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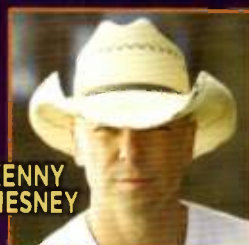
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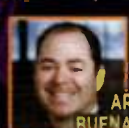
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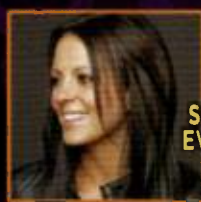
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WRITER OF CHRIS YOUNG'S "TOMORROW"

AND TO OUR SONGWRITERS WHO CONTRIBUTED
TO THIS YEAR'S NOMINATED PROJECTS.



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PHILLIP COLEMAN



JON STONE



DON HENRY



ALLISON MOORER



JARON BOYER



KIM TRIBBLE

SESAC

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Thank you for joining us for the 47th 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 shows you have seen. It has been a great year in country music, and we are bringing you the very best of our genre tonight. With Reba and Blake leading the ceremonies here at the MGM Grand Garden Arena and Zac Brown Band hosting the ACM Fan Jam at the Mandalay Bay Event Center, we know we are in for an interesting evening!

We're proud to present Country Music's Party of the Year® in the entertainment mecca of Las Vegas. ACM week kicked off with our brand new lifestyle event THE ACM EXPERIENCE at Mandalay Bay, and the excitement spread all the way down to Fremont Street Experience where Luke Bryan and Eric Church headlined our free annual concerts.

We hope you are also planning to join us tomorrow night for the taping of an amazing show, *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends - In Concert*. The proceeds from this special evening benefit ACM Lifting Lives, the Academy's charitable arm whose wonderful mission is literally lifting people's lives through the power of music. Don't forget to tune-in to the primetime network special on CBS April 13th at 9 p.m. ET/PT.

Speaking of our friends at CBS, we are delighted to celebrate a new 10-year partnership that will keep the *ACM Awards* on the network through 2021. Les Moonves, Jack Sussman and the entire CBS team believe in the Academy, the power of the country audience and we can do together.

The Academy's Board of Directors is made up 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. It is our priority to continue growing a platform for artists to share their music with a national television audience. I have been proud to be chairman with such an amazing group.

I want to thank ACM CEO Bob Romeo and our incredible staff for having vision, passion and drive. And to all the artists here tonight, we are grateful to you for all you do to support the Academy.

Most of all, thanks to the fans for loving the music as much as we do. Without your passion and dedication, we would have no need to be.

Sincerely,

Sarah Trahern
ACM Chairman



"The Academy has worked very hard this year to present you with what we hope will be one of the most entertaining shows you have seen. It has been a great year in country music, and we are bringing you the very best of our genre tonight."

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THE PRESIDENT OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Welcome all to the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. "Don't Blink" is not just an incredible song by Kenny Chesney, but also a word of advice from the ACM board members, officers Sarah Trahern and Ken Robold, the entire ACM staff and me. Tonight's sold out show at the MGM is packed full of surprises intended for all the wonderful fans live in the arena and those in front of the TV. We are not only telecasting from the MGM, but just like last year the ACM Fan Jam is back at Mandalay Bay. We welcome back Reba and Blake Shelton as our hosts, and we all know they're ready to entertain us.

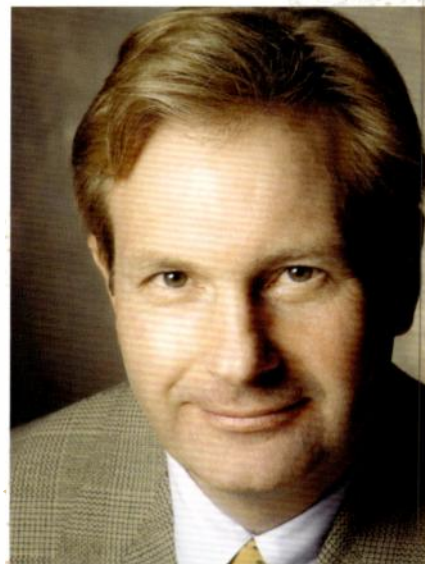
Tomorrow evening the Academy will be back in the MGM Grand Garden Arena to tape our latest special, *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends - In Concert* with star studded performances by Kenny Chesney, Tim McGraw, Martina McBride, Luke Bryan, Sara Evans, Jennifer Nettles, Jason Aldean, Lady Antebellum, Rascal Flatts and Kenny Rogers. The show will air Friday, April 13th, at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBS. Proceeds from the live event will benefit ACM Lifting Lives, the Academy's charitable arm which focuses on improving lives through the power of music. The Academy is proud to work with ACM Lifting Lives Executive Director Lisa Huddleson, Lifting Lives Chairman Mark Hartley and the Lifting Lives Board of Directors. We want to thank the country artists and the country music industry for their continued support and helping Lifting Lives make a difference in so many lives.

Everyone at the Academy of Country Music has worked hard to make sure you have enjoyed your week with us in Las Vegas. Country music is blessed with so many talented and gifted artists, who, along with the ACM, remain committed to putting on a world class awards show with unforgettable performances. Tonight's show will present country music's superstars along with the new artists who are breaking through to become the stars of the future. The Academy and our partners at dick clark productions and CBS are determined to bring to you the best awards show TV has to offer.

We would like to thank all the artists who performed at ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience including headliners Luke Bryan and Eric Church. We hope you had the opportunity to visit THE ACM EXPERIENCE at Mandalay Bay and got a chance to enjoy all it had to offer. We would like to invite you to experience the ACM all year round, check out our website at acmcountry.com for exclusive artist interviews intimate performances. Follow us on Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube and become a member of the Academy to select next year's country stars.

I would like to say thank you to ACM CEO Bob Romeo, Executive Vice President Tiffany Moon, our ACM staff members and board of directors for their efforts to bring you the most amazing awards show that exists. I would like to thank all the artists, the fans, and the country music industry for all you have done to make this such a special night. Remember is all starts with a song!

