

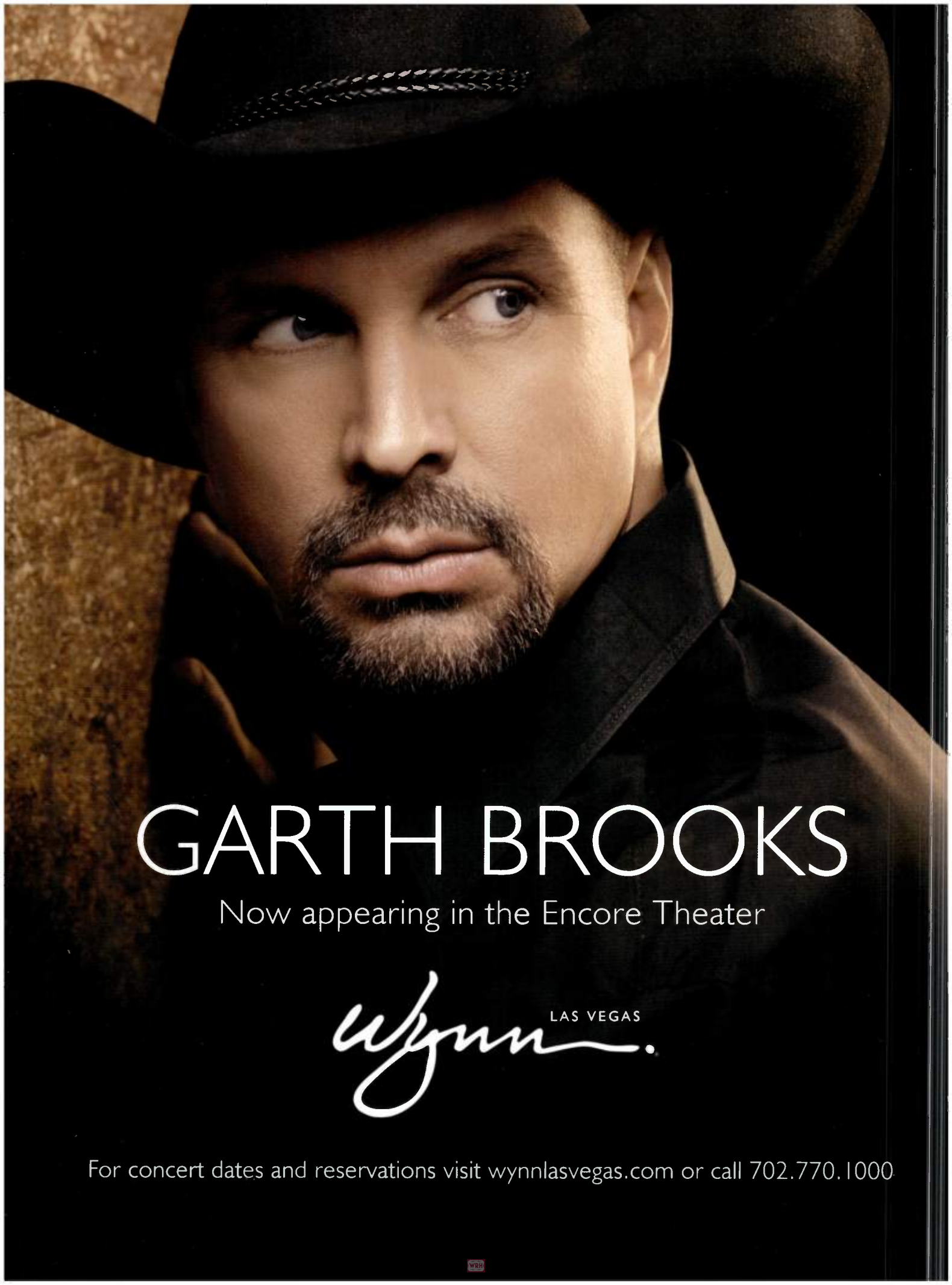


45th

ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

April 18, 2010



A close-up portrait of Garth Brooks wearing a black cowboy hat and a dark shirt. He has a goatee and is looking slightly off-camera with a serious expression. The background is dark and textured.

GARTH BROOKS

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contents

Letter from the Chairman	6
Letter from the President	8
Letter from the Executive Director	10
Letter from the Chairman of ACM Lifting Lives	12
Letter from the Producers of the ACM Awards	14
Meet the Host	16
ACM Lifting Lives	18
Friends of Lifting Lives	20
History	22
Nominees press conference	24
Nominees listing/ballot	26
Entertainer of the Year Nominees	28



Nominees	46
Nominees: Album of the Year	74
Nominees: Single Record of the Year	76
Nominees: Video of the Year	78
Special Awards	80
The Week Vegas Goes Country	88
ACM Board of Directors	90
ACM staff	93
Past Winners	94
Acknowledgements	98
Corporate Partners	100
Thank you	101
Production Credits	102



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a message from

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC®

Welcome to the MGM Grand Garden Arena and the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*. Thanks to you and all of our loyal supporters, we have another full house tonight and promise to deliver a first-class show that celebrates the best and the brightest of country music's stars.

The Academy has made great strides in the last several years to produce not only a top-rated awards show, but also to create its own distinguished brand in the entertainment world. With our increasing presence on both the television and digital media landscapes, we are consistently engaging more fans and promoting artists on several different fronts. The Academy also strives to embrace artists and the industry through its growing philanthropy. The Academy's charitable arm, *ACM Lifting Lives*, has benefited tremendously from artist-driven initiatives including this year's *ACM Chairman's Ride* hosted by Montgomery Gentry. Proceeds from *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn - The Last Rodeo*, which will air on CBS on May 23, will also go to support *Lifting Lives*.

Our continued success would not be possible without the efforts of the Academy's diverse board of directors, talented committee members and dedicated staff. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as chairman of an organization that has proven its devotion to country music, its artists, professionals and fans.

Whether you write it, perform it, promote it or sell it, country music is the reason we are all here tonight. Thank you again for joining us at Country Music's Party of the Year – have a great night.

Sincerely,

John Grady, Chairman



With our increasing presence on both the television and digital media landscapes, we are consistently engaging more fans and promoting artists on several different fronts. The Academy also strives to embrace artists and the industry through its growing philanthropy.



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a message from

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC®

Welcome to a very special evening and thank you for joining us for the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*. The Academy has worked very hard this year to present you with what we hope will be one of the most entertaining and exhilarating shows you have seen. We're proud to present Country Music's Party of the Year in the entertainment mecca of Las Vegas as we honor the artists and music that have made this an exceptional year in the history of country music!

The Academy's board of directors is made up of a group of dedicated industry professionals who give of their time and talents to continue not only the great legacy that has come before them, but to strive to develop the organization for the benefit of future generations of artists and fans alike. We have put emphasis on the Academy, continuing to develop the platform for artists to share their music with a national audience.

This year ACM Concerts at Fremont Street will feature Lady Antebellum and Miranda Lambert, along with the winners of this year's three new artist categories for a spectacular concert in the heart of downtown Las Vegas. This year's ACM Chairman's Ride will culminate in a very special USO Concert for our service men and women at Nellis Air Force Base featuring Montgomery Gentry and Randy Houser.

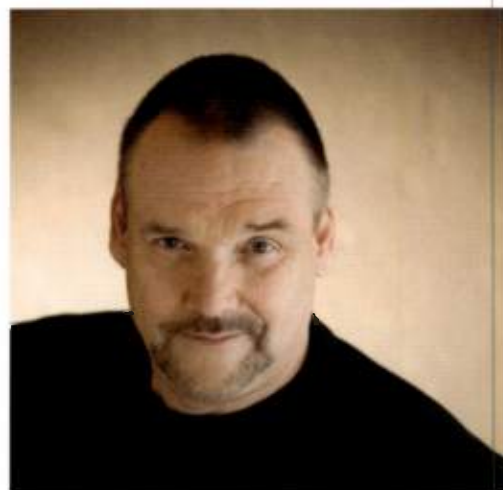
Although we celebrate this week in Las Vegas, the Academy's work in this area is truly a year round event with our annual ACM Honors event in Nashville paying tribute to country music's legends, the No. 1 Honors at the Bluebird Café honoring our great songwriters and our annual Music City Jam at The Country Radio Seminar, engaging radio from around the nation. We were proud this year to step up our digital efforts in engaging fans with our new Academy website and all of our social networking sites. The Academy has our own in-house team that produces fresh and innovative content for all of these sites.

Following tonight's show, we will be taping a television special on Monday, April 19th to honor Brooks & Dunn on their "Last Rodeo" and to celebrate their record setting career as the most awarded artists in the history of the Academy of Country Music! The proceeds from this special go to fund ACM Lifting Lives and the wonderful mission of literally lifting people's lives with the power of music. The Lifting Lives program is something in which we all take great pride, and we appreciate your continued support.

I want to thank Bob Romeo and our incredible staff at the Academy for their dedication, vision and tireless efforts on our behalf. Most of all "THANK YOU" to the ARTISTS and the FANS. Without your passion and dedication, we would have no need to be.

Sincerely,

Bill Mayne, President



The Academy's board of directors is made up of a group of dedicated industry professionals who give of their time and talents to continue not only the great legacy that has come before them, but to strive to develop the organization for the benefit of future generations of artists and fans alike. We have put emphasis on the Academy, continuing to develop the platform for artists to share their music with a national audience.

2010

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TO OUR ACM AWARD NOMINEES!

ASCAP

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1\$
5
10
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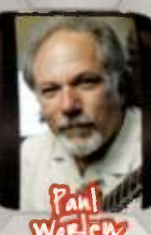
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Max Martin



Jeremy Stever



Paul Worley



Buddy Cannon



Frank Liddell

Musician of the Year Nominees: Tim Akers • Eddie Bayers • Bruce Bouton • Chad Cromwell • Ben Fowler
Chris McHugh • Nashville String Machine • Steve Nathan • Michael Rhodes • Jimmie Lee Sloas • Ilya Toshinsky

a message from

THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC®

Good evening! Welcome to the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. We are happy to be back at the MGM Grand here in Las Vegas and thrilled that this year's show is yet another sold-out success. There are some great moments ahead of us tonight, but before we get to those I'd like to take a look back at what has already been happening during the Week Vegas Goes Country®.

The ACM Chairman's Ride was hosted again this year by Montgomery Gentry. Troy and Eddie also participated in our first-ever USO Concert in Partnership with ACM Lifting Lives®, which took place at Nellis Air Force Base. The concert was a great way to say "thank you" to our service men and women and would not have been possible without the support of all the artists who participated – Montgomery Gentry, Randy Houser, Dierks Bentley, James Otto, Josh Thompson and Anthony Smith. Thanks to each of you for making this a truly uplifting and memorable event.

The ACM Concerts at Fremont Street Experience had a tremendous turnout – of both talent and of fans. Lady Antebellum kept the crowd on its feet well into the night on Friday, followed by Miranda Lambert who put on a scorching show on Saturday. The concerts on Fremont Street continue to be the largest event held in downtown Las Vegas and we are proud of how they have grown. We also brought the Top New Artist nominees back to the Fremont stage this year and we'll find out which of these bright new stars will take home the trophy tonight.

Speaking of our Top New Artist contenders, I am pleased to note that after a very successful run last year, we again invited fans to vote in the Top New Solo Vocalist, Top New Vocal Duo and Top New Vocal Group categories. The winners in each category are competing tonight for the fan-voted Top New Artist award, as are our eight final nominees for the coveted Entertainer of the Year trophy.

While we dedicate this night to shining a spotlight on the world of country music and the incredible talents it has to offer, I'd especially like to recognize Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, who are retiring this year as Brooks & Dunn and have made an indelible mark in country music history. It is the Academy's honor to help them bid farewell in an all-star concert special, *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn – The Last Rodeo* that will be taped here tomorrow night and will air on May 23rd on CBS. The Academy will present Brooks & Dunn with its prestigious Milestone Award to commemorate their 20-year, record-breaking career which includes holding the record for the most wins of any artist in the Academy's history.

Thank you for coming out tonight and celebrating with us at Country Music's Party of the Year®. On behalf of the Academy's board of directors and staff, I also want to thank all of the artists and industry professionals who have given their time and talent to make the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards and its surrounding events an experience to remember – Reba, we are grateful to have you at the helm for the twelfth time this year. Take it away!

Sincerely,

Bob Romeo
Executive Director



I am pleased to note that after a very successful run last year, we again invited fans to vote in the Top New Solo Vocalist, Top New Vocal Duo and Top New Vocal Group categories. The winners in each category are competing tonight for the fan-voted Top New Artist award, as are our eight final nominees for the coveted Entertainer of the Year trophy.

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best of luck to this
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a message from

THE CHAIRMAN OF ACM LIFTING LIVES®

It has been an exciting and progressive year of continuing to build and refine the Academy's philanthropic arm we all know as ACM Lifting Lives®. The organization has three official annual giving opportunities including the Lifting Lives grant cycle, Lifting Lives moment at the ACM Awards and the ACM Entertainer of the Year matching gift. In addition to these, Lifting Lives is dedicated to improving lives through the power of music by way of spontaneous giving and participation with the ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award and providing immediate financial assistance through our Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund.

Through Lifting Lives grants, we fund music education and programs across the country that advance healing through music. This year we have achieved an expanded grant cycle from one to two in 2009. With the second round of grants, we increased funds to approximately \$230,000 overall and reached 15 programs in total. Our largest recipient was the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center's Williams Syndrome Music Camp in Nashville. They received \$30,000 in scholarships for the camp that has a dual purpose of studying Williams Syndrome and providing music therapy for kids. The most recent grant recipients were Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Program, Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation and Soldiers' Angels, joining many other programs that have been funded throughout the year.

The special moment featured at the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards* will be Toby Keith's performance of "Cryin' For Me (Wayman's Song)" in honor of the fight against cancer. The performance will drive viewers to the Lifting Lives website so that they can learn more about Stand Up To Cancer, an active organization that funds cancer research.

Lifting Lives has also partnered with 2008 Entertainer of the Year Carrie Underwood and her C.A.T.S. Foundation. Instruments and vocal equipment were provided to help ensure the future of music programs in public schools in Carrie's hometown of Checotah, Oklahoma. Lifting Lives will present a matching gift opportunity to this year's ACM Entertainer of the Year for any endeavor that uplifts through the power of music.

Iconic music duo, Montgomery Gentry, is this year's recipient of the ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian



Award. The honor will be presented tonight during the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*. In its ninth year, the Humanitarian Award recognizes country music artists who are noted for their ongoing community service and charitable giving of their time and talent. Some of the charities Montgomery Gentry have devoted their time to are the TJ Martell Foundation, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Camp Horsin' Around and many others. We'd like to give a special thanks for their previous participation with Lifting Lives.

The Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund was established to honor Diane Holcomb's memory by her only daughter, Gayle Holcomb, who served four years as Chairman of the ACM Board of Directors. This fund enables ACM Lifting Lives to respond to unforeseen and immediate financial needs of ACM members, staff and music related organizations and individuals.

No one person can make these achievements alone. I would like to thank President Gayle Holcomb, Vice President Mark Hartley, Director Erin Spahn and the Lifting Lives Board of Directors for all of their hard work in making this a successful organization.

In closing, I'd like to give a warm and special thanks to Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley as well as the Lifting Lives sponsors and donors for their contributions and continuing support to the growth of ACM Lifting Lives®.

Sincerely,

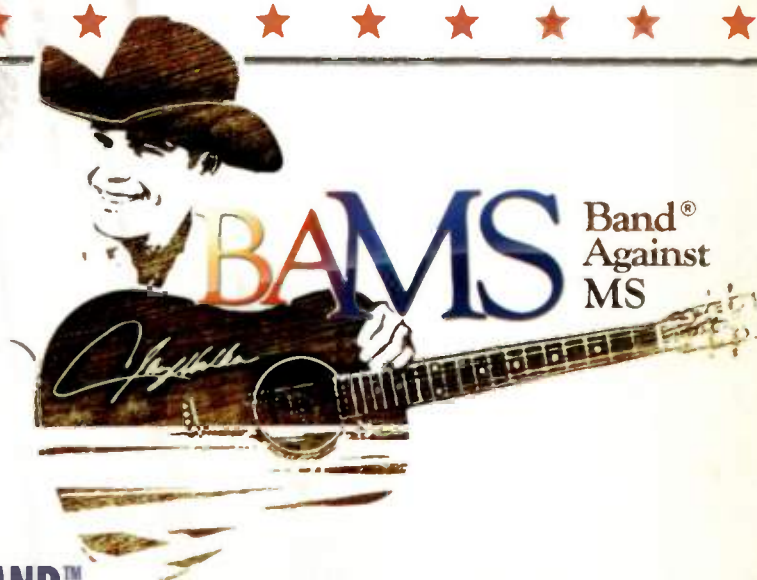
Gary Haber, Chairman — ACM Lifting Lives

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a message from

THE PRODUCERS OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC® AWARDS



Welcome to the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*. As we all know, this is "The Week Vegas Goes Country," and we're celebrating with our greatest line-up ever!

From the performances that will be showcased tonight, highlights of new artists and our parade of nominees and presenters, you can look forward to a star-studded show with over 20 great music acts!

In the next three hours, you will see why it's been such a great year for country music. We'll have special moments like the amazing opening number, a special tribute to our troops with the Zac Brown Band, and for the first time ever, eight artists will compete for the coveted title, Entertainer of the Year!

We are honored that the all-time ACM winners, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, are making their last awards show stop with us tonight. They will be giving their final ACM performance singing one of their hits selected by the viewers at home.

And speaking of entertainers, we are honored that the all-time ACM winners, Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, are making their last awards show stop with us tonight. They will be giving their final ACM performance singing one of their hits selected by the viewers at home. Then, tomorrow night, we are taping an all-star special entitled *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn—The Last Rodeo*. Look for it on CBS on Sunday, May 23rd. We think it's a spectacular way to say thank you to the guys for 20 great years of music.

Also, we would like to thank our partners at the Academy of Country Music for their tireless efforts in making this weekend so successful. And to our broadcast network CBS, the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino, the city of Las Vegas and our dick clark productions team, thank you one and all! We could not have done it without you.

So get ready for two nights of wall-to-wall music by the biggest stars around. We appreciate your being with us and supporting country music at its best. And now, on with the show!



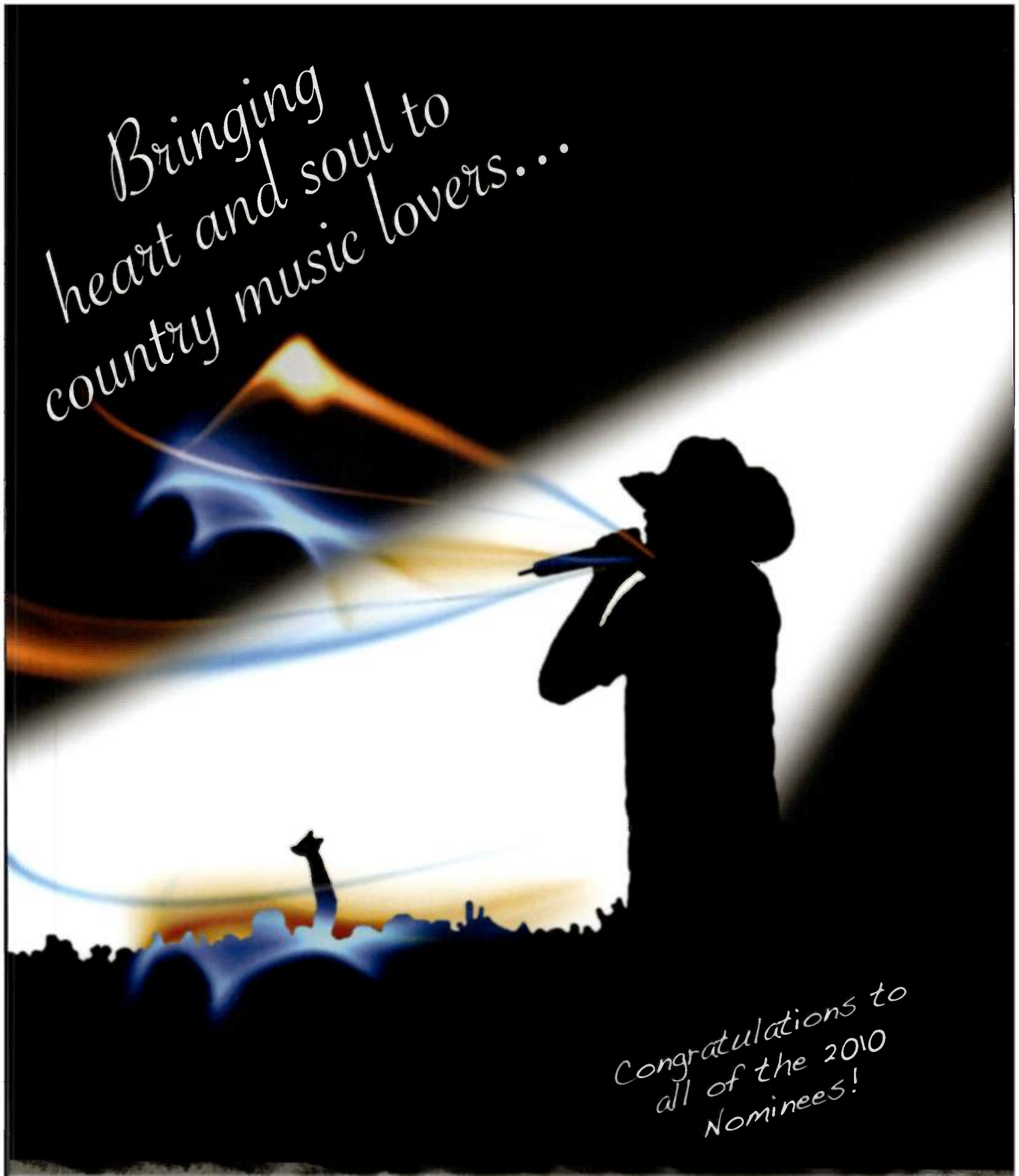
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President, Executive Producer



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REBA McENTIRE

Reba had better make a beeline for the roulette table when she arrives in Las Vegas for the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*. As if her list of accomplishments isn't already long enough, the singer just scored her 34th No. 1 single "Consider Me Gone," in the 34th year of her country music career.

"It feels incredible," Reba says of her record-breaking success. "It really does. I'm very honored, very blessed. I thank God every day for the people I get to work with and play with – and that's the best thing about this whole 34-year career, are the people that I've met and got to hang with and learn from over these 34 years."

Spending three weeks at the top of the country charts, "Consider Me Gone" is the biggest hit of Reba's illustrious career and the longest-running No. 1 song for a female country artist since Taylor Swift's "Our Song" topped the charts for multiple weeks in 2007.

"You never know which song is going to be the one," Reba notes. "People always say, 'What makes a hit?' Well Lord, if I knew that I'd be rich! I have no earthly idea. All I can do is say 'I want the song that touches my heart' because if that song touches my heart, hopefully when I sing it, it will touch yours."

Keep On Loving You, which is Reba's first project with The Valory Music Co. and 31st studio album, was the biggest debut for a country album by a female artist in 2009. Besting both the *Billboard* Top Country and Top 200 charts, Reba set a new record with the album – she now has the most No. 1 country albums of any female artist in *Billboard* history. The distinction was formerly held by country music legend Loretta Lynn.

"To be in the same sentence as Loretta Lynn is a huge honor to me," says Reba. "She set the bar high at the very beginning. People like Loretta, Dolly, Barbara, Minnie Pearl, Kitty Wells – these are the people that all of us girls in the country music business today need to read up on, remember what they did, what they taught us and remember the work ethic that they had."

Of course, Reba is well known for her own solid work ethic. She's the definition of a dynamo and she's bringing her energy back to the stage this year, touring with George Strait and Lee Ann Womack on one of the season's hottest tickets in support of her new album.

"It's been a lot of fun and I'm really grateful to have a job and glad to be out on tour with George and Lee Ann. I'm in the middle slot [of performances], which is really



"I just love live television. I appreciate the Academy of Country Music letting me host the awards this many years. It's fun. I just love to be on stage with that live television! Having to sit in the audience now when everybody else is up there working and hosting, it's kind of like 'Oh, I can't wait 'til it's my turn again!'"

good. It's different for me and I'm just getting a big kick out of it!"

