

CMA **l o s e u p**

DECEMBER 2005 / JANUARY 2006

**"THE 39TH ANNUAL
CMA AWARDS"**
Recap of "Country
Music's Biggest Night™"
in the Big Apple

"Country Takes NYC"
Highlights

**CMA BROADCAST
AWARDS WINNERS**

**HALL OF FAME
MEMBERS INDUCTED**

FAITH HILL
is a 'Mississippi Girl'

**Meet New CMA Board
President MIKE DUNGAN**

**Incoming CMA BOARD
OF DIRECTORS**

**Top CMA Leadership
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**RHONDA VINCENT and
the 'World of Bluegrass'**

**Songwriter Spotlight:
ROGER MURRAH**

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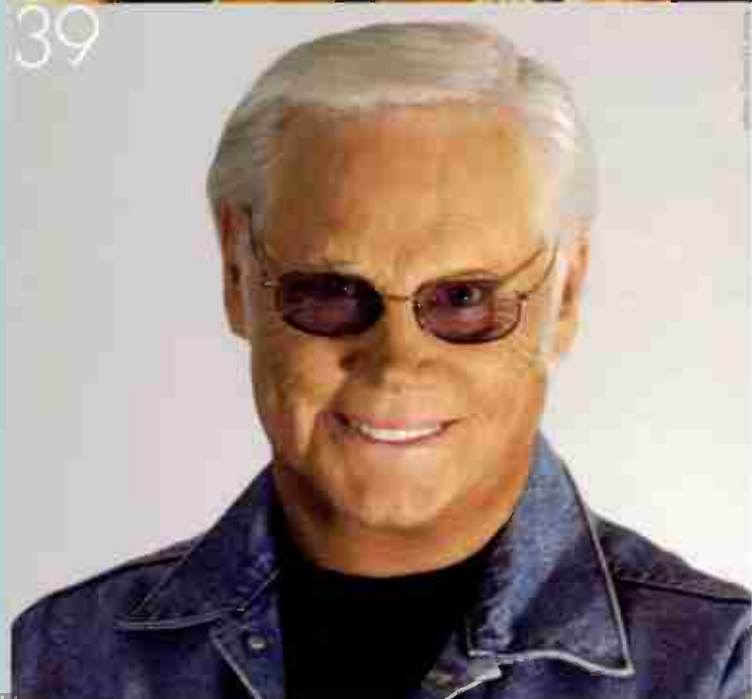
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Photo: Hutchins & Fell Photography

This is the last time I will be writing to you as CMA's Executive Director. Starting with the February/March 2006 issue of *CMA Close Up*, you will be regularly hearing from my incredible colleague Tammy Genovese, CMA's new Chief Operating Officer, who assumes this new position Jan. 1.

At the first of 2006, I will be undertaking a totally new role for CMA as its first ever Chief Strategic Officer. In this role, I will be working closely with the CMA Board to set a future course for CMA and determine how we get there.

This is an exciting opportunity for me and for the organization. CMA has been remarkably effective with its strategic planning for nearly 20 years. And I have been along throughout that time to witness how effective planning by our great group of volunteer leaders along with focused execution by our talented and dedicated professional staff has resulted in outstanding achievements.

CMA has raised the expectation and helped our industry reach new heights during a two-decade period which has to be characterized as the most exciting and dynamic in the history of Country Music. Today's Country artists have taken their rightful place among the biggest stars in music, and national and international media attention has never been better.

As I packed my bags to return home following CMA's triumphant week in New York City that included the CMA Awards at Madison Square Garden, I was struck with the enormity of what had been accomplished. Just a few nights earlier during a VIP reception at Gracie Mansion hosted by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, CMA Lifetime Board members Frances Preston and Bill Denny had quipped, "we've come a long way since walking a horse into the lobby of the Plaza Hotel in 1962" remembering that unusual door prize intended to lure ad agency people to a CMA lunch presentation to promote Country Music.

CMA continues to strive to assure the future success of the format, and to enhance its value to all who are part of the business. I am thrilled to be given the chance to help shape the future for an organization that can proudly claim such a great history of achievement. I believe there is so much excitement ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Ed Benson'.

Ed Benson

CMA Executive Director

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



Alan Jackson "WONDERFUL TONIGHT"



Alison Krauss and Union Station featuring Jerry Douglas "MY POOR OLD HEART"



Big & Rich "COMIN' TO YOUR CITY"



Jennifer Nettles and Bon Jovi "WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GO HOME"



Brad Paisley "WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING"



Brooks & Dunn "BELIEVE"



Carrie Underwood "JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL"



Dierks Bentley "COME A LITTLE CLOSER"



Elton John and Dolly Parton "TURN THE LIGHTS OUT WHEN YOU LEAVE" AND "IMAGINE"



Faith Hill and Tim McGraw "LIKE WE NEVER LOVED AT ALL"



Simon, Willie Nelson and Norah Jones "CRAZY AFTER ALL THESE YEARS" AND "CRAZY"



Sugarland "SOMETHING MORE"



George Strait "HIGH TONE WOMAN"



Gretchen Wilson
"I DON'T FEEL LIKE LOVING YOU TODAY"



Julie Roberts "FIRST TO NEVER KNOW"



Keith Urban "BETTER LIFE"



Kenny Chesney "LIVING IN FAST FORWARD"



Lee Ann Womack
"TWENTY YEARS AND TWO HUSBANDS AGO"



Martina McBride
"HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT"



Sara Evans "CHEATIN'"



Miranda Lambert "KEROSENE"



Rascal Flatts "FAST CARS AND FREEDOM"



Garth Brooks "GOOD RIDE COWBOY"



Photos: John Rosewell / CMA, Jason K. Harper, and Michael Lee



entertainer and male vocalist of the year
KEITH URBAN



female vocalist of the year
GRETCHEN WILSON



vocal group of the year
RASCAL FLATTS



horizon award
DIERKS BENTLEY



album, single and musical event of the year



vocal duo of the year
BROOKS & DUNN



musician of the year
TOBY KEITH - Dobro

album of the year
There's More Where That Came From
 LEE ANN WOMACK
 Produced by Byron Gallimore and Greg Droman
 MCA Nashville

single of the year
 "I May Hate Myself In The Morning"
 LEE ANN WOMACK
 Produced by Byron Gallimore
 MCA Nashville

musical event of the year
 GEORGE STRAIT (DUET WITH LEE ANN WOMACK)
 "Good News, Bad News"
 MCA Nashville



song of the year "Whiskey Lullaby"
 Written by BILL ANDERSON and JON RANDALL
 Sony/ATV Cross Keys / Mr. Bubba Music / Reynsong / Wha Ya Say Music

music video of the year "As Good As I Once Was"
 TOBY KEITH (not present)
 Directed by Michael Salomon

photos: John Russell/CMA and John Luccisano/FilmMagic.com

KEITH URBAN WINS TWO AND LEE ANN WOMACK PICKS UP THREE CMA AWARDS ON "COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST NIGHT™"

The Big Apple provided a big night for some of Country Music's biggest stars. "The 39th Annual CMA Awards," hosted by Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn of Brooks & Dunn, was broadcast on Tuesday, Nov. 15 for the first time outside of Nashville, live from Madison Square Garden in New York City on the CBS Television Network.

Keith Urban won his second consecutive CMA Male Vocalist of the Year and his first Entertainer of the Year Award, making him only the second Country artist in CMA Awards history to win the Horizon, Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year Awards. Urban won the Horizon Award in 2001. "I have been out with Kenny [Chesney] this year and last year," Urban said of his tour mate. "So I want to thank Kenny for teaching me so much about entertaining."

"Country Music's Biggest Night™" was an understatement for top-nominee Lee Ann Womack, who picked up three CMA Awards for Album, Single and Musical Event of the Year. "I love Country Music," Womack said. "If you listen to music that doesn't touch you or mean anything to you, listen to Country Music. We have songs that speak to you and songs that will touch you."

There's More Where That Came From, produced by Byron Gallimore and Greg Droman, garnered Womack her first Album of the Year Award. The first single from the album, "I May Hate Myself In The Morning," was her second Single of the Year, the first being 2000's "I Hope You Dance." She also won her third Musical Event of the Year Award (formerly Vocal Event of the Year) for her duet with George Strait on "Good News, Bad News."

Kenny Chesney kicked off the show with the high-energy "Living In Fast Forward."

One of the most touching and rocking moments came when superstar Garth Brooks performed "Good Ride Cowboy," a tribute to his late friend Chris LeDoux with LeDoux's band Western Underground, live from a packed Times Square. New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg welcomed Brooks back to New York, recalling Brooks' huge Central Park show in 1997 with an estimated 750,000 people. LeDoux received the CMA Chairman's Award of Merit from CMA Chairman of the Board Kix Brooks.

Twelve-time CMA Awards host Vince Gill formally inducted Alabama, DeFord Bailey and Glen Campbell as the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame.

Bailey, a gifted harmonica player on the Grand Ole Opry during the Great Depression, was inducted in the "Career Achieved National Prominence Prior to World War II" category.

Musician, singer, songwriter and television personality Campbell was inducted in the "Career Achieved National Prominence Between World War II and 1975" category. "I can't tell you what a thrill it is to be here," Campbell said. "I am honored to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. It's a thrill for me to be included with the artists that inspired me and became my friends and colleagues."

Arguably the biggest band in Country Music history, Alabama was inducted in the new "Career Achieved National Prominence Between 1975 and the Present" category created earlier this year. "This is the pinnacle of the awards right here," said band member Jeff Cook.

"There are thousands of people I want to thank but we don't have time for that," said Alabama's Mark Herndon. "I'll get to them later. I'd like to thank my beautiful wife Karen for enduring all of this with me over the years, 20 of them, and kept me on the payroll despite my job performance sometimes."

"Due to time constraints during the CMA Awards telecast, founding members of Alabama, Randy Owen and Teddy Gentry, were unable to deliver their acceptance remarks. Below, from the band's official Web site, are the things they had planned to say. I have expressed CMA's sincerest apologies, so I hope you will read the eloquent thoughts below," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson.

"Being put into the Country Music Hall of Fame is the greatest achievement of Alabama's career," said Gentry. "I am moved and honored to be in the elite company of my heroes."

"I remember once when I was a kid chopping cotton, bare footed, wearing a pair of shorts my mother had made for me out of a fertilizer sack, my daddy and I were looking up in the sky and he said, 'I wonder what it would be like to fly in an airplane,'" said Owen. "Tonight, standing here, I flew in an airplane from Alabama to New York City to be part of the ceremony inducting Alabama into Country Music's Hall of Fame. It is a very, very special thing. We couldn't have gotten here without the help of a lot of people. We've had the same manager, Dale Morris, for all of these years, and the same booking agent, Barbara Hardin. We had an incredible team of folks over at RCA led by Joe Galante. I want to mention that we miss Gaylen Adams and Wayne Edwards, two guys that went to bat for us and helped us so many times. Thanks to the great team of promotion guys and the sales team at RCA and the folks at BMI who have been so

continued on page 8...



Brooks & Dunn host the CMA Awards.



Lee Ann Womack wins three CMA Awards.



Keith Urban wins two CMA Awards.



Wynonna performs at the Post CMA Awards Party.



Garth Brooks performs from Times Square.

CMA Executive Director Ed Benson welcomes the audience to the CMA Awards.





Teddy Gentry, Jeff Cook, Randy Owen and Mark Herndon of Alabama



Dezora Bailey Thomas, DeFord Bailey, Jr. and Christine Bailey Craig, family of DeFord Bailey



Glen Campbell



Jonathan Sowa, Financial Planner, AXA Advisors; Michael Hamrick, Divisional Vice President, AXA Advisors and Hank Adam Locklin, CMA Senior Manager of Membership and Industry Relations at the Nashville viewing party.

Presenters Cowboy Troy and Wynonna



wonderful to me. Tonight, for me, is just an incredible time. It's the first time at any awards show ever that all three of my children and my wife have been present. It's just a wonderful night for me. On a personal note, I want to say again thanks to Country radio and the men and women that make up Country radio because their hearts have saved the lives on many children at St. Jude and I hope they never forget, I won't. It is a great night. God bless the CMA. I'm very honored to be part of Country Music's Hall of Fame."

Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon, who play Johnny Cash and June Carter Cash in the movie "Walk the Line," presented the Single of the Year Award to Womack. Other presenters included Trace Adkins, Cowboy Troy, James Gandolfini, Billy Joel, Montgomery Gentry, Olivia Newton-John, Joe Nichols, LeAnn Rimes, Shania Twain, Wynonna and Trisha Yearwood.

Jamie O'Neal and Blue County hosted the pre-telecast CMA Awards.

The party didn't end when the curtain fell on "Country Music's Biggest Night™" as Wynonna performed at the CMA Awards Post-Party at the Marriott Marquis.

"It was an honor and a privilege to have an artist of such caliber perform at this prestigious annual event," said Benson. "The Post-Party wrapped up an incredible week of Country Music in New York, and it's only fitting we have such a marvelous entertainer take part in the festivities."

Blender magazine, the Ultimate Guide to Music and More, joined with Universal Music Group and CMA and sponsored a CMA Awards viewing party for people in the Nashville music industry at Mercy Lounge on Cannery Row in Nashville. After watching the broadcast, attendees enjoyed a performance by D-Tox and the Redneck Rock Stars.

The CMA Awards broadcast took a bite out of the Big Apple and the competition, giving CBS a nightly win in viewers and key demographics, according to final national Nielsen ratings. The CMA Awards was first in households (11.1/17), viewers (17.73m), adults 18-49 (5.4/13) and adults 25-54 (6.7/15) and was Tuesday's No. 1 program in households, viewers and adults 25-54. CBS Research estimates more than 36 million viewers watched all or part of the ceremony. CBS posted season high Tuesday deliveries in viewers and key demographics with the Network's best Tuesday ratings in adults 18-49 since May 10, 2005 and its best Tuesday performance in viewers and adults 25-54 since Nov. 9, 2004 (also the CMA Awards).

This year, Country Music fans in the UK got more chances than ever to enjoy the CMA Awards. For the first time, BBC2 Television broadcast an edited version of the show in prime time, Nov. 19 at 19:45 UTC (7:45 PM/ET) and again that evening. BBC Radio 2, the station with most listeners in the UK ran a pre-show special and then a live simulcast of the show from Madison Square Garden hosted by Nick Barraclough and Laura Cantrell. Barraclough followed up the next day with a highlights program. Later, Brian D'Arcy presented the Awards on BBC Radio Ulster.

The CMA Awards was first broadcast on network television in 1968 — making it the longest running, music awards program on network TV. The CMA Awards is a Country Music Association production. Walter C. Miller is Executive Producer, Paul Miller is the director and David Wild is the writer. MJI Programming, a division of Premiere Radio Networks, is the official radio packager of the CMA Awards, which includes Red Carpet coverage and a stereo-radio simulcast of the gala event. Chevy, An American Revolution, is the official automotive sponsor of the 2005 CMA Awards. American Airlines is the official airline of the 2005 CMA Awards. Additional promotional partners include Prilosec OTC, Country Weekly, Creme Savers® Candy and Gibson Guitars. Charles Fazzino is the official artist of the 2005 CMA Awards. FilmMagic.com is the official photographer of the 2005 CMA Awards.



AN AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Hall of Fame Presenter Vince Gill



Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg introduces Garth Brooks.



Presenters Joe Nichols and Olivia Newton-John



COUNTRY MUSIC IS WELL SERVED BY THIS YEAR'S MOVE TO THE MEDIA CAPITAL OF THE WORLD WITH MORE COVERAGE

More than 500 journalists, photographers and television reporters were credentialed for the CMA Awards, representing more than 160 domestic and international media outlets.

Prominent network and syndicated television shows ran artist interviews and performances and/or preview stories in the weeks leading up to the Awards, including "Access Hollywood," "Entertainment Tonight," "Extra," "CBS The Early Show," "Good Morning America," "Late Night With David Letterman," "Late Show With Conan O'Brien," "Live With Regis & Kelly," "Martha," "The Tonight Show," "The Tony Danza Show," "The View" and more. In addition, national cable channels including A&E, CMT, CNN, E!, ESPN, Food Network, Fox News Channel, GAC, MSNBC, TV Guide Channel and others covered the event and ran Country Music programming designed to promote the Awards. The CMA Awards and surrounding activities were well covered on cable television shows including "CNN Showbiz Tonight," "CMT Insider," "Country Music Across America," "Emeril Live," "Fox and Friends," "Imus in the Morning," "Larry King Live" and more.

Three CBS Video News Releases (VNRs) containing artist interviews and performance b-roll from rehearsals were available for TV news outlets via satellite on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. The Sunday feed also included interviews and performance footage from "Broadway Meets Country," the benefit concert that took place Nov. 12 at Frederick P. Rose Hall as part of the "Country Takes NYC" week of events. CBS affiliates from top markets across the nation covered the event in various ways. Some traveled to New York to cover the Awards in person while others took advantage of the national correspondent provided by CBS Newspath for live interviews from the Red Carpet during their evening newscasts.

Stories on the CMA Awards were prominently featured in newspapers including *Chicago Sun-Times*, *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, *Newark Star-Ledger*, *New York Daily News*, *New York Post*, *New York Times*, *Newsday*, *Tennessean*, *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal*. Associated Press, Reuters NewsWire and UPI ran stories and photographs that were picked up by hundreds of newspapers across the nation. Additionally, stories written by leading television writers with the Gannett News, Knight-Ridder and Tribune Media syndicates ran in newspapers across the country.

National magazines including *CosmoGirl!*, *Country Weekly*, *Country Music Today*, *DNR*, *Elle Girl*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Esquire*, *GQ*, *History Channel Magazine*, *Inside TV*, *In Style*, *In Touch*, *Jane*, *Ladies Home Journal*, *Life & Style Magazine*, *Maxim*, *National Review*, *New Yorker*, *OK! Magazine*, *People Magazine*, *Rolling Stone*, *Seventeen*, *Star*, *Time*, *Tracks*, *TV Guide*, *U.S. News & World Reports*, *Us Weekly*, *Variety* and *Village Voice* covered and/or attended the Awards.

Several live broadcasts took place on the Red Carpet. Katie Cook and Lance Smith co-hosted "2005 CMA Red Carpet" for CMT. MJI Programming, the official radio partner of the CMA Awards, hosted a live Red Carpet special hosted by Neal McCoy featuring artist interviews. MJI also broadcast their annual live post-Awards special from the CMA press room immediately following the Awards. XM Satellite Radio broadcast their first live special from the CMA Red Carpet as well.

Red Carpet icons Joan and Melissa Rivers hosted a live two-hour, pre-show "Joan & Melissa Live at the CMA Awards," for the TV Guide Channel. Joan and Melissa were preceded by a live "Countdown to Joan and Melissa" special also airing from the CMA Red Carpet and hosted by former "American Idol" contestant Kimberly Caldwell. In addition, TV Guide Channel aired a one-hour "Guide to the CMA Awards" which premiered on Sunday, Nov. 6 and was rebroadcast several times leading up to the Awards, and a "CMA Awards Fashion Wrap" on Wednesday, Nov. 16, both hosted by Joan and Melissa.