Butch Waugh
ACM President



"Country music is blessed with so many talented and gifted artists, who, along with the ACM, remain committed to putting on a world class awards show with unforgettable performances."

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2012 ACM NOMINEES



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MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES:

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CHRIS MCHUGH / TONY HARRELL / JOHN JARVIS
ILYA TOSHINSKY / PAUL FRANKLIN / SCOTTY SANDERS

ASCAP

THE CEO OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Welcome to the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. Reba and Blake are waiting backstage, the camera crew is in place, trophies are shined and ready, and the countdown to the main event is a matter of seconds. The great show that lies ahead would not have been possible without the hard work from our partners at Dick Clark Productions and CBS, and the stellar chemistry between our charming hosts. That's what you call a winning hand.

The Week Vegas Goes Country® has already been a show of its own. From the ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience with headliners Eric Church and Luke Bryan, to the NRA Country/ACM Celebrity Shoot hosted by Blake, and the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic hosted by Darius Rucker – it's been an unforgettable week.

New to the ever-growing list of events we've created for country fans was THE ACM EXPERIENCE. The Academy's first-ever lifestyle event invaded Mandalay Bay and allowed fans to immerse themselves in all things country through the ACM EXPO, ACM BBQ Throwdown, Ram Ride and Drive, and ACM Fan Jam. Back for its second year, the ACM Fan Jam—the live remote broadcast into the Awards telecast – is being hosted by ACM Award nominees Zac Brown Band. You'll see performances from our New Artist of the Year nominees Brantley Gilbert, Hunter Hayes and Scotty McCreery. Zac Brown Band and 'friends' will keep the Fan Jam party going after the main show ends, well into the evening.

The fun doesn't end tonight. We have a very special show for you tomorrow night—*ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends—In Concert*. Richie will perform classic hits being released as duets on his upcoming country album, *Tuskegee*, and some of country's greatest talents will put some twang on Richie's timeless catalog. Proceeds from this amazing show will benefit ACM Lifting Lives, so you'll be "Dancing on the Ceiling" for a great cause!

I want to recognize our amazing staff who work tirelessly to put all of this on. There are days I don't know how they do it, and I continue to be amazed and impressed by all they accomplish.

We also couldn't ask for a better group of people to have helped us rise to this level, including our incredible partners at MGM and Mandalay Bay. They've supported and backed us on every idea, crazy or not, through our nine-year relationship. We consider them our "Las Vegas Family" and have so much fun being a part of the game and working with them year after year.

I would like to express our most sincere thank yous to all the artists, managers, agents, record labels, publishers and radio stations who devote and donate their valuable time to us in so many unbelievable ways. Without your support, we couldn't pull this off.

Hands down, country music has the best fans in the world, and we are thrilled so many of you are with us tonight. Have a great time, and we hope to see you again next year!

Sincerely,

Bob Romeo
CEO



**"Country music
has the best fans
in the world, and
we are thrilled so
many of you are
with us tonight."**

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THE CHAIRMAN OF ACM LIFTING LIVES

After serving on the ACM Board of Directors for more than a decade, witnessing the reach of ACM Lifting Lives® is very near and dear to me. To see ACM Lifting Lives® help music therapy and education programs across the country, expand relief efforts for victims of natural disasters, provide funds for financial and medical emergencies, sponsor a music camp in Nashville for people with developmental disabilities and partner with artists to support their charitable passions is a dream come true to me.

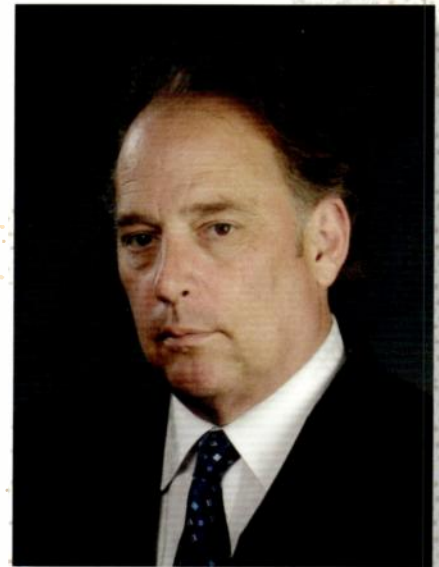
Some of our existing programs have continued to expand. Our grant cycle for music therapy and music education added new programs in Chicago, one of the key cities in a four-year plan to improve lives through the power of music in cities where help is needed most. Beneficiaries include Chicago Children's Choir, Merit School of Music, Ravinia Reach*Teach*Play program, and Snow City Arts. Our Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund continues to provide immediate and confidential financial assistance for people in the country music community who face sudden unforeseen tragedy. The online initiative, "ACM Lifting Lives: My Cause," features artists' favorite charities and allows us to celebrate the artist's good work through our web channels, press releases, social media blasts and a cash contribution to the cause in the artist's name. In conjunction with the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, we sponsored the ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp for people with developmental disabilities. This year the camp grew and more artists than ever participated, including Darius Rucker, Carrie Underwood, Little Big Town, Wynonna Judd, Brett James, Gary Allan and Odie Blackmon.

This year, we also took on some new initiatives. We held our first-ever stand-alone benefit concert at Joe's Bar in Chicago, which featured performances by country music superstar LeAnn Rimes and *American Idol* runner-up Crystal Bowersox. We also reinstated the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic, hosted by Darius Rucker on March 31, 2012. The tournament is back after a two year hiatus with the proceeds benefitting the Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund. Our board continues to flourish and we have expanded our Advisory Committee to liaise between the organization and the community.

Tonight's ACM Awards Lifting Lives moment sheds light on a serious issue we have right at home in the United States. While food seems to be everywhere we turn, the hard truth is that 1 in 5 American children do not know where their next meal is coming from. It's a truth that singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes wants to bring to light. Hayes realized the problem with hunger "is in our own backyards," and has co-written "Here's Hope," which tackles the issue head-on. Tonight, ACM Award winners Little Big Town will perform the song live on the *47th ACM Awards* to benefit ConAgra's "Child Hunger Ends Here" campaign.