Reba has had plenty of kicks on her own headlining tours in the past – and plenty of Kix as well, having hit the road four times with her good friends and the Academy's most-awarded duo, Brooks & Dunn. Reba will perform in the duo's honor at *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn – The Last Rodeo* all-star concert at the MGM Grand Garden Arena on April 19th before Kix and Ronnie head out for their final tour together.

"As it's growing closer, I'm getting a little nostalgic," Reba says about her friends' impending split. "I love them both. They're two of my best friends. And I'm not surprised; when Ronnie [Dunn] told me, I wasn't really surprised but gosh darn it – we could do some more tours together!"

Prior to her appearance at the Brooks & Dunn tribute, Reba will again take center stage at the *45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*, hosting the show for an unprecedented 12th time – which is also the number of ACM awards she has taken home to date.

"I just love live television," she continues. "I appreciate the Academy of Country Music letting me host the awards this many years. It's fun. I just love to be on stage with that live television! Having to sit in the audience now when everybody else is up there working and hosting, it's kind of like 'Oh, I can't wait 'til it's my turn again!'"

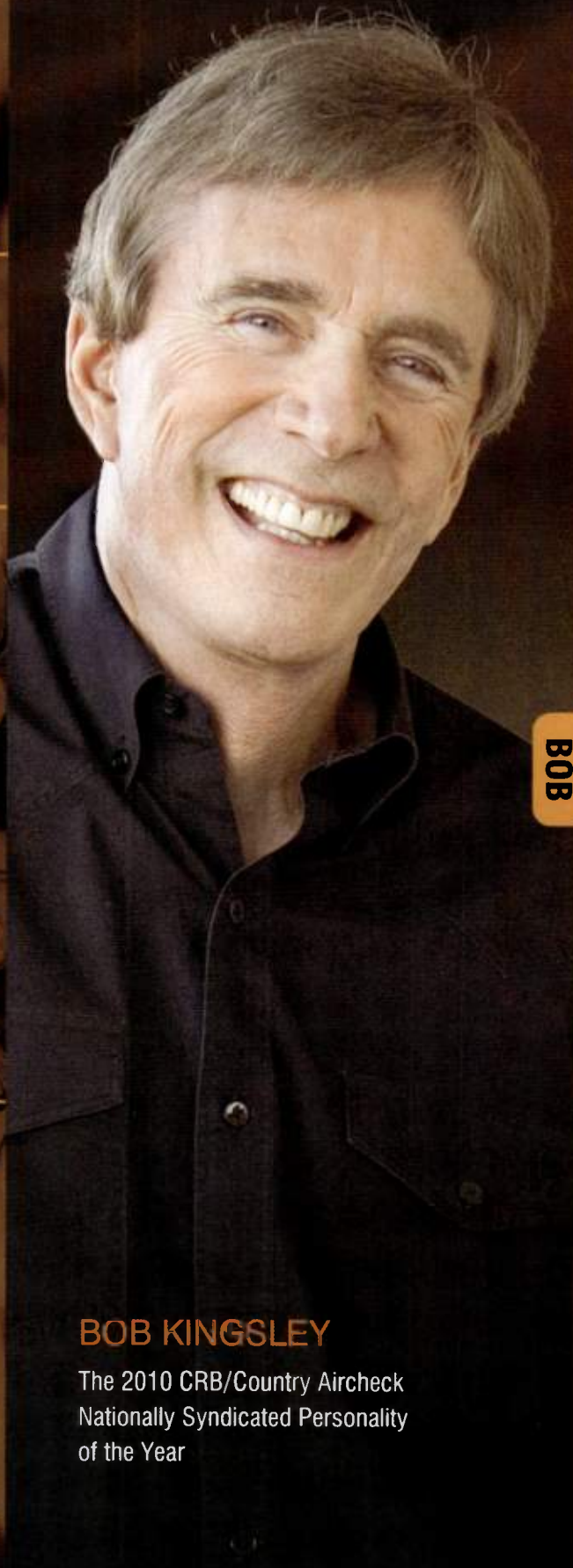
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ACM Lifting Lives works year-round to improve lives through the power of music by partnering with artists' favorite charities and funding nationwide programs offering music therapy and music education. As part of an initiative launching ACM Lifting Lives at the 44th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, Trace Adkins and the West Point Glee Club gave an unforgettable performance that raised awareness and more than \$100,000 for Wounded Warrior Project to honor and empower injured men and women in the armed services.

Tonight, Lifting Lives is honored to join country music superstar Toby Keith in supporting Stand Up To Cancer™, a charitable fund of the Entertainment Industry Foundation™ that has raised more than \$100 million for cancer research. Keith will perform his latest single, "Cryin' For Me (Wayman's Song)," in memory of his close friend and fellow musician Wayman Tisdale.

A three-time All-American at the University of Oklahoma, former NBA player and accomplished jazz bassist, Tisdale passed away last May from complications resulting from the cancer treatments that had seemingly cured him. Keith wrote the song as a tribute to his friend, intending to play it at Tisdale's funeral.

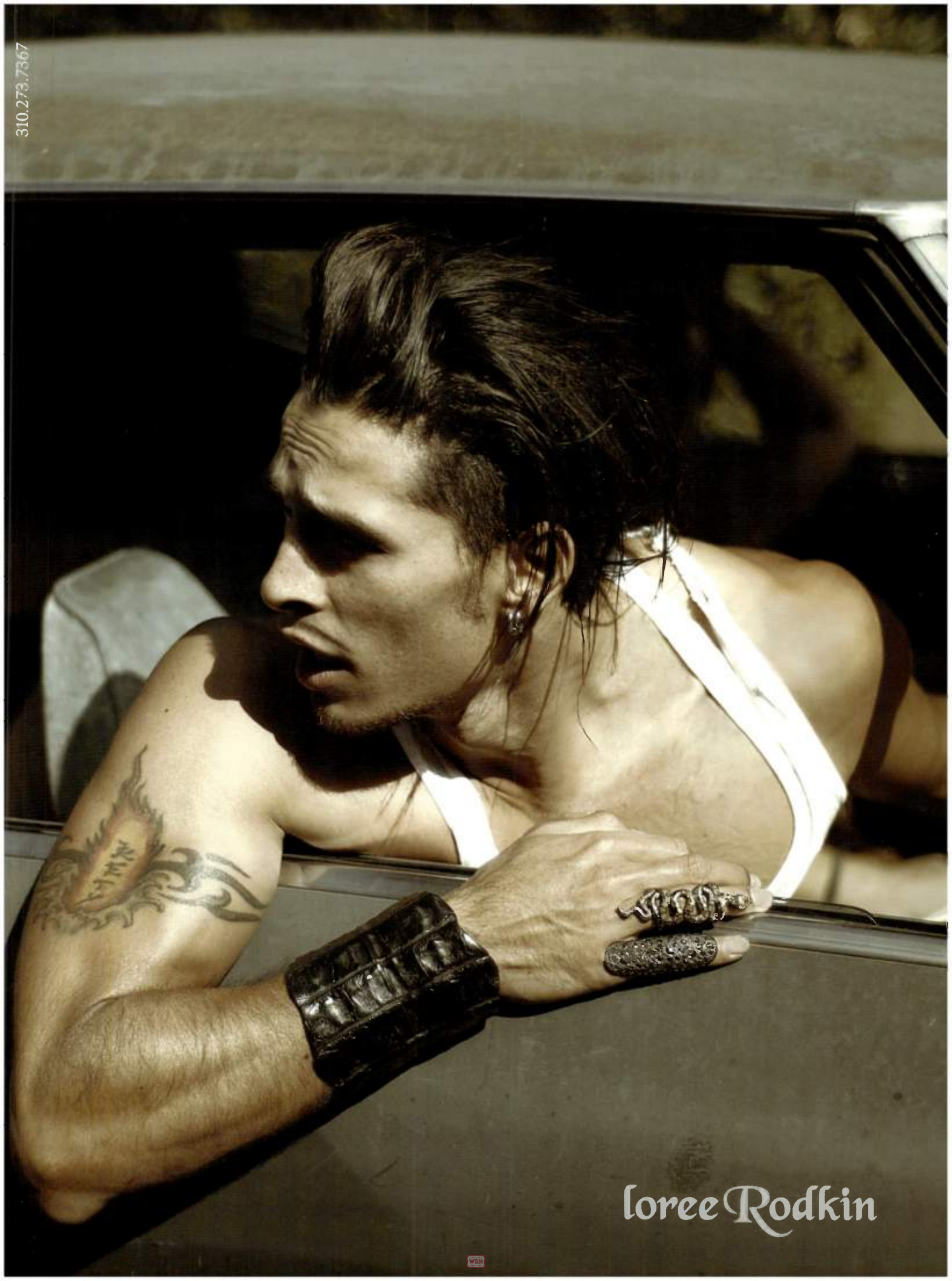
Lifting Lives is grateful to Toby Keith and the family of Wayman Tisdale for blessing this special moment and thanks Stand Up To Cancer, Dick Clark Productions and the Academy of Country Music for their support.



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For more information on how you can get involved with Stand Up To Cancer, please visit www.acmliftinglives.org.



lore Rodkin

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The Academy of Country Music® and ACM Lifting Lives™ would like to thank the following donors for their contributions to the ongoing charitable works supported by Lifting Lives. Thank you for helping us to improve lives through the power of music!

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* HERITAGE IN THE MAKING

OUR HISTORY

In 1964, performers Eddie Miller and Tommy Wiggins teamed up with club owners Mickey and Chris Christensen to establish the Country and Western Music Academy. Their vision was to promote country music in the western 13 states, where now-legendary artists such as Johnny Bond, Glen Campbell, Merle Haggard and Buck Owens were creating a new frontier in the country music landscape. Governed by a board of directors, the Academy held its first awards show in 1966. It was the first country music awards program held by a major organization, propelling the genre into the public spotlight for the first time.

During the early 1970s, the organization changed its name to the Academy of Country and Western Music and finally to the Academy of Country Music (ACM). The Academy also sponsored the "Country Music Caravan" in Los Angeles and began its history of charitable endeavors with a "Concern for Prisoners of War" benefit concert (also held in Los Angeles).

The awards show hit the airwaves in 1972, broadcast for the first time in national syndication on the ABC network. In 1979, the Academy hired Dick Clark Productions to produce the show, which also moved to the NBC network and finally to CBS, where it remains today.

The new millennium ushered in a new era for the Academy. In 2003, the awards show left Los Angeles and settled into Sin City at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino Events Center. The Academy implemented online awards voting for its professional members in 2004, becoming the first televised awards show to do so. Creating an associate membership program (now called the Academy A-List) in 2004 also expanded the Academy's efforts to make country music more accessible. Fans voted online for the ACM Video of the Year that year; in 2008 they were invited to vote for the Academy's coveted Entertainer of the Year award and in 2009 the Academy also opened up its Top New Artist categories to fan voting.

Not only did the Academy move its awards show to Las Vegas, but it also took over town for the entire Week Vegas Goes Country®. For days prior to the annual ACM Awards, the Academy sponsors several events that showcase the best acts in country music including the ACM Chairman's Ride, ACM Concerts at Fremont



One of the most recognizable acts in country music history, Alabama took home 20 ACM Awards during their career including five Entertainer of the Year titles. They were named ACM Artist of the Decade for the 1980s, an honor that only four other artists have won.

Street Experience, the All-Star Jam and various other events.

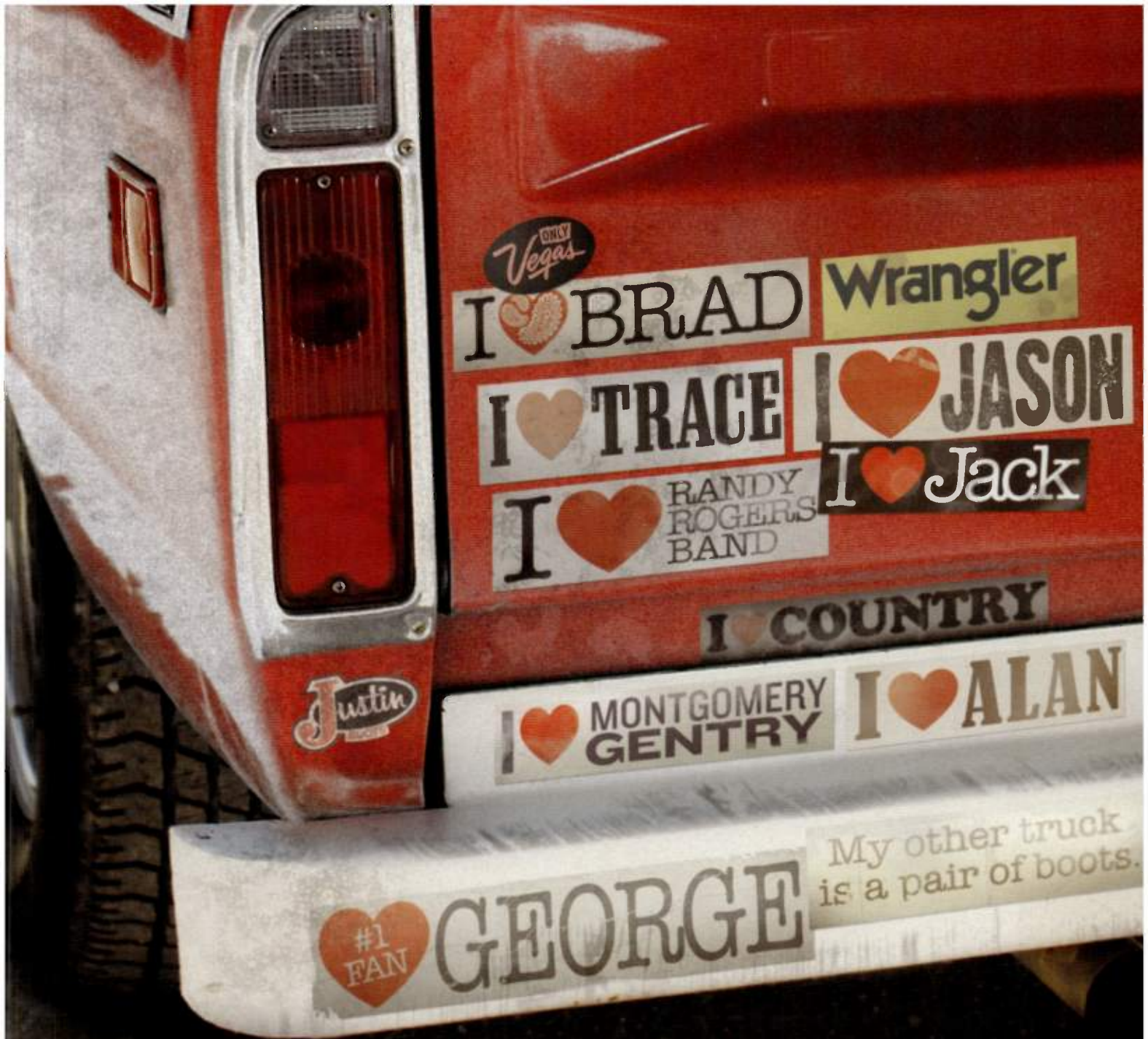
While the Academy strives to foster high-quality entertainment through its events, many Academy events also serve a dual purpose as fundraisers for the Academy's philanthropic arm, ACM Lifting Lives™. Originally formed as the Academy of Country Music Charitable Fund in 2004, Lifting Lives has since been rebranded and expanded its reach to fund multiple programs across the country that improve lives through the power of music. To date, the organization has given away more than \$1 million to charitable causes.

The Academy partnered with Dick Clark Productions as producers of the awards show in 2008, the first time the show was broadcast live from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in high-definition. Arena seats were entirely sold out, as were the New Artists' Show and the All-Star Jam. ACM Weekend on Fremont Street, including two nights of free live concerts – reeled in the largest crowd in Fremont Street history. The Academy also introduced its annual ACM Honors gala in Nashville later that year, which honors the recipients of the Academy's special and industry awards.

Between 2008 and 2009, the Academy nearly doubled its audience with significant increases in ratings both years. Last year, the Academy also taped the *George Strait: ACM Artist of the Decade All-Star Concert* television special, which aired later in the year and also ranked No. 1 in viewership. Country super-duo Brooks & Dunn will be honored with their own television special, *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn – The Last Rodeo* this year, to be taped on April 19th following tonight's telecast of the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. As country music continues to reach an increasingly wider audience, the Academy of Country Music also continues its mission to promote the industry and engage country music fans not just in the western states, but from coast to coast.



Dick Clark, 1972



FOR LOVE OF COUNTRY



SUN APRIL 18, 8PM ET/PT

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REBA McENTIRE & BLAKE SHELTON REVEAL ACM AWARD NOMINEES IN NYC

March 2nd, 2010 —

CBS Studios, New York City

Leave it to Blake Shelton to be coherent enough to crack jokes after a 6 a.m. call time for *The Early Show*. Standing in the corner of the CBS studio at Fifth Avenue and 59th Street, Shelton stood patiently as an audio tech changed the batteries in the wireless microphone pack tucked into the back of his jeans. With the task complete, Blake turned to those around him and deadpanned, "Most people don't know I'm battery powered, and that is indeed where they go."

Neither Blake nor ACM Awards host Reba McEntire needed any battery power to be fired up as they read nominations on live TV for the *45th Academy of Country Music Awards*. Reba called Blake's name along with Trace Adkins in the Vocal Event category for their duet "Hillbilly Bone," while Blake returned the favor by calling out Reba among the five women competing for Top Female Vocalist. Although she holds the record for wins in that category, Reba says it's still a welcome surprise every time she's nominated.

"I'm always surprised," McEntire said after the press



(L-R) Blake Shelton, ACM Awards Exec. Producer Rac Clark, CBS EVP Jack Sussman, Dick Clark Productions Pres. Orly Adelson, Reba McEntire and ACM Exec. Director Bob Romeo

conference. "It makes me feel very, very good because everybody wants to be loved and accepted and I'm no different."

Shelton has been nominated twice for Top New Male Vocalist and received his last ACM nod in 2003 for the Vocal Event category.

"I think I was up for new guy twice, like a 150 years ago, and now to have made this 150 year comeback, it's amazing," he joked. "I feel like John Anderson in the '90s. I'm back!"

Also feeling the love from Academy voters was trio Lady Antebellum, which lead the pack with seven nominations, including Top Vocal Group, Album, Single, Song and Video. Right behind with six nods were Carrie Underwood and Miranda Lambert, who was in the CBS studio watching the monitor when boyfriend Shelton read the list on-air.

Taylor Swift received five nominations, including her first for Entertainer of the Year. She will compete with Kenny Chesney, Toby Keith, Brad Paisley, George Strait, Taylor Swift, Keith Urban, Zac Brown Band and reigning Entertainer of the Year Carrie Underwood. This is the first time in Academy history that the category has been opened to eight nominees instead of five. Chesney, Paisley and Zac Brown Band all earned four nods each overall.

Brooks & Dunn, who later this year will call it quits after 20 years as a duo, once again are competing in the Top Vocal Duo category. With 26 ACM Awards to their credit, the pair holds the record for the most wins of any artist in Academy history. That accomplishment will be honored with the primetime special *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn - The Last Rodeo*, which will tape tomorrow night and air March 23rd on CBS.



The Early Show host Harry Smith on-set with Reba and Blake.

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Kenny Chesney
Toby Keith
Brad Paisley
George Strait
Taylor Swift
Carrie Underwood
Keith Urban
Zac Brown Band

TOP MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Kenny Chesney
Brad Paisley
Darius Rucker
George Strait
Keith Urban

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Miranda Lambert
Reba McEntire
Taylor Swift
Carrie Underwood
Lee Ann Womack

TOP VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Lady Antebellum
Little Big Town
Randy Rogers Band
Rascal Flatts
Zac Brown Band

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Brooks & Dunn
Joey + Rory
Montgomery Gentry
Steel Magnolia
Sugarland

TOP NEW SOLO VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Luke Bryan
Jamey Johnson
Chris Young

TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Bomshel
Joey + Rory
Steel Magnolia

TOP NEW VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Eli Young Band
Gloriana
The Lost Trailers

TOP NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Luke Bryan
Gloriana
Joey + Rory

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

[Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company(s)]

American Saturday Night

Brad Paisley
(Arista Nashville)
Produced by: Chris DuBois,
Frank Rogers

Lady Antebellum

Lady Antebellum
(Capitol Records Nashville)
Produced by: Victoria Shaw,
Paul Worley

Play On

Carrie Underwood
(19/Arista Nashville)
Produced by: Mark Bright
"Quitter" Produced by Max
Martin & Shellback for Maratone
Productions and Mark Bright

Revolution

Miranda Lambert
(Columbia Nashville)
Produced by: Frank Liddell,
Mike Wrucke

The Foundation

Zac Brown Band (Southern
Ground / Bigger Picture / Atlantic)
Produced by: Keith Stegall,
Zac Brown

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

[Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company(s)]

"Need You Now"

Lady Antebellum
(Capitol Records Nashville)
Produced by: Lady Antebellum,
Paul Worley

"People Are Crazy"

Billy Currington (Mercury)
Produced by: Carson Chamberlain,
Billy Currington

"Red Light"

David Nail (MCA Nashville)
Produced by: Frank Liddell,
Mike Wrucke

"Toes"

Zac Brown Band (Southern
Ground / Bigger Picture / Atlantic)
Produced by: Keith Stegall,
Zac Brown

"White Liar"

Miranda Lambert
(Columbia Nashville)
Produced by: Frank Liddell,
Mike Wrucke

SONG OF THE YEAR

[Awarded to Composer(s)/Publisher(s)/Artist(s)]

"Cowboy Casanova"

Carrie Underwood
Composers: Mike Elizondo,
Brett James, Carrie Underwood
Publishers: Brett James Cornelius
Music (ASCAP), Carrie Okie Music
(BMI), Rincon Ave Music (ASCAP),
Stage Three Songs (ASCAP)

"Need You Now"

Lady Antebellum
Composers: Dave Haywood, Josh
Kear, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott
Publishers: EMI Foray Music
(SESAC), DARTH Buddha (ASCAP),
Dwhaywood Music (BMI), Hillary
Dawn Publishing (SESAC),
Radiobullets Publishing (BMI),
Warner-Tamerlane Publishing
Corp. (BMI), Year Of The Dog
Music (ASCAP)

"People Are Crazy"

Billy Currington
Composers: Bobby Braddock,
Troy Jones
Publishers: Crozier Music
Enterprises LLC (BMI), Sony/ATV
Tree Publishing (BMI), Tiltawhirl
Music (BMI)

"White Liar"

Miranda Lambert
Composers: Natalie Hemby,
Miranda Lambert
Publishers: Pink Dog Publishing
(BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing
(BMI), Tiltawhirl Music (BMI)

"You Belong With Me"

Taylor Swift
Composers: Liz Rose, Taylor Swift
Publishers: Sony/ATV Tree
Publishing (BMI), Taylor Swift Music
(BMI), Barbara Orbison World
Publishing (SESAC), Potting Shed
Music (SESAC)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

[Awarded to Producer(s)/Director(s)/Artist(s)]
(Off Camera Award)

"Boots On"

Randy Houser
Producer: Tameron Hedge
Director: Eric Welch (Drake
footage: Vickie Vaughn)

"Need You Now"

Lady Antebellum
Producer: Clarke Gallivan
Director: David McClisten

"Welcome To The Future"

Brad Paisley
Producers: Mark Kalbfeld,
Jim Shea, Peter Tilden
Director: Jim Shea

"White Liar"

Miranda Lambert
Producer: Tameron Hedge
Director: Chris Hicky

"You Belong With Me"

Taylor Swift
Producer: Randy Brewer
Director: Roman White

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

[Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company(s)]
(Off Camera Award)

"Hillbilly Bone"

**Blake Shelton featuring
Trace Adkins** (Reprise Records /
Warner Music Nashville)
Producer: Scott Hendricks

"Honky Tonk Stomp"

**Brooks & Dunn featuring
Billy Gibbons** (Arista Nashville)
Producer: Ronnie Dunn,
Terry McBride

"I Told You So"

**Carrie Underwood featuring
Randy Travis** (19/Arista Nashville)
Producer: Mark Bright

"I'm Alive"

**Kenny Chesney with Dave
Matthews** (Blue Chair/BNA)
Produced by: Buddy Cannon,
Kenny Chesney

"Seeing Stars"

**Jack Ingram featuring Patty
Griffin** (Big Machine Records)
Produced by: Jack Ingram,
Jeremy Stover

INDUSTRY AWARDS

VENUE OF THE YEAR

BOK Center – Tulsa, OK
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular
Pavilion – Gilford, NH
Sommet Center - Nashville, TN
(effective March 2, 2010, this
venue was renamed the
Bridgestone Arena)
Sprint Center – Kansas City, MO
Time Warner Cable Music Pavilion
– Raleigh, NC

NIGHTCLUB OF THE YEAR

Billy Bob's Texas – Ft. Worth, TX
Buck Owens' Crystal Palace –
Bakersfield, CA
Cotton Eyed Joe – Knoxville, TN
George's Majestic Lounge –
Fayetteville, AR
Wild Bill's – Duluth, GA

CASINO OF THE YEAR

Agua Caliente Casino –
Rancho Mirage, CA
Green Valley Ranch Resort,
Spa and Casino – Las Vegas, NV
Mystic Lake Casino Hotel –
Prior Lake, MN
Peppermill Casino – Wendover, NV
WinStar World Casino –
Thackerville, OK

DON ROMEO TALENT BUYER OF THE YEAR

Todd Boltin – Variety Attractions, Inc.
Jimmy Jay – Jayson Promotions, Inc.
Gary Osier – Gary Osier Presents
David Snowden – Triangle Talent, Inc.
Suzanne Wilson – Wilson Events, Inc.