Joan Rivers interviews Shania Twain for TV Guide Channel.



Billy Joel talks to print media.



Melissa and Joan Rivers



Tracy Lawrence talks with CMT.
Sara Evans on the Red Carpet.



CMA BOARD EMPHASIZES ARTISTS RELATIONS AND COVERS EXPENSES FOR AWARDS IN NYC

To help offset additional costs of traveling to New York City for the Awards, the CMA Board approved a \$500,000 budget appropriation to cover expenses for nominees and other artists who are performing and/or presenting awards on the three-hour gala.

"This is an unprecedented situation. We recognize that hosting the CMA Awards in New York City for one year will result in added expenses for everyone involved — especially the artist community," said Benson. "The Board feels strongly we should help minimize those costs this year. The artists are central to our industry and the CMA Awards and we want to demonstrate our appreciation of their time and talents in this pivotal year by making it easier for them to travel and be part of this important occasion."

CMA covered hotel, air and ground transportation for the nominees (artists, musicians, songwriters, album producers and video directors) and artists appearing (performing and/or presenting). Hotel accommodations were covered for a specific number of days based on an artist's rehearsal schedule. In addition, hotel, air and ground transportation for a performing artist's band and essential crew members was also covered (with some limitations).



Aaron Benward and Scott Reeves of Blue County in the Celebrity Gift Suite.



Gretchen Wilson signs autographs for fans on her way to the Red Carpet.



CMA Executive Director Ed Benson, Charles Fazzino, Rissi Palmer, CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese and 17-20 Records Chief Executive Officer Terry Johnson at the original CMA Awards artwork unveiling at the Barrington Gallery of London.



Tim Nichols, Bob DiPiero and Craig Wiseman perform for What A Trip! winners at the Creme Savers Candy "Masters Behind the Music" Songwriters Guitar Pull at Richard Rogers Theater.

A group of What A Trip! winners pause between activities.



COUNTRY WEEKLY PRESENTS CMA AWARDS CELEBRITY GIFT SUITE IN ASSOCIATION WITH PRODUCER'S ADVANTAGE

Producer's Advantage, a New York based marketing company that is the exclusive celebrity gift presentation provider to television's most popular networks and shows including "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" (NBC), "The View" (ABC), "The Daily Show With Jon Stewart" (Comedy Central), "The Tony Danza Show" (Buena Vista Syndication) and "TRL" (MTV) among others, was the official celebrity gift provider for the 2005 CMA Awards. *Country Weekly* magazine was the official title sponsor of the CMA Celebrity Gift Suite.

"It's an outstanding way for brands to get their services and products directly into the hands of the biggest stars in Country Music in a very personal way," said Jimmy Floyd, Co-founder, Producer's Advantage.

"We're thrilled to be a part of the CMA Awards and offer our advertisers the opportunity to reach out to the stars of Country Music with their products and services," said Stu Zakim, Senior Vice President, Corporate Communications, American Media.

"We're happy to be working with Producer's Advantage and *Country Weekly* on the Celebrity Gift Suite for this year's CMA Awards," said Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing. "Their history as a celebrity gifting company for major television shows in NYC made them a perfect fit to bring a very 'NYC' feel to the festivities."

The CMA Celebrity Gift Suite included products from Altoids, Bacardi Big Apple, Blue Concept Jeans, Boru Vodka, *Country Weekly*, Jana Water, Milky Way, Scene It? – Music Edition, Nu Best Spa, Party Smart, Skechers, Town Hall, Trends R Us, Tulliani, Victoria's Secret Beauty, Wolf Wear, XM Satellite Radio and many more.

CHARLES FAZZINO UNVEILS ORIGINAL CMA AWARDS ARTWORK AT GALLERY OPENING

Fifth Avenue was lit up on a cold New York evening on Thursday, Nov. 10, but that paled in comparison to the brightness coming out of the Barrington Gallery of London. The official artist for the 2005 CMA Awards Charles Fazzino revealed the original work that CMA commissioned from the legendary 3-D artist. Some of Fazzino's other works were on display and by the end of the night the walls were almost bare. As each piece was sold, Fazzino personalized it with a one-of-a-kind signature drawing. At the opening, 17-20 recording artist Rissi Palmer performed and Moraine Records artist Keni Thomas and Miss New York 2005 Meaghan Jarenski greeted guests.

Fans had more opportunities to meet Fazzino and have artwork personalized during "Country Takes NYC" including Saturday at J&R Music World and Sunday at the Marriott Marquis.

Fazzino's 2005 CMA Awards artwork graced the cover of the official *CMA Awards Program Book* and was adapted into an official 3-D Limited Edition Giclee Fine Art Print and Open Edition Fine Art Poster — including signed and numbered, limited edition pieces that are available to order online by visiting CMAawards.com.

The limited edition "mini-sized" artwork was displayed throughout New York City on signage promoting the CMA Awards. This artwork graced the cover of the *New York Times* Television Guide and was featured on the CMA Awards collector's ticket and Awards T-shirt.

WHAT A TRIP! PROVIDES GOOD TIMES IN THE BIG APPLE

Lucky radio listeners and television viewers got a once-in-a-lifetime, three-night trip to New York City in celebration of the CMA Awards, thanks to What A Trip!, a leader in producing memorable trip promotions.

"What a great time we had in New York City," said Lindsey Berg, who won her trip from radio station KGHL/Billings. "Our suitcase is full of amazing memories. Thank you."

What A Trip! executed a unique trip featuring hotel accommodations; a guided sightseeing tour of the city; a view from the top of the Empire State Building; an exclusive "Songwriters Guitar Pull" featuring Bob DiPiero and friends at the Richard Rogers Theater; welcome gifts, tickets to several events including the CMA Awards, a Broadway show, the "Christmas Spectacular with the Rockettes" and more.

Radio and television stations experienced success with What A Trip! promotions by getting advertisers involved, creating audience appreciation and keeping them tuned in, creating revenue streams and increasing ratings.

"Seeing that the trips sold out before the CMA Awards is a real testament to the value of these trips," said Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing. "It's always exciting assembling packages that both showcase "Country Music's Biggest Night™" and that benefit our business partners."



CMA BROADCAST AWARDS WINNERS SURPRISED ON-AIR BY LEE ANN WOMACK

Exhilarating news was heard by Country radio on Oct. 17 when MCA Nashville recording artist Lee Ann Womack called the 2005 CMA Broadcast Awards winners on-air to personally deliver the exciting news.

Womack, who was nominated for six CMA Awards, called the CMA Broadcast Personality and CMA Radio Station of the Year winners on the stations' studio hotlines.

"I'm always excited to be part of something big with radio," Womack said. "Radio has been instrumental throughout my career and I was glad to share this good news with some of the best folks working in Country radio today."

Every year since 2000, a CMA nominated artist has graciously delivered the good news to CMA Broadcast Awards winners, including Dierks Bentley in 2004; Terri Clark in 2003; Kenny Chesney in 2002; Brooks & Dunn in 2001; and Brad Paisley in 2000.

"Country Music artists and broadcast professionals have meaningful and long-standing relationships, so it's only fitting the artists make these phone calls to celebrate together," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "Getting the call from a top artist really adds to the prestige and honor of winning this award."

Nominees are not eligible to win in consecutive years. For National Personality of the Year, syndicated, short-form and hub-tracking personalities heard in at least three markets with a minimum of 40 shows per year were eligible. In addition to the CMA National Broadcast Personality Award, winners were selected in four market categories (Major, Large, Medium and Small) for CMA Broadcast Personality and CMA Radio Station of the Year.

The categories are established by market size based on Arbitron rankings. Entries for CMA Broadcast Personality of the Year were judged on aircheck, ratings, community involvement and biographical information. Radio stations were judged on airchecks, ratings history, community involvement and leadership. CMA members who are full-time, Country on-air personalities and CMA member radio stations in the United States and Canada were eligible to enter. Personalities who were not CMA members were also eligible if employed by a CMA member radio station. Winners were determined in two rounds of judging by a panel of broadcast professionals. The accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche LLP tabulated the scoring by the judges.

In early September, the CMA Broadcast Awards finalists were announced in a news conference in New York City by Curb/Asylum Records duo Blue County and Epic Records artist Miranda Lambert.

The winning entries are posted on CMAawards.com.

In September, the CMA Board approved the CMA Radio Committee's idea to give complimentary, CMA lifetime membership to all CMA Broadcast Personality of the



2005 CMA Broadcast Awards winners.
(l-r) (back row) Don Pollnow, General Manager, KSSN/Little Rock, Ark.; Travis Moon, KEEY/Minneapolis, Minn.; Greg Swedberg, Regional Vice President of Programming, KEEY/Minneapolis, Minn.; Keith Kaufman, Program Director, WSIX/Nashville, Tenn.; Lisa Dent, WUSN/Chicago, Ill.; Benjamin Martin, WUSY/Chattanooga, Tenn.; Kim Carson, WUSY/Chattanooga, Tenn.; Jimmy Holt, WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.; (front row) Kenneth Hicks, WUSY/Chicago, Ill.; Chad Heritage, Program Director, KSSN/Little Rock, Ark.; Mick Anselmo, General Manager, KEEY/Minneapolis, Minn.; Alison West, WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.; CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese; Andy Richie, WIVK/Knoxville, Tenn.; and Lia Knight, "The Lia Show," Jones Radio Networks.
Not pictured: Jerry House, WSIX/Nashville and Bill Poindexter, WUSY Chattanooga.

Year winners — going back to the initiation of the award in 1973. The 134 lifetime memberships will take effect Jan. 1, 2006.

"These broadcast professionals have contributed so much to the development of our industry and the careers of so many artists," said Benson. "They have been recognized as the top broadcasters in the business and are very deserving of this special honor. This is our way of letting them know how much we appreciate the work they do on behalf of Country Music."

"It's long overdue that we recognize the contributions our radio talent make to Country Music are far more outreaching than for just the year in which they receive an award," said Victor Sansone, President of the CMA Board and President and General Manager of ABC Radio Group Atlanta.

Brandi Sanford

2005 CMA BROADCAST AWARDS WINNERS:

CMA Broadcast Personality of the Year

National – Lia Knight

"The Lia Show"

Jones Radio Networks

Major Market – Lisa Dent

WUSN / Chicago, Ill.

Large Market –

Gerry House and The House Foundation

WSIX / Nashville, Tenn.

(Gerry House, Mike Bohan, Duncan Stewart and Al Voecks)

Medium Market – Andy & Alison and the Morning Crew

WIVK / Knoxville, Tenn.

(Andy Ritchie, Alison West and Jimmy Holt)

Small Market –

Dex & Kim

WUSY / Chattanooga, Tenn.

(Bill Poindexter and Kim Carson)

CMA Radio Station of the Year

Major Market – KEEY / Minneapolis, Minn.

Large Market – WSIX / Nashville, Tenn.

Medium Market – KSSN / Little Rock, Ark.

Small Market – WUSY / Chattanooga, Tenn.

CMA Broadcast Awards winners are not eligible to enter in consecutive years. The winning entries are posted on CMA's official Web site CMAawards.com.



Presenters Trace Adkins and Trisha Yearwood

Presenters James Gandolfini and LeAnn Rimes





CMA Awards Executive Producer Walter Miller is presented with a book documenting his 35 years with the CMA Awards. (l-r) CMA Awards Director Paul Miller, Walter Miller and CMA Executive Director Ed Benson.

WALTER MILLER

celebrates his cma awards 35th anniversary

Vince Gill, the Dixie Chicks to Rosanne Cash — on his way to creating indelible television in the name of Country Music.

"They all know my rough and gruff way," laughed the hard-boiled teddy bear of a man. "But deep down, there's another person. ... I really care. The artists know that, and I know they know it, so we're free to carry on to break the tension."

Miller, waist deep in his 35th CMA Awards, has some impressive credentials. His credits include the GRAMMY Awards, as well as a longtime run with the Tony Awards — which yielded a pair of Emmys for the "47th Annual Tony Awards" in 1993 and the "52nd Annual Tony Awards" in 1998 — "Comic Relief," a music special for Barbra Streisand and television specials for Robin Williams, Rodney Dangerfield and Sam Kinison.

"Artists are very special people, and you can't just stick them up on a stage and let it happen," said Miller, who has won three Directors Guild Awards, a pair of Peabody Awards and earned 20 Emmy nominations. "You want whatever an artist is going to do to reflect their essence, their career, their soul. ... And to do that, you can't just do cookie-cutter television."

Miller makes anything but cookie-cutter television. When the country needed help healing after the September 11th terrorist attacks, he programmed Alan Jackson's hushed performance of "Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning)." He sent Dolly Parton out in spangles to perform the gospel meltdown of "He's Alive." He gave Mary Chapin Carpenter her big break, singing about the indignities of being the "Opening Act." Whatever special, timely element Country Music has to offer in any year, Miller inevitably recognizes it and gets it on the CMA Awards.

"Country Music is not only steeped in tradition, but we really try to respect and protect the roots," said Miller, who has kept his show steady while the genre moved around from fiddle-driven traditional Country to rock-influenced sounds and Country pop. "I love to see the new people coming up, the young artists who are the future. The idea with this show is do both, and make them both come across as special as they are."

Miller has plenty of experience to draw on. "What's hard today is now you're fighting the clock and the economy. It makes the schedules

tighter, so you're really moving," Miller said of the challenges of doing a television special. "It's exciting in a way, because it's live and you have that rush of knowing that once it starts, it's on — and that prep work is going to have to carry you. I joke that the only downside really is that because it's so tight, I eat more! Over the years, I've probably gained and lost 1,200 pounds — trying to make the calls and eating frozen Snickers bars."

Snickers bars, a sense of humor, a passion for creativity and a deep love of music may be at the root of what Miller and his son director Paul Miller create each year for the CMA Awards. But in the end, it also comes down to a not-so-secret secret weapon: the artists.

"You listen to the voice, see their character, weigh their stage presence — and you listen to the music, especially if they're songwriters," Miller said. "I'm a pretty good judge of people, sizing them up, so my goal is to put across what I see and feel. ... If I can bring that forward, show the audience all the different phases of these artists, then I think we're creating something that represents the people making the music and Country Music."

"There's a lot going on now in Country. It's very sophisticated in so many ways. I want to reflect that, but always keep its soul."

After 35 years, Miller knows Nashville's soul as well as anyone. He's watched as Charlie Rich burned the envelope containing John Denver's name as Entertainer of the Year. He created a setting suitable for Country's Mount Rushmore of Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Kris Kristofferson and Willie Nelson, and he oversaw the merger of the past and future when staging a performance of "Young Country" by Hank Williams Jr. and friends including Lyle Lovett and Nanci Griffith.

The notion of bringing the CMA Awards to New York isn't the mind-bender many people seem to think, Miller said. "Nashville's like my second home, but I was born in Manhattan, so I know the pace of New York and its pulse. So, we're going to make it a Country show, but bring in that energy of New York City. It's not about a heavy hand or the obvious, but how we take that pulse of New York and put it into the Country Music we're making. I, personally, think it's going to be really exciting."

When the show at Madison Square Garden has been completed, Miller is ready to come back to Nashville next year. "After 35 years, I almost consider this a long-time job," Miller said. "The people in Nashville have taken me to their bosom and I'm treated as part of the family rather than an intruder. They know me for who I am, and they know how deeply I care about the music. ... When you're doing a job like this, that's the greatest gift you can be given."

For Miller, though, it's more about what he gives than what he receives. The ultimate present — for all of us — is the insight, the sensitivity and the staging he gives the artists who perform each year on the show.

Holly Gleason

CMAAWARDS.COM: A SOURCE FOR INFORMATION AND SWAG

CMAawards.com is a great source for CMA Awards news plus an online store of official CMA Awards merchandise. The Web site features a of list winners, a photo flipbook, a searchable Awards history database, facts about the Awards and answers to FAQs, CMA Broadcast Awards winners, the most recent inductees to the Country Music Hall of Fame and more. The online store has the latest fashions and souvenirs including a limited edition T-shirt displaying the official artwork commemorating the 2005 CMA Awards by famous 3-D pop artist Charles Fazzino; an assortment of T-shirts and polo-shirts for men and women; a hooded pullover sweatshirt; several caps; and a lapel pin. CMA members receive a 30 percent discount. Contact Aeverett@CMAworld.com for your member discount code.



PROMOTING "THE 39TH ANNUAL CMA AWARDS"

BIG SHOWS IN THE BIG APPLE AT THE CHEVY MUSIC FESTIVAL The "Chevy Music Festival in Union Square Park" free, outdoor concert hit New York City Sept. 6 - 8, dovetailing the CMA Awards nominees announcements, and revving up excitement for the CMA Awards. Big & Rich, Blue County, Cowboy Troy, Billy Currington, Erika Jo and Gretchen Wilson performed. To help promote the CMA Awards in the Big Apple, Chevrolet formed a unique marketing partnership with CMA and the City of New York. The highlight was the "Chevy All Access Music Tour," a traveling showcase of pop culture memorabilia, live performances and interactive consumer experiences that kicked off in early June at CMA Music Festival in Nashville. The tour brought Chevrolet's "An American Revolution" campaign to life and was attended by thousands of consumers at high profile events. Chevy, An American Revolution, is the official automotive sponsor of the 2005 CMA Awards.

CHEVY CMA AWARDS CALENDAR Chevy produced a calendar featuring a dozen Country artists in different parts of New York City posing with the latest models of Chevy cars and trucks. The 2006 calendar was a pullout in *People*, *Country Weekly*, *Country Music Today* and *Progressive Farmer* magazines. Calendars were distributed at Chevy events including NASCAR races, auto shows and as a downloadable PDF on Chevy.com.

ROAD TO THE CMA AWARDS WITH PRILOSEC OTC Steve Azar, Catherine Britt and Jamie O'Neal hit the road this fall to promote the CMA Awards by performing at the "Prilosec OTC Country Music Tour: Road to the CMA Awards in New York City." The coast-to-coast bus tour made stops in 18 cities and at each event, fans had the opportunity to visit inside a tour bus once used by LeAnn Rimes, view a CMA Awards memorabilia exhibit and speak one-on-one with a pharmacist about heartburn. "We're very excited with how well the Prilosec OTC and CMA cross-country bus tour went," said Kurt Weingand, Associate Director of External Relations for Prilosec OTC. "People at all of the bus stops have told us how much they enjoyed the events. It's great to be able to bring a little bit of fun, education and charity to cities across the United States."

BEST 'HEARTBURN' SONG EARNED WRITER THE STAR TREATMENT Heartburn is best treated with Prilosec OTC; sometimes the only answer for a burning heart is letting it out in a song. On Veterans' Day at the American Freedom Festival in New York City, the talented contest-winner, Dallas Burnett, performed an original song about either kind of heartburn called "Love Found Me." It was all part of the "Burning To Sing Your Heart Out" contest sponsored by Prilosec OTC and CMA.