In closing, I would like to thank our former Chairman Gayle Holcomb for her outstanding leadership, President Gary Gilbert and Vice President Bruce Bowman, and the ACM Lifting Lives Board of Directors and Advisory Committee for all of their hard work in making this a successful organization. I would also like to thank new ACM Lifting Lives Executive Director Lisa Huddleson and all of the ACM staff for their steadfast support and hard work. Finally, I'd like to extend a special thanks to all of the artists and industry professionals for their continued support of ACM Lifting Lives®. We appreciate you.

Sincerely,
Mark Hartley



**"Tonight's ACM Awards
Lifting Lives moment
sheds light on a serious
issue we have right at
home in the United States.
While food seems to be
everywhere we turn, the
hard truth is that 1 in 5
American children do not
know where their next
meal is coming from."**

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THE PRODUCERS OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS



Welcome to the 47th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards...
What a week it has been in Vegas as this great city goes country!

We've had a busy schedule, including THE ACM EXPERIENCE, live performances on Fremont Street, a great Lifting Lives golf tournament and an exciting celebrity shoot...all of which brings us to the next two nights of amazing music!

The one and only Reba and the multitalented Blake Shelton join us again as this year's show hosts. Tonight will hold lots of surprises, a record number of outstanding musical performances and all the energy and fun that have made the Academy of Country Music Awards "Country Music's Party of the Year."

We've sold out two venues tonight...the MGM Grand Garden Arena and Mandalay Bay, where Zac Brown Band and friends will keep everyone on their feet all night long. And speaking of "all night long," tomorrow night we celebrate the music of one of the world's greatest singer/songwriters... Lionel Richie.

ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends-In Concert will air on CBS on Friday, April 13. Many of the great artists you see here tonight will be joining Lionel for that spectacular event.

We'd like to thank all of tonight's artists for making this a once in a lifetime celebration. And of course a big "thank you" to our broadcast partner, CBS Television. Finally, we'd like to thank the entire dc production staff and our partners at the ACM for their dedication and tireless work... we couldn't do it without them!

But tonight doesn't happen without you, - the country music fan. Your support and love of country music is why we are all here. This evening's entertainment is dedicated to you. Have a great night and enjoy the show!

Orly Adelson
President
Executive Producer

R. A. Clark
Executive Producer

Barry Adelman
Producer



Orly Adelson
President, Executive Producer



R. A. Clark
Executive Producer



Barry Adelman
Producer

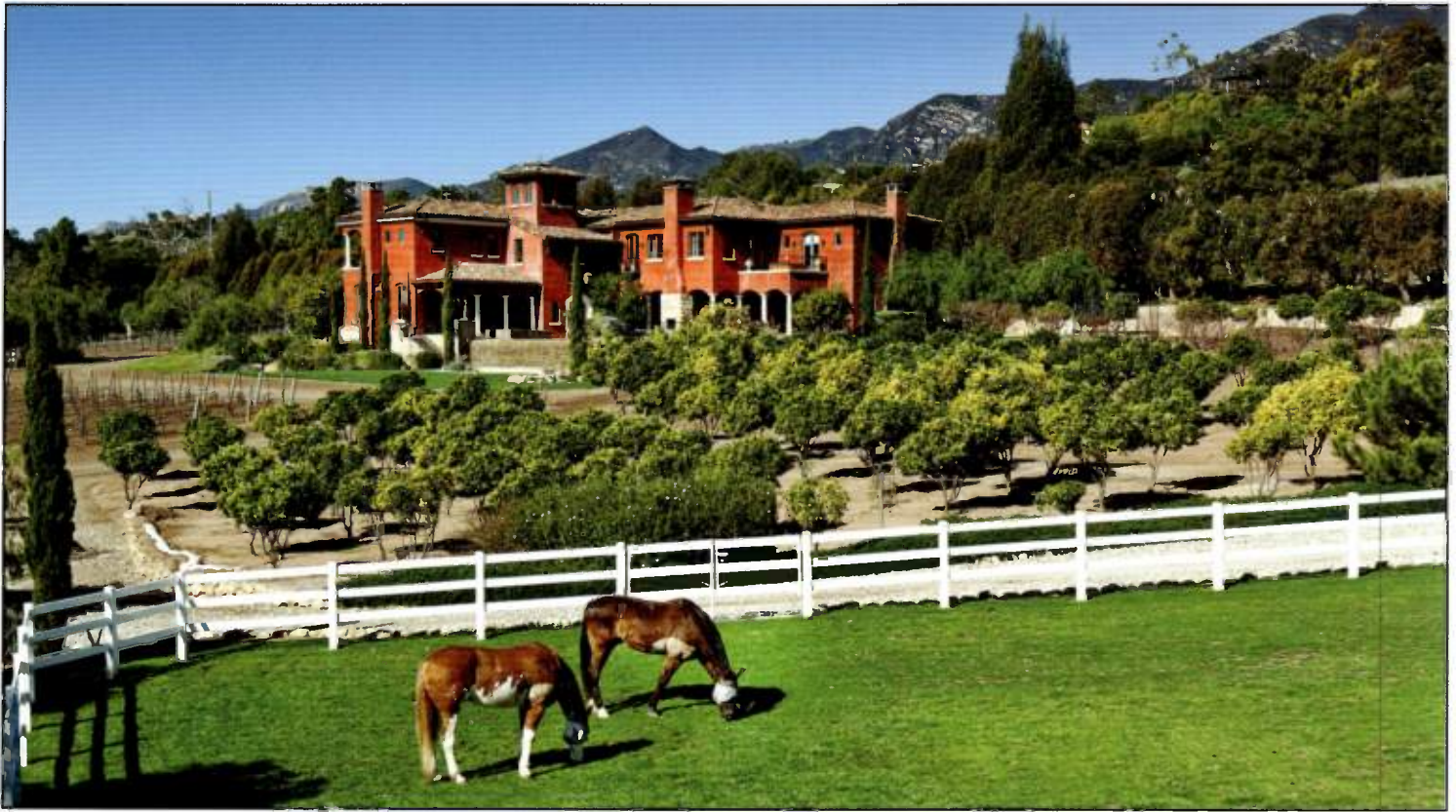
We join the artists and fans to
celebrate a shared passion...