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

Brad Garrett – Police Productions
Ali Harnell – AEG/The Messina
Group
Darin Lashinsky – Outback
Concerts of TN, Inc.
Brian O'Connell – LiveNation
John Ruffino – Red Mountain
Entertainment

MBI AWARDS PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Buddy Cannon
Nathan Chapman
Dann Huff
Frank Liddell
Frank Rogers

AUDIO ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Ben Fowler
Steve Marcantonio
Justin Niebank
Ed Seay
Clarke Schleicher

TOP BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Dennis Crouch
Mike Brignardello
Mark Hill
Michael Rhodes
Jimmie Lee Sloas

TOP PERCUSSIONIST/ DRUMMER OF THE YEAR

Eddie Bayers
Mark Beckett
Chad Cromwell
Shannon Forrest
Chris McHugh

TOP GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

Pat Buchanan
J.T. Corenflos
Kenny Greenberg
Brent Mason
Bryan Sutton

TOP FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Stuart Duncan
Larry Franklin
Rob Hajacos
Deanie Richardson
Jonathan Yudkin

TOP PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tim Akers
John Hobbs
Charles Judges
Steve Nathan
Michael Rojas

TOP SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT(S) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Nashville String Machine
Randy Scruggs
Bryan Sutton
Ilya Toshinsky
Jonathan Yudkin

TOP STEEL GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Bruce Bouton
Paul Franklin
Mike Johnson
Gary Morse
Russ Pahl

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - NATIONAL

Blair Garner – After MidNite
with Blair Garner
Cody Alan – CMT Radio Live
with Cody Alan
Crook & Chase – Crook and
Chase Countdown
Kix Brooks – American Country
Countdown with Kix Brooks
Lia – The Lia Show

RADIO AWARDS ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

KNIX-FM (Phoenix, AZ) –
Ben Campbell & Matt McAllister
KSON-FM (San Diego, CA) –
Cliff & Company: Cliff, Morgan,
Tanner and Tori
KYGO-FM (Denver, CO) –
Kelly Ford & Rider
WIL-FM (St. Louis, MO) –
The Cornbread Show featuring:
Cornbread, Pat James, Annie
Henson, Harry Schroeder,
Mac Douglas
WSOC-FM (Charlotte, NC) –
Catherine Lane

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

KUBL-FM (Salt Lake City, Utah) –
Tommy & Joe Johnson
WFMS-FM (Indianapolis, IN) –
Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt &
Kevin Freeman (Jim, Deb & Kevin)
WSIX-FM (Nashville, TN) –
Gerry House, Mike Bohan,
Al Voecles, Duncan Stewart,
Richard Falken
WTQR-FM (Greensboro, NC) –
Jeff Roper in the Morning Show
- Jeff Roper, Angie Ward & Adam
"Flash" Dellinger
WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH) –
Chris Carr & Company (Chris Carr,
Statt & Maverick)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET

KIIM-FM (Tucson, AZ) –
Buzz Jackson
WBBS-FM (Syracuse, NY) –
Tom and Becky - B104.7
Morning Show (Tom Owens
and Becky Palmer)
WKSJ-FM (Mobile, AL) –
Dan Brennan & Shelby Mitchell,
The 95 KSJ Breakfast Club
WPCV-FM (Lakeland, FL) –
Roger Todd, Tom O'Brien &
Melissa Moran
WYRK-FM (Buffalo, NY) –
Clay and Dale

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

KCLR-FM (Columbia, MO) –
Scotty & Carissa in the Morning
KKNV-FM (Eugene, OR) –
Barrett, Fox & Berry
WFRE-FM (Frederick, MD) –
Jess Wright
WGSQ-FM (Cookeville, TN) –
Gator & The Styckman
WKSJ-FM (Asheville, NC) –
Eddie Foxx and Sharon Green

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

KKGO-FM (Los Angeles, CA) –
Southern California's
Country Station
KMPS-FM (Seattle, WA) –
Today's Country
KSCS-FM (Dallas, TX) –
The Texas Original
KYGO-FM (Denver, CO) –
Denver's #1 For New Country
WUSN-FM (Chicago, IL) –
America's Country Station

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

KNCI-FM (Sacramento, CA) –
New Country 105.1
WFMS-FM (Indianapolis, IN) –
The Country Station
WQDR-FM (Raleigh, NC) –
Today's Best Country
WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH) –
Cincinnati's Country!

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET

KIZN-FM (Boise, ID) – Kissin' 92
KUZZ AM/FM (Bakersfield, CA) –
Bakersfield's Best Country
WGNA-FM (Albany, NY) –
Country 107.7
WKSJ-FM (Mobile, AL) – 95 KSJ
WYRK-FM (Buffalo, NY) – Today's
Country & Your All Time Favorites

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

KMDL-FM (Lafayette, LA) –
Acadiana's Best Country
WGSQ-FM (Cookeville, TN) –
The Country Giant
WKSJ-FM (Asheville, NC) –
99.9 Kiss Country
WKXC-FM (Augusta, GA) –
Number One for New Country
and More Variety
WUSY-FM (Chattanooga, TN) –
Chattanooga's Best Country
& The Legends!

KENNY CHESNEY

entertainer of the year nominee

NOMINATED FOR:

ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR

TOP MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

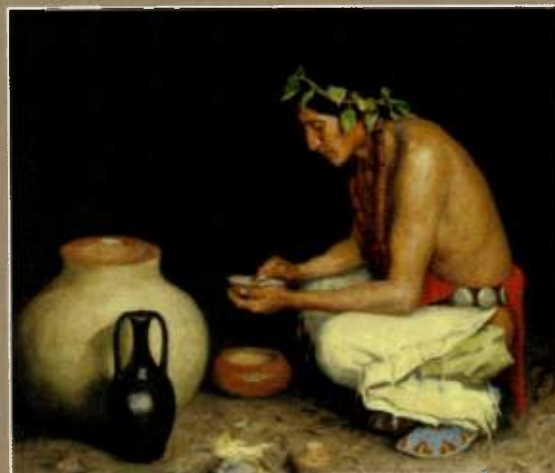
VOCAL EVENT
OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

VOCAL EVENT
OF THE YEAR (PRODUCER)

Four-time ACM Entertainer of the Year Kenny Chesney had an impressive 2009: His *Sun City Carnival* tour was the top-selling country tour, reeling in more than 1 million concert-goers; he scored his 19th No. 1 hit as an artist (and fourth chart-topper as a songwriter) with "Out Last Night" from his *Greatest Hits II* and also found huge crossover success with "I'm Alive," a duet with Dave Matthews from Chesney's 2008 release *Lucky Old Sun*. The Luttrell, Tennessee native stuck to his own compositions and exploring life in the Caribbean on *Lucky Old Sun*, which topped both the *Billboard* 200 and Top Country albums charts. Chesney's 2009 release, *Greatest Hits II*, elevated the artist's tally of No. 1 country albums to nine. During his *Sun City Carnival* tour, Chesney filmed performances in Pittsburgh, Philadelphia, Seattle, Boston and Indianapolis that are featured in his concert film *Kenny Chesney: Summer in 3D* that premiered in Las Vegas last night and opens wide on April 21. A 10-time ACM Award winner, Chesney is booking only a handful of shows for 2010 while he works on his next album, which is expected to be released in the fall. He will play the Bayou Country Fest and BamaJam plus four special concerts booked at The Joint at the Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Las Vegas.



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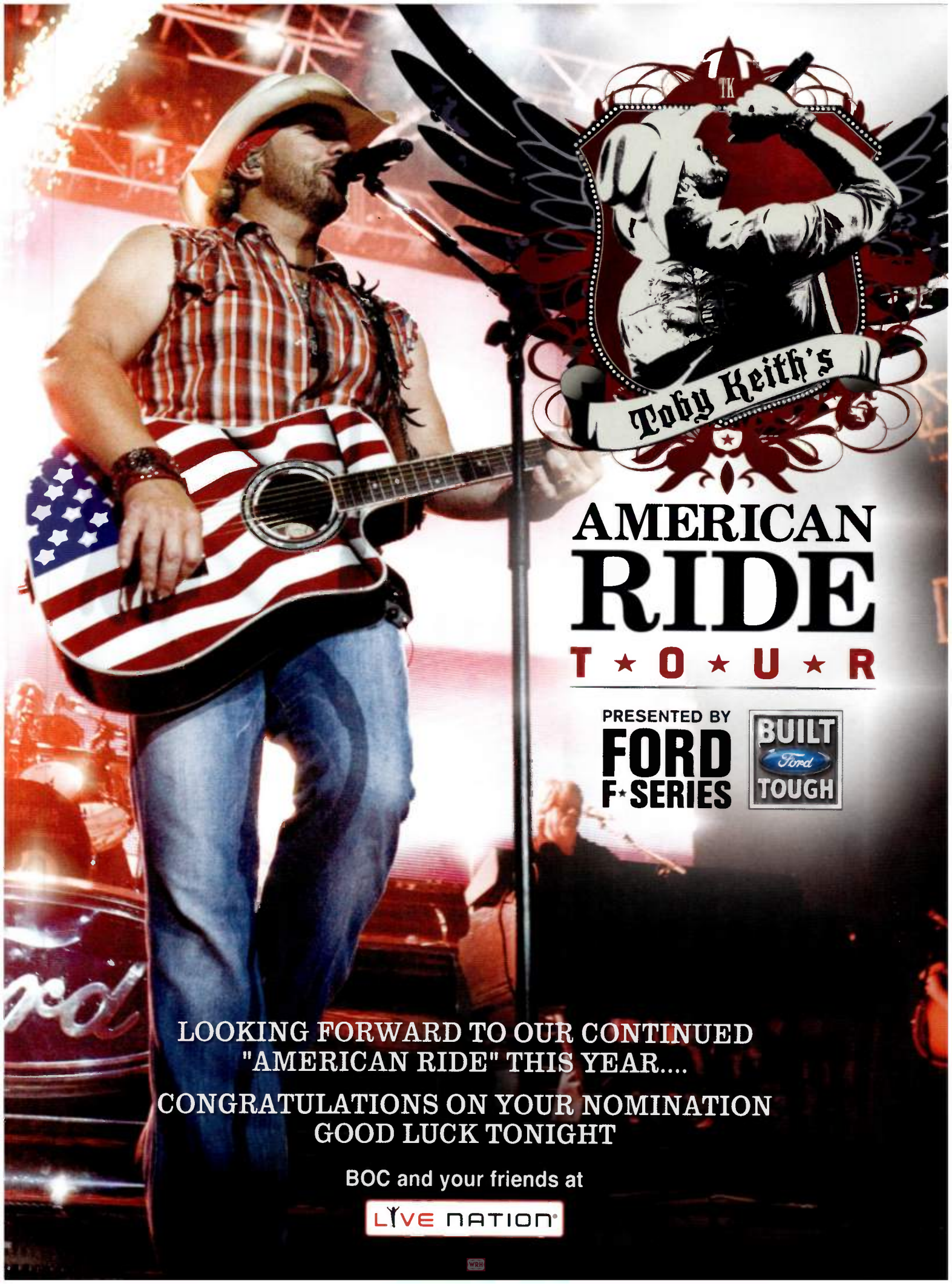
TOBY KEITH

entertainer of the year nominee



NOMINATED FOR: ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Ranked No. 3 on *Billboard's* Top 200 Artists of the Decade, Toby Keith sold nearly 30 million albums and scored more No. 1 singles than any other country artist between 2000 and the end of 2009. *Billboard* named him Country Artist of the Decade and Country Songwriter of the Decade, an honor that was also presented to him by the Nashville Songwriters Association International. "American Ride," the first single from Keith's current *American Ride* album, added to his impressive list of No. 1 hits, joining chart-toppers such as "Should've Been A Cowboy," "I Wanna Talk About Me," "Courtesy of the Red, White, & Blue (The Angry American)" and "God Love Her." The album's hit second single "Cryin' For Me (Wayman's Song)" is a moving tribute to Keith's close friend, basketball player and jazz bassist Wayman Tisdale, who died from complications of cancer in May 2009. A 10-time ACM Award winner, Toby had a unique experience during his winter European tour when he performed at the Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo, Norway, which featured performances by artists from around the globe. A longtime supporter of the USO, Toby also participated in the ongoing Haiti relief efforts this year by donating seven semitrailers to two nonprofit organizations, Can-Do and Livin' the Music, that were filled with supplies and shipped to the country recently devastated by an earthquake. Toby will spend this summer on his *American Ride* tour, which starts June 19 in New Jersey and runs through late September.



AMERICAN RIDE

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LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR CONTINUED
"AMERICAN RIDE" THIS YEAR....
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NOMINATION
GOOD LUCK TONIGHT

BOC and your friends at



BRAD PAISLEY

entertainer of the year nominee

NOMINATED FOR:

ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR

TOP MALE VOCALIST

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

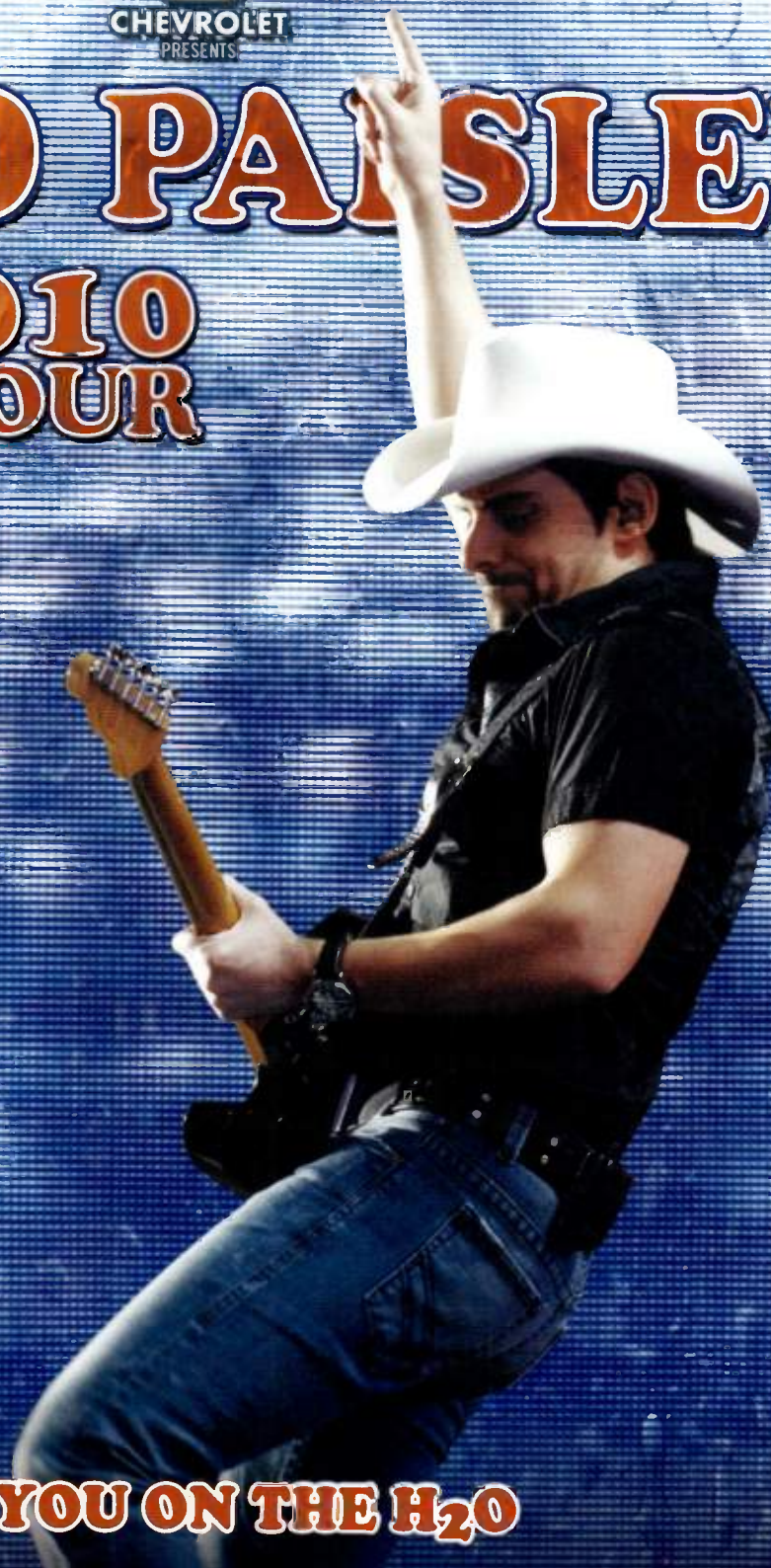
When *American Saturday Night* – the eighth album from the three-time and reigning ACM Top Male Vocalist – debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard*, Brad Paisley was also sitting atop the country singles chart with his 10th consecutive No. 1 hit “Then.” The album has since produced successive charttoppers “Welcome To The Future” and “American Saturday Night.” The West Virginia native, who spent his teen years on the WWVA Jamboree USA, continues to develop as a songwriter, earning writing credits for every song on the album. With 23 Top 40 singles, Paisley has proven himself to be a stylistic chameleon, getting topical (“Celebrity”), rowdy (“Mud On The Tires,” “Alcohol”), tender (“We Danced,” “Waitin’ On A Woman”) and poignant (“When I Get Where I’m Going”). His most recent tour, which started in 2008 and concluded in early March, was seen by more than 1.5 million people in nearly 100 cities. A 12-time ACM Award winner, Paisley will be entering the world of scripted television this year as creator and co-producer of a drama series, tentatively titled *Nashville*, for the CW. Brad’s charitable foundation supports organizations in West Virginia and his long-time association with the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital in Memphis led to the creation last year of the Paisley Lodge at the Target House, a charity affiliated with St. Jude’s.





BRAD PAINLEY

H2O 2010 WORLD TOUR



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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR NOMINATIONS
AND GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!

BOC and your friends at

LIVE NATION

GEORGE STRAIT

entertainer of the year nominee



NOMINATED FOR:
ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR
TOP MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

Named the Academy's Artist of the Decade for the 2000's, George Strait celebrated his 25th anniversary as a recording artist in 2009 as well as his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame and his first-ever Grammy win for the No. 1 album *Troubadour*. A 20-time ACM Award winner, Strait holds the distinction of having the most No. 1 singles of any artist in history, with 57 currently under his belt buckle. He has had at least one single hit the top every year since his first No. 1 in 1981, "Unwound." With 33 platinum or multi-platinum albums to his credit, the Texas native has more RIAA platinum certifications than any other country artist, and only the Beatles and Elvis Presley hold more. His latest effort *Twang*, recorded in a small studio in Key West, Florida, debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 and the Top Country Albums charts. It was the fourth time he opened at No. 1 on the overall chart and the 13th time besting the country chart. Strait co-wrote three songs on *Twang*, including the debut single "Living For The Night," which he penned with his son, Bubba. One of the biggest tours of winter 2010 featured Strait, Reba McEntire and Lee Ann Womack. They performed in 19 arenas between late January and early April.

SELECTED PROPERTIES

Local Experts Worldwide



HUMMINGBIRD NEST RANCH: Santa Susanna Mountains, CA. Approx. 123 acres, mostly new, turn-key, "Green" facility. Spanish Revival style mansion with 6 guest houses and 10 townhomes. 3 barns, 3 arenas and helipad. Price Upon Request. WEB: 0024891 Drew Mandile, Brooke Knapp 310.786.1803 Beverly Hills Brokerage



OLDFIELD: Greenwich, CT. Equestrian estate on 20± pastoral, manicured acres. Magnificent 20,000± sq.ft. Palladian-style villa with pool and tennis court. East and west stables have groom's apartments and stalls for 39 horses. Paddocks, stick-and-ball field. \$39,500,000 WEB: 0064922 Joseph Barbieri, 203.869.4343 Greenwich Brokerage



RANCHO ALEGRE: Santa Fe, NM. A William Tull designed estate on 175± acres of gently rolling view-filled ranchland just outside Santa Fe. It offers a 20,000± sq.ft. main residential compound, 4bd guest house and equestrian facilities. \$12,900,000 WEB: 0572824 Ray Rush, Tim Van Camp 505.984.5117 Santa Fe Brokerage



RANCH EXTRAORDINAIRE: Los Alamos, CA. 1,737± acres in holistic operation. Views, oaks, springs, and farmland. Adjacent 100± acres available. Possible parcels. www.LosAlamosRanch.com \$10,900,000 WEB: 0621278 Linda Williams 805.680.7541 Los Olivos Brokerage



SUPERB HORSE FARM: Water Mill, NY. Farm house with pool on shy acre plus adjoining 13.8± acre horse farm. 16-stall barn, equipment barn, indoor & outdoor arenas. \$10,500,000 WEB: 0035187 Dana Trotter, SVP & Barbara Bornstein 631.537.6000 Exts. 7346/7312 Bridgehampton Brokerage



NEWPORT FARMS: Santa Ynez, CA. 38± acre Equestrian Estate. Beautiful hacienda-style main home. 6 barns, 3 arenas, and 16 pastures. \$7,900,000 WEB: 0621375 Denise Allec 805.245.5834 Los Olivos Brokerage



VINEYARD READY FOR WINERY: Lompoc, CA. 100± acres with 30 acres producing Pinot Noir and other varieties. Certified Organic and Biodynamic estate vineyard. \$5,295,000 WEB: 0621379 Harriet Dahlstrom 805.252.1692 Los Olivos Brokerage



CALZADA OLIVE GROVE: Santa Ynez, CA. Approx. 5.9 acres from Calzada Ridge covered with oak and 600 olive trees. Open beam ceilings and limestone flooring are just some of the features of this beautifully remodeled home. \$1,795,000 WEB: 0621402 Meagan Tambini 805.448.4285 Los Olivos Brokerage



GATED LOS OLIVOS ESTATE: Los Olivos, CA. 5.5± acres with 3,800± sq.ft. 4bd/3ba sprawling home with media room, wood beamed ceilings, french doors and views. Pool, spa, endless lawns plus 3,100± sq.ft. barn/game room plus a 1bd/1ba apartment. \$1,750,000 WEB: 0621389 Laura Drammer 805.448.7500 Los Olivos Brokerage



HOME IN WORLD FAMOUS SUN VALLEY: Sun Valley, ID. Outstanding remodel of this farmhouse-style home on approx. 1.5 acres, located minutes from famous Bald Mountain with easy access to fishing the Big Wood. \$1,393,000 WEB: 0412810 Stephanie Bourgette 208.720.2803 Sun Valley Brokerage



SANTA YNEZ VALLEY LAND: Los Olivos, CA. Secluded Santa Ynez Valley Woodstock Ranch 20± acres. Several spectacular building sites. Gated road to parcels, spectacular views. Adjacent 40± acres may also be available. \$1,195,000 WEB: 0621344 Mary Ann Foss 805.455.1476 Los Olivos Brokerage



ANIMAL LOVER'S PARADISE: Santa Rosa Valley, CA. Updated 3bd/1 1/2ba Equestrian Ranch style at end of cul-de-sac. Stable, arena and agility course. 2 parcels on 50,000+ sq.ft. flat lot. \$927,500 WEB: 0342521 Ken & Angel Margolis 310.255.5442 Pacific Palisades Brokerage