CRISCO COOKS UP COUNTRY FLAVOR Crisco is cooking Country for the CMA Awards with *The Crisco Country Favorites Recipe Book*, featuring recipes a dozen Country artists. The books are available to order through Crisco.com and on selected packages of Crisco products. Crisco launched a promotion in 1,000 Wal-Mart stores where fans completed sample ballots to vote for Entertainer, Male and Female Vocalist of the Year, with chances to receive an exclusive CD-ROM featuring interviews with artists from the recipe book.

JACK DANIEL'S PRESENTS COMMEMORATIVE SINGLE BARREL TENNESSEE WHISKEY When Country artists made their way to New York City for CMA Awards, they had a little "taste of Tennessee" courtesy of the folks at the Jack Daniel's Distillery. In October, Aaron Tippin was on hand in Lynchburg, Tenn., with Jack Daniel's Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford and CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray to personally select the barrel of whiskey that was specially bottled to commemorate "The 39th Annual CMA Awards." Each of the 240 bottles contained a special "necker" with an etched CMA Awards logo and date of the gala event. CMA distributed the bottles of whiskey to the celebrities appearing on the CMA Awards.

CREME SAVERS® CANDY DISTRIBUTES MORE THAN 30 CMA AWARDS TRIP PACKAGES Candy fans registered online at candystand.com or sent in specially marked packages of Creme Savers Candy for their chance to win prize packages that included tickets to the CMA Awards, hotel accommodations, airfare, tickets to a Broadway show and tickets to the "Masters Behind the Music" concert at the Richard Rogers Theatre.

GIBSON MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS ISSUES A SPECIAL EDITION ELECTRIC GUITAR "Gibson is not only known for the quality and workmanship of its instruments, but also for the personalized service they provide to artists and musicians in all genres," said Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing. "We are honored that Gibson has agreed to create this very limited edition guitar celebrating the CMA Awards in New York City."

"I think the move to New York really brought Gibson a lot closer to CMA and better able to contribute to the event," said Henry Juskiewicz, President and Chief Executive Officer of Gibson Guitar Corp. "This guitar is going to represent a real historical milestone."

The idea grew from conversations between CMA and Gibson executives at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas earlier this year and became a reality when the Gibson Custom division green-lighted the endeavor.

"When Gibson Custom gets involved in special projects like this, the focus is on creating an instrument that embodies both the spirit of the customer's event and the high standard of quality and tradition that is synonymous with the Gibson name," said Rick Gembar, Gibson Senior Vice President and General Manager Custom, Art, Historic Division.

Juskiewicz unveiled the guitar at a VIP reception at Gracie Mansion on Nov. 14.



Catherine Britt is featured in the Chevy Calendar in Union Square with a 2006 Chevrolet Corvette.



Catherine Britt on the Prilosec OTC Country Music Tour: Road to the CMA Awards tour bus.



above (l-r): Aaron Tippin; Jack Daniel's Master Distiller Jimmy Bedford; and CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray.



Lorrie Morgan performs at the Creme Savers Candy "Masters Behind the Music" Songwriters Guitar Pull at Richard Rogers Theatre. Other performers included Sara Buxby, Tim Nichols, Bob DiPiero and Craig Wiseman.



left: Crisco® Country Favorites Recipe Book

below: CMA Awards Gibson guitar





Presenters Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry



Aaron Benward of Blue Country, Jamie O'Neal and Scott Reeves of Blue Country host Pre-Telecast Awards.



Presenters Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon



Presenters Shania Twain and Billy Joel



Presenter Kris Kristofferson
Brad Paisley at MJI Programming press conference.



COUNTRY RADIO RETURNS TO NEW YORK CITY FOR CMA AWARDS

After a three-year absence from the radio dial in New York City, Country Music made a return on WNYE 91.5 FM through the 2005 CMA Awards.

"One of our goals in bringing the Awards to New York City this year was to demonstrate that Country Music is a viable format in this market," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "Programming Country Music on the city-owned station is a valuable tool in reaching potential consumers and decision makers with great music and programs put together by some of the most talented radio professionals in the nation."

Country Music was programmed on the channel during weekday morning, midday and evening drive. Top radio personalities supplied custom content including music, Top 20 count-downs and interviews with artists. Participating in the program were on-air crews from KMPS/Seattle, KNIX/Phoenix, KZLA/Los Angeles, WGAR/Cleveland, WKHX/Atlanta, WSIX/Nashville, WXTU/Philadelphia and more. Nationally syndicated Country personalities included 2005 CMA National Broadcast Personality of the Year Lia Knight from Jones Radio Networks, Blair Garner from "After MidNite," Bob Kingsley of "American Country Countdown" and "Country Countdown USA" host Lon Helton.

"It's been more than three years since NYC had a Country station of its own," said Helton. "And there was no better prelude to 'Country Takes NYC' and the CMA Awards than showcasing America's top Country radio personalities and America's favorite music on WNYE."

Programming began early in November with the broadcast of XM Satellite Radio's contemporary Country channel, Highway 16, one of XM's six Country offerings. The satellite radio service has 5 million subscribers.

MJI BRINGS THE STARS TO RADIO WITH NEW YORK INTERVIEWS

The excitement of "Country Takes NYC" was broadcast across the country through remote artist interviews by radio station disc jockeys from 50 top-markets plus national broadcast personality Blair Garner. The morning and afternoon drive-time interviews from the Hammerstein Grand Ballroom in the Manhattan Center continued a 14-year partnership between MJI and CMA.

Upon arrival, interviewers received CDs packaged with interviews featuring Brooks & Dunn, Faith Hill and actress Reese Witherspoon, who is winning rave reviews in the role of June Carter Cash in "Walk The Line."

In addition to the daily remotes, news conferences were arranged featuring Brooks & Dunn, Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley and Dolly Parton. CDs of the sessions were distributed the next day.

"I walked down Fifth Avenue yesterday and the atmosphere in this city is incredible. Country Music is all around me," Brooks said. "The recognition is so refreshing. You know the fans are here and New Yorkers are embracing it. There's definitely a buzz."

Parton talked about her upcoming duet with Elton John on the CMA Awards, and said she was curious about what the flamboyant star would wear. Paisley, who said he voted for Chesney for Entertainer of the Year, discussed his forthcoming performances on the Grand Ole Opry at Carnegie Hall and on the Awards. Chesney gave interviewers an inside glimpse of his Thanksgiving ABC Television special and mentioned his excitement at seeing Alabama's induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

"Alabama gave me my first start, letting me go out with them on tour," Chesney said. "That was a real honor."

The spacious ballroom featured wireless Internet service, lounge areas with food and beverages, computers and free MJI tip sheet subscriptions while in New York. Radio attendees took advantage of MJI's hospitality including free shuttle service, a CMA Awards viewing party, and tickets to their choice of Broadway shows "Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang," "Hairspray" and "Rent."

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

MJI Programming, a division of Premiere Radio, is the official radio broadcaster of the CMA Awards and CMA Music Festival.

MJI Programming remotes at the Hammerstein Ballroom at the Manhattan Center.



BIG SHOW MEANS BIG BUSINESS FOR ALBUM SALES

The CMA Awards gave Country Music increased public awareness and injected album sales with a strong upward surge heading into the important holiday buying season. Many artists who appeared on the Awards broadcast saw significant sales increases.

Two acts who performed on the show released albums the day of the Awards broadcast. The week of Nov. 14-20, Carrie Underwood's debut album *Some Hearts* posted sales of 314,549 units, landed at No. 2 on the *Billboard* Top 200 chart and went Gold the following week, while *Comin' To Your City*, the sophomore album from Big & Rich, scanned 156,937 copies.

Garth Brooks' performance on the Awards via satellite from Times Square in New York City helped his new CD boxed set propel to Gold on it's first day of release. The product is available exclusively at Wal-Mart Stores and Sam's Club locations around the U.S. and Canada plus **Walmart.com** and **GarthBrooks.com**. Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. announced that *Garth Brooks: The Limited Series*, released the day after Thanksgiving, set a new sales record for the retail giant. The product is the top-selling music item in the company's history after only three days availability in stores and achieved its highest volume of sales ever for the first day of a musical release.

The *Billboard* Top 75 Country Albums chart reflected sales increases for the week of Nov. 14-20, 2005. Source: Nielsen SoundScan.

ARTIST	% increase	album title
Lee Ann Womack	356%	<i>There's More Where That Came From</i>
Brooks & Dunn	157%	<i>Hillbilly Deluxe</i>
Keith Urban	110%	<i>Be Here</i>
Miranda Lambert	102%	<i>Kerosene</i>
Brad Paisley	98%	<i>Time Well Wasted</i>
Alison Krauss and Union Station	96%	<i>Lonely Runs Both Ways</i>
Sugarland	95%	<i>Twice The Speed of Life</i>
Sara Evans	67%	<i>Real Fine Place</i>
Martina McBride	58%	<i>Timeless</i>
Gretchen Wilson	44%	<i>All Jacked Up</i>
Dierks Bentley	41%	<i>Modern Day Drifter</i>
Brooks & Dunn	40%	<i>Greatest Hits Collection II</i>
Rascal Flatts	36%	<i>Feels Like Today</i>
Faith Hill	25%	<i>Firelies</i>
Gretchen Wilson	21%	<i>Here For The Party</i>
George Strait	19%	<i>Somewhere Down In Texas</i>
Shania Twain	19%	<i>Greatest Hits</i>
Big & Rich	16%	<i>Horse Of A Different Color</i>
Kenny Chesney	13%	<i>When The Sun Goes Down</i>



Billy Currington performs at the ING New York City Marathon.



Jace Everett performs at Entertainment Weekly's "Country Inspired Fashion Show" at Macy's Department Store.

Brooks & Dunn ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange in NYC on Monday, Nov. 14 during "Country Takes NYC." (l-r) Clarence Spalding, President, Spalding Entertainment; CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese; Maureen Reidy, Vice President, NYC Big Events; John Thain, NYSE Chief Executive Officer; Kix Brooks; Ronnie Dunn; Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell; New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg; Daniel Doctoroff, New York City Deputy Mayor for Economic Development and Rebuilding; and Jim Donofrio, Vice President of NYC Marketing.

(below) New York Board of Education Music Director Barbara Murray, Brad Cotter, CMA Associate Executive Director Tammy Genovese, Bob DiPiero, Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum Director Kyle Young, SonyBMG Direct Director of Communications Paula Batson and Vice President of Marketing for NYC Big Events Ashley Jacobs at the "Words & Music" recital at Talent High School during "Country Takes NYC."



NYC Big Events, in collaboration with CMA, hosted a weeklong series of celebrations called "Country Takes NYC" leading up to the CMA Awards. This five-borough, grass roots promotional initiative highlighted both the private and public sectors, helped weave Country Music into the fabric of New York City and created exciting, memorable experiences for all New Yorkers. "Country Takes NYC" took place Wednesday, Nov. 9 through Tuesday, Nov. 15. Each day had a theme to showcase New York City's industries, tourist destinations and world-renowned attractions. From Country artists singing the national anthem at Giants and Jets football games to fashion shows, patriotic celebrations, concerts, songwriters nights and more, there wasn't a place to turn in New York without seeing and hearing Country Music. See pages 16-19 for a few photos from the "Country Takes NYC" events.

"The 39th Annual CMA Awards" recap contributing writers include: Cory Chapman, Holly Gleason, Amanda Eckard, Athena Patterson, Wendy Pearl, Brandi Sanford and Gary Voorhies. Photographers include: FilmMagic.com - Ryan Born, Marc Andrew Deley, Jason Kempin, Michael Locciano, Lisa Maureri, Desierree Navarro and David Pomponio. CMA - Amanda Eckard and John Russell



Ed Benson, LeAnn Rimes, Mayor Bloomberg and Brooks & Dunn at the "Country Takes NYC" kick off party at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill.



Actor Ben Vereen and Charles Fazzino at the "Country Takes NYC" kick off party at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill.



Lorianne Crook, Ronnie Dunn, Ed Benson, Walter Miller, Tammy Genovese and Kix Brooks at "CMA Awards Retrospective: Country Music's Biggest Night Since 1967" at the Museum of Television and Radio.



Sam Bush performs at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill.



Kathy Mattea performs at Joe's Pub.



Tammy Genovese, assisted by Lydia A. Reath, flips the switch to illuminate the top of the Empire State Building in white and bronze, the colors of the CMA Awards trophy.



Radney Foster, Hillary Lindsey and Rivers Rutherford perform at the CMA Songwriters Series at Joe's Pub. Other performers included host Bob DiPiero and Mike Reid.



Ed Benson, Radney Foster, Rivers Rutherford, Hillary Lindsey, Mike Reid, Pat Higdon, Tammy Genovese, Larry Fitzgerald and Bob DiPiero at the CMA Songwriters Series at Joe's Pub.



Rascal Flatts ad in Times Square.



Bob DiPiero and students at the "Words & Music" Recital at Talent Unlimited High School.



The New York Knicks Dancers perform at the Prilosec OTC "Road to the CMA Awards" event at K-Mart Plaza.



Miss New York Meaghan Jarenski, Charles Fazzino, Tammy Genovese and Ed Benson in front of the original CMA Awards official artwork at the Barrington Gallery of London.



Brooks & Dunn perform at Irving Plaza



The Grascals perform at Irving Plaza.



Chevy, An American Revolution, is the official automotive sponsor of the 2005 CMA Awards.



Mayor Bloomberg and Keni Thomas at the Veterans' Day Breakfast at Gracie Mansion.



Tracy Lawrence and Montgomery Gentry perform at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill.



Trace Adkins performs at the Intrepid Wreath Ceremony at the Intrepid Sea, Air and Space Museum.



Montgomery Gentry perform at the Veterans' Day Eternal Light Monument Ceremony in Madison Square Park.



Mark Wills, John Bradshaw Layfield, Al Franken and Darryl Worley backstage at the American Freedom Festival. Other performers included Michael Amante, Charlie Daniels and Keni Thomas.



"Broadway Meets Country" at the Allen Room in the Frederick P. Rose Hall featured performances by Broadway's Jason Danieley, Renée Elise Goldsberry, Adriane Lenox, Marin Mazzie, Andrea McArdle, Idina Menzel, Donna Murphy, James Naughton, Marian Seldes, Ben Vereen and Patrick Wilson. Representing Country Music were Trace Adkins, Glen Campbell, Billy Currington, Raul Malo, Neal McCoy, Richie McDonald of Lonestar, Jamie O'Neal, Julie Roberts, Carrie Underwood and Trisha Yearwood. (l-r) Brian Stokes Mitchell, Lee Ann Womack and Richie McDonald.



Matraca Berg, Jessi Alexander, Brett James, Aimee Mayo and Chris Lindsey at the CMA Songwriters Series at Joe's Pub.



Craig Morgan and Neal McCoy perform at B.B. King Blues Club and Grill.



Jason Danieley and Marin Mazzie arrive at the Red Carpet for "Broadway Meets Country."



Jeff Walker, President, AristoMedia Group; Sir Cliff Richard; Dave Munns, VP/Chairman EMI Music Group; and Mike Dungan, President/CEO Capitol Records Nashville at the Joe's Pub.



Sir Cliff Richard performs at Joe's Pub.



CMA Awards billboard in New York City.

FRIDAY, Nov. 11 HISTORY DAY

CULTURE AND ENTERTAINMENT

SATURDAY, Nov. 12

THE 39TH ANNUAL CMA AWARDS COUNTRY TAKES NYC



Rachael Warwick performs at "3C Radio Salutes NYC" at Mustang Harry's. Other performers included Rivers Rutherford and Jay Teter.



Clay Walker shares his personal success with multiple sclerosis at the Shared Solutions for MS fundraiser at the Grand Hyatt Hotel.



Sherrie Austin, Keith Urban and Jo Walker-Meador at the Australian Consulate Reception. Other artists attending included Catherine Britt and Billy Thorpe.



Chris Cagle gives his best poker face at the T.J. Martell Celebrity Poker Tournament at the Marriott Marquis.



Jeffrey Steele, Tim Nichols, Bob DiPiero and Craig Wiseman at the CMA Songwriters Series at Joe's Pub.



Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon at the "Walk the Line" premiere at the Beacon Theater.



Blue County performs for Kodak Winners at the Hlro Ballroom in the Maritime Hotel.



Jace Everett and Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand perform at the CMA Global Markets Symposium and Showcase at Joe's Pub. Other performers included Catherine Britt and Cowboy Crush.



Cowboy Troy, J.M. Smucker Company Director of Public Relations Brenda Dempsey, Steve Azar and Jon Randall at the Crisco FDNY Cook-Off at the NYC Fire Museum.



NYC Fireman prepares food at the Crisco FDNY Cook-Off at the NYC Fire Museum.



Tim Nichols, Bob DiPiero and Craig Wiseman at the Creme Savers Candy "Masters Behind the Music" Songwriters Guitar Pull at the Richard Rogers Theater. Other performers included Sara Buxby, Lorrie Morgan and Tracy Lawrence.



Dierks Bentley, Pat Green and Cross Canadian Ragweed perform at the Nokia Theater.



Mayor Bloomberg holds a limited edition 2005 CMA Awards Gibson Guitar at the Official Welcome Reception for the CMA Awards at Gracie Mansion.



Kix Brooks, Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry at the Official Welcome Reception for the CMA Awards at Gracie Mansion.



Trace Adkins, Little Jimmy Dickens, Martina McBride, Brad Paisley, Charley Pride, Trisha Yearwood, Bill Anderson, Ricky Skaggs, Alan Jackson and Vince Gill perform at the Grand Ole Opry 80th Anniversary Celebration at Carnegie Hall. Other performers included Alison Krauss and Union Station.



Trisha Yearwood and guests ring the opening bell at the New York Stock Exchange. (l-r) Carter Todd, David Kloepfel, John Thain, Trisha Yearwood, Colin Reed, Steve Buchanan, Bill Purcell and Key Foster. photo: Chris Hobbs, Hollophotographics, Inc.



Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell



Brad Paisley



Sara Evans



Jack Bovender, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, HCA and Kix Brooks.

Nashville representatives and New York business executives attend the Nashville Chamber of Commerce and Nashville Convention and Visitors Bureau Luncheon at Gotham Hall.



Keith Urban performs at one of two sold-out shows at Irving Plaza.



Lane Turner performs at the Rodeo Bar.



Ed Benson, wife Jamie Benson and Faith Hill



Kix Brooks and Miranda Lambert

The Saks Fifth Avenue CMA Awards Nominees Reception hosted by Faith Hill, In Style Magazine and Saks.



Lee Ann Womack and Shooter Jennings perform at the Bowery Ballroom.



Tim McGraw and Hot Applé Pie at the Tug McGraw "Ya Gotta Believe" Fundraiser at Gotham Hall.



Carrie Underwood at the Kodak One Gallery in SoHo.



Victoria Shaw, Gary Burr and Bob DiPiero perform at Birdland.



Donnie Van Zant, Billy Gilman and Johnny Van Zant at the Wrangler Premium Patch Launch Party at the Dream Hotel.



Brooks & Dunn perform atop the marquee of Madison Square Garden.

MONDAY, NOV. 14 FASHION AND SHOPPING DAY

THE 39TH ANNUAL CMA AWARDS COUNTRY TAKES NYC

Photo: Paul White - Right: Scott Brice - Andrew Drey, Jason Kempin, Michael...