COUNTRY MUSIC

Congratulations
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Nominees!

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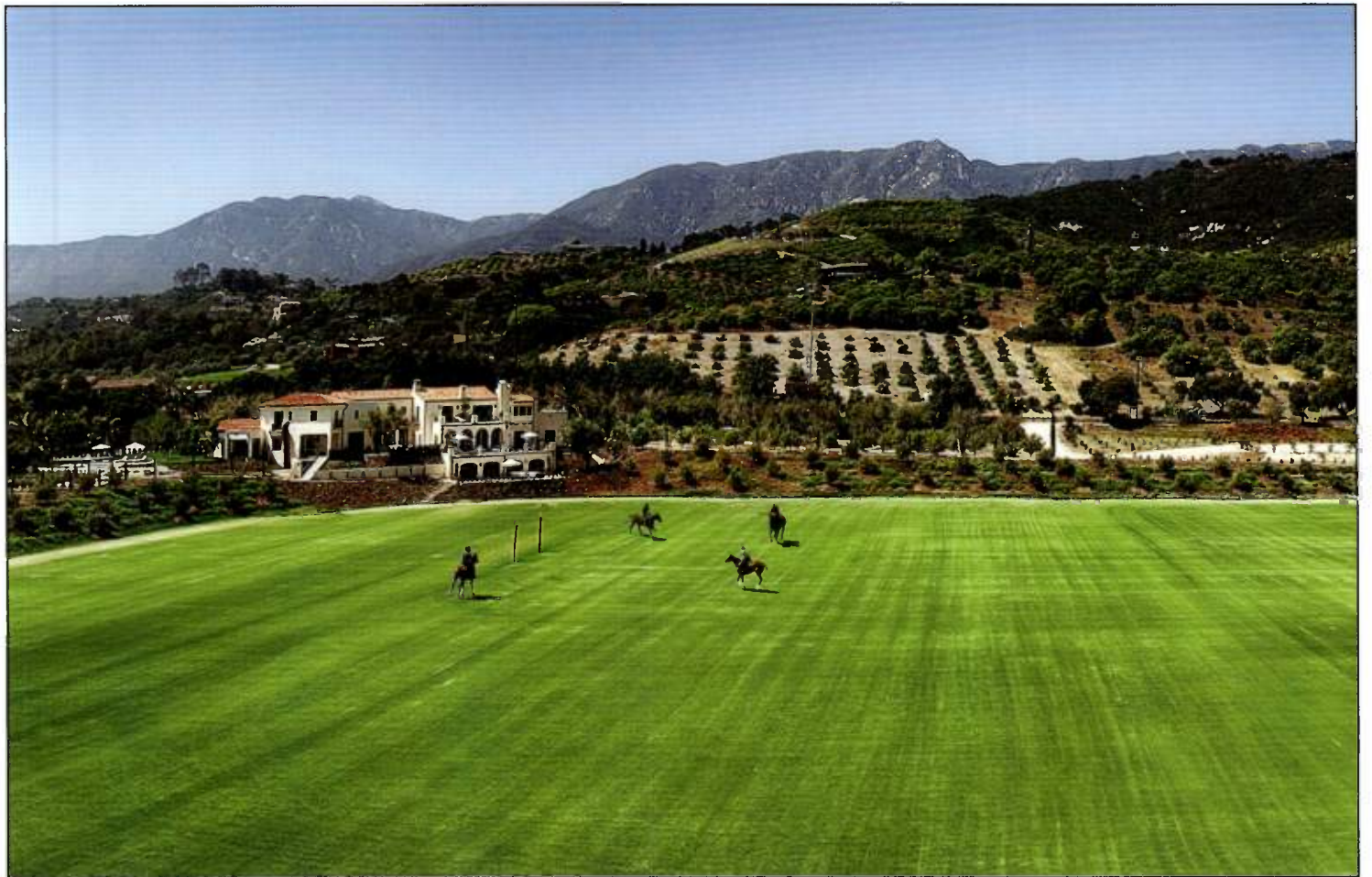
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REBA AND BLAKE SHELTON

Tonight's hosts, Reba and Blake Shelton, are both superstars in their own right. Reba has conquered music, film, Broadway and retail, and Blake has joined the country A-List as a hitmaker and coach on the popular TV show *The Voice*. Each brings something special to their roles as *ACM Awards* hosts, but together they have a chemistry that can't be matched. That special interplay—and lots of laughter—filled the Nashville soundstage where the pair shot this year's *ACM Awards* promos for CBS. Their banter on set proves we're all in good hands tonight.

You now have one of these shows as co-hosts together under your belt already. Blake, what is the best thing about having Reba as your co-host on the ACM Awards?

BLAKE: Somebody to blame things on when it goes south, when it goes badly. If there's ever a line that's messed up, it's usually because her timing is off a little bit. Let's be honest. But the good thing is, I can't think of a disaster that happened last year.

REBA: He's flawless. I thought you did an excellent job.

BLAKE: Say that again!

REBA: I thought you did a real good job.

BLAKE: Stop there. That's all you've got to say.

REBA: End of the interview (laughs)

Reba, what is great about having Blake up there with you? You've done this with other co-hosts, but you guys have some great chemistry.

REBA: For some reason we both have a unique type personality that, for me, when I get around Blake, it just seems to come out a little bit more. There's not as many guarded gates that come up. It's all 'what you see is what you get,' and that's what I've learned being around Blake. He's such a lovable creature. He's just sweet, adorable. [Blake gives her a loving look] Don't look at me like that. He's adorable. Everybody loves him. No matter what age group everybody loves him. He's a sweetheart.