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TAYLOR SWIFT

entertainer of the year nominee

NOMINATED FOR:

ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR

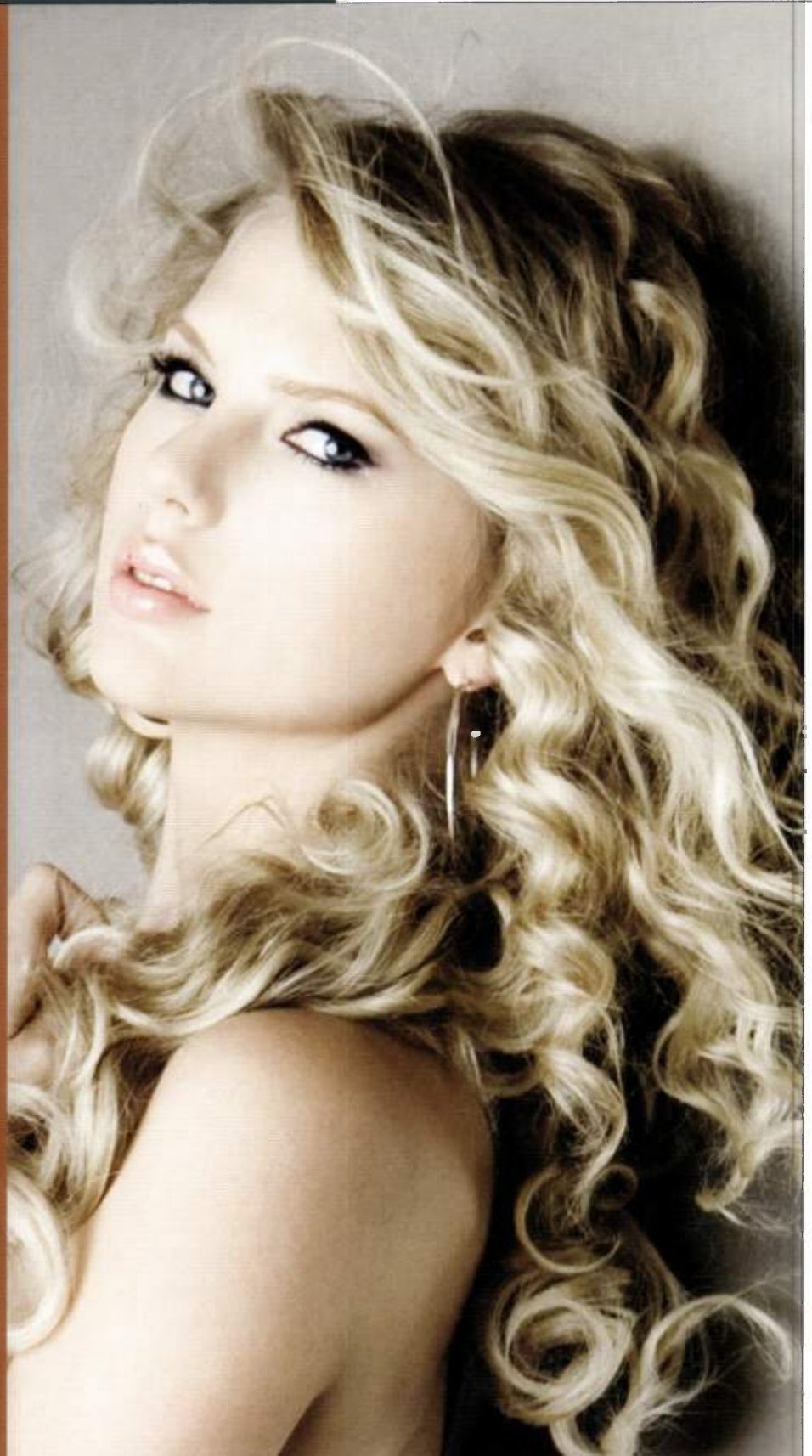
TOP FEMALE VOCALIST

SONG OF THE YEAR
(ARTIST)

SONG OF THE YEAR
(COMPOSER)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Taylor Swift was the juggernaut of 2009. The Associated Press named her Entertainer of the Year and the American Music Awards crowned her Artist of the Year. At one point, she had eight singles on the *Billboard* Hot 100. Every stop on Swift's 52-city arena tour in 2009 sold out, and tickets for her 2010 tour dates have sold out within minutes. "You Belong With Me" was the No. 1 country music video of the year, holding the top spot on CMT's chart for 11 weeks in a row. In addition, she became the first country artist in the 19-year history of *SoundScan* to have two singles reach No. 1 on the pop chart. Swift's ACM Award-winning album *Fearless* sold more copies in 2008 and 2009 than any other artist in any genre of music. Now 20, Swift started singing at the age of 10, entering karaoke contests and singing at county fairs around her hometown of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania. At 14, she became the youngest person to be signed as a professional staff songwriter at Sony/ATV Publishing and at 17, she became the youngest person to single-handedly write and sing a No. 1 country hit. Already a four-time ACM Award winner, Taylor's first single of 2010, "Today Was a Fairytale," sold 325,000 downloads in its first week making it the fastest-selling download by a female artist in the format's history.



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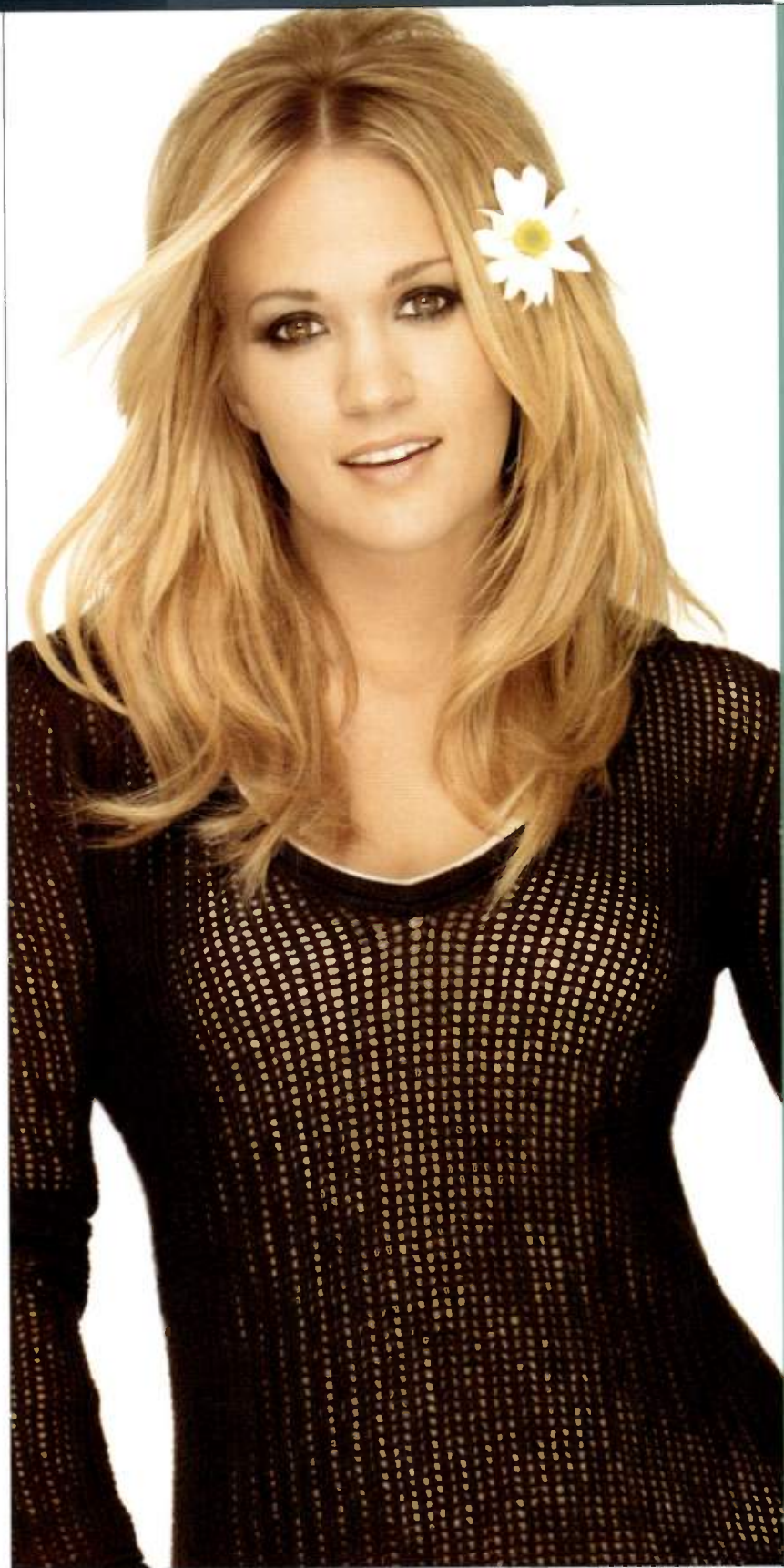
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CARRIE UNDERWOOD

entertainer of the year nominee



NOMINATED FOR:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
TOP FEMALE VOCALIST
SONG OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)
SONG OF THE YEAR (COMPOSER)
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

.....

"Cowboy Casanova" is Carrie Underwood's 11th No. 1 single and the fastest in her short but meteoric career to reach the pinnacle position on the radio airplay chart. It was the first single from her third album, *Play On*. Previously, Underwood was the first country artist in history to log 10 chart-toppers from her first two albums, the first of which, *Some Hearts*, was named the top country album of the decade by *Billboard*. The reigning ACM Entertainer of the Year and former *American Idol* champion was inducted into the Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame last year, just a few months before she starred in her first variety television special *Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special*. Carrie recently delved into acting, appearing in an episode of CBS' *How I Met Your Mother* this March and playing the role of a church youth leader in *Soul Surfer*, a film about champion surfer Bethany Hamilton. The top-selling country female touring artist of 2008 - her *Carnival Ride* tour was attended by 1.2 million fans - started the North American leg of her *Play On* tour on March 11. Having already traveled to Africa with *American Idol*'s Idol Gives Back and visited troops in the Middle East, Carrie recently established the C.A.T.S. Foundation to help with causes in her hometown area of Checotah, Oklahoma. In 2009, C.A.T.S. (which stands for Checotah Animal, Town and School) partnered with ACM Lifting Lives to donate musical instruments to her alma mater, Checotah High School. An eight-time ACM Award winner, Underwood's charitable efforts have influenced the songs on her new album, including "Temporary Home," which tells of a boy in foster care and a young mother in crisis, and "Change," which addresses the need to aid those less fortunate.

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KEITH URBAN

entertainer of the year nominee

NOMINATED FOR:

ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR

TOP MALE VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

Defying Gravity, Keith Urban's third album to top the country chart and his first No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 200, went double platinum and has produced two No. 1 country singles so far, "Only You Can Love Me This Way" and "Sweet Thing." Urban credited his wife Nicole Kidman for being his muse on the 2009 release, which features seven songs co-written by Keith. Born in New Zealand and raised in Australia, Urban moved to Nashville in 1992 and after fronting The Ranch started releasing platinum-selling solo albums in 1999. He topped the charts with singles such as "But For The Grace Of God," "Somebody Like You," "You'll Think Of Me" and "You Look Good In My Shirt." Having spent almost all of last year on his *Escape Together World Tour*, Keith will be playing various festivals through the end of this summer. A six-time ACM Award winner, Urban was a central force in the "We're All for the Hall" benefit concert that raised a half million dollars for the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum in Nashville, opening the all-star show with an hour-long performance and staying onstage while others took over the spotlight. Following the earthquake in Haiti, Keith and Nicole partnered with the Artists for Peace and Justice organization and have committed to funding a school in Port-Au-Prince for the next five years. The school will also help provide children with basic medical needs.



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ZAC BROWN BAND

entertainer of the year nominee



NOMINATED FOR:
ENTERTAINER
OF THE YEAR
TOP VOCAL GROUP
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
SINGLE RECORD
OF THE YEAR

After years of touring and recording three independent albums, the Atlanta-based Zac Brown Band became a mainstream sensation in 2008. The band has landed three No. 1 singles so far from their platinum-selling project *The Foundation*: "Toes," "Whatever It Is" and the anthem that got it all started, "Chicken Fried." With success on the recording front, band front man Zac Brown ventured into two additional businesses under his Southern Ground banner in 2009: a record label, which launched with the signing of three Atlanta artists, and a line of steak rubs and barbecue sauces. A cookbook, with recipes from a restaurant Brown used to co-own, is also in the works. Food clearly plays a key role for the band – get-togethers with fans on the road are called "Eat and Greet." In addition to Brown, the band includes keyboardist Coy Bowles, violinist Jimmy De Martini, bassist John Driskell Hopkins, multi-instrumentalist Clay Cook and drummer Chris Fryar. The reigning ACM Top New Vocal Group headlined the *Breaking Southern Ground Tour* in the fall of 2009 and spring 2010 and will hit the road again in July opening shows for the Dave Matthews Band.



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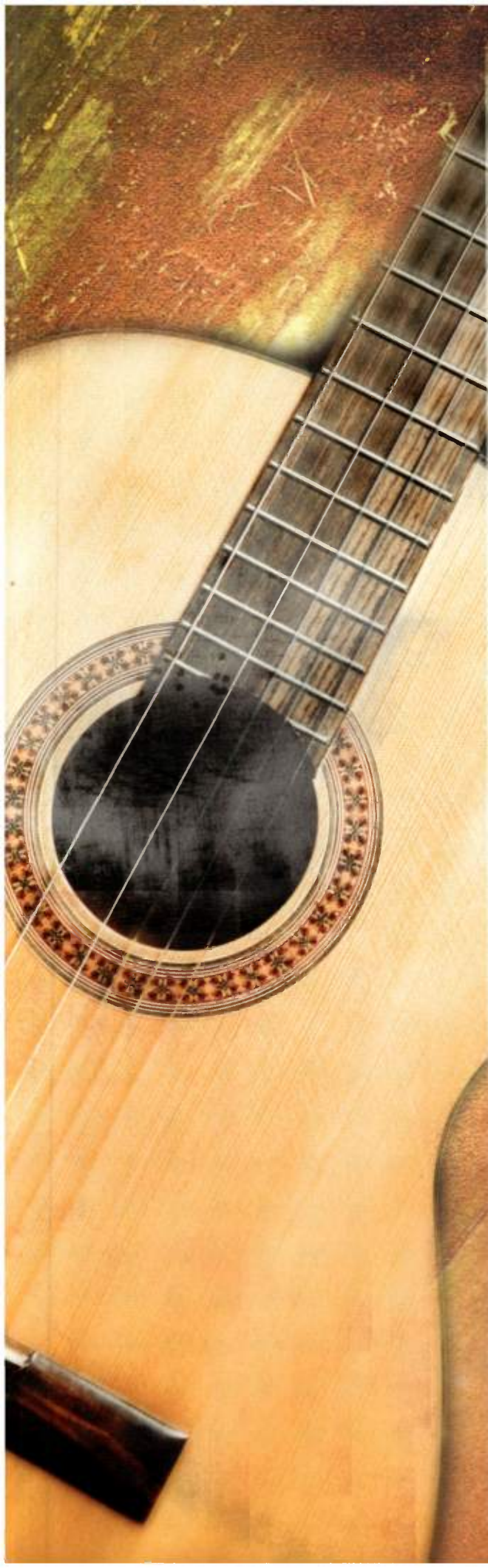
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TRACE ADKINS

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

With 13 years of hits under his belt, Trace Adkins is still embracing new avenues to reach fans and making the traditional ones as strong as can be. A two-time ACM Award winner, he has been on the road since late January on a 40-city *Shine All Night* tour with Martina McBride and Sarah Buxton that runs through April 25. Just as the tour was starting, Trace became the first artist signed to Toby Keith's Show Dog-Universal Music label. (Trace and Toby toured together in 2009, having known each other since they were on the club circuit in the 1980s). In November 2009, Trace became an illustrated hero in *Luke McBain*, a four-part comic book series. An Opry member since 2003, 27 of his singles have landed on *Billboard's* country charts, with 15 breaking into the Top 10 and three reaching No. 1 status. Three of his albums have debuted at No. 1 on the country charts. His concerts are a balancing act of light-hearted romps such as "This Ain't No Thinkin' Thing" and "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk" coupled with the emotional ballads "Arlington"



and "You're Gonna Miss This." An avid supporter of the men and women in the military, Trace's performance with the West Point Glee Club at last year's ACM Awards raised more than \$100,000 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Project through direct donations and download sales on iTunes. The Louisiana native expressed his strong political and social views in his book, *A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck*, which continues to be a strong seller three years after its initial publication.



BOMSHEL

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Female duos are rare in country music, but Bomshel has quickly proven how distinct the pairing of women's voices can sound. Fiddler Kristy Osmunson and singer Kelley Shepard, performing together for just two years, cracked the country Top 40 last year with the singles "Fight Like A Girl" and "19 and Crazy." Kristy and Kelley met at a multi-artist event in Michigan, where Kelley's performance inspired Kristy to ask her to join Bomshel, which had been performing in Nashville clubs with a different lead singer. Kelley, a country music fan since her youth, had been working with Brian McKnight in Los Angeles, where she moved after performing in the clubs of her hometown of Phoenix, Arizona. Kristy, an Idaho native, began fiddling as a four-year old in a group called Fiddler's Hatchery, performing during the summer in the U.S and Canada. She moved to Nashville in 2002 and formed Bomshel, getting the duo signed to Curb Records in 2004. That edition of the band landed a song, "The Power of One," in the soundtrack to the film *Evan Almighty*. Praised for their ability to move seamlessly between rowdy party songs and poignant ballads, Bomshel released their debut album, *Fight Like A Girl*, in October.



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BROOKS & DUNN

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn have hit No.1 on *Billboard's* country singles chart 23 times on their way to becoming the top-selling country duo of all time. Also the most honored duo in country music history, Brooks & Dunn most recently received the President's Award at last year's BMI Country Awards. They have recorded 10 studio albums during their 20-year partnership, five of which have reached No. 1 status. Brooks & Dunn's most recent compilation album, "*Is ... and Then Some*," scored yet another chart-topper for the duo. Since then, their sound has grown to encompass everything from stadium rock ("Honky Tonk Stomp") to straight-forward honky tonk and gospel ("Believe"). Their popularity has resulted in 26 Academy of Country Music awards, the most recent being the 2007 trophy for Top Vocal Duo. The end of Brooks & Dunn's ride, though, is coming to a close this year. Their 47-city farewell tour, titled *The Last Rodeo*, starts April 23 and runs through Aug. 8. After the tour, Dunn intends to release a solo album and Brooks will continue with his *American Country Countdown* radio show and write songs for a solo album of his own. The Academy will also be honoring the pair this year with an all-star concert tribute, *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn - The Last Rodeo*. The taping will take place tomorrow night here at the MGM Grand and will air May 23rd at 8 p.m. ET/PT on CBS.

LUKE BRYAN

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW SOLO VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

TOP NEW ARTIST

When Luke Bryan's single "Do I" hit No. 1 last December, it also became his first single to go gold, selling more than 500,000 digital copies. Luke, who composed Billy Currington's No. 1 hit "Good Directions," co-wrote "Do I" with Lady Antebellum's Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley. Their band mate, Hillary Scott, convinced Bryan to sing the tune with them at a concert in Augusta, Georgia, which led to others suggesting that he record the tune for his second album. That album, *Doin' My Thing*, debuted at No. 2 on *Billboard's* country chart, more than doubling the first week sales of *I'll Stay Me*, his debut album released in 2007. To promote the new album, Bryan took on a tough road trip, performing nine shows in 10 days in October 2009, one of which was held on the football field at his high school in Leesburg, Georgia. The son of a peanut farmer, Bryan also launched a special series of one-off concerts that benefit charities or organizations in local farming communities. The country traditionalist spent 2009 headlining his *Doin' My Thing* tour and spent the beginning of this year opening for Jason Aldean. Bryan, who has toured with Kenny Chesney, Dierks Bentley and Trace Adkins, will again headline shows from June through September. Luke is also active with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, among other causes.





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BILLY CURRINGTON

NOMINATED FOR:

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (PRODUCER)

SONG OF THE YEAR

People magazine placed Billy Currington at No. 10 last year on its list of "Country's Sexiest Men" just as he was cracking the upper reaches of the Top 10 with his music. Currington's third album, *Little Bit of Everything*, hit No. 2 on the *Billboard* country chart and yielded the No. 1 singles "People Are Crazy" and "That's How Country Boys Roll." The album title refers to Currington's blending of various elements with country music, specifically R&B, pop and rock 'n' roll. A songwriter whose singing was mostly done in church before he arrived in Nashville from Rincon, Georgia, Currington has been scoring Top 10 singles since 2003's "I Got A Feelin'" and "Walk A Little Straighter." Duets with Shania Twain ("Party For Two") and Michael McDonald ("She's Got A Way With Me") helped expose him to new fans early in his career. Currington recently founded his Global South Relief Foundation, which delivers supplies to locals in Central American countries. He gave a group of kids a guitar lesson in Jaco, Costa Rica, in December and spent most of 2009 touring as a headliner and opening shows for Sugarland.

ELI YOUNG BAND

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

The Eli Young Band is carrying on the grand Texas tradition of country bands who know how to rock as well as twang. Named for lead singer Mike Eli and guitarist James Young, the band also includes drummer Chris Thompson and bassist Jon Jones. Eli and Young wrote eight of the 12 songs on *Jet Black & Jealous*, their first major label release after three independent albums. Formed at the University of North Texas in October 2000, the quartet spent eight years on the Texas club circuit, releasing their first independent album in 2004.

They built a larger regional following after the video for their single "When It Rains" made it onto the country music channels. The track itself would spend 30 weeks on *Billboard*'s country chart and set the record for an independent release racking up the most weeks on the *Billboard* Hot Country singles chart. After the band signed a major record deal, *Jet Black & Jealous* landed the band in the Top 5 on the country albums chart and "Always The Love Songs" became their first Top 10 hit at country radio. Over the last



several years, the EYB has opened shows for the Dave Matthews Band, Alan Jackson and Jason Aldean, recently scoring a spot on Gary Allan's *Get Off On The Pain* tour. As a headliner, they have sold out 6,000-seat venues in Texas. On May 14, they will start the summertime *Country Throwdown Tour* with a dozen acts including Montgomery Gentry, Jamey Johnson, Ryan Bingham and the Dead Horses and Jack Ingram, who was the first artist they opened for while still in college.



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BILLY GIBBONS

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Billy Gibbons is the one and only guitarist for ZZ Top, the rock band he formed in Houston in 1969. ZZ Top played 17 dates with Brooks & Dunn last summer while preparing to record a new album with producer Rick Rubin. ZZ Top reinvented Texas-style boogie in the 1970s and with the advent of MTV, they produced music videos that were long on girls, guitars, cars and beards. Known for one of the most identifiable guitar sounds in rock history, Gibbons' appearance on Brooks & Dunn's Top 20 single "Honky Tonk Stomp" was one of several recent high-profile guest stints for the guitarist. He played in the band at the final *Tonight Show* with Conan O'Brien; performed Jimi Hendrix's "Foxy Lady" with Jeff Beck at the 25th Anniversary Rock and Roll Hall of Fame Concert; and recorded "Broke Down On The Brazos" with Gov't Mule. Gibbons' guitar also has been heard on records by Kid Rock ("Hillbilly Stomp"), B.B. King ("Tired of Your Jive"), Hank Williams III ("Trashville") and Les Paul ("Bad Case of Loving You"). The band's 2010 concert calendar includes dates in South America and Florida in May plus Eric Clapton's Crossroads Guitar Festival in June that raises money for the Crossroads center rehab program.

GLORIANA

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

TOP NEW ARTIST

The four-part harmonies of Tom Gossin, Mike Gossin, Rachel Reinert and Cheyenne Kimball define the sound of Nashville-based band Gloriana. It began as a trio when the Gossin brothers, who left their North Carolina home for Nashville, partnered in 2007 with Rachel, who had secured a publishing deal when she was 15. Soon thereafter, Cheyenne, who made her first record when she was 13, came in on vocals and mandolin. Producer-songwriter Matt Serletic signed them to his Emblem label and hooked up the band with 10 of Nashville's finest songwriters. The results included "Wild At Heart" and the other tracks that make up their self-titled album, which was the best-selling country debut of 2009. It debuted at No. 2 on the *Billboard* country album chart and No. 3 on *Billboard's* Top 200. "Wild At Heart" was the best selling single by a new country artist in 2009. A second single, "How Far Do You Wanna Go," was one of the most watched country videos. Their popularity has reached beyond country music's borders as



evidenced by Gloriana receiving the T-Mobile Breakthrough Artist Award at the 2009 American Music Awards. In conjunction with the Winter Olympics in Vancouver, B.C., Gloriana contributed a new song, "The World Is Ours Tonight," to the official soundtrack album for the games. Having toured with Alan Jackson, Jason Aldean and Dierks Bentley, the quartet is now opening shows for Taylor Swift.

