the recent chart-topping smash, “As She’s Walking Away,” with Zac Brown Band. The album also contains Jackson’s next single, “Ring of Fire,” a fresh take on a Johnny Cash classic. With 37 songs in all, 34 NUMBER ONES includes all 34 of Jackson’s previous #1 singles. With a career spanning 20+ years, Jackson is a 16-time winner at both the CMA and ACM Awards.

CMA NEWS: Roots Music Exporters’ owner John Lomax III is the CMA Jo Walker-Meador International Award recipient in recognition of his outstanding achievement in advocating for and supporting Country music’s marketing and development overseas. The award, named after former CMA Executive Director (1959-1991) and Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Jo Walker-Meador, was presented during the CMA International Reception.

GARTH NEWS: Garth Brooks sells out… in a good way. Garth announced that he would headline a concert as a fundraiser for the victims of the devastating flood that inundated parts of Nashville in May.

Statler Brother, Jimmy Fortune Tops The Charts With “In God We Trust”

Eight years after the world famous Country Quartet group, The Statler Brothers parked the bus and retired for good, former member Jimmy Fortune is still finding success as a solo artist with his recent Christian Country national number one hit, “***In God We Trust***”.

The number one single, from Jimmy’s fourth solo project ***Windows***, was released to radio in August of this year by leading Christian and Gospel promotional company, Double E Promotions and has climbed all the way to the top of the national Christian Voice Christian Country Top 100 Chart for December of 2010. This is Jimmy’s second national number one as a solo artist. In fact his song “***Wrote It In Red***” from his first Gospel album, **I Believe** reached the number one position on the national Christian Voice Christian Country Top 100 Chart for December of 2009.

If your familiar with the Statler Brother’s tunes, than you may know that fortune is no stranger to chart topping hits, as a Statler Brother, he penned the groups number one singles, “***Elizabeth***,” from their 1983 album, **Today**, “***My Only Love***”, from their 1984 release, **Atlanta Blue** and “***Too Much On My Heart***” from their 1985 release, **Pardners in Rhyme**. Fortune also wrote the top-10 hit “***Forever***” from their 1986 album **Four for the Show** and co-wrote the top-10 hit “***More Than a Name on the Wall***” from the group’s 1988 release, **The Greatest Hits**.



Jimmy has been commonly refered to as “The little guy on the end” and is widely regarded as the greatest tenor in country music. He sang tenor for the Statler Brothers for 21 years, joining them as a replacement for the ailing Lew DeWitt in the year 1982. He became a full time member when DeWitt was unable to return to the stage due to Crohn’s Disease.

Rounding out the group was Harold Reid, Phil Balsley and Don Reid. The Statler’s were the premier group in country music for nearly forty years. Entering the business in 1964 as the backup voices for Johnny Cash on stage, record and TV, they served their apprenticeship with him for 8 1/2 years. During that time they recorded their first hit record, “***Flowers on the Wall***”, and were regulars on the weekly Johnny Cash Show on ABC TV.

Leaving the Cash troupe in 1972, they continued with such hit records as “***Bed of Rose’s***”, “***Class of ‘57***” and “***I’ll Go to My Grave Loving You***”. Their original harmonies, sense of humor and lyrical style of writing highlighted a career that led them to the top of the music charts countless times and to a concert touring success that packed arenas and theaters with every performance. Their award winning (Grammies, CMA’s, Gold and Platinum records and etc) is legendary and they are considered to be the most honored of any act in the country music field. The 90s saw them starring in their own television series, **The Statler Brothers Show**, on TNN, The Nashville Network for seven years and remaining the number one show on the network its entire run. Deciding to retire from a lifetime of traveling and enjoy the good life in their, they gave their farewell concert in the fall of 2002.

Jimmy and The Statler Brothers were inducted into the **GMA** (Gospel Music Association) Hall of Fame on October 29, 2007, and inducted into the **CMA** (Country Music Association) Hall of Fame in June 29, 2008. The Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville honored the Statler Brothers with a special exhibit on June 3, 2010. The 30-foot glass encasement consists of such Statler memorabilia as their first sound system; the red, white and blue microphones from their concert tours; original song scripts; the orange paint encrusted guitar from the film Smokey and the Bandit II; a box of Statler tissues; stage suits; lots of pictures and even the Roadhog outfit.

After the group’s retirement, Jimmy launched his solo career with the release of his first album, **When One Door Closes**, in August 2003 on Audium/Koch. He then released a gospel album, **I Believe**, in June 2005, a Christmas CD, **Feels Like Christmas**, in 2006, a live concert DVD in 2007 and another country CD, **Windows** in 2009.