BLAKE: Keep going. Talk about my looks.

REBA: He's a cutie pie. (laughs) And we have a great time.



Reba, fans have come to expect a lot of different looks from you on the show. How hard is it for you to get all the different looks and pull them together?

REBA: You know honestly after 14 years of doing this, [stylist] Terry Gordon and I are getting it down to a science and we already have our clothes ready. They are ready. This is the first time we've been this prepared. It just worked out, so we're really tickled.

And, you, Blake? What will you be wearing?

BLAKE: I don't do the wardrobe changes.

REBA: You are this time!

BLAKE: No!

REBA: Yeah, Narvel [Blackstock, Reba's husband and manager] has already said you're going to change four times, just like me.

BLAKE: Narvel is full of crap. It takes me 15 minutes to get in these jeans, and have you ever tried to put biscuits back in the can after you've opened it, like pushing things in there? That's what I have to do. I'm pushing things in there.

REBA: Maybe it is just going to be one clothes change for him. I didn't know about the biscuits.

Blake, in addition to hosting, you are one of the five artists up for ACM Entertainer of the Year. What is it like to be recognized in that category this year?

BLAKE: Man, I'm not going to sit here and be like other artists that will say, 'Well it's nice just to be nominated.' Bull crap! I'm pumped about it.

REBA: Heck yeah.

BLAKE: Hell yeah. It's cool.

REBA: That's a big deal.

BLAKE: It is a big deal. And I don't know what my chances are of winning it but...

REBA: One out of five.

BLAKE: See, she's so smart.



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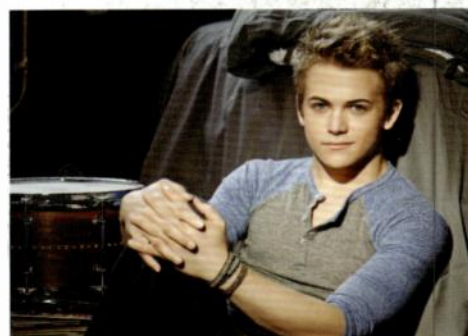
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ACM LIFTING LIVES AND CONAGRA FOODS JOIN LITTLE BIG TOWN AND HUNTER HAYES TO FIGHT CHILDHOOD HUNGER



It's hard to imagine anyone in the United States being hungry. Food seems to be everywhere we turn, but the hard truth is that more than 1 in 5 American children don't have consistent access to enough food to live active, healthy lives. It's a truth that up-and-coming singer-songwriter Hunter Hayes wants to bring to light.

Hayes and songwriters Luke Laird and Barry Dean have co-written "Here's Hope," which tackles the issue head-on with a together-we-can-beat-this attitude. The song will be performed live tonight by ACM Award winners Little Big Town as the ACM Lifting Lives show moment during the 47th *Academy of Country Music Awards*.

"We didn't realize, and I think a lot of people have kind of missed it that there's a problem with hunger, and there's a problem with hunger in our backyards," Hayes said. "It's not in a different country. It's not in a commercial. It's here and it's your next door neighbor. And our message was kind of like well, 'You know what? It's in our backyard, which means we can help.' They're our neighbors, which means we can do something. There's hope."

Lifting Lives, the charitable arm of the Academy, is spotlighting the issue in conjunction with ConAgra Foods, which has been helping feed hungry children for almost 20 years. Since 1998, ConAgra Foods has donated more than 275 million pounds of food, which translates into more than 200 million meals. The company has also established the "Child Hunger Ends Here" program. In this program, when a customer buys a specially-marked package of brands like Healthy Choice®, Marie Callender's®, Chef Boyardee®, Orville Redenbacher's®, Banquet®, Hunt's®, Manwich®, Snack Pack® or Peter Pan Peanut Butter®, and enters the code from the package, one meal is donated through Feeding America.

"Lifting Lives is dedicated to improving lives through the power of music. By partnering with Con Agra, Little Big Town, Hunter Hayes and consumers, we want to use a song in the telecast to raise awareness about how we can all help eradicate hunger," said ACM Lifting Lives Executive Director Lisa Huddleson.

"ConAgra Foods is proud to partner with the ACM Lifting Lives, Hunter Hayes and Feeding America to help solve the issue of Child Hunger," said Chris Sinta, ConAgra Foods Director of Consumer Promotions and Sponsorships. "We believe this

partnership, and tonight's performance of 'Here's Hope' by Little Big Town, will drive home the fact that more than one in five children don't know where their next meal is coming from, raise awareness of our commitment to ending child hunger, and reinforce how everyone can help."

CAA, G7 and the Academy played vital roles in bringing the partnership together. This year's ACM Lifting Lives show moment with Little Big Town continues the tradition of moving performances during the live *ACM Awards* that help support Lifting Lives and its beneficiaries. In 2011, chart-topping country artist Darius Rucker joined 25 ACM Lifting Lives music campers on stage for a special performance of "Music From the Heart," a song the campers wrote collectively last summer with Brett James and Chris Young at the ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp in Nashville. The first Lifting Lives show moment in 2009 featured Trace Adkins performing "'Til the Last Shot's Fired" with the West Point Glee Club. The performance raised funds and awareness for the Wounded Warrior Project, an organization that aids wounded American troops. In 2010, Toby Keith and Dave Koz performed Toby Keith's "Cryin' for me (Wayman's Song)" to benefit Stand Up to Cancer (SU2C), whose mission is to create and accelerate groundbreaking cancer research that will get new therapies to patients quickly and save lives.

ACM Lifting Lives works year round to improve lives through the power of music by funding nationwide programs offering music therapy and music education. We invite you to join us in supporting the ConAgra Foods' Child Hunger Ends Here program by visiting www.childhungerendshere.com.