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PATTY GRIFFIN

NOMINATED FOR:
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Patty Griffin was in high demand as a duet partner in 2009, recording "Seeing Stars" with Jack Ingram, "Beautiful World" with Dierks Bentley and "Waiting For My Child to Come Home" with Mavis Staples while preparing for her own venture into recording Gospel music. Released in January, Griffin's seventh album, *Downtown Church*, was recorded at Nashville's Downtown Presbyterian Church with Buddy Miller as producer and debuted in the Top 40 on the *Billboard* Top 200. Over the last two years, Miller, Griffin, Emmylou Harris and Shawn Colvin have toured the country as Three Girls and Their Buddy. Griffin's previous album, *Children Running Through*, received critical acclaim and contributed to her being named Artist of the Year by the Americana Music Association. A native of Maine who acquired her first guitar at the age of 16, Patty got her start in the early 1990s performing on the folk music circuit in and around Boston. Several performers



have also recorded her songs, among them the Dixie Chicks, Reba McEntire, Miranda Lambert and Kelly Clarkson. She recently finished the first portion of her *Downtown Church* tour. This is her first ACM nomination.

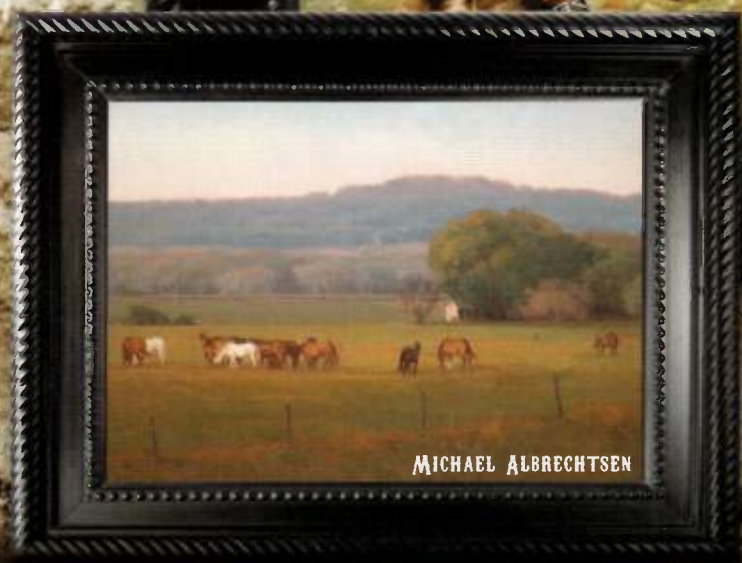


RANDY HOUSER

NOMINATED FOR:
VIDEO OF THE YEAR

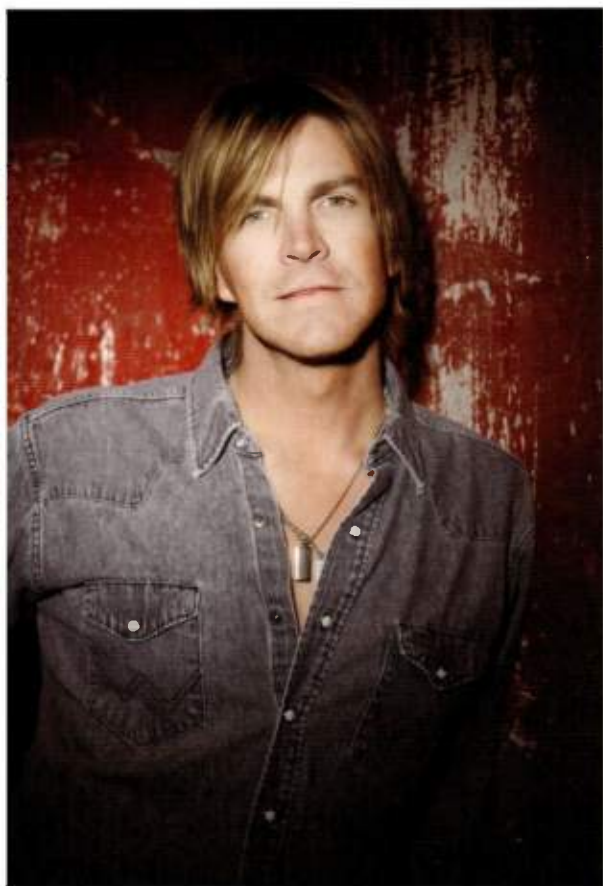
When four-year-old Drake Dixon was caught on film in the backseat of a car lip-syncing to Randy Houser's "Boots On," the clip became a fast internet sensation and creative gold. Houser's team seized the opportunity and incorporated the comical clip of the youngster into the official video for the song, which helped push "Boots On" to the top of the country radio chart. It was Houser's first No. 1 hit, following the Top 20 success of his debut single, "Anything Goes" from his debut album of the same name. A native of the central Mississippi town of Lake, Houser grew up on the music circuit. His father performed in nightclubs in the Jackson area and later on, around Biloxi, where Houser joined him. After his father's death, Houser moved to Nashville where he was quickly signed to a publishing deal. Among his early co-writing successes was "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk," which he penned with close friend and fellow artist Jamey Johnson. Houser's second album, *They Call Me Cadillac*, is scheduled for a summer release. He co-headlined last year's *CMT On Tour* with Johnson and recently wrapped his first USO tour with Johnson and Kellie Pickler, performing for troops at camps throughout the Persian Gulf. This is his first ACM nomination.

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JACK INGRAM

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

To get the word out about his 2009 release *Big Dreams & High Hopes*, Jack Ingram embarked on a promotional plan that landed him in *The Guinness Book of World Records*. The charismatic artist gave 215 interviews in one day, shattering the record for most consecutive radio interviews in a 24-hour period. After fielding questions from interviewers in the U.S., Canada, Ireland and Australia, Ingram returned home to Texas to perform for local fans in Dallas and Austin. *Big Dreams & High Hopes*, his seventh album, yielded "Seeing Stars," a tender duet with Patty Griffin, and the summer party anthem "Barefoot and Crazy." A native of Houston, Ingram began his singing career while attending college at Southern Methodist University, and he quickly gained a following across the Lone Star state. After a long recording career that started in 1995, he was named the ACM Top New Male Vocalist for 2007. Having toured last year with Gary Allan and the Eli Young Band and recently completed his *Acoustic Motel Tour*, Ingram will next be seen as part of the *Country Throwdown Tour* starting May 14. He also continues to act, having made a guest appearance on a recent episode of *Army Wives* and appearing on an episode of *Are You Smarter Than A 5th Grader* that raised funds for TOMS Shoes, which provides footwear to children in need.

JAMEY JOHNSON

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW SOLO VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Being named *Songwriter of the Year* in the 10th annual Country Music Critics Poll in January was yet another accolade to spring from Jamey Johnson's 2008 release *That Lonesome Song*. The album was certified gold in early 2009 after it appeared on "Best Albums of 2008" lists in *Rolling Stone*, *USA Today*, the *New York Times* and other publications. A native of Alabama, Johnson arrived in Nashville on New Year's Day 2000, first working for a sign maker and an industrial pumping company before starting his own construction firm. Demo tapes and club shows landed him a recording contract in 2005 and his songs soon appeared on other performers' albums. His first major breakthrough was with George Strait's version of "Give It Away," co-written by Johnson and named ACM Song of the Year for 2006. Jamey won that very honor last year as both artist and songwriter, taking home the prize for his Top 10 single "In Color." Late last year, Johnson



returned to the recording studio to start work on his next album. A three-time ACM Award winner, Jamey has toured with Randy Houser and recently completed a stint on Hank Williams Jr.'s *Rowdy Friends Tour*. Johnson is one of the headliners on the inaugural *Country Throwdown Tour*, which will visit outdoor amphitheaters in 23 cities this summer.

G. Harvey
2010



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JOEY † RORY

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

TOP NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

The debut album from husband and wife Rory Feek and Joey Martin, *The Life Of A Song*, spent 50 weeks on the *Billboard* country chart. Not bad for a duo that only started performing together in 2008 – and that was to audition for the CMT show *Can You Duet*. Their debut single “Cheater, Cheater” not only landed in the country Top 30, but also made it into the Top 10 on the dance club chart. Known for harmonies, romance and unique arrangements such as their ballad rendition of Lynyrd Skynyrd’s “Free Bird,” they have recorded a follow-up simply titled *Album #2* using the same producer, Carl Jackson. When not performing, Joey lends a hand at Marcy Jo’s Mealhouse, a restaurant she and her sister-in-law co-own outside of Nashville, while Rory continues to write songs for his publishing



company. Rory, who arrived in Nashville from his native Kansas in 1995, has worked steadily as a songwriter ever since. Some of the hit tunes he has penned include Easton Corbin’s “A Little More Country Than That,” Jimmy Wayne’s “I Will,” and Blake Shelton’s “Some Beach.” Joey + Rory just finished an arena tour with the Zac Brown Band, where they played the role of emcees in addition to performing.



LADY ANTEBELLUM

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR • ALBUM OF THE YEAR

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • SINGLE RECORD OF

THE YEAR (PRODUCER) • SONG OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

SONG OF THE YEAR (COMPOSER) • VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Lady Antebellum’s second album *Need You Now* posted big first-week sales numbers when it sold 481,000 copies in late January. The album was released just as honors were pouring in for “I Run to You,” their first-ever No. 1 single released in the summer of 2009. Timing could not have been better: The title track from *Need You Now* not only topped the country chart, but after several TV performances, it crossed over to the pop side and cracked the Top 10 on the Hot 100 as well. Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood, who were classmates at the University of Georgia, moved to Nashville and joined forces in 2006 with Hillary Scott, daughter of singer Linda Davis. Besides performing, the trio also clicked as writers, penning “All We’d Ever Need” and “Love Don’t Live Here” during one of their very first sessions. The trio’s first album, was the rare freshman effort to debut at No. 1 and go platinum. That out-of-the-gate success landed them on an arena tour with Martina McBride, followed by tours with Keith Urban and Kenny Chesney. The trio picked up its first ACM Award in 2007 for Top New Vocal Group. Since then, Lady A has been performing about 200 shows annually and this year has landed an opening spot for Tim McGraw. Lady Antebellum leads tonight’s nominations with an impressive seven nods.

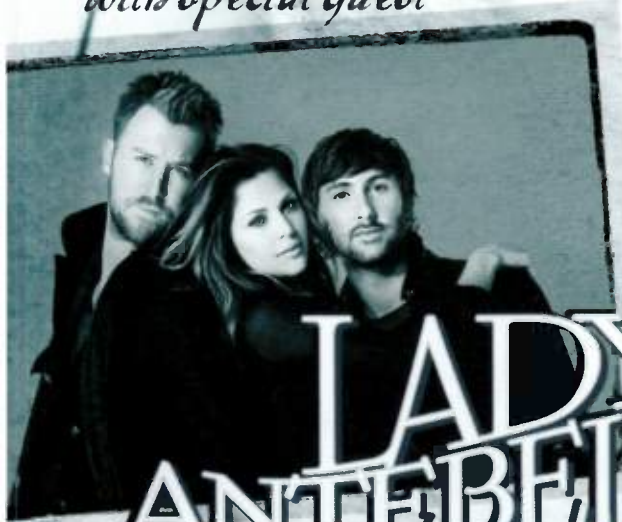
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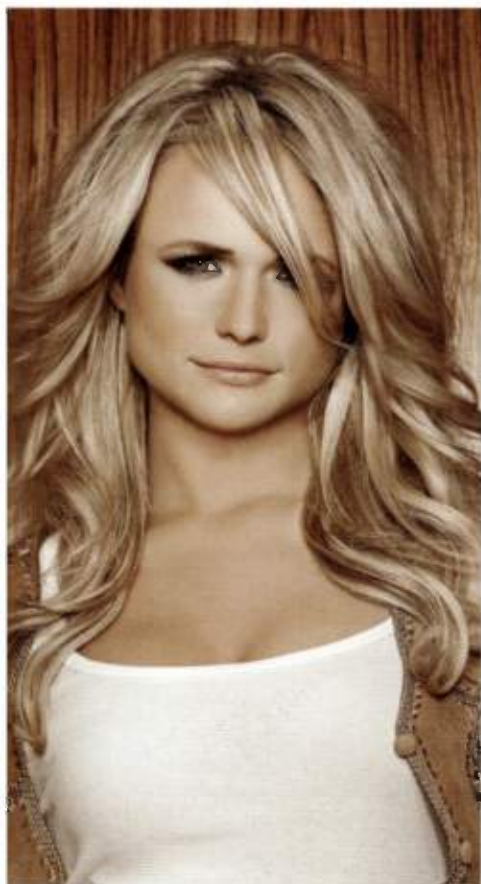
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MIRANDA LAMBERT

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

ALBUM OF THE YEAR • SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • SONG OF THE YEAR (COMPOSER)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

The titles of two-time ACM Award winner Miranda Lambert's songs suggest there's a fire in her belly. "Gunpowder & Lead," "Kerosene" and her first No. 1 single, "White Liar," all fit right in with her string of songs that chronicle relationships gone awry. Mixing elements of a small town girl and a rowdy headbanger, Lambert has made an impression and different media have picked up on one trait or another: *People* magazine put her on 2009's "100 Most Beautiful People" list and in 2008, *Esquire* named her its "Terrifying Woman of the Year." Working with producers Frank Liddell and Mike Wrucke, who have been with her since the start, Lambert took a different approach with her third album *Revolution*, recording 13 of its 15 tracks in a weeklong session in early 2009. When *Revolution* opened at No. 1, Miranda secured her place as one of only three country artists in the 19-year history of *SoundScan* whose first three albums debuted at No. 1. Her 2007 release, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, was named ACM Album of the Year for 2007. Lambert, a Texan who now lives on a farm in Oklahoma, first came to prominence when she finished third in the first season of the televised singing competition *Nashville Star*. Earlier this year, Miranda opened shows for Brad Paisley, and in March she began her first headlining tour, appropriately titled *Roadside Bars and Pink Guitars*. She will also be appearing as part of the 2010 Lilith Fair this summer.

LITTLE BIG TOWN

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

After spending 2008 opening shows for the likes of George Strait, Martina McBride, Sugarland and Carrie Underwood, Little Big Town graduated to headliner status in January 2009 and spent most of the year on the road. They closed out the year in the studio recording their fourth album *Little White Church*, the title track of which was released earlier this year. The album that helped Little Big Town cross over into mainstream music, *A Place to Land*, was initially released as an independent and then picked up by Capitol Nashville. It yielded the Top 40 country hits "Fine Line" and "I'm With The Band." Hailing from Alabama, members Karen Fairchild and Kimberly Schlapman began singing together while attending Samford University in Birmingham. Both moved to Nashville in the mid-1990s and invited old Alabama friend Jimi Westbrook to join them in 1998. Arkansas native Phillip Sweet completed the band later that year. Over the course of three albums, they have retained their traditional country roots while pushing their music toward '70s-style pop-rock popularized by



groups such as the Eagles and Fleetwood Mac. The band was named the ACM Top New Vocal Group for 2006. Active in various charitable causes including the T.J. Martell Foundation, Little Big Town participated in the Nashville Light The Night Walk last fall, at which 2,500 people walked through the streets of downtown Nashville and raised nearly \$6,000 to support the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. The band is among the headliners on the 2010 *Country Throwdown Tour* that starts May 14 in Tampa, Florida and ends June 20 in Mountain View, California.



Miranda Lambert

*Congratulations on your nominations
and Good Luck Tonight!*

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THE LOST TRAILERS

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

The genesis of The Lost Trailers was, appropriately enough, in church. Singer Ryder Lee and guitarist Stokes Nielson first joined forces as teenagers in a church band, naming themselves Ryder Stokes and bringing in drummer Jeff Potter. The addition of Stokes' younger brother Andrew on keyboards and bassist Manny Medina fleshed out the lineup. The band changed its name after several unfortunate incidents involving more than one equipment trailer. The Lost Trailers really came to life performing at one of Willie Nelson's Fourth of July picnics, and they haven't looked back. Their debut album, *Holler Back*, rose into the Top 5 on the *Billboard* country albums chart, driven by the success of the title track and the emotional ballad "How 'Bout You Don't." Known for energetic live shows, The Lost Trailers lived on the road headlining clubs and, once they landed a major label record deal with Sony Music, started opening for acts such as Sugarland, Carrie Underwood, Dierks Bentley and Kenny Chesney. The Lost Trailers just finished opening shows for Tim



McGraw and will join the *Country Throwdown Tour* this summer. For their tours, they have adopted the message of "Lean, Clean and Local," a campaign they started last year that translates into using commercial flights to cut CO2 emissions and partnering with Keep America Beautiful where local branches facilitate recycling at concerts rather than bringing a team to each venue. Prior to the earthquake in Haiti, The Lost Trailers had been involved in supporting the orphanage Danita's Children, an association that was stepped up after the recent tragedy.



DAVE MATTHEWS

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

In 1991, South African singer-guitarist Dave Matthews assembled the Dave Matthews Band, quickly developing a strong fan base and releasing two platinum-selling albums within the first four years. Now the highest-grossing American act of all time, the Dave Matthews Band also became one of only two groups to have five consecutive studio albums debut at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 200 with last year's *Big Whiskey and the GrooGrux King*. Matthews has also enjoyed a successful career as a solo artist, garnering a Grammy for his 2003 single "Gravedigger" and teaming up with several artists through the years including Béla Fleck and the Flecktones, Emmylou Harris and Blue Man Group. He made his first major splash on the country scene last year with his appearance on Kenny Chesney's "I'm Alive," a cut from Chesney's 2008 release *Lucky Old Sun*. An avid supporter of multiple causes, Matthews has been a member of the Farm Aid Board of Directors since 2001, and he and the band have donated more than \$6 million to various humanitarian and environmental initiatives through their Bama Works Fund. This is Matthews' first ACM nomination.

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REBA MCENTIRE

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR



In the year since Reba McEntire debuted her sassy single "Strange" at last year's Academy of Country Music Awards, the superstar's career has been on an astounding trajectory. Her first solo album of new material in six years, *Keep On Loving You* became Reba's first to debut at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 200. The album was her 11th No. 1 on the country albums chart, giving her sole possession of the record for the most No. 1 country albums among female acts. "Consider Me Gone" had a four-week reign at No. 1 on the country singles chart, becoming the longest-running chart-topper of her career and her 34th No. 1, a string that began in January 1983 with "Can't Even Get the Blues." Last year, *Billboard*, *Country Aircheck* and *Mediabase* named her the biggest female hit-maker in country music history. Reba's last 13 studio albums have all been certified platinum or better; worldwide she has sold more than 55 million albums. Having branched out into television and Broadway, Reba is focused again on music and just completed a tour with George Strait and Lee Ann Womack. A 12-time ACM Award winner, McEntire holds the record for the most wins in the Top Female Vocalist category with seven.

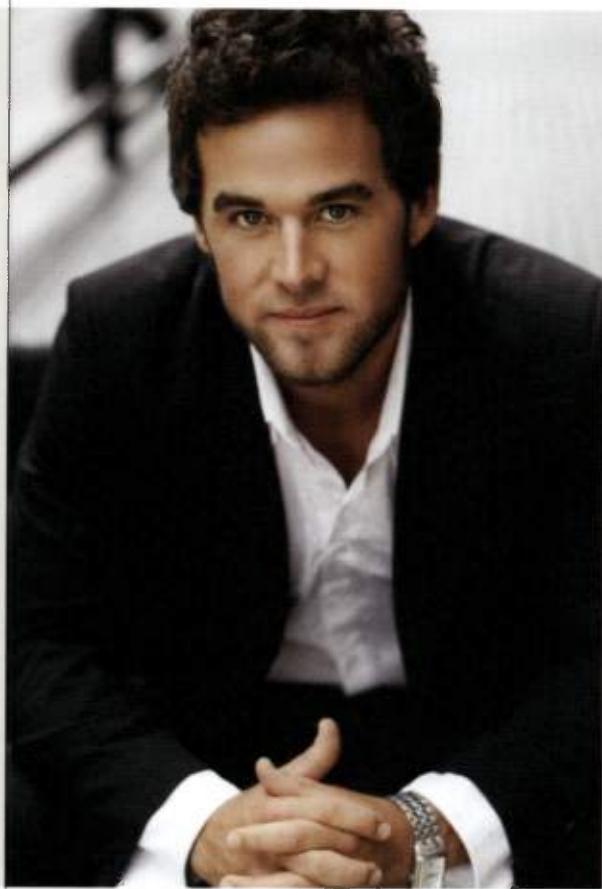
MONTGOMERY GENTRY

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

With the release of *Back When I Knew It All* in 2008, Kentucky natives and honky tonk ambassadors Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry celebrated a decade together as a duo. The album produced three Top 5 singles: "One In Every Crowd" reached the top tier after "Back When I Knew It All" and "Roll With Me" hit No. 1 on the country chart. Montgomery Gentry returned to the recording studio in 2009 to work on their seventh studio album *Freedom*, which was released this spring. Ten years after making their Grand Ole Opry debut, Montgomery Gentry was inducted last year as a member. At holiday time, Montgomery Gentry worked on the promotion of "The Uniform of Heroes: The Taste of Support," which provides an opportunity for people to send hand-written postcards to any service member stationed worldwide. An album the duo released at Cracker Barrel stores, *For Our Heroes*, raised money for the Wounded Warrior Project. The singers are also active with the T. J. Martell Foundation and the Make-A-Wish Foundation, and Eddie works closely with Camp Horsin' Around, a place for chronically and terminally ill children. Besides their own headlining dates, the duo also appeared as part of Kenny Chesney's *Sun City Carnival Tour* in 2009 and is among the headliners on this summer's inaugural multi-act *Country Throwdown Tour* created by the organizers of the *Vans Warped Tour*. Named the Academy's Top New Vocal Group for 1999, Montgomery Gentry is also this year's winner of the ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award, which will be presented live on tonight's show.





DAVID NAIL

NOMINATED FOR:

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

David Nail tried moving to Nashville twice before he settled on staying in Music City. Now that his single "Red Light" has made it into the Top 10 and scored Nail his first ACM nomination, it looks like he made the right decision to leave his hometown of Kennett, Missouri. The son of a former high school band director who grew up on the music of Elton John and the Beatles, Nail strives to bridge the gap between traditional country music and more R&B styles like those of Lionel Richie and Ray Charles. His debut album, *I'm About to Come Alive*, was named after a song that Train recorded in 2003, and Nail lends it new life on his debut album. He also co-wrote four of the album's original tracks, including "This Time Around" and the moody closing song "Missouri." A high school sports star, the second time Nail tried his hand at music he also returned to the ball field, helping a college buddy coach the Twitty City Knights in Nashville. Still sports-minded, Nail helped Chicago Bears tight end Greg Olsen raise more than \$50,000 last year to benefit the Greg Olsen Foundation -- Receptions for Research, an organization that raises funds for cancer research. Nail is opening shows for Miranda Lambert, who sings on Nail's sultry "Strangers On A Train," during her *Roadside Bars and Pink Guitars* tour this spring.

RANDY ROGERS BAND

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Together for 10 years, Randy Rogers and his Texas-based bandmates surprised Nashville when their self-titled fourth album debuted as the most-downloaded country album on iTunes and hit No. 3 on the *Billboard* country chart. Singer Randy Rogers, fiddler Brady Black, drummer Les Lawless, guitarist Geoffrey Hill and bassist Jon Richardson have earned a reputation for putting on an exciting live show, one that got *Rolling Stone* to put them in a list of 10 "must-see" bands. They are true road warriors, playing more than 200 shows per year for the last several years. They have opened for Willie Nelson, the Eagles, Gary Allan and Dierks Bentley, taking a break last year from touring for their inaugural For The Sake Of The Shot Golf Tournament in New Braunfels, Texas. The tournament raised more than \$52,000 for Camp Sweeney, a camp for diabetic children. The band also participated on a compilation CD to benefit Hill Country Conservancy in central Texas. Their current tour of Texas and nearby states started in March and winds up at the end of May.