NEVER STOPPED BEING A 'MISSISSIPPI GIRL'

FAITHFUL

Faith Hill peppers her conversation with sudden bursts of uninhibited laughter and with phrases like "Bless your heart," "Oh my gosh," "God bless them," "Isn't that sweet?" and "Don't you just love her?"

In other words, she sounds exactly like thousands of other 30-something women raised in religious families in small Southern towns. Like many others, she moved to the city, worked hard, found success and gave shape to her dreams. Yet she held onto a piece of her rural identity, not only in the way she talks, but in the way she lives. As the song says, "a Mississippi girl don't change her ways just 'cause everybody knows her name."

Only now, after Hurricane Katrina, taking pride in being a Mississippi native has assumed new layers of meaning. As with many things creative, Hill's artistic move has, by coincidence, taken on significance she never could have predicted.

"I'm so glad I am out there telling the world I'm from Mississippi right now," Hill said. "It's something I've always been proud of, but with all the devastation and damage, there's a lot of concern and I'm feeling a lot of connection."

For Hill, Mississippi's plight resembles experiencing a loved one facing a serious illness. Suddenly she wants to visit more often, and home occupies a larger part of her thoughts and her heart.

"I have so many friends and relatives along the coast," she explained. "They're doing OK, but you worry about them more. My parents and my older brother live north of the coast, and they were without power or water for about a week and a half or two weeks. There were a lot of trees down in Star, but it's nothing like on the coast."

Hill has toured the damaged areas along the Gulf Coast, and as with other eyewitnesses, she says that television footage and print photos can't convey the vastness of the damage. "I couldn't believe it when I went there to see it," she explained. "It's just mind-blowing, the devastation. I'd spent a lot of time there in the past, and I'd just recently been to Biloxi to work before all this happened. The amount of destruction is just unbelievable. It was so widespread and so far inland."

The storms and floods came as the single, "Mississippi Girl," from Hill's album *Fireflies* gained daily radio play and sat at the top of the charts. What surprised Hill was how she had to defend her choice to record a song about her raising and defend putting it on an album that had a more stripped-down, acoustic sound than her two previous albums, 2002's *Cry* and 1999's *Breathe*.

"There's been so much said about it, and a lot of it is just plain wrong," she said. "But how do you defend it? Oh my gosh, I've even had the question, 'Is your hair dark now because you're going back to your roots?'"

She lets out one of her characteristic bursts of laughter. "I mean, what do you say to that? Is that supposed to be a joke?"

She continues to laugh, but it dies down to a somber chuckle as she shakes her head in disbelief. "You know, to me, I've never left my roots behind," she continued. "I didn't on *Cry*, and I didn't on *Breathe*. They just sound differently because at that time I was interested in going into a different part of who I am and what I want to sing. I cut my musical teeth in the church, in raise-the-roof Pentecostal churches. Of course, I was

raised on Country Music as well, on Tammy Wynette and Loretta Lynn and George and Dolly and Reba.

"But those are two different things — the church music and the Country Music. So my musical tastes are so extreme. I feel like I'm influenced by all the music I grew up with, and all the music that I love listening to now. Trying to find my place in all that is sometimes very complicated."

She accepts that her decisions can be confusing to others. "I know that *Cry* wasn't something that worked for Country radio, but it sold 3 million copies, and no one ever talks about that," she said with a laugh. "It's written about like it was a bomb, but it wasn't. I'm still very proud of it."

What she can't accept, she says, is people describing *Fireflies* as a calculated move — a return to straightforward Country Music inspired only by business, not artistic merit.

"That doesn't even fit into my realm of reality," she said. "I couldn't be less like that. The toughest part of all this is hearing that kind of criticism. That's what hurts. People mistake your actions for . . . whatever. When someone can't see that things are honest and come from your heart, that's difficult to take. But I'm a big girl. You just have to stand tall and walk forward."

Hill says she created *Fireflies* because songs that came along that inspired her worked best in a sparer, rootsier setting. And after a couple of albums in which her music grew increasingly fuller and more theatrical, she felt a desire to do something simpler and more straightforward.

John Rich and Adam Shoenfeld co-wrote "Mississippi Girl" for Hill.

"I basically stalked Faith Hill because I wanted to write a song for her," said Rich, who got to know the singer during Big & Rich's first national tour as opening act for Tim McGraw. Hill and the couple's daughters often joined McGraw during the tour, with Hill dressing down in her ballcap, jeans, T-shirts and sneakers. Rich got to see a side of the superstar few ever do, and she impressed him with how down-to-earth she was.

"I've always admired the emotional way she sings," Rich said. "I knew I wanted to write a song for her. But I started hiding out watching her, and I wanted to capture that part of her in a song."

She had already gathered some other key songs including "I Ain't Gonna Take It Anymore" and the album's second hit, "Like We Never Loved at All." She'd put aside a jazzy tune called "Paris" (a hidden track on *Fireflies*), at first thinking it might be too unusual for her to record. But as the album filled out, she realized it wasn't so different after all.

Then, as she thought she was nearing the end of recording, Nashville song publisher Melanie Howard sent Hill a song by Lori McKenna, a Massachusetts singer-songwriter and mother of five. Hill listened to the song, "If You Ask," and flipped for it. She immediately requested to hear everything McKenna had written. It turned out to be quite a lot — McKenna had released four independent albums.

"I couldn't believe the honesty in her writing," Hill said. "It was so human. I just fell in love with her. There was a while there that I didn't listen to anything but her records. I knew I was going to cut several of her songs."

continued on page 36 ...



"When someone can't see that things are honest and come from your heart, that's difficult to take." – faith hill



ON BEHALF OF THE ARTISTS WHO PARTICIPATED IN 2005 CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL, CMA DONATES FUNDS IN EXCESS OF \$400,000 TO CHARITY INCLUDING \$200,000 FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE GULF COAST HURRICANES

DONATIONS BRING TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR CMA'S CHARITABLE BENEFIT PROGRAM TO \$800,000 SINCE LAUNCH OF INITIATIVE IN 2001

The terrible suffering and loss left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina compelled CMA's Board of Directors to double the amount of funds donated as part of CMA's "Cause for Celebration!" charitable benefit program with half of the money going to The Salvation Army to aid in the relief effort. The decision was reached during the September CMA Board meetings in Nashville.

"Normally, we present the donations in December, when the charities tell us they have the most need before the holidays," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "But this year, we couldn't wait and we know the artist community wouldn't want us to delay if we could rush financial assistance to the region. Many of our artists are from the storm-ravaged areas, or have family, friends and fans that have been affected by this tragedy. This was an obvious and easy decision to make."

From 2001–2004, the "Cause for Celebration!" initiative, created as a way to say thanks to the artists and celebrities who give their time to make appearances and perform at CMA Music Festival, has distributed \$400,000 to charities selected by the participating artists. Half the net proceeds from the Music Festival are earmarked to fund the program.

"In the beginning, there weren't any profits to fund the sort of donations we wanted to make on behalf of the artists," Benson said. "The Board agreed to use CMA's funds in order to give \$100,000 a year to the charities; and then last year, we made just enough money to cover the \$100,000. Increased attendance this year meant that we could double the 'Cause for Celebration!' donation to \$200,000 for the first time."

The additional \$200,000 earmarked for the hurricane relief effort would have been CMA's portion of the net proceeds, but the Board decided that money would be better spent aiding the efforts of The Salvation Army on the Gulf Coast.

"It was the humanitarian thing to do," Benson said. "In June when most of these artists designated a charity of their choice, Katrina wasn't an issue. We didn't feel comfortable reassigning those funds, so matching them in a show of support for all the aid our artist community is sending to the Gulf Coast was a natural choice."

CMA Music Festival is an opportunity for Country Music artists to give back to the fans who support their careers, but it is also an opportunity to help raise money for worthy charities supported by the artists throughout the year. This year, 247 artists selected 114 separate charities as beneficiaries of the annual program.

Topping the list for the first time in 2005 was the Nashville Alliance for Public Education, which funds the replacement of old and the purchase of new musical instruments for Metro Nashville's public schools.

For the fifth consecutive year, the Country Music Retirement Community was in the top five followed by the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Music City Christian Fellowship (MCCF). Charity allocations were calculated and contribution amounts verified by the accounting firm of Lattimore Black Morgan & Cain, P.C. providing their services on a voluntary basis.

Since the inception of the "Cause For Celebration!" program in 2001, CMA has contributed \$800,000 to charitable organizations (most of them in Middle Tennessee) — an exciting and substantial prospect as CMA works to grow CMA Music Festival in the future.

All of the artists that perform and make appearances at CMA Music Festival donate their time and often attend at their own expense. Their generosity helps keep ticket prices affordable for the fans that travel from every state and around the world for "Country Music's Biggest Party.™"

"The artists play for free and we could never afford to compensate them what they make touring, but we can give something back to charities and organizations that are important to the artists," Benson said. "It is one of the elements that make CMA Music Festival the unique event it has become and an important part of our artist relations initiative."

Wendy Pearl

A list of charitable organizations that received funds from the 2005 "Cause for Celebration!" is below in alphabetical order:

Alive Hospice, Inc. (Nashville) • Alzheimer's Association (Middle Tennessee) • Alzheimer's Association (Utah) • American Cancer Society
 American Cancer Society (Michigan) • American Diabetes Association • American Freedom Foundation Festival • American Heart Association (Los Angeles)
 American Liver Foundation • American Red Cross • American Stroke Association • Angelus • Arthritis Foundation • Athens Area Homeless Shelter
 Beautiful Way Foundation • Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Middle Tennessee • Billy Ray Cyrus Charities Foundation, Inc. • Boy Scouts of America
 Boys & Girls Club of Alton, Ill. • Camp Bannock • Camp Del Corral • Catch-A-Dream • Character Education Partnership • Childhelp U.S.A.
 Childhelp U.S.A. (Nashville) • Children's Miracle Network • Children's Wish Fund • Christmas for the Children • Community Foundation Benefit of the Sara Evans Fund
 Country Care for St. Jude Kids • Country K-9 Rescue, Inc. • Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum • Country Music Retirement Community
 Cystic Fibrosis Foundation • Cystic Fibrosis Foundation (Arizona Chapter) • DATA • Domestic Violence Intervention Center • East Texas Angel Network
 Expedition Inspiration for Breast Cancer Research • Feed The Children • First Steps • Foster Parent Association • Global Advance
 Habitat for Humanity (Tennessee) • Hattie Lorkham Foundation • Hendrick Marrow Foundation • Helston United Methodist Home for Children, Inc.
 Hope Foundation • Humane Association of Wilson County • Humane Society of Guilford County • Humane Society of the United States • Hunter's Dream for a Cure
 Jack Murphy Charitable Foundation • Juvenile Diabetes Foundation • Keep a Child Alive • Kids Peace • Leadership Music • League for the Hard of Hearing
 Leukemia & Lymphoma Society • Legos Foundation • Lymphoma Research Foundation • Magdalene House • Make-A-Wish • Make-A-Wish (Nashville)
 Minnie Pearl Cancer Foundation • Monroe Harding Children's Home • Multiple Sclerosis Foundation, Inc. • Multiple Sclerosis Society (Nashville)
 Muscular Dystrophy Association (Nashville) • Muscular Dystrophy Association • Music City Christian Fellowship • Nashville Alliance for Public Education
 Nashville Humane Association • Nashville Union/Rescue Mission • National Breast Cancer Foundation • National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
 National Kidney Foundation • National Multiple Sclerosis Society • National Parkinson Foundation • Oasis Center • Operation SMILE • Our House
 Outlook Nashville • Paralyzed Veterans of America • Parkinson's Betty Walk • PETA • Reading, Writing & Rhythm Foundation • Retinoblastoma International
 Rochelle Center • Ronald McDonald House (Chattanooga) • Saddle Up • Second Wind Dreams, Inc. • Shari Duncan's Children's Charity • Special Olympics
 Special Operations Warrior Foundation • St. Jude Children's Hospital • St. Margaret Mary School • St. Mary's Hospital • Hospice House • Stars For Stripes
 Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research • Susan Gray School for Children • T.J. Martell Foundation • Toys for Tots Foundation • Vanderbilt Children's Hospital
 Vanderbilt Kennedy Center • W.O. Smith Community Music School • Walden's Puddle, Inc. • Welcome Home International • Wheelie Sportsmen
 Wish to Walk Foundation • World Vision • www.theatre.com • YWCA (Nashville)

The CMA Board unanimously voted to donate the remaining net proceeds of 2005 CMA Music Festival to The Salvation Army for Hurricane Katrina Relief on behalf of all the artists who participated in the 2005 CMA Music Festival. The donation of \$200,000 was divided into four segments: \$100,000 for The Salvation Army National Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund; \$50,000 to the local Nashville chapter of The Salvation Army; and \$25,000 each to the Knoxville and Memphis chapters of The Salvation Army. The money given to the Knoxville, Memphis and Nashville chapters will help continue their work with Katrina evacuees who have temporarily relocated to their areas during this time of crisis.



J. William Denny, Lifetime CMA Board member, member of The Salvation Army Nashville Chapter Board of Directors and Vice President / Treasurer, National Tape & Disc, Inc.; Tony Conway, CMA Music Festival Executive Producer and President / Co-Owner, Buddy Lee Attractions; recording artist Jimmy Wayne; Major Ron Raymer, Area Commander, The Salvation Army Nashville Chapter; Walker Matthews, Chair of The Salvation Army Advisory Board; and Tammy Genovesa, CMA Associate Executive Director.



Lt. Colonel Danny R. Morrow, Area Commander, The Salvation Army Memphis Chapter; Tammy Genovesa, CMA Associate Executive Director; Tony Conway, CMA Music Festival Executive Producer and President / Co-Owner, Buddy Lee Attractions; J. William Denny, Lifetime CMA Board member, member of The Salvation Army Nashville Chapter Board of Directors and Vice President / Treasurer, National Tape & Disc, Inc.; recording artist Jimmy Wayne; and Lt. Colonel Charles White, Board of Trustees, The Salvation Army. photos: Amanda Eckhard

REACH THOUSANDS OF COUNTRY MUSIC FANS AND ADVERTISE IN THE CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL PROGRAM BOOK

Reserve Your Ad Space by Friday, Dec. 16 and Take advantage of Early Bird Advertising Rates:

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Inside Back Cover	\$4,750	2-Color Process	\$1,500
Back Cover	\$6,250	Black & White	\$1,200

PREMIUM POSITIONS	PRICE	HALF PAGE (horizontal only)	PRICE
Priority given to 4-color process ads		4-Color Process	\$1,250
Premium Position pages add \$1,000 per page		2-Color Process	\$1,000
		Black & White	\$ 875

ADDITIONAL COLORS, VARNISH OR SPECIFIC PMS per process, per page add \$995

For more information, please contact:

Melony Wilson

CMA Music Festival Program Book Ad Sales

TEL: (615) 244-2840 ext. 1973

CELL: (615) 642-5517

e-mail: mwilson@CMAworld.com or MelonyWilson@comcast.net

EARLY BIRD RATES DEADLINES

EARLY BIRD AD SPACE: Friday, Dec. 16, 2005

ARTWORK AND PAYMENT: Monday, April 10, 2006

NOTE: Advertising rates are NET of agency fees. Official publication of CMA. Free CMA Music Festival program book given with each four-day ticket. Additional copies will be on sale during the event at various locations and at CMAfest.com.

CMA MUSIC FESTIVAL HITS THE TOP 200

The 2006 CMA Music Festival is featured in "Discover America," a calendar of some of our country's greatest events and festivals. Produced by Spread the Word Advertising, "Discover America" is an annual 12-month, 36-page wall calendar that offers striking images coupled with useful information about the Top 200 events in the United States.

"There were more than 3,000 events up for review over a one-year span," said Brian Gavigan, President of Spread the Word Advertising. "In addition to choosing some of the largest, oldest and most popular events in the nation, we, more importantly, selected our list based on how it represents America, through the cultural diversities which is unique to this great nation."

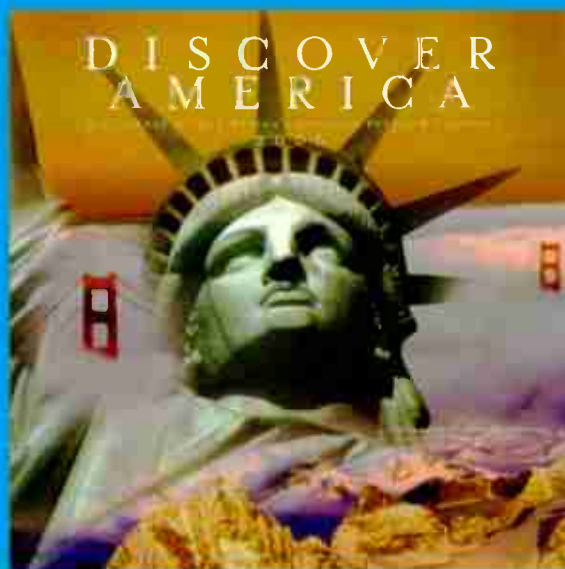
Variety is key to the calendar with food and music festivals, art exhibits, car shows, parades, rodeos and more making the list of events not to miss. The criteria for selecting the Top 200 was not always the size and grandeur of the event but rather the culture, the venue, diversity and overall unique experience.

Quotes by inspirational Americans adorn each month, apropos to the photo.

"The CMA Music Festival encapsulates part of what is great about our country — great music, great friends, tradition, being based in Nashville — and a rich history to boot," Gavigan said. "And the most interesting is the opportunity for interaction of fans with their musical heroes."

Throughout the pages, the Top 200 activities are date blocked to correspond with the start and end of each event. In the back of the calendar, an alphabetical index includes a detailed description of each event and helpful information including telephone, Web site and location.

The calendar is available at participating retail outlets including American Greetings, Barnes and Noble, Books-A-Million, Borders, Calendar Club, Carlton Cards, Hastings Entertainment and Waldenbooks. Gary Voorhies



CMA Elects

MIKE DUNGAN

Though he's too humble to admit it, Mike Dungan has already secured his place in the annals of Country Music history since arriving in Music City in 1990. As 2006 gets underway, the music industry veteran adds one more entry with his election as President of the CMA Board of Directors.

Throughout the 1990s, alongside his friend and colleague Tim DuBois, Dungan was instrumental in creating an impressive roster at Arista Nashville, now part of the RCA Label Group, that included Alan Jackson, Brooks & Dunn, Diamond Rio and Pam Tillis, among many others. When their days at Arista Nashville ended, DuBois helped found Universal South Records while Dungan moved to Capitol Records Nashville in 2000.

Under Dungan's leadership as President and Chief Executive Officer, Capitol boasts a roster that includes CMA Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year Keith Urban, Trace Adkins, CMA Horizon Award winner Dierks Bentley, Chris Cagle, Amber Dotson, Merle Haggard, Jennifer Hanson, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, Jamie O'Neal, Kenny Rogers, Ryan Shupe and the RubberBand plus comedy acts and legends.