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April 16, 2011



COUNTRY MUSIC MARATHON CONCERT
April 30, 2011



SPEAK NOW, HELP NOW BENEFIT
May 21, 2011



2011 CMT AWARDS
June 8, 2011



KEITH URBAN/JAKE OWEN
August 6, 2011



TAYLOR SWIFT
September 16-17, 2011



2011 CMA AWARDS
November 9, 2011



2011 CMA COUNTRY CHRISTMAS
November 10, 2011

2011
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ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC MISSION



The earliest incarnation of the Academy of Country Music was created in 1964 to bring attention to the innovative country artists based on the West Coast. Now, nearly 50 years after its founding, the far-reaching organization has branched out from its Los Angeles headquarters into the rowdy nightlife of Las Vegas, every corner of the music industry in Nashville, and most of all, directly into the hearts of country fans around the world.

The organization first launched as the Country & Western Music Academy, founded by performers Eddie Miller and Tommy Wiggins as well as club owners Mickey and Chris Christensen. Johnny Bond, Cliffie Stone and Tex Williams—all prominent figures in the California country music scene—each served as president of the fledgling organization.

The Academy's first awards show took place in Los Angeles in 1966, honoring accomplishments of the prior year. Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Bonnie Owens and Kay Adams were among the inaugural winners. The ceremony was the first country music awards program held by a major organization, thus propelling the region's country music scene into the public spotlight.

In 1968, Fran Boyd became the organization's first paid employee. That same year, the iconic "hat" trophy was implemented. In 1972, the *ACM Awards* were broadcast for the first time in national syndication on the ABC network. Gene Weed began producing the show in 1974. By that time, the Academy of Country Music's new name was chosen to alleviate confusion for those who thought the Academy was a music school.

The ACM partnered with Dick Clark Productions in 1979 to produce the awards show, while Weed continued his role as director. The show moved to NBC under Clark's guidance, then to CBS, where it remains today. In 2012, the Academy and CBS announced a 10-year deal that will keep the *ACM Awards* and the Academy's prime-time specials on CBS through 2021.

Bill Boyd, who was Fran Boyd's husband, helmed the Academy beginning in 1980. When he died in 1995, Fran became the organization's executive director. Following her retirement in 2002, Bob Romeo stepped into the role of executive director. In his first decade leading the company, Romeo grew the Academy's team with new departments such as Creative & Media Production, Membership & Events and Publicity & Marketing.

After decades of staging the show in Los Angeles, the

Academy boldly moved the *ACM Awards* to Las Vegas in 2003. Now the *ACM Awards* routinely sell out the MGM Grand Garden Arena and viewers can help choose the Entertainer of the Year and the New Artist of the Year by interactive voting.

During "The Week Vegas Goes Country[®]", tens of thousands of fans flock to Fremont Street for free concerts by headliners and new artists alike. The ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic, founded in 1983, is now one of the premiere events of its kind in the nation. Plus, fans can get up-close and personal with their favorite country artists at the post-show All-Star Jam and the ACM Fan Jam, which has become a live component to the *ACM Awards* telecast.

In recent years, country superstars and loyal fans have wisely extended their stay in Las Vegas for the once-in-a-lifetime network specials filmed the night after the *ACM Awards*. Taped in 2009, the first prime-time special paid tribute to George Strait, the Academy's Artist of the Decade for the 2000s. Brooks & Dunn's brilliant career was recognized in a memorable night of music called *The Last Rodeo* in 2010, while country music's female superstars received their due in 2011 with *Girls' Night Out: Superstar Women of Country*. Legendary singer-songwriter Lionel Richie and his famous country duet partners will share the spotlight in 2012 for *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends – In Concert*.

Meanwhile in Nashville, the ACM has presented plenty of all-star events like the Music City Jam and New Faces Show at Country Radio Seminar, as well as the ACM Honors at the Ryman Auditorium. The latter event salutes the winners of the Academy's Industry, MBI (Musician/Bandleader/Instrumentalist) and Special Awards, which are given to musicians, industry leaders, songwriters and legends. Keeping an eye abroad, the ACM also presents the esteemed Jim Reeves International Award to an artist who takes country music around the world.

Amid the glamour and excitement, the ACM is still focused on giving back to the community. Many of the organization's high-profile activities raise money that is directed to their charitable arm ACM Lifting Lives, which is dedicated to improving lives through the power of music. Through its annual grant cycle, the Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund, the ACM Entertainer of the Year matching gift and the My Cause web feature, Lifting Lives has donated millions of dollars to those in need, not just in the western states, but from coast to coast.



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GOING SOCIAL

THE ACADEMY ENGAGES STARS AND FANS ALIKE FOR THE FIRST EVER DIGITAL NOMINEES PRESS CONFERENCE

Every year legions of loyal country music fans tune in to see the nominations announcement for the annual Academy of Country Music Awards. This year, they had an even bigger reason to pay attention. For the first time ever, fans from across the country actually announced the nominees for ACM Entertainer of the Year in the Academy's first-ever digital press conference.

Hosted on the Academy's Facebook and Twitter pages, the digital conference revealed Entertainer nominees in a video mashup of fans from across the country saying the name of their favorite artist. Through video posts by *ACM Awards* co-host Reba, fans were invited to submit videos of themselves to the ACM YouTube page for consideration. More than 200 fans submitted videos in just three days.

The remaining on-camera categories were announced via video posts by *Entertainment Tonight's* Nancy O'Dell, *2 Broke Girls'* star Beth Behrs, TVline.com's Michael Ausiello and

international superstar Lionel Richie. Fans could log on and see the nominees rolled out in real time.

The digital press conference was the latest effort by the Academy to boost its social media presence, and it paid off in spades. The video posts earned 12 million impressions on Facebook and reached more than 14.2 million users on Twitter. Reba also kept the fun going during the press conference by hosting the Celebs on Facebook page, which has more than 4 million "likes" alone.