RASCAL FLATTS

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Ten-time ACM Award winners Rascal Flatts became the first country act to perform a concert at Wrigley Field, the home of the Chicago Cubs, as part of their *American Living Unstoppable Tour* last year. That sold-out show was further evidence of their appeal as a live attraction. They have played 400 dates as a headline act and have sold nearly 6 million tickets. The ACM Top Vocal Group every year since 2002, lead vocalist Gary LeVox, bassist-singer Jay DeMarcus and guitarist-singer Joe Don Rooney have been together since 1999. Jay and Joe Don were in the touring band for Chely Wright, while at the same time Jay and cousin Gary had a local club act in Nashville. The three joined forces as Rascal Flatts and within a few years created some of the most successful records to come out of Nashville in the 21st century, including "These Days," "Bless The Broken Road," "What Hurts The Most" and "Take Me There." Rascal Flatts has more titles on *Billboard's* Top 100 Songs of the Decade than any other country group. All of their albums have gone multi-platinum, with



five of their studio albums topping the country chart and their last four hitting No. 1 on the *Billboard* Top 200. Part of Rascal Flatts' participation in the Haiti relief efforts involved creating a video that spread the word about the need for help. Rascal Flatts has visited U.S. troops in Iraq on a USO Tour and raised more than \$3 million for the Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt University among other charitable works that were recognized last year with the ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award.



DARIUS RUCKER

NOMINATED FOR:

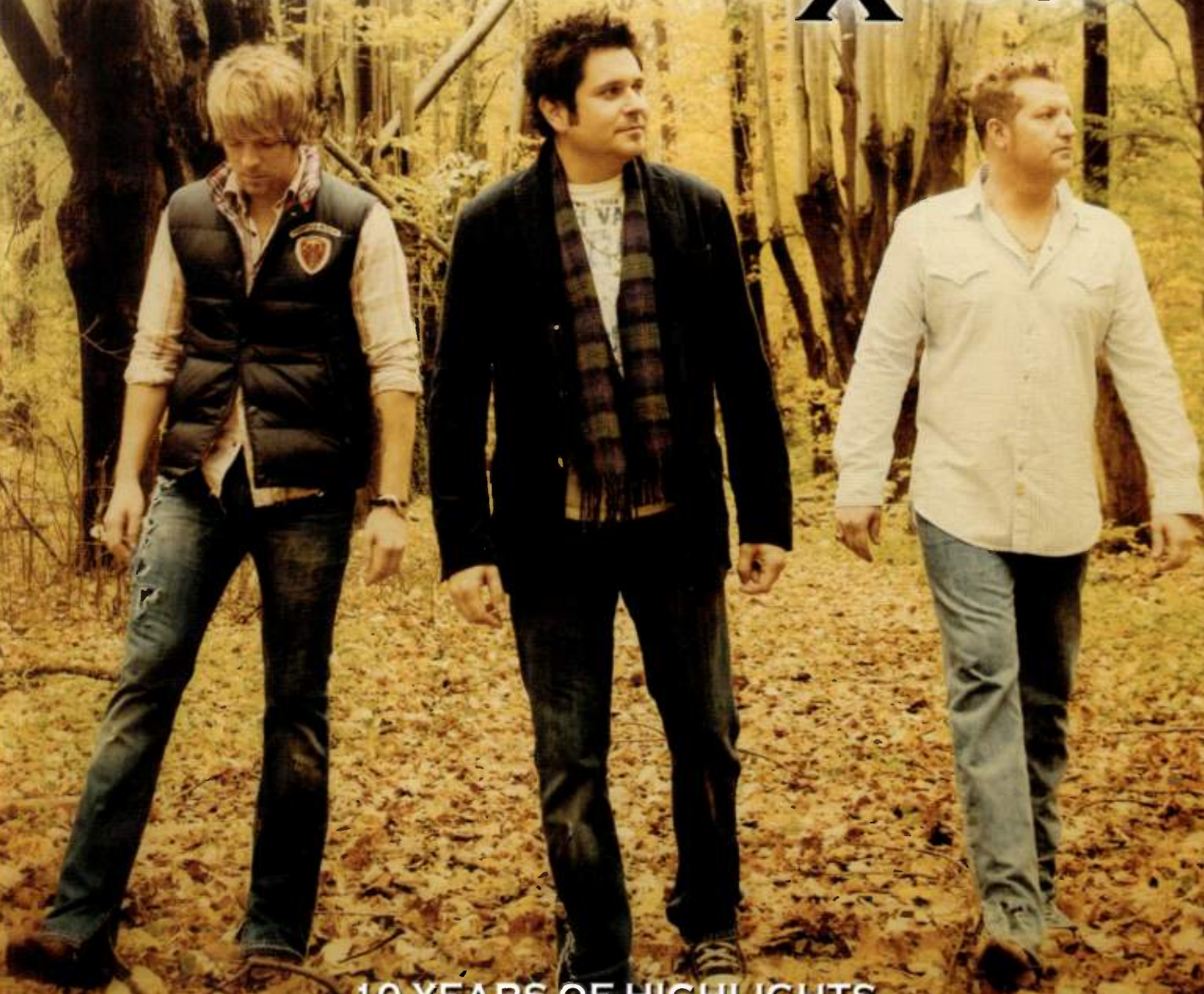
TOP MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Darius Rucker's first country album, *Learn To Live*, debuted at No. 1 and generated three No. 1 singles, "Don't Think I Don't Think About It," "It Won't Be Like This For Long" and "Alright." As frontman for pop powerhouse Hootie & the Blowfish, Rucker shook up the rock world when their album *Cracked Rear View* became the biggest-selling debut in history with 16 million copies sold. A decade and a half later, country radio and fans embraced Darius with similar enthusiasm. He delivered a big thank you by performing a free show at the Grand Ole Opry for *Jimmy Kimmel Live!* in August. An avid golfer and intense football fan, Darius sang the national anthem last year before the game between the Tennessee Titans and his favorite team, the Miami Dolphins. He also became a spokesman for First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move campaign to encourage communities, families and kids to lead healthier, more active lives. Darius has been active with Musicians On Call, which provides live and recorded music for patients in healthcare facilities. Rucker recently finished a string of opening dates for Rascal Flatts and will be mixing headlining shows with festival appearances this summer. This is his first ACM nomination.

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Rascal Flatts

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AND GOOD LUCK TONIGHT!

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BLAKE SHELTON

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

The fastest-rising single of Blake Shelton's career, "Hillbilly Bone" featuring Trace Adkins, hit No. 1 on the *Billboard* chart not long after he assisted in reading nominations for the Academy of Country Music Awards. Having four of his first five albums reach gold status, Shelton converted to the idea of the "six-pack," releasing six-song EP collections in place of full albums. *Hillbilly Bone* is Shelton's first effort; he plans to release a second six-pack in late summer and is considering another collection for the end of the year. A notoriously avid user of Twitter, Shelton has found several new ways to promote his music and connect with fans. Prior to the release of *Hillbilly Bone*, his website featured weekly videos with him reading various "Top 6" lists. As a teenager in his hometown of Ada, Oklahoma, Shelton performed at weddings and talent contests until songwriter Mae Axton encouraged him to move to Nashville. After seven years of odd jobs and having a record company fold after he signed to it, Blake hit No. 1 with the single



"Austin." He has since returned to Oklahoma, where he lives on a ranch outside his hometown. Active with several charitable organizations, he and Miranda Lambert teamed up on Valentine's Day this year for a benefit concert to raise money for the Texoma Animal Improved Living Society and area veterans groups.



STEEL MAGNOLIA

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

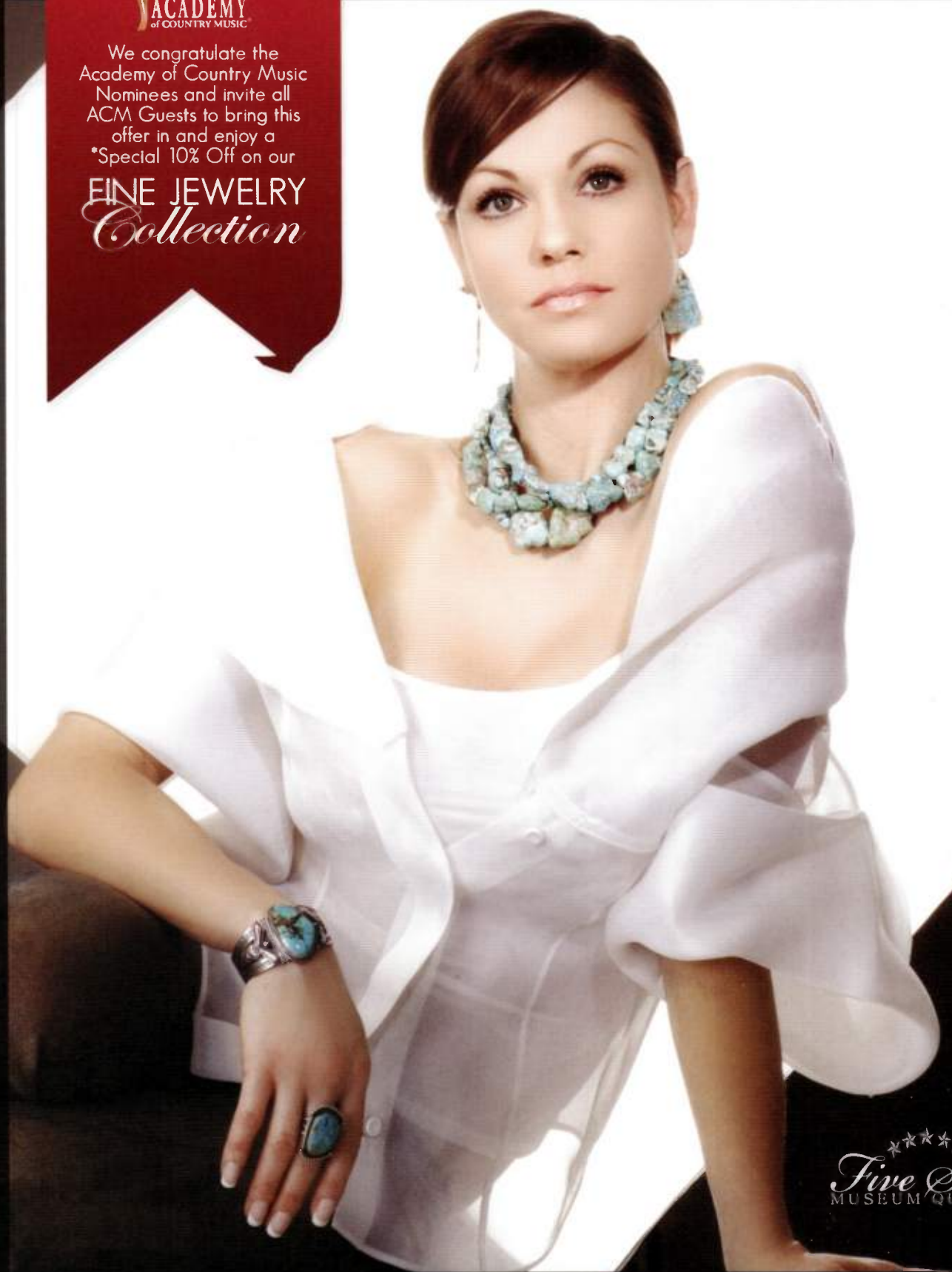
TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

One of the most prominent trends in country music in 2009 was the growth in popularity of duets, especially the pairing of male and female voices. Steel Magnolia was founded on that concept. Meghan Linsey, a New Orleans native and Joshua Scott Jones, an Illinois rocker who first tried to establish a music career in Los Angeles, met in a Nashville karaoke bar. After singing a duet on Air Supply's "I'm All Out Of Love," the two knew they had a special chemistry. That proved true when the duo, a couple offstage as well as on, won season two of the hit CMT show *Can You Duet*. Meghan, who moved to Nashville the week after she graduated from high school, had previously opened shows for Toby Keith, Brad Paisley, Travis Tritt and others. Josh, fresh from the clubs of Los Angeles, received some airplay for his single "Long Lovely Night." Formed in 2006, Steel Magnolia scored their first Top 15 hit on the singles chart with "Keep On Lovin' You." The single is featured in the soundtrack of the recent hit film *Valentine's Day*. The duo has yet to release their first album, but released their simply titled *Steel Magnolia EP* in February.



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SUGARLAND

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

The third studio album from Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush, *Love On The Inside*, skyrocketed them to superstardom, reaching No. 1 on both the *Billboard* Top 200 and Top Country Albums charts and propelling them to headliner status in 2009 as they toured the U.S. and six countries in Europe. The Atlanta natives have landed five No. 1 country singles, the latest being "It Happens." Nettles performed at "We Are One: The Obama Inaugural Celebration at the Lincoln Memorial" and the duo participated earlier this year in a re-recording of "We Are The World" that benefits relief efforts in Haiti. Their live CD/DVD, *Live On The Inside*, landed another No. 1 in 2009 for the duo, whose overall album sales have topped 7 million. They also released the holiday collection *Gold and Green*, their first Christmas album. "Stay," from Sugarland's *Enjoy The Ride*, earned both the ACM Song of the Year and Single Record of the Year for 2007 and is the first Song of the Year to be penned solo by a female artist since 1972. Sugarland's 2010 North American tour, titled *The Incredible Machine*, begins April 23 in Primm,



Nevada, and will travel to more than 55 cities. The Academy's reigning Top Vocal Duo spent the early part of this year recording their next album, which is scheduled for a summer release.

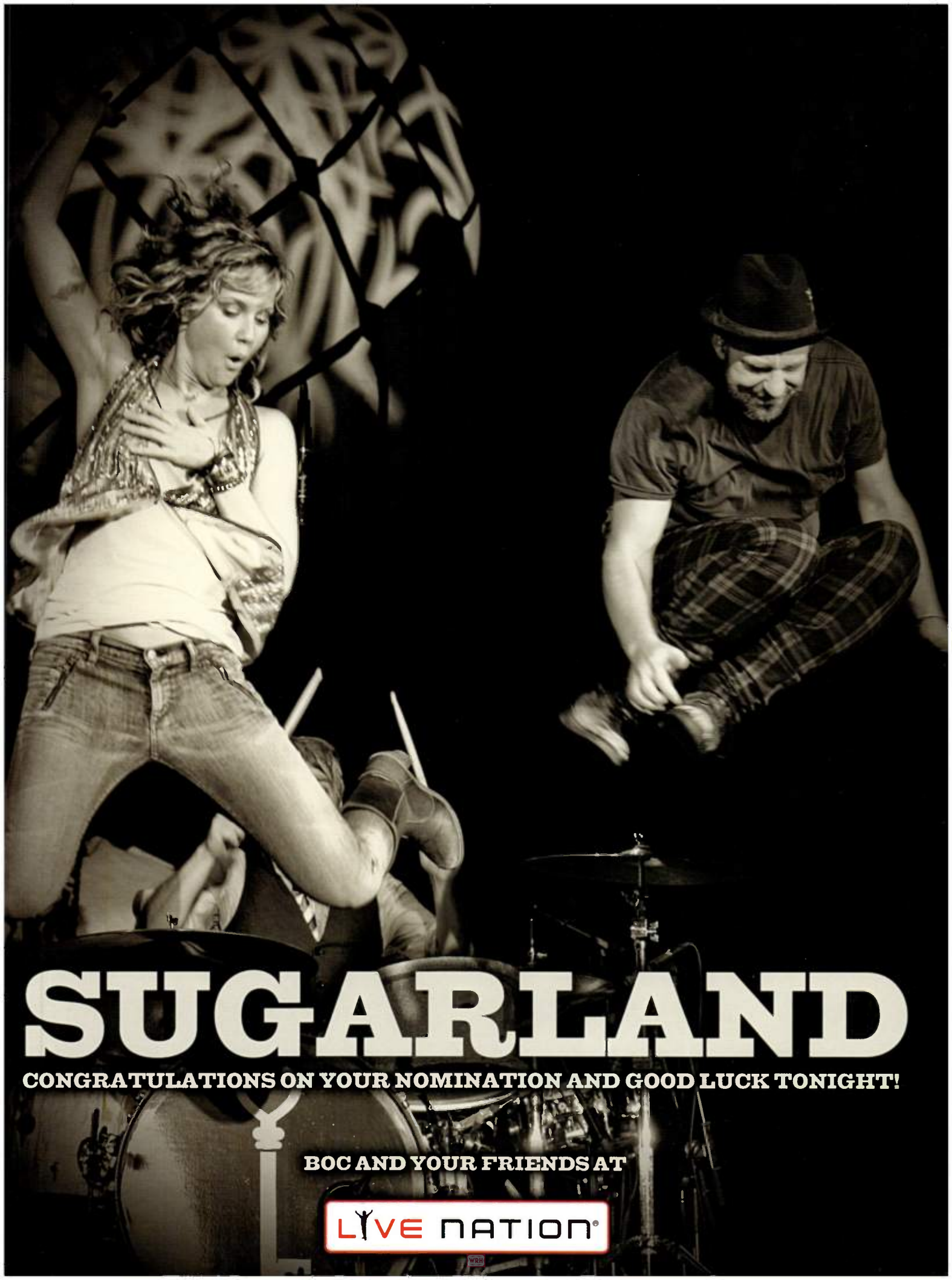
RANDY TRAVIS

NOMINATED FOR:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

The Academy of Country Music honored Randy Travis last September for his creative and commercial contributions to country music, presenting him with the Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award. Twenty-five years ago, Randy was the first of the "New Traditionalists," and in the years since he has sold more than 25 million albums and hit No. 1 on the country singles chart 22 times. His last studio album, *Around The Bend*, was his first secular album in a decade; both it and a greatest hits compilation landed in the *Billboard* Country Top 5. Carrie Underwood had a hit with Travis' "I Told You So" last year, nearly two decades after Travis' version of the song reached No. 1. The two performed the song together during Grand Ole Opry Week on *American Idol*, the show on which he also mentored the Season 8 cast that included now up-and-coming country singer Danny Gokey. A 10-time ACM Award winner, Travis' current tours alternate between country music and "inspirational appearances," where he and his band perform acoustically and Travis shares personal testimonies. He also continues with his acting career, recently completing the film *Jerusalem Countdown*.





SUGARLAND

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LEE ANN WOMACK

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

A five-time ACM Award winner, Lee Ann Womack returned to the more traditional country music she sang early in her career when she entered the studio to record *Call Me Crazy*, her critically acclaimed seventh album. The first single "Last Call," about an alcohol-induced phone call from a bar stool, connected with past Womack hits such as "I May Hate Myself In The Morning" and "The Fool." *Call Me Crazy* reached the Top 5 on the *Billboard* country chart, continuing Womack's string of landing all her albums in the Top 20. In 2000, Womack had a mega-hit with her crossover hit single, "I Hope You Dance." That rare musician who studied the music business in college, Womack has been working on a new album that is penciled in for a summer release. The first single, "There Is A God," made its debut in November. Before her new album is released, Lee Ann can be heard with Alan Jackson on the Vern Gosdin classic "Till the End," which appears on Jackson's latest album, *Freight Train*. Host of the second annual ACM Honors gala in 2009, Womack made her film acting debut last year as one of the stars of the independent film *Noble Things*. The Texas native was part of the all-star lineup that opened the Dallas Cowboys' new football stadium, which led to Lee Ann being asked to join George Strait and Reba McEntire on their winter 2010 tour.

CHRIS YOUNG

NOMINATED FOR:

TOP NEW SOLO VOCALIST
OF THE YEAR

Using Keith Whitley and Randy Travis as inspiration, *Nashville Star* winner Chris Young tapped into a modern twist on traditional country to generate his first No. 1 hit in "Gettin' You Home (The Black Dress Song)." His second album, *The Man I Want to Be*, hit No. 6 on the *Billboard* country chart this past year, the title track currently climbing the ranks of country radio. For his second collection, Young got the opportunity to duet with one of his heroes, Willie Nelson, on the Waylon Jennings classic "Rose in Paradise." The grandson of *Louisiana Hayride* performer Richard Yates, Young spent his teen years performing in Nashville clubs, self-releasing an album just as he was finishing high school. Chris attempted to juggle college studies at Middle Tennessee State University and a performing career for a couple of years before dedicating himself to music. The Murfreesboro, Tennessee, native left home to play



regularly at a honky-tonk in Arlington, Texas, returning after an audition in Houston for *Nashville Star* brought him back. Young, who toured with Martina McBride in 2008, will be opening shows for Alan Jackson through May 23. He also headlined this year's Music 4 Music benefit at Ravenwood High School in Tennessee to raise money for the school's band instruments.