Dungan was officially inducted to his Board President post at the CMA Board election meeting in October. The new Board year began Nov. 16, the day after the CMA Awards. He succeeds Victor Sansone, President / General Manager of ABC Radio Group Atlanta (WKHK-FM, WYAY-FM, WDWD-AM), who moves into the Chairman role on the Board.

"I cannot begin to express the love and respect I have for this organization and the people who steer it," Dungan said. "I am honored to have been selected for this post and will work hard to earn it.

"So much has been accomplished over the last couple of years. Watching the amount of business savvy, leadership and caring that Kix and Victor put into this on a daily basis has made all of us confident and proud," added Dungan. "Personally, I am both awed and challenged. Just the thought of following in their footsteps is a bit overwhelming."

"As a Country radio manager, for a number of years, I have had the pleasure of working with Mike Dungan in the various stages of his career," Sansone said. "He is a world-class example of what a 'label guy' should be and so it is no surprise to me why he has been appointed to be in an advanced leadership role within the CMA.

"Mike gets it from a business sense, has a feel for the civility of interaction, and cares deeply about the business and its future — all this with a great sense of humor and compassion for those around him," Sansone added. "I look forward to this time we will be working together on what are very aggressive initiatives for CMA with not only the 40th Anniversary of the CMA Awards, but CMA Music Festival and other projects that advance the format and the industry."

"It's intimidating and I'm quite nervous about it," Dungan said of his new position. "I really don't want to let anybody down. My predecessors in this position have been really strong leaders. To step with them is quite a daunting challenge."



photo: Kristin Barlowe

as CMA Board President

Though Dungan has worn many hats during his career, he admitted he never imagined holding the position of CMA President, but said "most of my life has never been foreseeable."

Dungan's peers have no doubt he is ready for his next role.

"Mike was the head of marketing at Arista when we were getting started, so I've been fortunate enough to work closely with him as an artist, to see the way he creates structures that work for the artists," said Kix Brooks of Brooks & Dunn and former CMA Board President and Chairman who will remain on the Board.

"He's just one of those very special individuals in the record business who really has his heart in the music — and it shows in everything he does.

"As a President of the CMA, I think he's going to be incredible. I look forward to seeing where he takes this music we all love so much."

A native of Cincinnati, Dungan has worked in the music business since he was 16 years old. He got his start doing odd jobs in a local record store (he continued working there part time even as he was earning a degree in biology education at the University of Cincinnati). In 1979, RCA Records hired him as its pop music promotion representative in the market. RCA added Detroit to his territory in 1983 and later that year he moved to Minneapolis to become regional director of the Upper Midwest. There, he helped launch the careers of Bruce Hornsby and Rick Springfield.

During the 1980s, Dungan continued to move up the industry ladder. In 1987, Dungan took a sales position with RCA and Arista Records parent company, BMG Distribution. Two years later, Arista Records hired him as its Director of Marketing for the Midwest. There he worked with Whitney Houston, Kenny G and The Grateful Dead. It was while in the position that he attracted the attention of DuBois, who had just been appointed to lead Arista's new Country Music division in Nashville. Dungan credits meeting DuBois as one of the most important events of his life.

"This would not on the surface appear to be a momentous occasion, but ... I met Tim at a convention when I was about three weeks in the company and he was about two in the company. I remember going back to the hotel and calling my wife and saying 'I just met the oddest man, but I have this very strange feeling there's going to be something between us.' And sure enough, there was very quickly," Dungan said.

DuBois asked Dungan to join him in at the new label. Dungan said the move officially made him "a Country guy." In 1990, Dungan moved to Arista Nashville to head up sales and marketing for the label. He was rapidly promoted to Vice President, and in 1998, he was named Senior Vice President and General Manager. In 2000, Dungan was named to his current position as President and Chief Executive Officer of Capitol Records Nashville. Dungan, who is married with two sons, joined the CMA Board in 2000.

CMA Executive Director Ed Benson is happy to welcome Dungan aboard.

"Mike Dungan continues the string of great leaders who've headed the CMA Board," Benson said. "One of the most experienced

record executives in the business, Mike knows how to motivate people, and he does it with his unique wit and sense of humor. We are excited about the opportunity to work with Mike, and we are so grateful he is willing to commit the time to become one of our top leaders.

"Mike has been an invaluable member of the Board and has contributed to CMA's core initiatives in countless ways," said Benson. "He has great passion for the music and the artists and the business experience to support his vision. He brings a lot to this important volunteer position at a critical time for the industry and the Association as we move forward with a new television network partner and the 40th Anniversary celebration of the CMA Awards in Nashville in 2006."

Dungan believes his experience as a CMA Board member will be helpful in his new role.

"It's become a very intense and very demanding position over the last several years because of the initiatives that have been put forth by my predecessors," Dungan said. "I intend to maintain the strategic focus on those initiatives that the CMA has deemed as most important, that being the maximization of the CMA Awards, the further growth of the now very successful CMA Music Festival, building and increasing the relationship with the artists, and our continuing commitment to engage the creative community ... 2006 will be a busy and hopefully productive year."

Dungan knows, however, that he will encounter surprises.

"Who knows what can develop in this industry? We have been rocked by technological advances that have thrown our world into chaos and consolidation that has turned our business upside down," he said. "I would be foolish to think that I can get through a term without some kind of major catastrophe upsetting the industry that's going to affect the CMA or the industry overall. Who knows what we'll have to deal with?"

Dungan, who said one of his most valuable assets to the Board is his long-time relationship with the creative community, is unwavering on one objective.

"(The CMA) is truly an organization for everyone who participates in this industry no matter what capacity they serve in or how much they contribute," he said. "It's their organization and we need to educate the community about that and embrace them when they step forward, and encourage them to step forward."

"This should be the home, the safe haven where they feel they can go and get resources and contribute opinion and get positive feedback that can affect their career down the road."

Crystal Caviness

In October, CMA announced the newly elected Board of Directors and new CMA Board President Mike Dungan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Capitol Records Nashville. An organized succession in CMA's volunteer leadership was established in 2003. Four directors also serve as Officers of the Board, those being Chairman, President, President-Elect and Secretary/Treasurer. This move established a line of succession with the President-Elect moving to President and the President becoming Chairman.

The Officers for the 2005-2006 term will be:

CHAIRMAN Victor Sansone, *President / General Manager of ABC Radio Group Atlanta (WKHK-FM, WYAY-FM, WDWD-AM)*

PRESIDENT Mike Dungan, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Capitol Records Nashville*

PRESIDENT-ELECT Clarence Spalding, *President, Spalding Entertainment, LLC*

SECRETARY / TREASURER Tim Wipperman, *Chief Creative Officer, Equity Music Group*

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF ALL 2005-2006 CMA BOARD DIRECTORS AND CMA BOARD DIRECTORS AT LARGE:

CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY

Newly-elected Directors are indicated in Bold followed by Carryover Directors, who are serving the second year of a two-year term.

ADVERTISING AGENCY/IPR

Jeff Walker, *AristoMedia Group / Marco Promotions*

ARTIST MUSICIAN

Trace Adkins
Brad Paisley

COMPOSER

Tim Nichols, *Nichols Worth Music*
Bob DiPiero, *Love Monkey Music / Sony/ATV Songs*

INTERNATIONAL

Paul Fenn, *Asgard Promotions Ltd., London*
Bruce Allen, *Bruce Allen Talent, Vancouver, BC*

MUSIC PUBLISHER

Tim Wipperman, *Equity Music Group*
Pat Higdon, *Universal Music Publishing Group*

PERSONAL MANAGER

Clarence Spalding, *Spalding Entertainment, LLC*
Gary Borman, *Borman Entertainment, Santa Monica, Calif.*

RADIO MANAGEMENT

Victor Sansone, *ABC Radio Group, Atlanta (WKHX-FM, WYAY-FM, WDWD-AM)*

RADIO PROGRAMMING

Rusty Walker, *Rusty Walker Programming Consultant, Inc., Iuka, Miss.*
Alan Sledge, *Clear Channel Communications, Tempe, Ariz.*

RECORD COMPANY

Randy Goodman, *Lyric Street Records*
John Grady, *Sony Music Nashville*

RECORD / VIDEO MERCHANDISER

Sue Peterson, *Target, Minneapolis*

TALENT AGENT

Tony Conway, *Buddy Lee Attractions*

TALENT BUYER / PROMOTER

Brian O'Connell, *Clear Channel Entertainment*
John Juliano, *Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass.*

TELEVISION / VIDEO

Robert Deaton, *Deaton Flanigen Productions*

AFFILIATED

Paul Corbin, *BMI*
Connie Bradley, *ASCAP*

LIFETIME DIRECTORS

J. William Denny, *National Tape & Disc., Inc.*
Ralph Peer II, *peermusic, Novato, Calif.*
Frances Preston, *New York*

CMA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Charlie Anderson, *Anderson Merchandisers, Knoxville, Tenn.*
Mick Anselmo, *Clear Channel, Minneapolis*
Bill Bennett, *Warner Bros. Records*
Becky Brenner, *KMP5-FM Infinity, Seattle*
Kix Brooks, *B&D, Inc.*
Steve Buchanan, *Gaylord Entertainment*
Tim DuBois, *Universal South Records*
Mike Dungan, *Capitol Records Nashville*
Kitty Moon Emery, *MBK Entertainment, LLC*
Sara Evans
Larry Fitzgerald, *Fitzgerald Hartley Co.*
Jim Free, *Smith-Free Group, Washington*
Joe Galante, *RCA Label Group (RLG)*
Dick Gary, *The Gary Group, Santa Monica, Calif.*
Troy Gentry, *Montgomery Gentry*
Scott Greenstein, *Sirius Satellite Radio, New York*
Ed Hardy, *Great American Country*
Lon Helton, *Radio & Records*
Clint Higham, *Morris Management Group*
John Huie, *Creative Artists Agency*
Dann Huff, *Dann Huff Productions*
Kim Kosak, *Chevrolet Motor Division, General Motors, Detroit*
Ken Levitan, *Vector Management*
Luke Lewis, *Universal Music Group Nashville (UMG)*
Brian Mansfield, *USA Today*
Mark Mays, *Clear Channel, San Antonio*
Steve Moore, *Moore Entertainment*
Gary Overton, *EMI Music Publishing*
Brian Phillips, *CMT*
Rob Potts, *Allied Artist & Event Services, Sydney, Australia*
David Ross, *Music Row Publications*
John Sebastian, *WSM-FM Cumulus Broadcasting*
Rick Shipp, *William Morris Agency*
Phyllis Stark, *Billboard Information Group*
James Stroud, *Universal Music Group Nashville (UMG)*
Jody Williams, *Jody Williams Music*



Keith Urban receives the CMA International Artist Achievement Award. (l-r) Daphne Larkin, Director of Membership and Online Marketing; Mike Dungan, President and Chief Executive Officer, Capitol Records Nashville; Rob Potts, Chief Executive Officer, Allied Artists Australia; Sherrie Austin; Keith Urban; Catherine Britt; Bobbi Boyce, CMA International Director; Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing; and Jeff Walker, President, AristoMedia Group.

CMA Board Member Rob Potts, Chief Executive Officer of Allied Artists Australia, (left) and Adamy Harvey, Australia's "Male Vocalist of the Year," (right) present Ray Hadley with the CMA International Country Broadcaster Award. "To have the support of a leading radio figure like Hadley is very big. He's truly into the genre and is a genuine fan," Potts said.



Urban was honored during a reception for Australian Country Music artists at the Australian Consulate General. Other artists in attendance included Australian rock legend Billy Thorpe, who presented the award to Urban, Sherrie Austin, Catherine Britt, Brian Cadd and Carrie Underwood.

Another Australian was recently recognized for his accomplishments, when Ray Hadley of Australia was presented the CMA International Country Broadcaster Award. The award recognizes outstanding achievement by radio broadcasters outside North America who have made important contributions to the development of Country Music in their country.

A longtime supporter of Country Music, Hadley is Sydney's No. 1 morning personality on Radio 2GB. He routinely interviews domestic and international Country Music artists in support of new album releases and maintains a higher level of Country on his play list than most other commercial broadcasters in metropolitan Australia.

"Country Music is fortunate to have broadcasters like Hadley who deliver our music to their listeners in Australia and around the globe and care so deeply for our artistic community," Benson said.

Wendy Pearl

CMA PRESENTS INTERNATIONAL ARTIST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD TO KEITH URBAN DURING RECEPTION AT AUSTRALIAN CONSULATE

CMA GLOBAL FOCUS INCLUDES PRESENTATION OF INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY BROADCASTER AWARD TO RAY HADLEY OF AUSTRALIA

Multiple CMA Awards nominee and reigning CMA Male Vocalist of the Year Keith Urban didn't have to wait until "The 39th Annual CMA Awards" Nov. 15 to win awards. Urban was surprised during a reception Nov. 13 at the Australian Consulate General in New York City, with the CMA International Artist Achievement Award.

"Keith has had an outstanding year and is a tremendous ambassador for Country Music around the globe," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "He is very deserving of this award and it was a pleasure to present it to him in the company of his countrymen at the Australian Consulate."

Formerly the International Touring Artist Award, the award recognizes outstanding achievement by an artist who contributes to the awareness and development of Country Music outside North America.

Urban headlined a 10-show sell-out tour in Australia this year before visiting England, Germany and Ireland for a promotional tour and showcases. He also opened for Bryan Adams on his UK and Ireland tour and recently completed his solo UK tour. He is a Country artist with an international focus and is destined to develop a global fan base.

KUDOS FOR BEAR FAMILY RECORDS

Bear Family Records, one of the world's foremost reissue labels, celebrated its 30th anniversary with a reception at the record label's headquarters in Hambergen, Germany, Sept. 6. A show at the Music Hall, in neighboring Worpswede, featured rockabilly artist Glen Glenn, Ted Herold and several other European artists.

Tony Byworth, on behalf of CMA, made a presentation to founder Richard Weize in recognition of Bear Family Records' work in preserving historic music recordings with its releases.

Bear Family Records was founded in 1975 by Weize, assisted by partner and financial administrator Herman Knulle.

Weize said his enthusiasm for Country Music was the driving force in the company, his bid "to make a living out of hobby."

"It gives me great pleasure to document something in its entirety."

Bear Family Records has created and distributed box set recordings by many artists including The Carter Family, Lefty Frizzell, Uncle Dave Macon, Jimmie Rodgers, Tex Ritter and Hank Snow. The label has also compiled popular theme box sets featuring

Johnny Cash, Hank Locklin, Bill Monroe, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Marty Robbins, Conway Twitty and many more.

To date, Bear Family Records has issued nearly 300 box sets, some as large as 12 CDs.

"Bear Family Records has done an incredible job in reissuing Country Music product, not only in presenting the complete catalogues of many historic artists but also paying equal attention to lesser known acts who, otherwise, would have been completely forgotten," Byworth said. "Bear Family, thanks to the obsessive nature of label founder Richard Weize, has created a rich legacy that will ensure that the music lives on."

The label has expanded its catalog to include DVDs. In addition to vintage Country Music, Bear Family Records creates box sets from German acts and rockabilly, rock 'n' roll and blues artists. To commemorate the occasion, Bear Family Records has issued a *Special 30th Anniversary Box Set*, featuring 32 tracks that include "bear" in the title, a DVD and an 108-page full color book.

Gary Voorhies

On the Web: bear-family.de

Special thanks to Tony Byworth for reporting from these events.



CHELY WRIGHT PERFORMS AT COUNTRY RENDEZ-VOUS FESTIVAL

In 2005, the "Country Rendez-Vous Festival" in France's Craponne-Sur-Arzon broke its attendance record with more than 25,000 people attending the three-day event July 29-31.

Country artists including Eric Heatherly, Bruce Robison, King Wilkie, Kelly Willis and Chely Wright performed at the Festival, held in the picturesque mountain region of central France.

"We are delighted with this year's results," said Georges Carrier, who along with all the other volunteers, helps organize the non-profit Festival. "I'd love to thank all those who help to make the 'Country Rendez-Vous' the No.1 Country Music Festival in France." photo: P.Boutin

2006 INTERNATIONAL EVENTS CALENDAR

NEW FROM NASHVILLE EVENTS

Featuring Dierks Bentley and Jace Everett.

JAN. 16

Whelans - Dublin, Ireland

On the Web: whelanslive.com

JAN. 17

Tron Theatre - Glasgow, Scotland

On the Web: tron.co.uk

JAN. 19

Islington Academy - London, England

On the Web: islington-academy.co.uk

JAN. 28 - 29

TAMWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

Tamworth, Australia

On the Web: country.com.au

JAN. 22 - 26

TOYOTA FANFEST

Tamworth, Australia

On the Web: fanfest.com.au

JAN. 28 - 30

WESTERN EXPERIENCE

Den Bosch, The Netherlands

On the Web: westernexperience.com

FEB. 3 - 5

COUNTRY MUSIC MESSE

Berlin, Germany

On the Web: countrymusicmesse.de

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

CMA Global Markets Symposium and Showcase Rock NYC



Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand, Jace Everett, Cowboy Crush and Catherine Britt perform at the CMA Global Markets Symposium at Joe's Pub. It is Jeff Walker, CMA Global Markets Task Force Chairman and President of AristonMedia; Ryan Shupe, Bart Olson and Colin Bents of Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand; Jace Everett; Becky Priest, Trishna Barnes, Debbie Johnson, Darla Penzotti and Renee Truitt of Cowboy Crush; and Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing.

On Nov. 14 during Country Takes NYC week, Joe's Pub in New York City was the location for the fourth annual CMA Global Market Symposium, and second year the event included artists showcases. This year's performers were Catherine Britt, Cowboy Crush, Jace Everett and Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand. The event focused on the international market for Country Music, and it provided a networking opportunity for musicians, label executives, concert promoters and members of the media. Executives from industry advisory groups in Australia, the UK and the United States commented on the status of Country Music in their respective territories.

Among the speakers were Jeff Walker, CMA Board Member and CMA Global Markets Task Force Chairman; Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing; and Rob Potts, CMA Board member and Chief Executive Officer of Allied Artist & Event Services in Australia.

Murray described the two main goals for the event: "One goal is to educate our domestic industry members and the media who are interested in the international market for Country Music — as well as the international folks who come in for CMA Awards week — about what's happening with Country Music in the territories around the world. Secondly, this event is a showcase for new artists who are interested in developing an international base as part of their career. Hopefully these performances will lead to awareness, press coverage and bookings."

"This year's symposium in New York has given the event additional juice because it opened up a whole new audience," Walker said. "With a record number of foreign press and international executives in attendance, it solidified the fact that the international marketplace is an important priority for CMA."

"Our membership base is international, so we work with any artists that are members who are trying to reach their goals," Murray said. "If they are foreign artists, we try to create opportunities here in the United States. Most of those opportunities involve linking them up with industry veterans on the U.S. side to help build their careers. At the CMA Music Festival in June, we have an international showcase, so a lot of international artists come over to the U.S. and perform. A lot of our work also involves going outside the country to develop markets and territories for U.S.-based artists signed to domestic labels. That's one of our major strategic goals. But wherever our members come from, our goal is to help them build their careers."