"The Academy has always been first to embrace fan engagement, and this year we upped the ante by inviting fans into the nominations process for the first time," said Brooke Primero, ACM SVP PR & Marketing. "In addition to fan involvement, we had more artists, celebrities and VIPs participate than we could ever have squeezed into a real world press conference – the day was a complete success because of how the artists embraced the idea."

The excitement continued throughout the day with participation from many of the nominated artists, whether it was a simple tweet acknowledging the nomination or reaction videos posted from artists like Chris Young, Eli Young Band, Jason Aldean, Lady Antebellum, Love & Theft and Toby Keith. Reactions gave fans a chance to see the whole nomination process unfold in front of them – the announcing of nominations, the press articles, the artists hearing the news and their reactions.

TO SEE VIDEOS FROM THE ACM DIGITAL PRESS CONFERENCE, VISIT YOUTUBE.COM/ACMCOUNTRY



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NOMINEES

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Jason Aldean
Kenny Chesney
Brad Paisley
Blake Shelton
Taylor Swift

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Jason Aldean
Kenny Chesney
Brad Paisley
Blake Shelton
Chris Young

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Sara Evans
Miranda Lambert
Martina McBride
Taylor Swift
Carrie Underwood

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Love and Theft
Montgomery Gentry
Steel Magnolia
Sugarland
Thompson Square

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

The Band Perry
Eli Young Band
Lady Antebellum
Rascal Flatts
Zac Brown Band

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Brantley Gilbert
Hunter Hayes
Scotty McCreery

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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

"Chief"

Eric Church
(EMI-Nashville)
Produced by: Arturo Buenahora, Jr., Jay Joyce

"Four The Record"

Miranda Lambert
(RCA)
Produced by: Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell, Glenn Worf

"Hemingway's Whiskey"

Kenny Chesney
(BNA)
Produced by: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

"My Kinda Party"

Jason Aldean
(Broken Bow Records)
Produced by: Michael Knox

"Own The Night"

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

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

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

"Crazy Girl"

Eli Young Band
(Republic Nashville)
Produced by: Mike Wrucke

"Don't You Wanna Stay"

Jason Aldean With Kelly Clarkson
(Broken Bow Records)
Produced by: Michael Knox

"Red Solo Cup"

Toby Keith
(Show Dog-Universal Music)
Produced by: Toby Keith

"Tomorrow"

Chris Young
(RCA)
Produced by: James Stroud

"You And Tequila"

Kenny Chesney
Featuring Grace Potter
(BNA)
Produced by: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

SONG OF THE YEAR

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

"Crazy Girl"

Eli Young Band
Composers: Lee Brice, Liz Rose
Publishers: Cake Taker Music (BMI), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Sweet Hysteria Music (BMI)

"Home"

Dierks Bentley
Composers: Brett Beavers, Dierks Bentley, Dan Wilson
Publishers: Big White Tracks (ASCAP), Chestnut Barn Music (BMI), Chrysalis Music/BMG Rights (ASCAP), Chrysalis One Songs (BMI)

"Just A Kiss"

Lady Antebellum
Composers: Dallas Davidson, Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott
Publishers: Dwhaywood Music (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. (BMI), EMI Foray Music (SESAC), Hillary Dawn Songs (SESAC), Radiobullets Publishing (BMI), Warner-Tamberlane Publishing Corp. (BMI)

"Threaten Me With Heaven"

Vince Gill
Composers: Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Dillon O'Brian, Will Owsley
Publishers: Dillon O'Brian Songs (BMI), Grant Girls Music (ASCAP), Vinny Mae Music (BMI), Willie-O Music (ASCAP)

"You And Tequila"

Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter
Composers: Matraca Berg, Deana Carter
Publishers: Deanaling Music (ASCAP), Hannaberg Music (BMI), Songs of Universal Inc. (BMI), WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

(Off Camera Award)

Rhett Akins
Dallas Davidson
Ben Hayslip
Luke Laird
David Lee Murphy

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

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

"Homeboy"

Eric Church
Producer: Brandon Arolfo
Director: Peter Zavadil

"Just A Kiss"

Lady Antebellum
Producer: Don Lepore
Director: Shaun Silva

"Mean"

Taylor Swift
Producer: Oualid Mouaness
Director: Declan Whitebloom

"Red Solo Cup"

Toby Keith
Producer: Mark Kalbfeld
Director: Michael Salomon

"Tattoos On This Town"

Jason Aldean
Producer: John Burke
Director: Wes Edwards

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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

"Country Boy"

Aaron Lewis Featuring George Jones & Charlie Daniels
(R&J Records)
Produced by: Aaron Lewis, James Stroud

"Don't You Wanna Stay"

Jason Aldean With Kelly Clarkson
(Broken Bow Records)
Produced by: Michael Knox

"Old Alabama"

Brad Paisley Featuring Alabama
(Arista Nashville)
Produced by: Frank Rogers

"Remind Me"

Brad Paisley Duet With Carrie Underwood
(Arista Nashville)
Produced by: Frank Rogers

"You And Tequila"

Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter
(BNA)
Produced by: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

INDUSTRY AWARDS

CASINO OF THE YEAR

Agua Caliente Casino - Rancho Mirage, CA
IP Casino - Biloxi, MS
Island Resort Casino - Harris, MI
Mandalay Bay Hotel & Casino - Las Vegas, NV
WinStar World Casino - Thackerville, OK

NIGHTCLUB OF THE YEAR

Billy Bob's Texas - Ft. Worth, TX
Buck Owens' Crystal Palace - Bakersfield, CA
Grizzly Rose - Denver, CO
Toby Keith's I Love This Bar & Grill - Minneapolis, MN
Wormy Dog - Oklahoma City, OK

VENUE OF THE YEAR

BOK Center - Tulsa, OK
Bridgestone Arena - Nashville, TN
First Midwest Bank Amphitheatre - Chicago, IL
Jiffy Lube Live - Bristow, VA
Sprint Center - Kansas City, MO