New York City native and respected singer-songwriter Gina Zavalis has come a long way since her transition from theatre performer to recording artist. From off-Broadway musicals to sold-out Yankee Stadium special events, Gina Zavalis' career as a performer has spanned over two decades to date, setting the stage, literally, for a powerful debut as a solo artist. Along with her management company, The Lowry Agency, Gina has worked hard to develop a distinctly recognizable media presence to accentuate the delivery of her classic, sophisticated melodies.

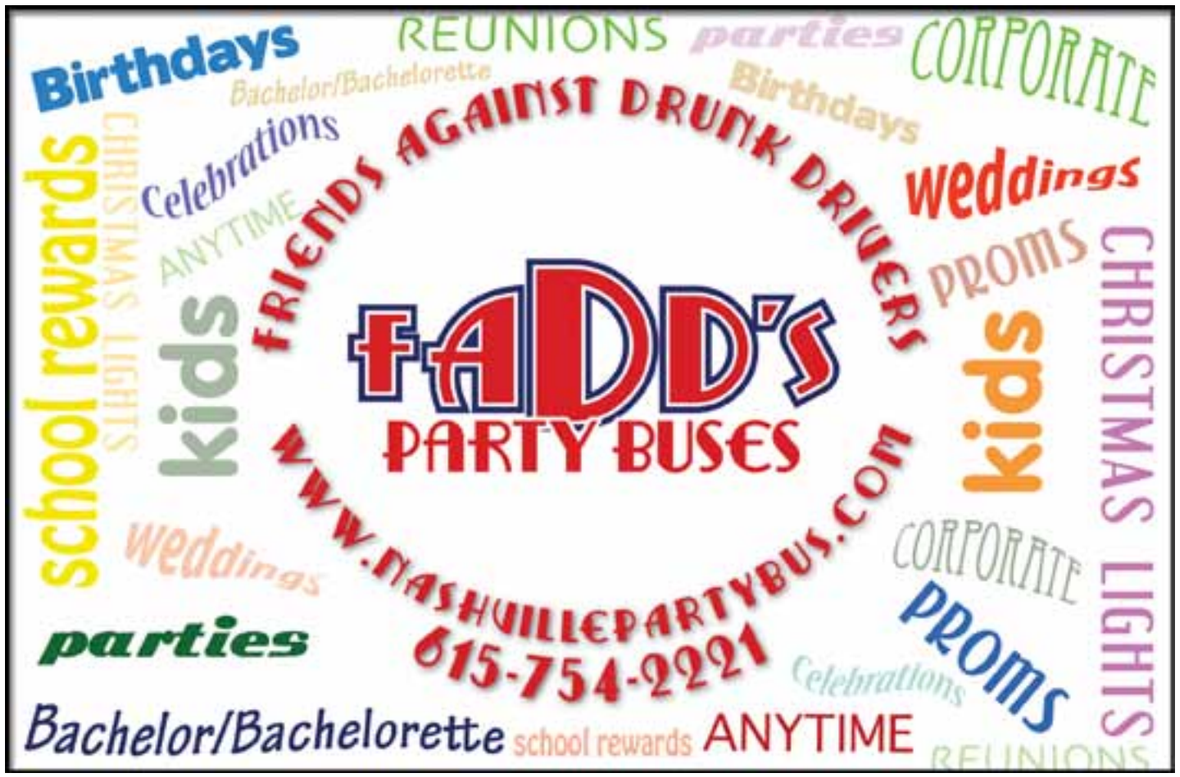
For those who have not heard her self-titled album, the songs were written by Gina Zavalis, Doug Beiden, David Lowry, Rhean Boyer and Grammy-nominated songwriter Rand Bishop, and produced by Doug Beiden. "The making of this EP taught me so much and brought to the surface

desires that I believe everyone wants – unconditional, true love and acceptance. I hope to inspire these emotions for the listener as I have been inspired by singing these songs," stated Gina Zavalis about the exciting new phase of her career in the music industry.

Gina Zavalis has been dividing her studio time between Nashville and New York City as she develops a dazzling collection of breathtakingly beautiful songs that perfectly captures her three-octave range. Her powerful, entrancing vocals have been compared to noted industry divas as Celine Dion and Barbara Streisand, lending both strength and momentum to the upcoming musical star's climb to success.

"Gina is one of the purest talents I have ever had the pleasure of hearing. Her voice is angelic and her work ethic is unparalleled. She is a true singer and performer and I hold her in the highest regard. It is my sincere honor to be working with her and we are blessed she chose to work with us." said David Lowry, President of The Lowry Agency, in regards to his new client.

Gina will be performing at Helping Healing Hearts Holiday Fundraiser in Nashville on December 7th at The Factory in Franklin and she will also be appearing on Tennessee Mornings that same week. Be sure to keep an eye on this one, she is sure to go far with her spectacular musical talents.





Julie Ingram



God Bless & Happy Holidays.
Be safe and here's to 2011.
Happy New Year Darlin'

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