Bobby Reed

CMA PRESENTS "NEW FROM NASHVILLE" IN LONDON, DUBLIN AND GLASGOW Dierks Bentley and Jace Everett to Perform

CMA is hosting two of Country Music's best and brightest artists — Capitol Records artist Dierks Bentley and Epic Records artist Jace Everett — oversees Jan. 16-19 for high-profile showcases in London, Dublin and Glasgow (the latter as part of Celtic Connections 2006, Scotland's premier winter music festival.) SEE INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR ABOVE.

"CMA is very excited to present the second 'New from Nashville' program featuring two very talented artists," said CMA Executive Director Ed Benson. "With the success of last year's tour and its warm reception in London and Glasgow, we're expanding this year to include a performance in Dublin where Country Music is already very popular."

Paul Fenn of Asgard Promotions will produce the shows for CMA. All shows will be open to the public on a limited basis.



Scotland Radio Station Embraced by New York Country Music Fans



PAT GEARY



JAY TETER



RACHAEL WARWICK



RIVERS RUTHERFORD

photos: Jason Kemper - FilmMagic.com Logo used by permission

Continuous Cool Country radio, 3C, is the UK's first national Country Music radio station. Broadcasting in digital stereo, 3C set up in 2000 from studios in Glasgow, Scotland, and has grown to reach more than 5 million UK households with its digital television, internet radio broadcasts and digital audio signal.

Programmed by Pat Geary, the station features a mix of U.S. and international Country Music singers.

Geary is a U.S. citizen who spent 15 years as a prosecutor in Orange County, Calif., while he operated a record store in Irvine that promoted music from the UK. In 1988, Geary moved to Scotland and operated a record store in Glasgow's west end for nine years. He presented Country shows on three radio stations, created 3C and has been Station Manager responsible for music programming since then.

Besides its domestic audience, 3C reaches fans worldwide on a Web stream from **3Cdigital.com**. The station has a strong relationship with listeners in the New York City area, who have had no local Country radio station for several years.

"When NYC lost its Country station, we posted messages to listeners inviting them to adopt 3C as their new home," Geary said. "(Later) we received a letter from a police officer who lost colleagues in the September 11th attacks. He told us listening to 3C every night was his therapy after working at Ground Zero."

3C dedicates a daily five-hour block of programming Monday through Friday to New York area listeners.

Geary's effort to build international listeners has paid off. The station has twice won the Gold World Medal for Best Country format in Digital Audio Broadcasting at the New York International Radio Festival. Geary feels that Country Music brings people together, no matter where they live. "The lyrics of so many Country songs tap into deeply personal experiences and emotions, and we find ourselves sharing our response to these songs and feeling closer as a result," Geary said.

The bond is so evident that Geary brings listeners to the U.S. for special events. "I've been coming to the U.S. for 3C since we went on air in 2000. Although we tailor our programming for UK sensibilities, we realize the U.S. is the center of the Country Music universe, and our audience has a keen interest in what happens there," he said.

Geary sponsored a listener appreciation show in New York at Mustang Harry's Nov. 13 during "Country Takes NYC" week. He brought a group of station winners and invited local listeners to hear UK Country notable Rachael Warwick, along with domestic acts Rivers Rutherford and Jay Teter. The showcase got a great response from 3C listeners in both the UK and the United States, Geary said.

Geary has successfully compiled a blend of music that works for both his domestic and international listeners. "The artists who have done well on U.S. Country radio generally do well here, also," he said. "Although there is a core of longtime Country fans here who have not kept up with the newer generation of artists, most listeners seem willing to give the new artists a chance.

"We try to provide a smattering of classic artists and tracks throughout the day, although we make it clear that 3C is not a classic Country operation, and we regard the music as an exciting and developing art form that continues to evolve and change."

The approach is working, demonstrating the viability of Country Music in a mix of locales.

Gary Voorhies



CKRY/ALBERTA, CANADA COUNTRY 105 RADIO STATION'S THE ODD SQUAD (l-r: DOUG VERONELLY, ROBYN ADAIR AND DAN CARSON) RECEIVES THE CMA INTERNATIONAL COUNTRY BROADCASTER AWARD. photo: Greig Martin Photography

CMA International Country Broadcaster Award Winners The Odd Squad

One of the leading on-air personality radio teams in Canada, The Odd Squad, has been awarded the CMA International Country Broadcaster Award. Comprised of radio veterans Robyn Adair, Dan Carson and Doug Veronelly, the trio has anchored Calgary, Alberta's 105 CKRY morning show for more than 12 years.

Jeff Walker, CMA Board Member and Chairman of CMA Global Markets Task Force, surprised the team with the announcement during Canadian Country Music Week, Sept. 10, at the Broadcasters Luncheon. The Award recognizes outstanding achievement by radio broadcasters who have made important contributions to the development of Country Music in their country.

"To be honored with such a prestigious award in front of our peers was a career highlight," said Adair, who studied broadcasting in Saskatchewan and worked in Red Deer and Edmonton before moving to Country 105 nearly 17 years ago. "It has been a lifelong dream of ours to win recognition from the CMA in Nashville."

Carson began his career at age 16 in Smithers, British Columbia and soon moved to Calgary where for the past 13 years, he is also the public address announcer for the Canadian Football League's (CFL) Stampeders.

Veronelly, who began his broadcasting career at a college radio station 28 years ago, is appreciative of the interviews and support artists have given to the trio. "Our best moments come with Country artists in studio," Veronelly said. "Having that personal connection with the music makers is very special."

The Odd Squad capitalizes on its notoriety to assist others and has helped raise more than \$1.5 million dollars for the Children's Miracle Network Radiothon.

Gary Voorhies



Rhonda Vincent

AND THE 'WORLD OF BLUEGRASS'

Bluegrass music has undergone a startling transformation in the past two decades, from obscure niche music to big business, and from cloddish stereotypes to recognition as the training ground for some of the greatest musicians of our time.

While the music echoes the ancient sounds of Appalachia, in truth it was born only 60 years ago, on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. Bluegrass is a genre of music that confounds the preconceptions of the uninitiated who would pigeonhole it as a quaint folk music with little bearing on the modern listener. In fact, nothing could be further from the truth. Bluegrass music is a vibrant genre, with a rapidly growing retail and touring profile, and an unending stream of new players and fans that seem to get younger each year.

An artist who personifies the new face of bluegrass is Rhonda Vincent. Her mix of stellar vocal ability and fiery instrumental chops has made her a critical darling for more than a decade. Meanwhile, her trademark sartorial style has positioned her as a thoroughly modern and sophisticated woman.

Vincent won a record-breaking sixth consecutive International Bluegrass Music Association award in 2005 for Female Vocalist of the Year. This award will share mantle space with 10 other IBMA awards she has amassed during her career.

This year marked a new beginning for the IBMA, as it was the first time that the convention and awards show was held in Nashville. As bluegrass music has grown into a significant entertainment force, it became obvious that the IBMA would be serving its membership by moving the annual World of Bluegrass event from its former home in Louisville, Ky., to Nashville, where so much of the actual business of bluegrass is centered.

The World of Bluegrass event is divided into three distinct areas. One is the IBMA Business conference which starts the event. It offers workshops and panel discussions where artists, managers, promoters and broadcasters can come together to network and exchange knowledge that will benefit their own concerns, as well as the genre as a whole. Secondly, the awards show is the highlight of the week and was held at a sold-out Ryman Auditorium, was broadcast live by XM Satellite Radio and syndicated to more than 300 markets in the United States and to 14 foreign countries. The third element is the Fan Fest, a massive indoor bluegrass festival.

By all accounts, the move to Nashville for the awards and the IBMA headquarters, has been a major success for the IBMA.

According to Dan Hays, the Executive Director of IBMA, registrations were up significantly for the business conference and for the Fan Fest this year. "We had great attendance from other music communities in Nashville," Hays said. "Respect and admiration for bluegrass has grown in recent years, and we feel that we have much to learn from the other genres centered here."

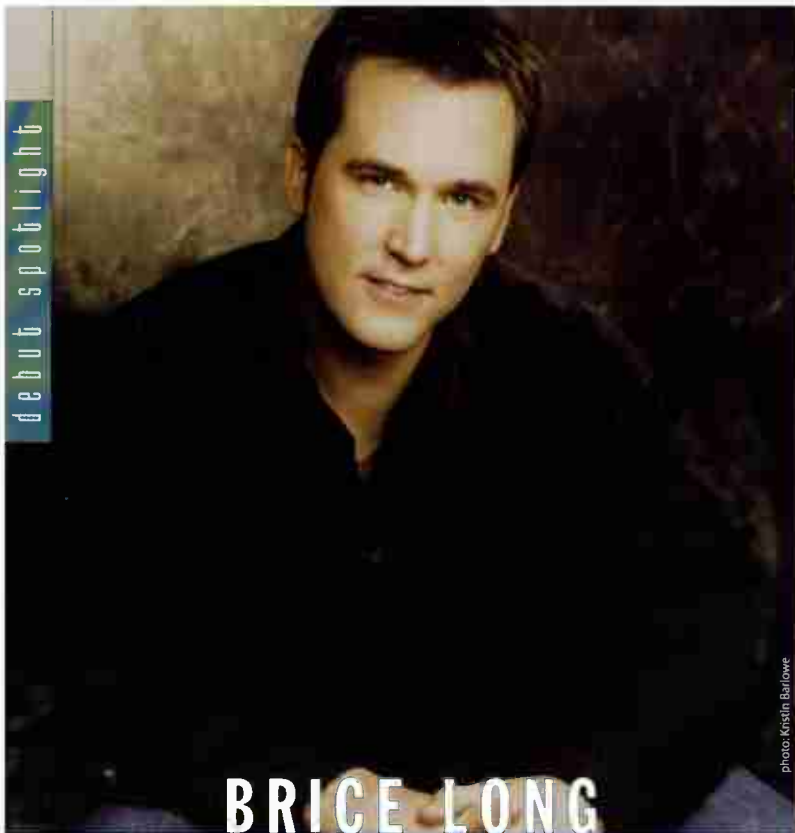
Vincent is also excited about the IBMA's move to Nashville, "The very first IBMA meeting was held in Nashville, at Belmont College," she noted. "It's an organization that does so much for bluegrass artists in every way. From the seminars on 'how do I keep my band together' to their musicians fund."

Meanwhile, Vincent's career path mirrors the evolution of bluegrass into the mainstream.

Vincent started singing at age 3, and spent her childhood immersed in music as a member of her family band The Sally Mountain Show. She was the first signing to Giant Records' Nashville imprint in the 1990s. Vincent recorded two albums with Giant under the guidance of label head James Stroud. In spite of critical acclaim, Vincent's Country albums did not meet with mainstream success.

"When I played bluegrass, people would always say that 'your voice is so Country'.

continued on page 37 ...



BRICE LONG

photo: Kristin Balow

Raised on a 60-acre farm outside of Hopkinsville, Ky., Brice Long grew up working in the fields, taking care of cattle and hogs and absorbing the musical influences of his family, who loved Country Music. He particularly loved Charlie Rich, Gary Stewart and Conway Twitty.

"Country Music was on the radio in the truck, on the tractor and in the barn," Long said. "I just couldn't get enough. I would've crawled inside that radio if I could."

After his first performance in church at the age of 4, Long sang everywhere he could — at other churches, weddings, talent shows and the school choir.

When Long graduated from high school, his father encouraged him to pursue music full-time. Long frequently traveled the hour and a half drive into town, performing at weekly open mic nights in local nightclubs and opening for touring Country acts who'd come through the central Kentucky region. Eddie Rabbitt's manager encouraged Long to move to Nashville, which he did in 1993.

Long attended Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro, Tenn. and landed his first paid songwriting job with the publishing arm of Starstruck Entertainment.

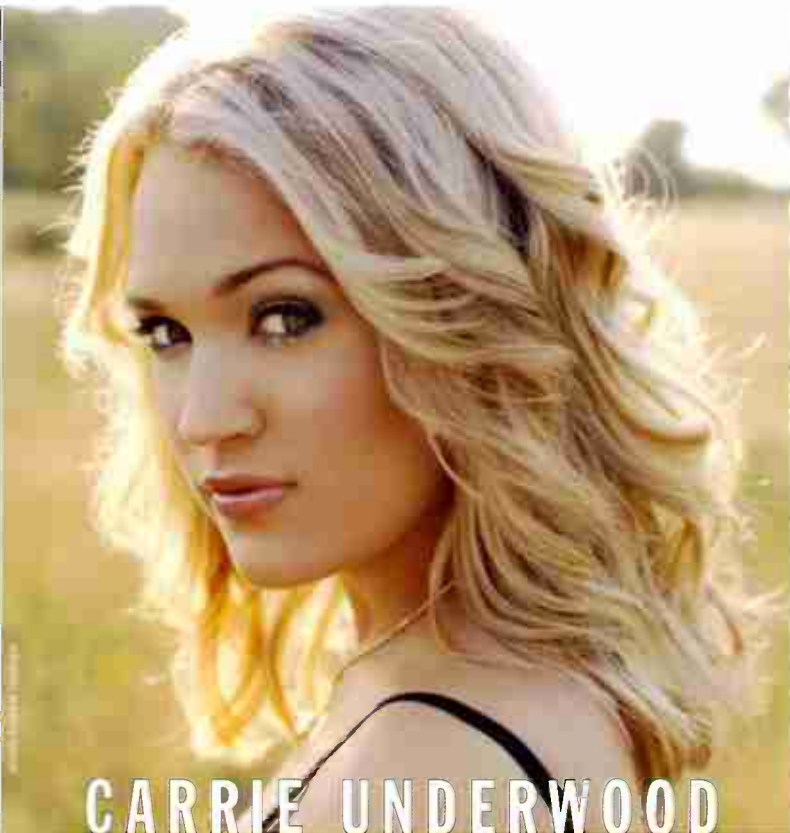
His reputation as a writer grew when John Michael Montgomery, Randy Travis, Josh Turner and others recorded his songs. Gary Allan hit No. 1 with "Nothing On But The Radio," co-written by Long, Odie Blackmon and Byron Hill.

In 2004, Long signed to Columbia Records and teamed with award-winning producers Mark Wright and Keith Stegall for his self-titled debut album. Long co-wrote eight of the 11 songs on the album, due in early 2006. The debut single "Anywhere But Here" was penned by D. Vincent Williams and Vincent Moberly.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

Who is your musical hero? "Elvis, no need to say any more."
What CD is on your stereo right now? "Gary's Greatest by Gary Stewart."
What song do you wish you had written? "Always On My Mind," written by Wayne Carson, Johnny Christopher and Mark James."
Do you have a lucky charm? "I have a buckeye I carry in my pocket my Dad gave me."

On the Web: bricelong.com



CARRIE UNDERWOOD

"American Idol" winner Carrie Underwood grew up in Checotah, Okla., where her father worked at a paper mill and her mother taught school. The youngest of three girls, Underwood started singing at church at 3 years old.

By seventh grade, the "little girl with the big voice," began to enter local talent shows.

Underwood's early music influences varied. "I grew up listening to The Four Seasons and The Bee Gees, John Denver and The Beatles. I learned to love the music of the '80s through my sisters. And growing up in Oklahoma, it was hard not to know Country Music really well. I started listening to it in the car and then my mom and dad picked up on it," she said.

Underwood studied journalism at Northeastern State University in Oklahoma, where she produced a student-run television program, wrote for the school paper and performed in a Country Music show on campus. One night after a show, Underwood drove to St. Louis, where she waited eight hours to sing Martina McBride's "Phones Are Ringing All Over Town" for the "American Idol" audition.

After a series of callbacks, Underwood earned a spot on the show. When she won, Underwood signed to 19 Recordings/Arista Records. Her first release, "Inside Your Heaven," made *Billboard* chart history as the first Country Music song to debut in the top spot on the Hot 100. She embarked on a 40-city "American Idol" summer tour and appeared in national advertising campaigns for Hershey's chocolate and Skechers.

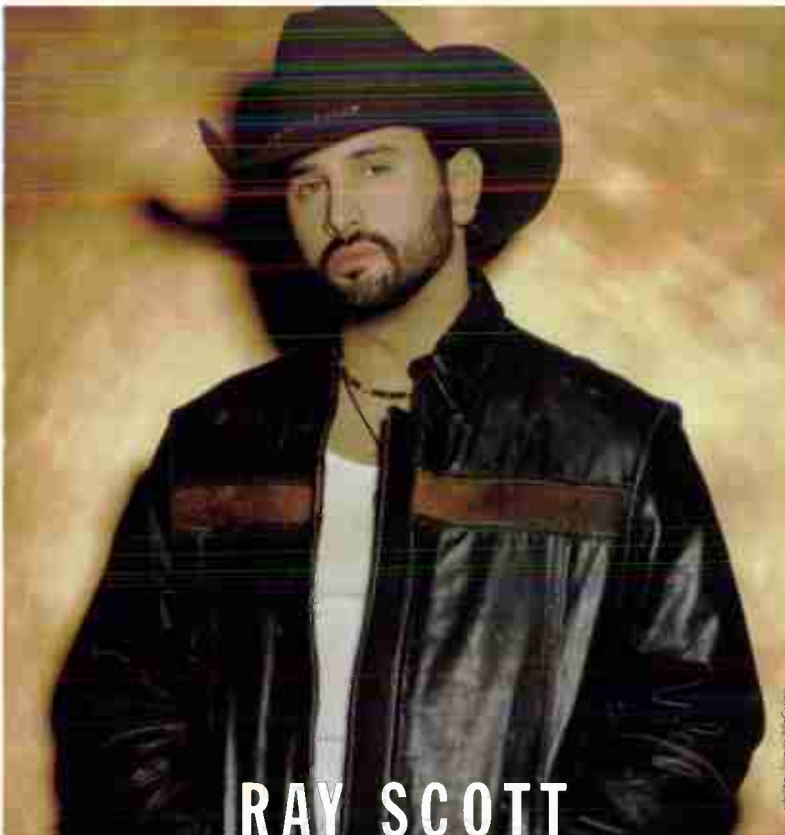
Produced by Mark Bright and Dann Huff, Underwood's debut album, *Some Hearts*, was released on Nov. 15, featuring the single, "Jesus Take the Wheel," written by Hillary Lindsey, Gordie Sampson and Brett James. The album went Gold after only two weeks.

IN HER OWN WORDS:

Who is your musical hero? "Martina McBride."
What CD is on your stereo right now? "The new Foo Fighters album, *In Your Honor*."
What book is on your nightstand right now? "The Bible."
What actor would portray you in a biopic about your life? "Maybe Reese Witherspoon. People say we look alike (I wish). And I like her."

On the Web: carrieunderwood.com





RAY SCOTT

photo: Lynn McGuire



SHANE OWENS

Ray Scott comes by his Country roots honestly. Raised in the farming community of Semora, N.C., he was the son of a Country Music singer. He credits his dad, Ray Sr., as his biggest musical influence.

"A lot of people name off artists as influences and I have those too, but the biggest impression on me was my dad," Scott said. "He was a singer and I heard his interpretations of all those great Country songs growing up. I realize more all the time that listening to his versions and comparing them to the originals I heard on the radio taught me a lot about how to make a song your own."