Artist:

- Raymond C. Yazzie,
- Vernon Haskie
- Donnie Supplee

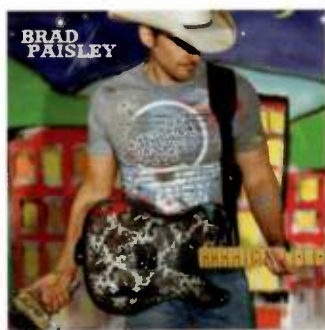


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ALBUM OF THE YEAR



AMERICAN SATURDAY NIGHT - BRAD PAISLEY

(ARISTA NASHVILLE) PRODUCED BY: CHRIS DUBOIS, FRANK ROGERS



LADY ANTEBELLUM - LADY ANTEBELLUM

(CAPITOL RECORDS NASHVILLE) PRODUCED BY: VICTORIA SHAW, PAUL WORLEY



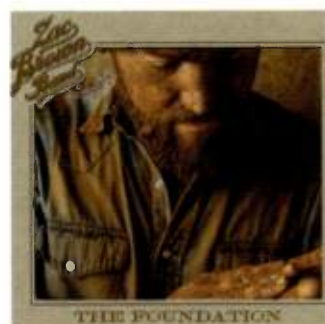
PLAY ON - CARRIE UNDERWOOD

(19/ARISTA NASHVILLE) PRODUCED BY: MARK BRIGHT
 "QUITTER" PRODUCED BY: MAX MARTIN & SHELLBACK
 FOR MARATONE PRODUCTIONS AND MARK BRIGHT



REVOLUTION - MIRANDA LAMBERT

(COLUMBIA NASHVILLE) PRODUCED BY: FRANK LIDDELL, MIKE WRUCKE



THE FOUNDATION - ZAC BROWN BAND

(SOUTHERN GROUND/BIGGER PICTURE/ATLANTIC)
 PRODUCED BY: KEITH STEGALL, ZAC BROWN



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SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR



"NEED YOU NOW" - LADY ANTEBELLUM

(CAPITOL RECORDS NASHVILLE)

PRODUCED BY: LADY ANTEBELLUM, PAUL WORLEY



"PEOPLE ARE CRAZY" - BILLY CURRINGTON

(MERCURY) **PRODUCED BY:** CARSON CHAMBERLAIN, BILLY CURRINGTON



"RED LIGHT" - DAVID NAIL

(MCA NASHVILLE)

PRODUCED BY: FRANK LIDDELL, MIKE WRUCKE



"TOES" - ZAC BROWN BAND

(SOUTHERN GROUND / BIGGER PICTURE / ATLANTIC)

PRODUCED BY: KEITH STEGALL, ZAC BROWN



"WHITE LIAR" - MIRANDA LAMBERT

(COLUMBIA NASHVILLE)

PRODUCED BY: FRANK LIDDELL, MIKE WRUCKE

SONG OF THE YEAR

"COWBOY CASANOVA" – CARRIE UNDERWOOD

COMPOSERS: MIKE ELIZONDO, BRETT JAMES, CARRIE UNDERWOOD

PUBLISHERS: BRETT JAMES CORNELIUS MUSIC (ASCAP),
CARRIE OKIE MUSIC (BMI), RINCON AVE MUSIC (ASCAP),
STAGE THREE SONGS (ASCAP)



"NEED YOU NOW" – LADY ANTEBELLUM

COMPOSERS: DAVE HAYWOOD, JOSH KEAR, CHARLES KELLEY, HILLARY SCOTT

PUBLISHERS: EMI FORAY MUSIC (SESAC), DARTH BUDDHA (ASCAP), DWHAYWOOD
MUSIC (BMI), HILLARY DAWN PUBLISHING (SESAC), RADIOBULLETS PUBLISHING (BMI),
WARNER-TAMERLANE PUBLISHING CORP. (BMI), YEAR OF THE DOG MUSIC (ASCAP)



"PEOPLE ARE CRAZY" – BILLY CURRINGTON

COMPOSERS: BOBBY BRADDOCK, TROY JONES

PUBLISHERS: CROZIER MUSIC ENTERPRISES LLC (BMI),
SONY/ATV TREE PUBLISHING (BMI), TILTAWHIRL MUSIC (BMI)



"WHITE LIAR" – MIRANDA LAMBERT

COMPOSERS: NATALIE HEMBY, MIRANDA LAMBERT

PUBLISHERS: PINK DOG PUBLISHING (BMI), SONY/ATV TREE PUBLISHING (BMI),
TILTAWHIRL MUSIC (BMI)



"YOU BELONG WITH ME" – TAYLOR SWIFT

COMPOSERS: LIZ ROSE, TAYLOR SWIFT

PUBLISHERS: SONY/ATV TREE PUBLISHING (BMI), TAYLOR SWIFT MUSIC (BMI),
BARBARA ORBISON WORLD PUBLISHING (SESAC), POTTING SHED MUSIC (SESAC)



VIDEO OF THE YEAR



"BOOTS ON" – RANDY HOUSER

PRODUCER: TAMERON HEDGE

DIRECTOR: ERIC WELCH (DRAKE FOOTAGE: VICKIE VAUGHN)



"NEED YOU NOW" – LADY ANTEBELLUM

PRODUCER: CLARKE GALLIVAN

DIRECTOR: DAVID MCCLISTER



"WELCOME TO THE FUTURE" – BRAD PAISLEY

PRODUCERS: MARK KALBFELD, JIM SHEA, PETER TILDEN

DIRECTOR: JIM SHEA



"WHITE LIAR" – MIRANDA LAMBERT

PRODUCER: TAMERON HEDGE

DIRECTOR: CHRIS HICKY



"YOU BELONG WITH ME" – TAYLOR SWIFT

PRODUCER: RANDY BREWER

DIRECTOR: ROMAN WHITE

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

"HILLBILLY BONE" - BLAKE SHELTON FEATURING TRACE ADKINS

(REPRISE RECORDS/WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE)

PRODUCER: SCOTT HENDRICKS



"HONKY TONK STOMP" - BROOKS & DUNN FEATURING BILLY GIBBONS (ARISTA NASHVILLE)

PRODUCER: RONNIE DUNN, TERRY MCBRIDE



"I TOLD YOU SO" - CARRIE UNDERWOOD FEATURING RANDY TRAVIS (19/ARISTA NASHVILLE)

PRODUCER: MARK BRIGHT



"I'M ALIVE" - KENNY CHESNEY WITH DAVE MATTHEWS (BLUE CHAIR/BNA)

PRODUCED BY: BUDDY CANNON, KENNY CHESNEY



"SEEING STARS" - JACK INGRAM FEATURING PATTY GRIFFIN (BIG MACHINE RECORDS)

PRODUCED BY: JACK INGRAM, JEREMY STOVER



CLIFFIE STONE PIONEER AWARD

MARTY ROBBINS

With his smooth voice and boisterous stage presence, Marty Robbins proved just how far the boundaries of country music could stretch. Born in Arizona, Robbins learned to play guitar in the U.S. Navy during World War II. He then returned to his home state where he began to grow a following as a musical performer. He landed his own TV show, *Western Caravan*, and signed a deal with Columbia Records in 1951 thanks to one of his guests – Little Jimmy Dickens. Robbins' charted his first No. 1 single, "I'll Go On Alone," in 1953 and began an illustrious career that lasted four decades. Robbins was a master at performing all types of musical styles, from the teenage fare of "A White Sport Coat (And a Pink Carnation)" to the 7-week No.1 gunfighter ballad "El Paso." He dabbled in rockabilly and Hawaiian music while also charting country hits like "Don't Worry," "Devil Woman" and "My Woman, My Woman, My Wife." A member of the Grand Ole Opry, Robbins was the last performer to play the historic Ryman Auditorium stage and the first to play the brand new Grand Ole Opry House in 1974. Robbins also used his big personality to land roles in both TV and movies, while offstage he pursued his passion for race car driving. Robbins was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1982, and he died two months later on Dec. 8 after suffering his third heart attack. His smile and versatile talent have continued to bring new generations of fans to his music.



MEL TILLIS

Mel Tillis may be well known for his stutter, but it's his talent as a songwriter and performer that earned him a spot in the Country Music Hall of Fame. Born in Florida, Tillis suffered a childhood bout of malaria that left him with the speech impediment that he turned into a charming part of his down-home stage persona. After studying music as a child and serving in the U.S. Air Force, Tillis moved to Nashville in 1956 to try his luck as a songwriter. Country star Webb Pierce took the Tillis-penned tune "I'm Tired" to No. 3, which earned Tillis a writing deal with Pierce's Cedarwood Music. Tillis crafted several more hits for Pierce ("I Ain't Never") as well as Bobby Bare ("Detroit City"), Ray Price ("One More Time") and Kenny Rogers and the First Edition ("Ruby, Don't Take Your Love to Town"). The songwriter charted his own first Top 40 hit with "The Violet and a Rose" and continued to perform his own songs, charting the hits "Wine," "Stateside," "Life Turned Her That Way," "Good Woman Blues," "Coca Cola Cowboy" and "I Ain't Never," which gave him his first No. 1 hit in 1972. Tillis branched out into movies, starring with

Burt Reynolds in *W.W. and the Dixie Dance Kings* and with Clint Eastwood in *Any Which Way But Loose*. Songwriting, however, continued to be his first passion. Tillis wrote hits for Nashville's new generation, like "Honey (Open That Door)" for Ricky Skaggs and "Diggin' Up Bones" for Randy Travis. In 2002, his daughter, Pam Tillis, recorded an entire album of her father's songs called *It's All Relative*. Tillis continues to perform today and was inducted into the Grand Ole Opry cast in 2007.

JIM REEVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD

KEITH URBAN

Country music's global reach expanded greatly when multi-platinum artist Keith Urban hit the scene. Born in New Zealand and raised in Australia, Urban has achieved international superstar status since he moved to Nashville in 1992 to launch his music career. He is known for mixing elements of pop and rock music with traditional country, appealing to a wide audience beyond the country scope. A six-time ACM Award winner, Urban is known for his many hits including several chart-toppers such as "Somebody Like You," "You'll Think of Me," "Making Memories Of Us" and "Sweet Thing." He continues to be a global music sensation, sharing his passion for country music around the world as one of the hottest touring acts in music. Urban's recent world tours have taken his show to six countries on three different continents where he has played to packed houses.



ROD ESSIG

MAE BOREN AXTON AWARD

Former ACM Chairman Rod Essig started his expansive career in the music industry as vice president and co-owner of Variety Artists International, a booking agency based in Minneapolis. In 1992, Essig joined Creative Artists Agency and headed to Los Angeles for a time before moving to Nashville, where he was instrumental in opening the agency's Music City operation. Essig currently helps to steer the careers of some of country music's biggest acts, including Tim McGraw, Reba McEntire, Martina McBride and LeAnn Rimes. He has served on the Academy's board of directors in various capacities for 14 years. During his tenure as chairman, the Academy rebranded and re-launched its charitable arm, ACM Lifting Lives™. The Academy expanded its reach in the digital realm with fan voting for the Entertainer of the Year and Top New Artist categories and its presence on television with the top-rated *George Strait: ACM Artist of the Decade All Star Concert* special and significantly higher ratings for the annually televised *Academy of Country Music Awards*. Essig has also been a key supporter of the ACM Chairman's Ride (formerly called the ACM Charity Motorcycle Ride) since its inception in 2004.



CRAZY HEART

TEX RITTER AWARD

Country music truly is at the heart of the award-winning film *Crazy Heart*. The romantic drama stars Academy Award-winner Jeff Bridges as "Bad Blake," a broken down country singer/songwriter who wants to turn his life around after establishing a relationship with a young journalist named Jean, played by Oscar nominee Maggie Gyllenhaal. Bad Blake's professional career starts to look up when he reconnects with his old band member Tommy Sweet (Collin Farrell), who wants Blake to write songs for him. The movie soundtrack, produced by T Bone Burnett, featured work by late guitarist Stephen Bruton. The original song "The Weary Kind," written by country singer/songwriter Ryan Bingham, won both the Golden Globe and the Oscar in 2010. (Studio Production Companies – Informant Media and Butcher's Run Films / Director – Scott Cooper / Executive Producers – Jeff Bridges, Michael A. Simpson, Eric Brenner and Leslie Belzberg / Producers – Scott Cooper, Robert Duvall, Rob Carliner, Judy Cairo and T Bone Burnett.)

POET'S AWARD

CINDY WALKER

A member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, Cindy Walker might have just as easily become a Hollywood starlet. Her entertainment career began in stage shows in her native Texas, but she soon made her way west to Los Angeles where she talked her way into an impromptu audition for Bing Crosby. The legendary performer recorded Walker's song "Lone Star Trail," which became a Top 10 hit. That break began a 13-year stint in Hollywood, where Walker appeared in and wrote songs for Western films. Western Swing legend Bob Wills recorded more than 50 of Walker's songs, including "Cherokee Maiden," "Bubbles in My Beer" and "You're From Texas." Walker went on to pen hits for Johnny Bond, Ernest Tubb, Hank Snow, Webb Pierce, Gene Autry, Jim Reeves and Eddy Arnold. It was Arnold who pitched her the song title "You Don't Know Me," which Walker turned into one of the most enduring country hits. The tune has been recorded by many artists, including Ray Charles. A charter member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, Walker died in 2006 at the age of 87. She willed the rights to her body of work – more than 500 songs – to the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum.



DON SCHLITZ

North Carolina-born Don Schlitz hit a homerun on one of his first cuts as a songwriter. Kenny Rogers recorded Schlitz's story song "The Gambler," which went on to become a massive crossover hit and one of Rogers' concert staples. Schlitz went on to find great success co-writing with Paul Overstreet for a new artist named Randy Travis. Schlitz co-wrote some of Travis' biggest hits, including "On the Other Hand" and "Forever and Ever Amen," which won back-to-back ACM Song of the Year awards in 1986 and 1987. Schlitz also crafted Keith Whitley's signature hit, "When You Say Nothing at All." A Grammy winner and member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, Schlitz has also penned hits for The Judds ("Rockin' With the Rhythm of the Rain") and Reba McEntire ("One Promise Too Late"). He was commissioned by President George H.W. Bush to write the theme song for the national "Points of Light" program. The song, "Point of Light," became a Top 5 country hit for Randy Travis.



ACM MILESTONE AWARD

BROOKS & DUNN

Few acts in any genre of music have charted as many hits, won as many awards and gained so many loyal fans as Brooks & Dunn. Since their first album, *Brand New Man*, hit the charts in 1991, they've gone on to sell more than 30 million records and chart 23 No. 1 hit singles. Their driving country style has been front and center on an amazing body of well-loved country classics over two decades, including "Neon Moon," "Boot Scootin' Boogie," "She's Not the Cheatin' Kind," "Rock My World (Little Country Girl)," "Only In America" "You're Gonna Miss Me When I'm Gone" and the 2005 ACM Song of the Year "Believe." In August 2009, they announced they will retire as a duo in 2010 and embark on a final farewell tour called "The Last Rodeo."

Tomorrow night here at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, the Academy of Country Music will honor the duo's amazing accomplishments with the all-star tribute concert, *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn – The Last Rodeo*.

"Brooks & Dunn have defined country music for twenty years," said Bob Romeo, Executive Director of the Academy of Country Music. "With this all-star concert tribute, the Academy is honored to recognize Kix and Ronnie for their contributions to the country music industry, fans and to all the artists they have helped get a break."

During the show, Kix and Ronnie will receive the Academy's Milestone Award in recognition of their 20-year record-breaking career. They will be honored for holding the record for the most wins of any artist in the Academy's history with 26 awards in total, including three Entertainer of the Year awards. They will also be honored for holding the record for most Top Vocal Duo wins, with 15 awards, eight of which are consecutive from 2000-2007. At tonight's award show, Brooks & Dunn are once again nominated for Top Vocal Duo of the Year and for Vocal Event for "Honky Tonk Stomp," their collaboration with ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons.

ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn – The Last Rodeo
will air Sunday, May 23rd at 8 p.m. ET/PT on CBS.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL NOMINEES OF THE 45TH ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS.

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2010 RECIPIENTS MONTGOMERY GENTRY

Now in its ninth year, the Academy of Country Music/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award recognizes country music artists who serve others, have a generous spirit and help build the dreams of those in need. Iconic country music duo Montgomery Gentry have been selected as this year's recipients for their ongoing community service and charitable giving of their time and talent.

Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry devote their time and energy into making the needs of others a priority. They are active participants in any charitable organizations they support, giving their time, talent and resources. Together, they have strongly served and supported the U.S. military and numerous charitable organizations including the TJ Martell Foundation, which Troy serves as a board member. They also provide their individual time to two deserving philanthropies. Eddie gives his support to Camp Horsin' Around in Lexington, Kentucky, which provides a camp facility equipped for children with serious, chronic illnesses and physical difficulties. Troy bolsters the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Middle Tennessee.

A visit with Montgomery Gentry has long been the object of many children's wishes at Make-A-Wish of Middle Tennessee which grants the wishes of children who are between 2 and a half and 18

years old, and have life-threatening medical conditions. The duo puts as much energy and heart into making these experiences as magical and unforgettable for each child as possible. During the last few years, Montgomery Gentry has participated in many fundraising events to benefit the organization and Eddie and Troy together have made many children's wishes come true whether it be a visit, a photo opportunity, a hug or the chance to sing on stage with the duo.

Montgomery Gentry helps raise monies and bring awareness to the needs of several organizations, including:

- St. Jude's Research Hospital
- Academy of Country Music's Chairman's Ride benefiting ACM Lifting Lives since 2004
- USO Tours to the Persian Gulf
- Hospice of the Bluegrass and Multiple Myeloma Foundation
- David Dickens Melanoma Research Foundation
- Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
- Patient Advocate Foundation

"We can't begin to express how honored we are to learn that we are receiving this award from Academy of Country Music and The Home Depot," said Troy Gentry. "This isn't something that we ever expected when we started out 10 years ago. We just set out to entertain people and getting the opportunity to help such deserving organizations is just a real honor for us."

"Thanks to everyone out there who has helped us to get where we are today," said Eddie Montgomery. "We just want to make sure we do our part in making the world a little better. It's been awesome to work with

organizations like Camp Horsin' Around, the TJ Martell Foundation, Make-A-Wish and especially to all of our American heroes that we've met along the way."

As recipients of the Humanitarian Award, Montgomery Gentry will receive a KaBOOM! playground built in their honor by The Home Depot later this year and a beautiful crystal trophy designed by Tiffany & Co. during tonight's live CBS telecast. Past recipients of the Humanitarian Award include LeAnn Rimes, Rascal Flatts, Brooks & Dunn, Vince Gill, Neal McCoy, Martina McBride, Lonestar and Reba McEntire.

"Giving back to the communities in which our associates and customers live and work is a core value of The Home Depot," said Frank Bifulco, senior vice president and chief marketing officer at The Home Depot. "We're proud to recognize Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry for their tireless community service and philanthropy efforts. They put the same soulful energy heard in their songs into their humanitarian activities. They are a living example of the values of charitable giving and community service shared by both The Home Depot and the Academy of Country Music."

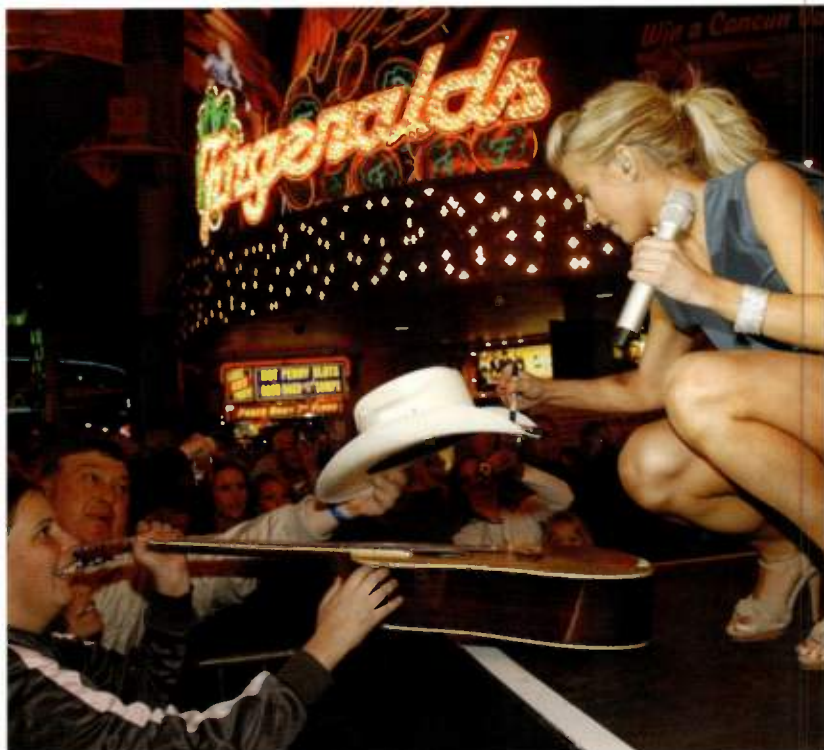




2009 RECIPIENT LEANN RIMES

Spirits were high at the Spring Valley Apartments in Murfreesboro, Tenn., as 2009 ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award winner LeAnn Rimes joined volunteers from The Home Depot, the Academy of Country Music, KaBOOM!, the United Way of Rutherford and Cannon counties and the local community came together to build a brand new playground for children on October 7, 2009. Selected by Rimes, the apartment complex is home to more than 140 children who sketched their own design ideas for a new play space prior to the build in which Rimes also participated. The construction site was teeming with activity of all sorts – from a petting zoo and a book mobile to a live DJ spinning country records to keep the energy flowing, the event was more than swinging hammers and raising swing sets. Rimes read to the kids and learned how to play four square, and prizes were awarded to volunteers for their help throughout the busy day, which culminated with a safe, new play space for the Murfreesboro community to enjoy.





(L-R clockwise) Randy Houser revs up his Harley at the ACM Chairman's Ride. • Reigning ACM Top New Artist Julianne Hough gave fans a lively performance at Fremont Street last year. • Lady Antebellum lets down their hair after the Awards show at the All-Star Jam, playing to a packed house in the MGM Grand Marquee Ballroom.



This is the week when Sin City turns into Cowboy Town. You never know who will turn up next to you at the blackjack table or who you'll run into at the bar. It's the week the Academy of Country Music Awards invade the famous Las Vegas Strip for "The Week Vegas Goes Country®."

The fun started before fans started streaming into the MGM Grand Garden Arena tonight for the *45th ACM Awards*. Friday night this year's top ACM nominees, Lady Antebellum, rocked historic downtown Las Vegas as the headliner for ACM on Fremont Street. Also taking the stage were Danny Gokey, The Band Perry, David Nail and Emily West. Saturday night six-time nominee Miranda Lambert brought her explosive music as headliner on the Fremont Street stage along with opener Randy Rogers Band. Also joining in the two great nights of free music were Top New Artist nominees Luke Bryan, Gloriana and Joey + Rory. The Academy's Fremont Street shows have become the biggest event of the year for the Fremont Street Experience, now surpassing even the New Year's Eve celebration. ACM Weekend on Fremont Street was sponsored by Dr Pepper and Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority.

On Saturday morning, the stars rose bright and early for the ACM Chairman's Ride, hosted by ACM Chairman John Grady. In its second year as an invitation-only event, the charity ride begins at the MGM Grand Hotel and traveled one hour to Creech Air

Force Base in Indian Springs, Nevada, for a behind-the-scenes look at the base which was established in the aftermath of the aerial attack on Pearl Harbor. From there, the ride came to a close at Nellis Air Force Base where Montgomery Gentry and Randy Houser performed for military families at the USO Concert in Partnership with ACM Lifting Lives™.

And the fun continues tonight after the Awards show ends with the famous All-Star Jam. This free-wheeling concert is the place where stars can let their hair down and the fans can have fun watching them do it! You never know who—or what—you'll see onstage at the All-Star Jam.

Be sure to join us tomorrow night as well for a historic evening of great music. On Monday, April 19th, the Academy will honor Brooks & Dunn with an all-star tribute concert. *ACM Presents: Brooks & Dunn - The Last Rodeo* will feature performances by Jason Aldean, Kenny Chesney, Jennifer Hudson, Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert, Reba McEntire, Tim McGraw, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts, George Strait, Sugarland, Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban and many more! Proceeds will benefit the Academy's Lifting Lives. It's a fitting tribute to country's beloved duo.

Enjoy the pictures here from last year's Vegas events, and for this year's exciting photos visit www.acmcountry.com.