As he matured, Scott was drawn to the authority and gritty realism of Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. "Those guys defined an era of Country Music," he said. "They left a permanent impression on me that I wear like a badge of honor."

At 19, Scott formed his first band in Raleigh, N.C., a short-lived project. He went on to college, graduated, then started another band. After moving to Nashville, he earned a publishing deal with Tom Collins Music. The years of dedication to his craft began to pay off when Randy Travis cut his song "Pray for the Fish" and Clay Walker recorded "A Few Questions."

Scott co-wrote all of the 13 songs on his Warner Bros. debut, *My Kind of Music*. Produced by Philip Moore and Buddy Cannon, the album was released on Nov. 22.

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

Which song would you like to cover? "I'm On Fire" written and performed by Bruce Springsteen."

What CD is on your stereo right now? "John Prine's *Fair & Square*."

Who is your dream duet partner? "Patty Loveless."

When they look back on your life in 50 years, what do you hope people say about you? "Ray was a pretty good ole boy who wrote some really cool tunes."

What moment in your life would you relive if you could? "My first night performing on the Grand Ole Opry."

On the Web: rayscott.com



A native of tiny Samson, Ala., the first musical influence for Shane Owens was his grandmother, who played piano and sang to him.

"I dedicated my album to her," he said. "She passed away a year before last. She was probably the biggest inspiration to me. I know we got on her nerves, but she'd play if we asked her to play. She'd play all night long."

He started singing early on, and at 6 was part of the church choir. An outgoing youngster, Owens was not shy about being in front of a crowd and welcomed opportunities to sing at nursing homes and charity events.

He became an accomplished athlete. As the quarterback he broke his passing arm during his senior year of high school football, but still earned a spot as a walk-on at Jacksonville State University. When he realized the injury would hamper his football skills, he bought a guitar. He took some lessons and joined Young Country, a band that won the Jimmy Dean Country Showdown state competition in 1995 and 1997.

After Young Country broke up, Owens joined Borderline, whose members morphed into the house band at the club, Cowboys. The club owner recognized Owens talent and encouraged him to go to Nashville, where indie label Rust Records signed him.

Kevin Wayne Waldrop, who co-wrote seven of the 10 songs on *Let's Get On With It* with Owens, produced the album, which was released on Aug. 23. Influenced by Country legends including Earl Thomas Conley, Vern Gosdin, George Jones and Keith Whitley, Owens made an album that honors his heroes. Owens and Waldrop wrote the debut single, "Bottom of the Fifth."

IN HIS OWN WORDS:

What book is on your nightstand right now? "*Crimson Nation: The Shaping of the South's Most Dominant Football Team*."

What do you sing in the shower? "'I'll Fly Away,' my Grandma's favorite song."

What is your pet peeve? "I'm a neat freak. Everything must be clean."

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

"Luke Perry."

What moment in your life would you relive if you could? "My first child being born."

On the Web: shaneowens.us



Debut Spotlight compiled by Gary Voorhies



Celebrates Another Successful Event

An unprecedented crowd of more than 360 entertainment and industry professionals attended the iebaLIVE! conference at the Hilton Suites Nashville Downtown, Oct. 2-4. Forty-seven sponsors, including CMA, helped make the event, which featured an active schedule of panels, roundtable discussions, membership meetings, luncheons, receptions and a golf tournament, a huge success.

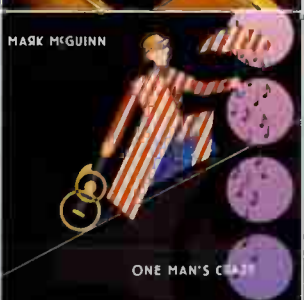
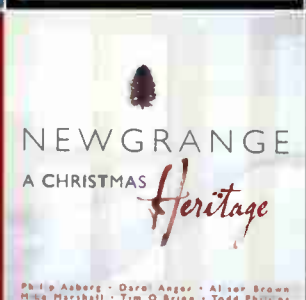
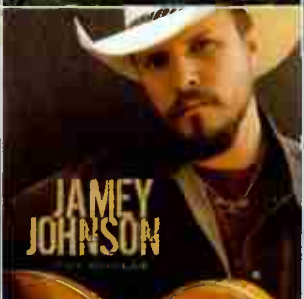
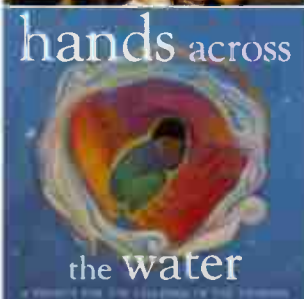
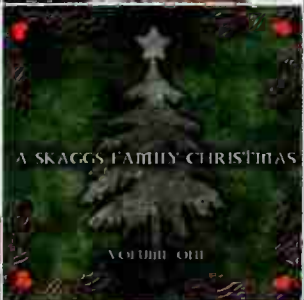
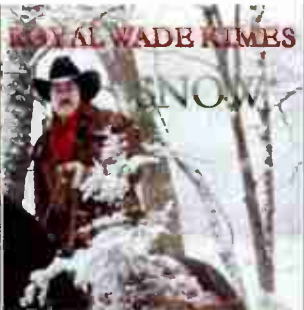
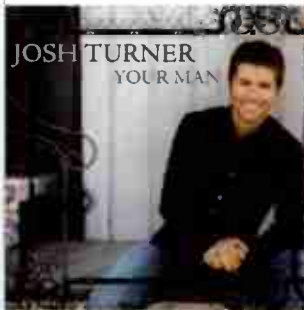
SAVE THE DATE! The 36th Annual ieba!LIVE Conference is scheduled for Oct. 15-17, 2006. On the Web: ieba.org

(photos from top to bottom) Lee Greenwood congratulates Steve Lassiter, Vice President, Agency for the Performing Arts (APA), for being named Talent Director of the Year for the Nashville Association of Talent Directors.

Several MuzikMafia performers and industry executives participate in the "Music Without Prejudice" panel. (l-r) back row: Patti Burgart, ieba Executive Director; Shannon Lawson; MuzikMafia/Raybow Records Bill Moore, Artist Development and Cory Glerman, General Manager; Big Kenny of Big & Rich; Cowboy Troy; Marc Oswald, Artist Manager, Morris Management Group; Jon Nicholson; Rachel Kice; and Ed Bazell, ieba President. front row (l-r): Chance; John Rich of Big & Rich; Greg Oswald, Senior Vice President, William Morris Agency.

iebaLIVE! honors the Grand Ole Opry in celebration of its 80th anniversary with a special presentation by Tennessee Congresswoman Marsha Blackburn and a performance from several Opry members of "Will The Circle Be Unbroken." (l-r) Pete Fisher, Grand Ole Opry Vice President and General Manager; Martina McBride; Dierks Bentley; Terri Clark; Little Jimmy Dickens; The Whites; Marsha Blackburn; and Steve Buchanan, Gaylord Entertainment, Senior Vice President of Media and Entertainment.

The Oak Ridge Boys receive the Living Legend Award and Vince Gill is presented with the Humanitarian Award. photos: Don Olea



- DEC. 13**
Bo Bice / *The Real Thing* / RCA Records
- JAN. 10**
BR549 / *Dog Days* / Dualtone
Michael Dean Church / *Live It Out Loud* / Dreamchurch
Jack Ingram / *Live — Wherever You Are* / Big Machine
Mark McGuinn / *One Man's Crazy* / Blue Flamingo
Darden Smith / *Field Of Crows* / Dualtone
Sons of San Joaquin / *Way Out Yonder* / Dualtone
Various Artists / *Hands Across The Water: A Benefit For The Children Of The Tsunami* / Compass
Various Artists / *Sound Traditions: The Best Of Bluegrass — 25 Traditional Classics, Vol. 1* / Rural Rhythm
Various Artists / *The Stars Of FanFest 2006* / Vital/Rajon
- JAN. 24**
Rosanne Cash / *Black Cadillac* / Capitol
The Duhks / *Your Daughters & Your Sons* / Sugar Hill
The Gibson Brothers / *Red Letter Day* / Sugar Hill
The Gourds / *Heavy Ornaments* / Eleven Thirty/Redeye
Mike Marshall & Chris Thile / *Live Duets* / Sugar Hill
Patty Hurst Shifter / *Too Crowded On The Losing End* / Evo
Josh Turner / *Your Man* / MCA Nashville
- JAN. 31**
Norman and Nancy Blake / *Back to Sulphur Springs* / Dualtone
John Corbett / *John Corbett* / Fun Bone
Jamey Johnson / *The Dollar* / BNA
- FEB. 7**
Marty Stuart / *Live At The Ryman* / Superlatone/Universal South
- FEB. 14**
Mountain Heart / *Wide Open* / Skaggs Family Records
Terry Allen / *Pedal Steal* / Sugar Hill

- The Lucky Tomblin Band / *In A Honky-Tonk Mood* / Texas World
Shawn Mullins / *Ninth Ward Pickin' Parlor* / Vanguard
- FEB. 21**
Gary Bennett / *Human Condition* / Landslide
Robinella / *Solace For The Lonely* / Dualtone
- FEB. 28**
Shannon Brown / *Corn Fed* / Warner Bros.
Jessi Colter / *Out Of The Ashes* / Shout! Factory
Hank III / *Straight To Hell* / BRUC
- MARCH 7**
Kris Kristofferson / *This Old Road* / New West
Rockie Lynne / *TBD* / Universal South
Lee Roy Parnell / *Back To The Well* / Universal South
- MARCH 14**
Various Artists / *Fresh Faces At MerleFest* / MerleFest
- MARCH 21**
Kenny Rogers / *Water And Bridges* / Capitol
- APRIL 4**
Shooter Jennings / *Electric Rodeo* / Universal South
- APRIL 25**
Steve Azar / *Indianola* / Dang
- NEW HOLIDAY CD RELEASES**
Royal Wade Kimes / *Snow* / Wonderment
Various Artists / *A Skaggs Family Christmas Vol. 1* / Skaggs Family Records
Various Artists / *Christmas Angels* / Capitol
Various Artists / *New Grange: A Christmas Heritage* / Compass

*CD release dates are subject to change without notice.
Compiled by Athena Patterson

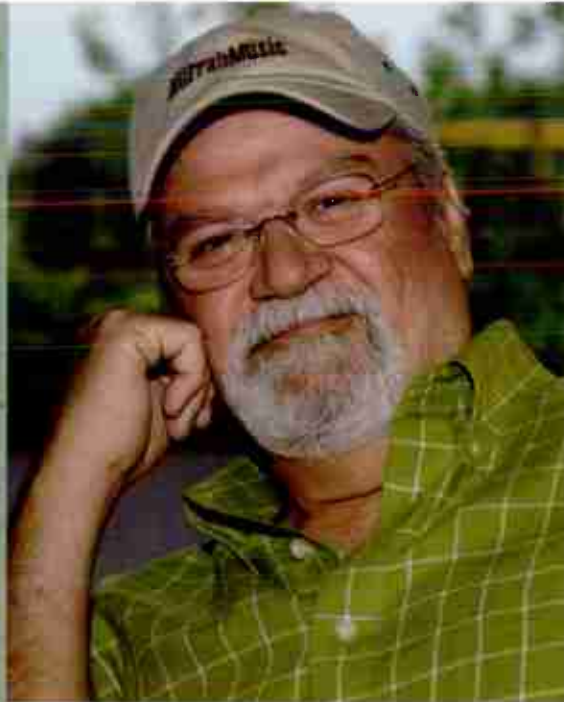


Photo: Alan Mayor

ROGER MURRAH

A STELLAR
SONGWRITER
AND SAVVY
BUSINESSMAN

SONGWRITER SPOTLIGHT

Renowned songwriter Roger Murrah has had a momentous year. He was inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, he scored yet another Top 10 hit and he celebrated 15 years as the President of Murrah Music Corporation, one of Nashville's most successful independent song publishers.

Murrah has written or co-written hits that boosted the careers of dozens of acts including "A Bridge That Just Won't Burn" (Conway Twitty); "Don't Rock The Jukebox" (Alan Jackson); "We're In This Love Together" (Al Jarreau); "Rough And Rowdy Days" (Waylon Jennings); "Stranger Things Have Happened" (Ronnie Milsap); "This Crazy Love" (The Oak Ridge Boys); "Southern Rains" (Mel Tillis); "Where Corn Don't Grow" (Travis Tritt); "It's A Little Too Late" (Tanya Tucker); "Life's Highway" (Steve Wariner); and "Only Love" (Wynonna). Murrah's songwriting credits also include three No. 1 hits for Alabama: "High Cotton," "Southern Star" and "I'm In A Hurry (And Don't Know Why)."

Murrah is still an active composer, but he spends much of his time overseeing his company's business operations and editing the work of songwriters who are signed to Murrah Music.

"Most songwriters are highly creative, strictly right-brain people," Murrah said. "I'm one of those rare, weird birds who enjoys the business side as much as the songwriting side. I've learned that you can be creative in business, too. People who aren't creative usually do what's expected in business, but when you're creative, you'll try some things that haven't been done before. That's very exciting to me."

Following a successful six-year stint at Tom Collins Music, Murrah formed his own namesake corporation in 1990. He works hard to ensure that Murrah Music runs efficiently.

"When you operate as an independent, then by necessity, you have to make good business decisions because you don't have the deep pockets of the big corporations," he said. "So you have to figure out

how to turn the investment around quicker. We're always looking for ways to increase the cash flow. We're seeing new revenue streams in publishing with ringtones and we've discovered unbelievable amounts of money in karaoke."

In addition to Murrah and his brother Michael, the other songwriters currently signed to Murrah Music include Luke Bryan, Michael Carter, Neal Coty, John Edwards, Adam Holland, Mike Mobley, Megan Sheehan and Rachel Thibodeau. Mobley and former Murrah Music songwriter Philip White composed Neal McCoy's recent hit "Billy's Got His Beer Goggles On."

"Our biggest selling point as a publisher is the nurturing environment that we have here," Murrah explained. "It's very supportive. It's an ideal place for a writer, especially a beginning writer, but also for an established writer."

Other hit songs that have come from the pens of Murrah Music songwriters include Kenny Chesney's "When I Close My Eyes," Martina McBride's "Where Would You Be," Reba McEntire's "I'm A Survivor" and Rascal Flatts' "I'm Movin' On."

Murrah is keenly aware of what it takes to make it as a songwriter and he has firsthand experience with the hardships that many young tunesmiths endure.

"When I first got to town in 1972, I made ends meet any way I could," he recalled. "I was on a \$50 per week draw from Bobby Bare's company, Return Music. If I got behind, I'd borrow a little more money from Bobby. But I never did think that I wouldn't be successful. I always thought it would just be a matter of time. So I lived on the dream for the first few years and then things started clicking. I can remember the first time I got a song recorded, the first time I got a B-side and the first time I had a single on the A-side. It's funny how you can just live on those little moments along the way. They get you though. It's amazing how many months you can run on the least amount of success."

During his formative years, Murrah admired the work of legendary songwriters Dallas Frazier, Mickey Newbury, Curly Putman, Billy Joe Shaver and Joe South. Now he has joined their ranks as a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

"It's a great honor," Murrah said. "What's most sobering to me are the peers in that group. Mickey Newbury is incredible. Dallas Frazier is as great a Country songwriter as there ever was. Billy Joe Shaver was signed to Return Music at the same time I was. I remember he once told me, 'Roger, if people like your writing, they're going to have to come to you to get it.' His point was that if there is something unique about your songwriting, people will come find you. That meant a lot to me."

One person who fully understands Murrah's unique style is songwriter and producer Keith Stegall. Among the 20 songs that Murrah and Stegall have written are "We're In This Love Together" and "Stranger Things Have Happened," and "Don't Rock The Jukebox," the No. 1 hit they penned with Alan Jackson.

"Roger became my mentor in teaching me how to write songs," Stegall said. "One thing he taught me is that lyrically, less is always more. The more concise a lyric is, the better. He taught me that little things, which seem like they might be insignificant, can actually be the things that make a line zing or make it hit you in the chest. Roger is so conversational. He has a real down-to-earth approach to writing songs that makes them very believable. I think he's one of the greatest songwriters in this town."

Murrah and James Dean Hicks wrote "Goodbye Time," which was a Top 10 hit for Conway Twitty in 1988. Blake Shelton's version of the song became a Top 10 hit earlier this year. Shelton first heard the tune years ago, in the closing segment of a television documentary on Twitty. "As the credits rolled, they had a live performance of Conway singing it," Shelton said. "He had that thing where his knees were bent and his veins were popping out of his head as he sang it." Shelton's rendition of "Goodbye Time" is included on his latest album, *Blake Shelton's Barn & Grill*.

"I was elated at how Blake did that song," Murrah said. "It is so unusual for somebody to cover an artist as established as Conway and maybe even exceed the original version. I think Blake did that."

Just like dozens of artists before him, Shelton discovered that a Roger Murrah song can be a pathway to tremendous success.

Bobby Reed

On the Web: murrahmusic.com



ANGELA LANG joined CMA as Regional Partnership Development Manager and is responsible for local and regional partnership development for the CMA Music Festival and the CMA Awards. Lang, a native of Kansas City, Mo., graduated from Park University with a degree in marketing. Prior to joining CMA, Lang worked with Southwest Airlines, moving from Kansas City to Nashville in May 2004 as a Marketing Sales Representative, Southeast Region. "Angela will be instrumental in our aggressive development of local and regional partnerships for both the CMA Music Festival and the CMA Awards," said CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing Rick Murray. "She has the perfect attitude, presentation skills, network of contacts and partnership vision that is critical to our success. We are very excited to have her join the team."



MARCO CASTILLO joined CMA as Operations Assistant and is responsible for the day-to-operations related to the CMA building and grounds. Originally from Zamora Michoacán, Mexico, Castillo moved to California in 1990 and attended Chabolt Community College in Hayward, Calif. Castillo and his family moved to the Nashville area in 2005. "Marco always has such a helpful and accommodating personality," said CMA Senior Director of Finance and Administration Cindy Miller. "His willingness to work hard and get the job done is a real plus in the demanding operations position where he will be responsible for coordinating deliveries, errands and meeting the operational needs for the many events CMA hosts."



CHRISTA GOLDMAN joined CMA as Administrative Assistant and serves as CMA's receptionist. Before graduating from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville with a degree in business and marketing in June 2005, Goldman, a Nashville native, interned at CMA in Industry Relations. "Christa began temping at CMA a few months ago and I have received numerous compliments on her pleasant and helpful nature," Miller said. "Her personality and willingness to help CMA members, industry friends and visitors reflects the proper representation of CMA as an individual's first point of contact with the organization."



STEPHANIE HODGES joined CMA in the Strategic Marketing Department as Administrative Assistant. A native of Tennessee, Hodges attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and has lived in Nashville for 25 years. After nearly 20 years at Gaylord Entertainment Company in various positions including the Marketing/Events and Entertainment Productions Departments, The Nashville Network (TNN) and WSM Radio, Hodges spent several years at Clear Channel Communications. "The CMA Strategic Marketing Department has expanded considerably over the past few years which means it is even more critical for our support staff to have the ability to keep the administrative elements on track," Murray said. "Stephanie comes to CMA with an extensive background and a proven track record that will ensure our administrative support function is poised for the future."

Amanda Eckard

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT AND CIRCULATION

Athena Patterson
DATE: OCT. 1, 2005

Faith Hill *continued from page 21*

Besides "If You Ask," Hill cut McKenna's "Stealing Kisses" and "Fireflies," which became the album's title. The two appeared together on an "Oprah" segment devoted to Hill. McKenna has since been signed to Warner Bros. Records and had her most recent album, *Bittertown*, re-released by the major label.

"There's still not a week that goes by that I don't listen to Lori's music," Hill said. "She just kills me. And I love her as a person now. I've really gotten to know her and she's just a great girl — very funny, very smart and a great mom."

At one point, Hill thought McKenna's "Stealing Kisses" would be the leadoff cut. But others convinced her to start with "Mississippi Girl," a decision that obviously worked well.

"It was a good way to introduce myself back into the market," she conceded. "It was what I needed to say at that moment, and it's fun to sing live and the crowd loves it. If it was up to me, I could've done a whole album of Lori McKenna songs, but it's good to hit different marks on an album. You have to have those feel-good songs that make you feel great."

So there she goes again — defending herself for having contradictory creative impulses. She laughs loud and long at that thought. "You know, I have to walk to the beat of my own drum, for sure," she sighed. "Who wants to be predictable, to be a follower? I have three daughters, and I want them to see that I follow my heart and don't always take the safe, easy way. I'd want them to be the same way."

Michael McCall

On the Web: faithhill.com

CMA was a proud sponsor of the fifth annual Country Radio Broadcaster's Fall Forum in October at the Belcourt Theatre in Nashville.

"The Fall Forum continued the tradition of offering the annual check up and look ahead for the Country industry," said CRB Executive Director Ed Salamon. "The rapport between these leaders was evidence of how well the segments of the Country industry are working together to deal with the constant change."



"New Radio Models" panel: back (l-r) Steve Blatter, Senior Vice President of Music Programming, SIRIUS Satellite Radio; Alex Nesbitt, President of Digital Podcast; Paul Reddick, Vice President of Business Development and Product Innovation for Sprint; Ray Knight, XM Satellite Radio; Don Kelly, Director Broadcast Marketing of Ibiqity; and Becky Brenner, Operations Manager KMPS/Seattle.
front (l-r) R.J. Curtis, CRB President and Program Director, KZLA/Los Angeles and Ed Salamon, CRB Executive Director.



"State of the Industry" panel: front (l-r) Woody Bomar, Senior Vice President / General Manager Creative Services, Sony/ATV Music Publishing; Bill Bennett, Executive Vice President, Warner Bros. Records; Jim Dotan, Vice President and Manager, Clear Channel WPDC/Baltimore.
back (l-r) Tony Conway, President & Co-owner of Buddy Lee Attractions, Inc.; moderator R.J. Curtis, CRB President and Program Director, KZLA/Los Angeles and Ed Salamon, CRB Executive Director. photos: Danny Combs

Rhonda Vincent ...continued from page 37



Rhonda Vincent & The Rage perform at the IBMA World of Bluegrass Show during Fan Fest in Nashville.

Rhonda Vincent shows off her new red, white and blue Martha White Bluegrass Express tour bus, sponsored by Martha White.

when I got to Nashville and made Country records people said "You sound so Bluegrass," she said.

After her stint at Giant, Vincent was at a crossroads, and decided to start her own band. Her group The Rage has evolved into one of the tightest and most entertaining bands working today. At an early performance of Rhonda Vincent & The Rage, she notes that fans told her that they loved her Country Music. This led her to the realization that the labels being tossed around were less important than the perception of the listener, and that a great performance doesn't need to be categorized.

Vincent refers to her stint in the Country Music business as a "graduate program" in the music industry. She learned valuable lessons about touring, merchandising and sponsorship that have served her well in her bluegrass career.

Signing with the legendary roots music label Rounder Records, Vincent saw her career take a dramatic upturn when the label began to produce music videos that were aired heavily on CMT and later GAC. "When we started getting the video airplay is when we saw the album sales start to climb towards the hundred thousand mark," Vincent said. "Before that, selling 10,000 in bluegrass was considered to be a huge success."

In the absence of widespread radio airplay, Vincent has developed her career by maintaining a vigorous show schedule.

She continues a longstanding tradition of appearing in her merchandise booth after every performance to meet fans, sign autographs and pose for photos.

For several years, she has been sponsored by Martha White, which provides her with a tour bus bearing their company logo. Vincent, whose merchandise tent is called the Martha White Boutique, is the first modern bluegrass artist to have such a high profile endorsement deal.

Vincent is looking forward to another busy year of live performances.

She is often asked by young artists, many of them women, for advice on how to build and maintain a career. She advises them to play live as much as they possibly can, for as many people as they can. "If you play enough shows, every embarrassing thing that can happen, will eventually happen to you. It's great experience."

Rick Kelly

On the Web: rhondavincent.com; ibma.org

BEBE BOURNE, music publisher and National Music Publishers Association Board of Trustees member, died Nov. 1 in New York after a battle with cancer. Bourne was part of the Bourne music publishing family which controlled the publishing of American classics including "Unforgettable," "Me And My Shadow," "When You Wish Upon A Star," "Swinging On A Star" and "Black Magic Woman." She operated International Music Co., a prominent publisher of classical music. In 2002, Bourne received the Women in Music Touchstone Award and in 2005 she was given the Abe Olman Publishers Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame.

DON GRASHEY, 79, songwriter, manager and record company owner, died Sept. 12, in Thunder Bay, Ontario, at his home. The cause of death was not disclosed. Grashey began three record companies, Zero, Gaiety and Golden Eagle, throughout a 30-year span. After hearing Loretta Lynn perform in a talent show, he signed her to Zero Records and cut her single, "I'm A Honky Tonk Girl." Grashey later managed Canadian singers Carroll Baker, Cindi Cain, Myrna Lorrie and others. Grashey was a prolific songwriter and co-wrote the hit "Are You Mine," recorded by Lynn, Red Sovine, Ernest Tubb and more. Grashey was inducted into the Canadian Country Music Hall of Fame in 1989.

ERIC MANSFIELD, 33, Director of Creative Services at Warner Bros. Records, died Nov. 11 in Nashville, a victim of a gunshot wound in an attempted robbery near his home. Mansfield, who studied journalism at Ohio University, had worked with the record company since 1996. "Eric was a great talent who made his mark in Nashville and throughout the creative community," said Bill Bennett, Warner Bros. Executive Vice President. "He brought the highest vision, spirit and creativity to countless artist releases on Warner Bros. Nashville and all that he touched in the music industry for so many years." The label is offering a \$25,000 reward through Nashville's Crime Stoppers to help find the killer.

GREG JAYE PERKINS, 46, musician, died Nov. 18 at Jackson Madison County General Hospital in Jackson, Tenn., after a long battle with cancer. The son of the late Val and Carl Perkins, Greg played bass guitar in his father's band — in the studio, on tour and on several television specials including the HBO production "Carl Perkins and Friends." Greg also performed with his brother Stan.

VAL PERKINS, 74, the widow of rockabilly singer and songwriter Carl Perkins, died Nov. 15 in her sleep of an undisclosed cause in Jackson, Tenn. The couple grew up in the vicinity of Jackson and started dating after they were introduced by Perkins' sister. Val, who played and sang piano locally and had a radio show before her marriage to Carl, was often credited by her husband and sons for co-writing "Silver and Gold," recorded by Dolly Parton. Val was an active supporter of Jackson's Carl Perkins Center.

RAY RUFF, 67, record promoter, producer and A&R executive, died Sept. 14 in Saugus, Calif., of apparent heart failure. After a short performing career, Ruff worked for Paramount/Dot, Oak, Warner/Curb and Curb Records, among others. The Texas native produced Pat Boone's single "Texas Woman," and co-produced Hank Williams Jr.'s album, *Family Tradition*. Ruff was an innovative forerunner of national record promotion and conceived promotion efforts that gave Debbie Boone's single, "You Light Up My Life," its start at radio. Ruff was commissioned in 1974 by the U.S. Congress and National Endowment for the Arts to create the official bicentennial album, *Happy Birthday U.S.A.*

continued on page 38

In Memoriam ...continued from page 37

MIKE STOREY, 68, co-founder of the British Country Music Association (BCMA) in 1968, died Nov. 26 in his sleep of Motor Neurone Disease at his home near Wakefield, Yorkshire, England. Storey was a prominent figure in the UK Country Music scene. In the early 1970s, Storey and his wife began the Mike & Margaret Storey Entertainment Agency, a leading booking agency which represented acts Nicky James and Stu Stevens, among others. Throughout his career, Storey orchestrated UK tours for artists including Red Sovine and Gene Watson; co-founded the *Folk Voice* tape magazine; co-presented a Country Music show on BBC Radio Leeds; and ran the Wakefield Country Music Club.

RUDOLPH (RUDY) THACKER, 76, songwriter, singer and band leader, died Sept. 1 in Houston, Texas of complications from cancer. "Mountain Guitar" Thacker's works had been recorded by Grand Ole Opry members Roy Acuff, Skeeter Davis and many others. He was once leader of Wheeling, W.Va.'s WWVA Jamboree staff band, "The String Busters," which featured Bill and Dottie West. Thacker wrote "The Ballad Of Johnny Horton" and performed with Bill Browning.

RUFUS THIBODEAUX, 71, Cajun fiddle player, died Aug. 12 in a Nashville nursing home after a long illness. Born in Ridge, La., Thibodeaux began playing fiddle at age 12. He went to work with Grand Ole Opry legend Jimmy C. Newman after he heard the fiddler performing at a South Louisiana nightclub. Thibodeaux played in his band for many years and contributed on several of Newman's recordings including "Cry, Cry Darling," and "Lache Pas la Patate," the first Cajun French language single to be certified Gold. Thibodeaux played on songs recorded by Lefty Frizzell, George Jones, Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, Jr., Neil Young and more, plus toured as a member of Young's band. Early in his career, Thibodeaux performed with the Texas Playboys and helped a young Roger Miller get his start.

WILSON "LIT" WATERS, JR., 74, a member of The Fairfield Four, died Nov. 24 at his home in Nashville and had been diagnosed with cancer. Waters joined the GRAMMY-winning gospel vocal group in 1982. They recorded four albums and contributed vocals on CDs recorded by Elvis Costello, Steve Earle and the Del McCoury Band, among others. Waters appears in the movie "O Brother, Where Art Thou?," singing the mournful "Lonesome Valley," featured on the 2001 CMA Album of the Year soundtrack.

In Memoriam compiled by Gary Voorhies



photo: Dennis Carney

A Can't-Miss Proposition for Country Music Hall of Fame Member George Jones

It's always painful — or at least annoying — for an artist to pass up a song, only to see it become a big hit for someone else. On his new album, *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't*, George Jones shares with fans 11 songs he wishes he'd recorded when he had the chance — and a new version of a classic of his own that he nearly didn't record, "He Stopped Loving Her Today."

Seven-time CMA Awards winner Jones and producer Keith Stegall began work on *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't* late last year, then finished up over the summer of 2005. Stegall, who has worked with Jones on and off since 1999's critically hailed *The Cold Hard Truth*, said the singer's working method is "pretty simple. I usually get him to sing each song from top to bottom five or six times. I try to let him give me performances instead of bits and pieces, and most of the time we catch the magic in two or three passes."

Typically, the only people in the studio during vocal recording are Stegall, Jones, an engineer and Jones' wife of 22 years, Nancy. "She sits on the couch, and we try to get him to have as much fun as he can," Stegall said. "It's pretty laid-back and low-maintenance. It's George Jones doing his thing, and I try to let him do that without getting in his way."

The songs were chosen by Jones and Stegall along with Evelyn Shriver and Susan Nadler, with whom Jones formed Bandit Records in 2001. *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't* is Jones' fourth release on Bandit.

Jones, 74, suspects that several of these songs were written with him in mind — in particular Hank Williams Jr.'s "The Blues Man." Although the song has elements of both Williams and his famous father, "The Blues Man" contains pointed references to the former "No-Show Jones" notorious past: "He got cuffed on dirt roads / He got sued for no-shows." Jones had the idea to personalize the song further by singing it in the first person.

Jones decided to make "The Blues Man" a duet, and invited Dolly Parton to perform with him on the track and video. "That was another amazing experience for me," Stegall said. "To get to work with another legend and see how professional — and how good — she really is, was quite an exciting thing."

Jones says his singing has improved since he stopped smoking several years ago, and he's now hitting high notes he hasn't reached for decades. Jones has now been singing for over half a century — so it's fitting that the album opens with Willie Nelson's "Funny How Time Slips Away."

"What can I say about this classic other than I can't understand why I hadn't recorded it earlier?" pondered Jones in his liner notes for the album. After the recording, Jones and Stegall invited Nelson to the studio for his approval. "He loved it," Stegall reported.

Bluegrass star Rhonda Vincent contributed vocals to a song by another Country legend, Merle Haggard's "Today I Started Loving You Again." She was understandably thrilled to hear her own voice alongside Jones'.

"He is just awesome," Vincent raved. "George is so smooth, and he knows how to make every interpretation of the song absolutely perfect."

Stegall believes that time has only added authority to Jones' voice. "There's a lot of pain in that voice, a lot of melancholy, a lot of experience," he said. "You get the culmination of all those years of him doing what he's done coming out at that moment. It's very primal, it's very haunting, it's very moving. There's not that many singers that have that kind of gift. He just opens his mouth and it rolls out."

Jones himself believes he now sings his most revered hit, the 1980 CMA Single of the Year "He Stopped Loving Her Today," better than he did on the original. Nonetheless, Jones says he has avoided re-recording the song for the last quarter-century out of respect for its producer, Billy Sherrill. He sought and received permission from the now-retired Sherrill to take a crack at re-recording the song.

Stegall, however, took a bit more convincing.

"That was something I backed up against completely," he admitted. "I was scared to death that the critics were going to cream me over it. I told him, 'Man, I don't know. This is like going into sacred ground.' Basically, I tried to keep it true to Billy Sherrill's original, because that will always be the quintessential record. I just hope that people will be kind, and not just think that I was pompous enough to think I could ever match that record."

Jones recorded a lot of older songs for *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't*, but also tried his hand at more recent fare including Alan Jackson's "Here In the Real World" and Randy Travis' "On the Other Hand."

The selection of material on the album is stellar with covers of songs famously performed by Mark Chesnutt ("Too Cold At Home"); Vern Gosdin ("If You're Gonna Do Me Wrong"); the Mel Tillis penned and Bobby Bare signature hit "Detroit City"; and Johnny Rodriguez's 1972 debut hit ("Pass Me By").

"Like anything else that George records, he made it his own," Travis said. "He's just one of those guys. If I were gonna call out two of the most unique vocalists I've ever heard or ever will hear, it'd be George Jones and Ray Charles."

A song associated with Charles, the Harlan Howard-penned "Busted," also appears on *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't*. Stegall says it was Jones' idea to give the track a Cajun feel. "I thought that was kinda neat, because we did it a little different than Ray Charles did it," Stegall said. "They were all a blast to redo. It was great to hear him sing them the way he sings 'em."

Chris Neal

On the Web: georgejones.com

The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum salutes Jones when it unveils The Grand Tour: George Jones Country on Friday, Dec. 2. The exhibit, which examines Jones' 50-year career, from his early Starday recordings, through the scores of Country classics recorded solo and with Wynette, will run through May 2006.

GEORGE JONES

Producer Keith Stegall and George Jones in the studio making *Hits I Missed ... and One I Didn't*.



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Country Music DJ Hall of Fame and Country Radio Hall of Fame Dinner / Nashville Convention Center / On the Web: crb.org
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Tuesday, Feb. 15 – Thursday, Feb. 17

CRS 37 / Nashville Convention Center / On the Web: crb.org
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MARCH

Wednesday, March 1 – Thursday, March 2

CMA Board of Directors Meeting / Nashville

MAY

Thursday, May 4 – Friday, May 5

CMA Board of Directors Meeting / Dallas

JUNE

Thursday, June 8 – Sunday, June 11

CMA Music Festival, "Country Music's Biggest Party™" /
Downtown Nashville

For tickets call 1-800-CMA-FEST or visit CMAfest.com or
ticketmaster.com

SEPTEMBER

Wednesday, Sept. 27 – Thursday, Sept. 28

CMA Board of Directors Meeting / Atlanta



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Universal South Records group Bering Strait visits CMA to perform songs for the staff from their sophomore album, *Pages*.

(l-r) Alexander "Sasha" Ostrovsky; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Sergei "Spooky" Olkhovsky; Natasha Borzilova; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; and Lydia Salnikova. photo: Amanda Eckard



Rounder Records group The Grascals perform songs from their debut self-titled album for the CMA staff.

(l-r) Jimmy Mattingly, Danny Roberts and Jamie Johnson of The Grascals; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Terry Smith and Terry Eldredge of The Grascals; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; David Talbot of The Grascals; Karen Byrd, Manager and Publicist; Karen Byrd Public Relations; Tony Conway, President/Co-Owner Buddy Lee Attractions. photo: Amanda Eckard



CMA pays tribute to the Grand Ole Opry during their 80th Birthday celebration at the Opry in Nashville by presenting an a signed and numbered 3-D giclee by Charles Fazzino, the official artist of the 2005 CMA Awards.

(l-r) Rick Murray, CMA Vice President of Strategic Marketing; Steve Buchanan, Senior Vice President, Media and Entertainment, Gaylord Entertainment; Grand Ole Opry members Jack Greene, Porter Wagoner, Charlie Louvin, Steve Wariner, Jeannie Seely and Jim Ed Brown; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; and Pete Fisher, General Manager, Grand Ole Opry. To order Charles Fazzino CMA Awards commemorative artwork visit CMAawards.com.

photo: 2005 Grand Ole Opry. Photo by Chris Hollis, Hollisphotographic, Inc.



Todd Fritsch visits CMA to sign up for membership. Fritsch's debut self-titled album, with first single "Small Town Radio," was released Nov. 1.

(l-r) Peggy Whitaker, CMA Director of Board Administration; Giovanni Gambino, Tour Coordinator; Todd Fritsch; Martha Moore, So Much Moore Media; and Hank Adam Locklin, CMA Senior Manager of Industry Relations.

photo: John Pyne



Mercury Nashville artist Tracy Lawrence sings songs at CMA off his new greatest hits album, *Then & Now: The Hits Collection*.

(l-r) Joey Lee, Chief Executive Officer/Co-Owner, Buddy Lee Attractions; James Stroud, Co-Chairman, Universal Music Group Nashville; Laney Lawrence, Manager; Ed Benson, CMA Executive Director; Tracy Lawrence; Tammy Genovese, CMA Associate Executive Director; Mike Neal, President, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce; and Tony Conway, President/Co-Owner Buddy Lee Attractions. photo: Amanda Eckard

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