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

1970 Merle Haggard
1971 Freddie Hart
1972 Roy Clark
1973 Roy Clark
1974 Mac Davis
1975 Loretta Lynn
1976 Mickey Gilley
1977 Dolly Parton
1978 Kenny Rogers
1979 Willie Nelson
1980 Barbara Mandrell
1981 Alabama
1982 Alabama
1983 Alabama
1984 Alabama
1985 Alabama
1986 Hank Williams Jr.
1987 Hank Williams Jr.
1988 Hank Williams Jr.
1989 George Strait
1990 Garth Brooks
1991 Garth Brooks
1992 Garth Brooks
1993 Garth Brooks
1994 Reba McEntire
1995 Brooks & Dunn
1996 Brooks & Dunn
1997 Garth Brooks
1998 Garth Brooks
1999 Shania Twain
2000 Dixie Chicks
2001 Brooks & Dunn
2002 Toby Keith
2003 Toby Keith
2004 Kenny Chesney
2005 Kenny Chesney
2006 Kenny Chesney
2007 Kenny Chesney
2008 Carrie Underwood

TOP FEMALE VOCALIST

1965 Bonnie Owens
1966 Bonnie Guitar
1967 Lynn Anderson
1968 Cathie Taylor
1969 Tammy Wynette
1970 Lynn Anderson
1971 Loretta Lynn
1972 Donna Fargo
1973 Loretta Lynn
1974 Loretta Lynn
1975 Loretta Lynn
1976 Crystal Gayle
1977 Crystal Gayle
1978 Barbara Mandrell
1979 Crystal Gayle

1980 Dolly Parton
1981 Barbara Mandrell
1982 Sylvia
1983 Janie Fricke
1984 Reba McEntire
1985 Reba McEntire
1986 Reba McEntire
1987 Reba McEntire
1988 K.T. Oslin
1989 Kathy Mattea
1990 Reba McEntire
1991 Reba McEntire
1992 Mary-Chapin Carpenter
1993 Wynonna
1994 Reba McEntire
1995 Patty Loveless
1996 Patty Loveless
1997 Trisha Yearwood
1998 Faith Hill
1999 Faith Hill
2000 Faith Hill
2001 Martina McBride
2002 Martina McBride
2003 Martina McBride
2004 Gretchen Wilson
2005 Sara Evans
2006 Carrie Underwood
2007 Carrie Underwood
2008 Carrie Underwood

TOP MALE VOCALIST

1965 Buck Owens
1966 Merle Haggard
1967 Glen Campbell
1968 Glen Campbell
1969 Merle Haggard
1970 Merle Haggard
1971 Freddie Hart
1972 Merle Haggard
1973 Charlie Rich
1974 Merle Haggard
1975 Conway Twitty
1976 Mickey Gilley
1977 Kenny Rogers
1978 Kenny Rogers
1979 Larry Gatlin
1980 George Jones
1981 Merle Haggard
1982 Ronnie Milsap
1983 Lee Greenwood
1984 George Strait
1985 George Strait
1986 Randy Travis
1987 Randy Travis
1988 George Strait
1989 Clint Black
1990 Garth Brooks
1991 Garth Brooks

1992 Vince Gill
1993 Vince Gill
1994 Alan Jackson
1995 Alan Jackson
1996 George Strait
1997 George Strait
1998 Tim McGraw
1999 Tim McGraw
2000 Toby Keith
2001 Alan Jackson
2002 Kenny Chesney
2003 Toby Keith
2004 Keith Urban
2005 Keith Urban
2006 Brad Paisley
2007 Brad Paisley
2008 Brad Paisley

TOP VOCAL DUO

(formerly Top Vocal Duet
from 1980-1996)

1980 Moe Bandy & Joe Stampley
1981 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1982 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1983 Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers
1984 The Judds
1985 The Judds
1986 The Judds
1987 The Judds
1988 The Judds
1989 The Judds
1990 The Judds
1991 Brooks & Dunn
1992 Brooks & Dunn
1993 Brooks & Dunn
1994 Brooks & Dunn
1995 Brooks & Dunn
1996 Brooks & Dunn
1997 Brooks & Dunn**
2000 Brooks & Dunn
2001 Brooks & Dunn
2002 Brooks & Dunn
2003 Brooks & Dunn
2004 Brooks & Dunn
2005 Brooks & Dunn
2006 Brooks & Dunn
2007 Brooks & Dunn
2008 Sugarland

TOP VOCAL GROUP

1966 Bonnie Owens & Merle Haggard
1967 Sons of the Pioneers
1968 Johnny & Jonie Mosby
1969 Kimberleys
1970 Kimberleys
1971 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1972 Statler Brothers
1973 Brush Arbor**
1974 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn

1975 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1976 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1977 Statler Brothers
1978 Oak Ridge Boys
1979 Moe Bandy & Joe Stampley
1980 Alabama
1981 Alabama
1982 Alabama
1983 Alabama
1984 Alabama
1985 Alabama
1986 Forester Sisters
1987 Highway 101
1988 Highway 101
1989 Restless Heart
1990 Shenandoah
1991 Diamond Rio
1992 Diamond Rio
1993 Little Texas
1994 The Mavericks
1995 The Mavericks
1996 Sawyer Brown
1998 Dixie Chicks**
1999 Dixie Chicks**
2000 Dixie Chicks
2001 Lonestar
2002 Rascal Flatts
2003 Rascal Flatts
2004 Rascal Flatts
2005 Rascal Flatts
2006 Rascal Flatts
2007 Rascal Flatts
2008 Rascal Flatts

TOP NEW ARTIST

2003 Dierks Bentley
2004 Gretchen Wilson
2008 Julianne Hough

TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP

1989 Kentucky Headhunters
1990 Pirates of the Mississippi
1991 Brooks & Dunn
1992 Confederate Railroad
1993 Gibson Miller Band
1994 The Mavericks
1995 Lonestar
1996 Ricochet
1997 The Kinleys
1998 Dixie Chicks
1999 Montgomery Gentry
2000 Rascal Flatts
2001 Trick Pony
2002 Emerson Drive
2005 Sugarland
2006 Little Big Town
2007 Lady Antebellum
2008 Zac Brown Band

** in this year the award was presented as Top Vocal Duo/Group

TOP NEW FEMALE VOCALIST

1977	Debby Boone
1978	Christy Lane
1979	Lacy J. Dalton
1980	Terri Gibbs
1981	Juice Newton
1982	Karen Brooks
1983	Gus Hardin
1984	Nicolette Larson
1985	Judy Rodman
1986	Holly Dunn
1987	K.T. Oslin
1988	Suzy Bogguss
1989	Mary-Chapin Carpenter
1990	Shelby Lynne
1991	Trisha Yearwood
1992	Michelle Wright
1993	Faith Hill
1994	Chely Wright
1995	Shania Twain
1996	LeAnn Rimes
1997	Lee Ann Womack
1998	Jo Dee Messina
1999	Jessica Andrews
2000	Jamie O'Neal
2001	Carolyn Dawn Johnson
2002	Kellie Coffey
2005	Carrie Underwood
2006	Miranda Lambert
2007	Taylor Swift
2008	Julianne Hough

ARTIST OF THE DECADE

1960s	Marty Robbins (presented 1969)
1970s	Loretta Lynn (presented 1979)
1980s	Alabama (presented 1989)
1990s	Garth Brooks (presented 1999)
2000s	George Strait (presented 2009)

THE HOME DEPOT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

2001	Reba McEntire
2002	Lonestar
2003	Martina McBride
2004	Neal McCoy
2005	Vince Gill
2006	Brooks & Dunn
2007	Rascal Flatts
2008	LeAnn Rimes

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

(currently awarded to Artist, Producer, & Record Company)

1967	"Gentle On My Mind" Glen Campbell; Al Delroy (A&R); Capitol Records
1968	"Little Green Apples" Roger Miller; Smash
1969	"Okie From Muskogee" Merle Haggard; Capitol Records
1970	"For the Good Times" Ray Price; Columbia Records
1971	"Easy Lovin'" Freddie Hart; Capitol Records

TOP NEW MALE VOCALIST

1977	Eddie Rabbitt
1978	John Conlee
1979	R.C. Bannon
1980	Johnny Lee
1981	Ricky Skaggs
1982	Michael Murphey
1983	Jim Glaser
1984	Vince Gill
1985	Randy Travis
1986	Dwight Yoakam
1987	Ricky Van Shelton
1988	Rodney Crowell
1989	Clint Black
1990	Alan Jackson
1991	Billy Dean
1992	Tracy Lawrence
1993	John Michael Montgomery
1994	Tim McGraw
1995	Bryan White
1996	Trace Adkins
1997	Kenny Chesney
1998	Mark Wills
1999	Brad Paisley
2000	Keith Urban
2001	Phil Vassar
2002	Joe Nichols
2005	Jason Aldean
2006	Rodney Atkins
2007	Jack Ingram
2008	Jake Owen

1972	"Happiest Girl/USA" Donna Fargo (birth name: Yvonne Vaughn Silver); Dot
1973	"Behind Closed Doors" Charlie Rich; Epic Records
1974	"Country Bumpkin" Cal Smith; MCA Records
1975	"Rhinstone Cowboy" Glen Campbell; Capitol Records
1976	"Bring It On Home" Mickey Gilley; Playboy Records
1977	"Lucille" Kenny Rogers; United Artists
1978	"Tulsa Time" Don Williams; ABC Records
1979	"All The Gold in California" Larry Gatlin & Gatlin Bros.; Columbia Records
1980	"He Stopped Loving Her Today" George Jones; Epic Records; Produced by Billy Sherrill
1981	"Elvira" Oak Ridge Boys; MCA Records; Produced by Ron Chancey
1982	"Always On My Mind" Willie Nelson; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
1983	"Islands In The Stream" Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers; RCA Records; Produced by Barry Gibb & Karl Richardson
1984	"To All The Girls I've Loved Before" Julio Iglesias & Willie Nelson; Columbia Records; Produced by Richard Perry
1985	"Highwayman" Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, & Willie Nelson; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
1986	"On The Other Hand" Randy Travis; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Keith Stegall & Kyle Lehning
1987	"Forever And Ever Amen" Randy Travis; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Kyle Lehning
1988	"Eighteen Wheels And A Dozen Roses" Kathy Mattea; Mercury Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
1989	"Better Man" Clint Black; RCA Records; Produced by James Stroud & Mark Wright
1990	"Friends In Low Places" Garth Brooks; Capitol Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
1991	"Don't Rock the Jukebox" Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall & Scott Hendricks
1992	"Boot Scootin' Boogie" Brooks & Dunn; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Don Cook & Scott Hendricks
1993	"Chattahoochee" Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
1994	"I Swear" John Michael Montgomery; Atlantic Records; Produced by Scott Hendricks
1995	"Check Yes Or No" George Strait; MCA Records; Produced by George Strait & Tony Brown
1996	"Blue" LeAnn Rimes; Curb Records; Produced by Wilbur C. Rimes
1997	"It's Your Love" Tim McGraw & Faith Hill; Curb Records; Produced by Byron Gallimore, James Stroud, & Tim McGraw
1998	"This Kiss" Faith Hill; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Byron Gallimore & Faith Hill
1999	"Amazed" Lonestar; BNA Records; Produced by Dann Huff
2000	"I Hope You Dance" Lee Ann Womack & Sons of the Desert; MCA Records; Produced by Mark Wright
2001	"Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)" Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
2002	"The Good Stuff" Kenny Chesney; BNA Records; Produced by Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney, & Norro Wilson
2003	"It's Five O'Clock Somewhere" Alan Jackson & Jimmy Buffet; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
2004	"Live Like You Were Dying" Tim McGraw; Curb Records; Produced by Byron Gallimore, Darran Smith, & Tim McGraw
2005	"Jesus Take the Wheel" Carrie Underwood; Arista; Produced by Mark Bright
2006	"Give It Away" George Strait; MCA Nashville; Produced by George Strait & Tony Brown
2007	"Stay" Sugarland; Mercury Records; Produced by Byron Gallimore, Kristian Bush, & Jennifer Nettles
2008	"You're Gonna Miss This" Trace Adkins; Capitol Nashville; Produced by Frank Rogers

SONG OF THE YEAR

(currently awarded to Artist, Songwriter, & Publisher)

- 1966 **"Apartment #9"** Tammy Wynette; Written by Bobby Austin, Fuzzy Owen, & Johnny Paycheck
- 1967 **"It's Such A Pretty World Today"** Wynn Stewart; Written by Dale Noe; Published by Freeway Music
- 1968 **"Wichita Lineman"** Glen Campbell; Composed by Jim Webb
- 1969 **"Okie From Muskogee"** Merle Haggard; Published by Sony/ATV Tree; Composed by Roy Burris & Merle Haggard
- 1970 **"For the Good Times"** Ray Price
- 1971 **"Easy Lovin'"** Freddie Hart; Composed by Freddie Hart
- 1972 **"Happiest Girl/USA"** Donna Fargo (birth name: Yvonne Vaughn Silver); Published by Embassy Music Corp & EMI Algee Music Corp
- 1973 **"Behind Closed Doors"** Charlie Rich; Composed by Kenny O'Dell
- 1974 **"Country Bumpkin"** Cal Smith; Published by Sony/ATV Tree; Composed by Don Choate
- 1975 **"Rhinestone Cowboy"** Glen Campbell; Published by WB Music Corp; Composed by Larry Weiss
- 1976 **"Don't the Girls Get Prettier at Closing Time"** Mickey Gilley; Published Sixteen Stars Music; Composed by Baker Knight
- 1977 **"Lucille"** Kenny Rogers; Published by Andite Invasion, Missed Memories Music, & Sony/ATV Songs LLC; Composed by Roger Dale Bowling & Hal Byrum
- 1978 **"You Needed Me"** Anne Murray; Published by Chappell & Co, Inc. & Ironside Music; Composed by Charles R. Goodrum
- 1979 **"It's A Cheatin' Situation"** Moe Bandy; Composed by Curly Putnam & James Throckmorton
- 1980 **"He Stopped Loving Her Today"** George Jones; Published by Tree Publishing; Composed by Bobby Braddock & Curly Putman
- 1981 **"You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma"** David Frizzell & Shelly West; Published by Cibie Music Companies, Senor, Peso Music, & Wallet Music; Composed by Larry Collins & Sandy Pinkard
- 1982 **"Are The Good Times Really Over"** Merle Haggard; Published by Shade Tree Music; Composed by Merle Haggard
- 1983 **"The Wind Beneath My Wings"** Gary Morris; Published by Warner House of Music & WB Gold Music; Composed by Jeff Silbar & Larry Henley
- 1984 **"Why Not Me"** The Judds; Published by Blue Quill Music, Cross Keys Music, Tree Publishing, & Welbeck Music; Composed by Brent Maher, Harlan Howard, & Sonny Tockmorton
- 1985 **"Lost in the Fifties (In The Still Of The Night)"** Ronnie Milsap; Published by Llee Music, Lodge Hall, Two Sons Music, & WB Music Corp.; Composed by Fred Parris, Mike Reid, & Troy Seals
- 1986 **"On The Other Hand"** Randy Travis; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music; Composed by Don Schlitz & Paul Overstreet
- 1987 **"Forever And Ever Amen"** Randy Travis; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music; Composed by Don Schlitz
- 1988 **"Eighteen Wheels And A Dozen Roses"** Kathy Mattea; Published by Believus Or Not Music, Screen GEMS-EMI Music, & Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; Composed by Gene Nelson & Paul Nelson
- 1989 **"Where've You Been"** Kathy Mattea; Published by Cross Keys Music (ASCAP) & Wrensong (ASCAP); Composed by Don Henry & Jon Vezner
- 1990 **"The Dance;"** Garth Brooks; Published by Morganactive Music & Pookie Bear Music; Composed by Tony Arata
- 1991 **"Somewhere in My Broken Heart"** Billy Dean; Published by EMI April Music Inc., EMI Blackwood Music Inc., & Lion-Hearted Music (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by Billy Dean & Richard Leigh
- 1992 **"I Still Believe in You"** Vince Gill; Published by Benefit Music & Inspector Barlow Music (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by John Jarvis & Vince Gil
- 1993 **"I Love The Way You Love Me"** John Michael Montgomery; Published by BMG Songs Inc. & Taste Auction (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by Chuck Cannon & Victoria Shaw

- 1994 **"I Swear"** John Michael Montgomery; Published by Morganactive Music & Rick Hall Music (ASCAP); Composed by Frank J. Myers & Gary Baker
- 1995 **"The Keeper Of The Stars"** Tracy Byrd; Published by Murrah Music Corp., New Haven Music, Pal Time Music Inc. (BMI), Sixteen Stars Music; & Songs of Poly Gram Int'l; Composed by Danny Mayo, Dickey Lee, & Karen Staley
- 1996 **"Blue"** LeAnn Rimes; Published by Fory Knox Music (BMI) & Trio Music; Composed by Bill Mack
- 1997 **"It's Your Love"** Faith Hill & Tim McGraw; Published by EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI); Composed by Stephony Smith
- 1998 **"Holes In The Floor Of Heaven"** Steve Wariner; Published by Hamstein Cumberland, KidJulie (BMI), & Steve Wariner; Composed by Billy Kirsch & Steve Wariner
- 1999 **"Amazed"** Lonestar; Published by Careers-BMG Music Publishing Inc., Golden Wheat Music, Silverkiss Music, Songs of Nashville DreamWorks (BMI), & Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.; Composed by Aimee Mayo, Chris Lindsey, & Marv Green
- 2000 **"I Hope You Dance"** Lee Ann Womack & Sons of the Desert; Published by Choice is Tragic Music, Ensign Music Corp. (BMI), MCA Music Publishing, & Soda Creek Songs (ASCAP); Composed by Mark D. Sanders & Tia Sillers
- 2001 **"Where Were You (When the World Stopped Turning)"** Alan Jackson; Published by EMI April Music Inc. & Tri-Angels Music (ASCAP); Composed by Alan Jackson
- 2002 **"I'm Movin' On"** Rascal Flatts; Published by Las Wagas, Murrah Music Corp. (BMI), Songs of Megalex, & WB Music Corp. (ASCAP); Composed by D. Vincent Williams & Phillip White
- 2003 **"Three Wooden Crosses"** Randy Travis; Published by Kim Williams Music (ASCAP), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tunes (ASCAP), & Sweet Radical Music (BMI); Composed by Douglas Johnson & Kim Williams
- 2004 **"Live Like You Were Dying"** Tim McGraw; Published by Big Loud Shirt (ASCAP) & ICG/Warner (BMI); Composed by Craig Wiseman & Tim Nichols
- 2005 **"Believe"** Brooks & Dunn; Published by Big Loud Shirt Industries (ASCAP), Showbilly Music (BMI), & Sony / ATV Tree Publishing Co. (BMI); Composed by Craig Wiseman (ASCAP) & Ronnie Dunn (BMI)
- 2006 **"Give It Away"** George Strait; Written by Bill Anderson, Buddy Cannon, & Jamey Johnson; Published by 2006 Sony/ATV Tree Publishing, Mr. Bubba Music Inc., EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI), & Run Slow Music
- 2007 **"Stay"** Sugarland; Written by Jennifer Nettles; Published by Jennifer Nettles Publishing (ASCAP)
- 2008 **"In Color"** Jamey Johnson; Composed by Jamey Johnson, Lee Thomas Miller & James Otto; Published by Big Gassed Hitties (BMI), Eldorotto Music Publishing (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music Inc., Lucky Thumb Music (BMI), New Song of Sea Gayle (BMI) & Noah's Little Boat Music (BMI)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

(formerly ACM/Launch Video of the Year from 2003-2004)

- 1984 **"All My Rowdy Friends Are Comin' Over Tonight"** Hank Williams Jr.; Directed by John Goodhugh
- 1986 **"Whoever's In New England"** Reba McEntire; Directed by Jeff Schock & Jon Small; Produced by Jon Small
- 1987 **"80's Ladies"** K.T. Oslin; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1988 **"Young Country"** Hank Williams Jr.; Directed by Bill Fishman & Preacher Ewing; Produced by Brent Bowman
- 1989 **"There's A Tear In My Beer"** Hank Williams Jr.; Directed by Ethan Russell; Produced by Joanne Gardner
- 1990 **"The Dance"** Garth Brooks; Directed by Garth Brooks & John Lloyd Miller; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1991 **"Is There Life Out There?"** Reba McEntire; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Robin Beresford
- 1992 **"Two Sparrows in a Hurricane"** Tanya Tucker; Directed by Joanne Gardner; Produced by Brent Hedgcock
- 1993 **"We Shall Be Free"** Garth Brooks; Directed by Garth Brooks & Tim Miller; Produced by Tim Miller
- 1994 **"The Red Strokes"** Garth Brooks; Directed by Jon Small; Produced by Jon Small & Steven Carter

- 1995 **"The Car"** Jeff Carson; Directed by Michael Salomon; Produced by Maureen Ryan
- 1996 **"I Think About You"** Collin Raye; Directed by Steven Goldmann; Produced by Susan Bowman
- 1997 **"It's Your Love"** Faith Hill & Tim McGraw; Directed by Sherman Halsey; Produced by Sherman Halsey
- 1998 **"This Kiss"** Faith Hill; Directed by Steven Goldmann; Produced by Susan Bowman
- 1999 **"Breathe"** Faith Hill; Directed by Lili Hill; Produced by Anastasia Simone
- 2000 **"Goodbye Earl"** Dixie Chicks; Directed by Evan Bernard; Produced by Keeley Gould
- 2001 **"Only in America"** Brooks & Dunn; Directed by Michael Merriman; Produced by Stephanie Reeves
- 2002 **"Drive (For Daddy Gene)"** Alan Jackson; Directed by Steven Goldman; Produced by Robin Rucker
- 2003 **"Beer For My Horses"** Toby Keith & Willie Nelson; Directed by Michael Salomon; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld
- 2004 **"Whiskey Lullaby"** Alison Krauss & Brad Paisley; Directed by Rick Schroder; Produced by Don Lepore
- 2005 **"When I Get Where I'm Going"** Brad Paisley & Dolly Parton; Directed by Jim Shea; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Peter Tilden
- 2006 **"Before He Cheats"** Carrie Underwood; Directed by Roman White; Produced by Randy Brewer
- 2007 **"Online"** Brad Paisley; Directed by Jason Alexander; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Peter Tilden
- 2008 **"Waitin on a Woman"** Brad Paisley; Directed by Jim Shea & Peter Tilden; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Jim Shea

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

- 1997 **"It's Your Love"** Faith Hill & Tim McGraw
- 1998 **"Just To Hear You Say That You Love Me"** Faith Hill & Tim McGraw; Produced by Dann Huff & Faith Hill
- 1999 **"When I Said I Do"** Clint Black & Lisa Hartman Black; Produced by Clint Black
- 2000 **"I Hope You Dance"** Lee Ann Womack & Sons of the Desert; MCA Records; Produced by Mark Wright
- 2001 **"I Am a Man of Constant Sorrow"** Soggy Bottom Boys; Produced by T-Bone Burnett
- 2002 **"Mendocino County Line"** Lee Ann Womack & Willie Nelson; Produced by Matthew Serletic
- 2003 **"It's Five O'Clock Somewhere"** Alan Jackson & Jimmy Buffet; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
- 2004 **"Whiskey Lullaby"** Alison Krauss & Brad Paisley; Arista Nashville; Produced by Frank Rogers
- 2005 **"When I Get Where I'm Going"** Brad Paisley & Dolly Parton; Arista; Produced by Chris DuBois & Frank Rogers
- 2006 **"Building Bridges"** Brooks & Dunn, Sheryl Crow, & Vince Gill; Arista Nashville; Produced by Kix Brooks, Ronnie Dunn, & Tony Brown
- 2007 **"Find Out Who Your Friends Are"** Tim McGraw, Kenny Chesney, & Tracy Lawrence; Rocky Comfort/CO5; Produced by Tracy Lawrence & Julian King
- 2008 **"Start a Band"** Brad Paisley & Keith Urban; Arista Nashville; Produced by Frank Rogers

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

(currently awarded to Artist, Producer & Record Company)

- 1967 **Gentle On My Mind**; Glen Campbell; Al Delroy (A & R); Capitol Records
- 1968 **Glen Campbell & Bobbie Gentry**; Bobbie Gentry; Capitol Records
- 1969 **Okie From Muskogee**; Merle Haggard; Capitol Records
- 1970 **For the Good Times**; Ray Price; Columbia Records
- 1971 **Easy Lovin'**; Freddie Hart; Capitol Records
- 1972 **Happiest Girl/USA**; Donna Fargo (birth name: Yvonne Vaughn Silver); Dot
- 1973 **Behind Closed Doors**; Charlie Rich; Epic Records
- 1974 **Back Home Again**; John Denver; RCA Records

- 1975 **Feelings**; Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn; MCA Records
- 1976 **Gilley's Smoking**; Mickey Gilley; Playboy
- 1977 **Kenny Rogers**; Kenny Rogers; United Artists Records
- 1978 **Ya'll Come Back Saloon**; Oak Ridge Boys; ABC/Dot
- 1979 **Straight Ahead**; Larry Gatlin; Columbia Records
- 1980 **Urban Cowboy**; Full Moon; Asylum
- 1981 **Feel's So Right**; Alabama; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd & Larry McBride
- 1982 **Always on My Mind**; Willie Nelson; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1983 **The Closer You Get**; Alabama; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1984 **Roll On**; Alabama; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1985 **Does Ft. Worth Ever Cross Your Mind**; George Strait; RCA Records; Produced by Jimmy Bowen
- 1986 **Storms of Life**; Randy Travis; Warner Bros. Records; Produced by Kyle Lehning
- 1987 **Trio**; Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt; Warner Bros. Records; Produced by George Massenburg
- 1988 **This Woman**; K.T. Oslin; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1989 **Killin' Time**; Clint Black; RCA Records; Produced by James Stroud & Mark Wright
- 1990 **No Fences**; Garth Brooks; Capitol Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
- 1991 **Don't Rock the Jukebox**; Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall & Scott Hendricks
- 1992 **Brand New Man**; Brooks & Dunn; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Scott Hendricks & Don Cook
- 1993 **A Lot About Livin'**; Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
- 1994 **Not A Moment Too Soon**; Tim McGraw; Curb Records; Produced by James Stroud & Byron Gallimore
- 1995 **The Woman In Me**; Shania Twain; Mercury Records; Produced by Robert John Lange
- 1996 **Blue Clear Sky**; George Strait; MCA Records; Produced by George Strait & Tony Brown
- 1997 **Carrying Your Love With Me**; George Strait; MCA Records; Produced by George Strait & Tony Brown
- 1998 **Wide Open Spaces**; Dixie Chicks; Monument Records; Produced by Blake Chancey & Paul Worley
- 1999 **Fly**; Dixie Chicks; Monument Records; Produced by Blake Chancey & Paul Worley
- 2000 **How Do You Like Me Now?**; Toby Keith; Mercury Records; Produced by Toby Keith & James Stroud
- 2001 **O Brother, Where Art Thou?**; Soundtrack – O Brother, Where Art Thou?; Mercury Records; Produced by T-Bone Burnett
- 2002 **Drive**; Alan Jackson; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
- 2003 **Shock 'N Y'all**; Toby Keith; DreamWorks Records; Produced by James Stroud & Toby Keith
- 2004 **Be Here**; Keith Urban; Capitol Records Nashville; Produced by Dann Huff & Keith Urban
- 2005 **Time Well Wasted**; Brad Paisley; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Chris DuBois & Frank Rogers
- 2006 **Some Hearts**; Carrie Underwood; 19 Recordings Limited/Arista Records; Produced by Dann Huff & Mark Bright
- 2007 **Crazy Ex Girlfriend**; Miranda Lambert; Columbia Nashville; Produced by Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke
- 2008 **Fearless**; Taylor Swift; Big Machine Records; Produced by Scott Borchetta, Nathan Chapman & Taylor Swift

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