DON ROMEO TALENT BUYER OF THE YEAR

Ethan Hirsch - Wilson Events
Jimmy Jay - Jayson Promotions, Inc.
RJ Kaltenbach - Klein's Attractions
Gary Osier - Gary Osier Presents
Huston Powell - C3 Presents

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

Ben Farrell - Varnell Enterprises, Inc.
Brad Garrett - Police Productions
Brian O'Connell - Live Nation
Glenn Smith - Glenn & Linda Present
Ed Warm - Joe's Bar

MUSICIAN / BANDLEADER / INSTRUMENTALIST / (MBI) AWARDS

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Mark Bright
Buddy Cannon
Nathan Chapman
Jay Joyce
Frank Liddell

AUDIO ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Jeff Balding
Derek Bason
John Kelton
Mills Logan
Justin Niebank

BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mike Brignardello
Kevin "Swine" Grantt
Mark Hill
Michael Rhodes
Jimmy Lee Sloas

PERCUSSIONIST/DRUMMER OF THE YEAR

Matt Chamberlain
Chad Cromwell
Shannon Forrest
Chris McHugh
Greg Morrow

FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Glen Duncan
Stuart Duncan
Larry Franklin
Joe Spivey
Jonathan Yudkin

GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

J.T. Corenflos
Kenny Greenberg
Jay Joyce
Brent Mason
Adam Shoenfeld

PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Tony Harrell
John Hobbs
John Jarvis
Charlie Judge
Michael Rojas

SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT(S) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Eric Darken
Aubrey Haynie
Ilya Toshinsky
John Willis
Jonathan Yudkin

STEEL GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Paul Franklin
Mike Johnson
Greg Leisz
Russ Pahl
Scotty Sanders

RADIO AWARDS

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - NATIONAL

Cody Alan - CMT Radio Live with Cody Alan
Kix Brooks - American Country Countdown with Kix Brooks
Crook and Chase - Crook and Chase Countdown
Lon Helton - CMT Country Countdown USA
Lia - The Lia Show

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

Kelly Ford & Rider - KYGO-FM (Denver, CO)
Cledus T. Judd, Dave McKay, Veronica - WQYK-FM (St. Petersburg, FL)
Lisa Dent and Ramblin' Ray - WUSN-FM (Chicago, IL)
Trish Biondo - WUSN-FM (Chicago, IL)
Edwards & Lee (Chuck Edwards & Linda Lee) - WYCD-FM (Detroit, MI)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

Randy Carroll & Jamie Martin - KAJA-FM (San Antonio, TX)
Dave O'Brien - WLHK-FM (Indianapolis, IN)
Mike, Marty and Janie - WQDR-FM (Raleigh, NC)
Bill Cody - WSM-AM (Nashville, TN)
Big Dave and Chelsie - WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET (TIE)

Steve & Geoff in the Morning - KUZZ AM/FM (Bakersfield, CA)
Cash and Carey (Natalie Cash and Jim Carey) - KWEN-FM (Tulsa, OK)
Tom & Becky - WBBS-FM (Syracuse, NY)
Roger, Tom & Melissa - WPCV-FM (Lakeland, FL)
Scott Wynn & Sue Wilson (Wynn and Wilson in the Morning) - WQMX-FM (Akron, OH)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

Scotty & Carissa in the Morning - KCLR-FM (Columbia, MO)
Bill Barrett, Tim Fox and Tracy Berry - KKNV-FM (Eugene, OR)
Philip Gibbons - WGSQ-FM (Cookeville, TN)
Bearman and Ken in the Morning - WUSY-FM (Chattanooga, TN)
Brent Lane - WYCT-FM (Pensacola, FL)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

KUPL-FM (Portland, OR)
KYGO-FM (Denver, CO)
WQYK-FM (St. Petersburg, FL)
WXTU-FM (Philadelphia, PA)
WYCD-FM (Detroit, MI)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

KAJA-FM (San Antonio, TX)
WLHK-FM (Indianapolis, IN)
WQDR-FM (Raleigh, NC)
WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET

KATM-FM (Stockton, CA)
KUZZ AM/FM (Bakersfield, CA)
WBBS FM (Syracuse, NY)
WYRK FM (Buffalo, NY)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

KCLR-FM (Columbia, MO)
KUAD-FM (Windsor, CO)
WUSY-FM (Chattanooga, TN)
WXFL-FM (Florence, AL)

NOTE: Winners in bold type



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Photos by: Dan Cole

JASON ALDEAN



NOMINATED FOR

Entertainer of the Year
Male Vocalist of the Year
Album of the Year (Artist)
Single Record of the Year (Artist)
Video of the Year (Artist)
Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Jason Aldean

established himself as a new country superstar with *My Kinda Party*, the compelling album that launched four of the biggest singles of his career: "My Kinda Party," "Don't You Wanna Stay," "Dirt Road Anthem" and "Tattoos on This Town." As a single, "My Kinda Party" reached platinum, and the album of the same name has sold more than two million copies. Meanwhile, "Don't You Wanna Stay" with Kelly Clarkson hit No. 1, sold a million copies and crossed over to the adult contemporary chart. And by fusing rap and country, "Dirt Road Anthem" was soon paved in double-platinum. Aldean capped the year by selling more than a million tickets on the My Kinda Party Tour, earning three Grammy nominations and receiving the CMT Artist of the Year distinction. By January, he racked up another gold single with "Tattoos on This Town." As a young man, Aldean divided his time between Georgia and Florida, and finally earned a shot in Nashville after countless club dates and numerous false starts. He secured his first ACM Award as the 2005 Top New Male Vocalist, thanks to hits like "Hicktown," "Amarillo Sky" and "Why," which all came from his platinum self-titled debut. He continued to score with "Johnny Cash," "She's Country," "Big Green Tractor," "The Truth" and "Crazy Town." The latest single from *My Kinda Party* is "Fly Over States."

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR NOMINATIONS!**

**JASON
ALDEAN**



BROKEN BOW RECORDS



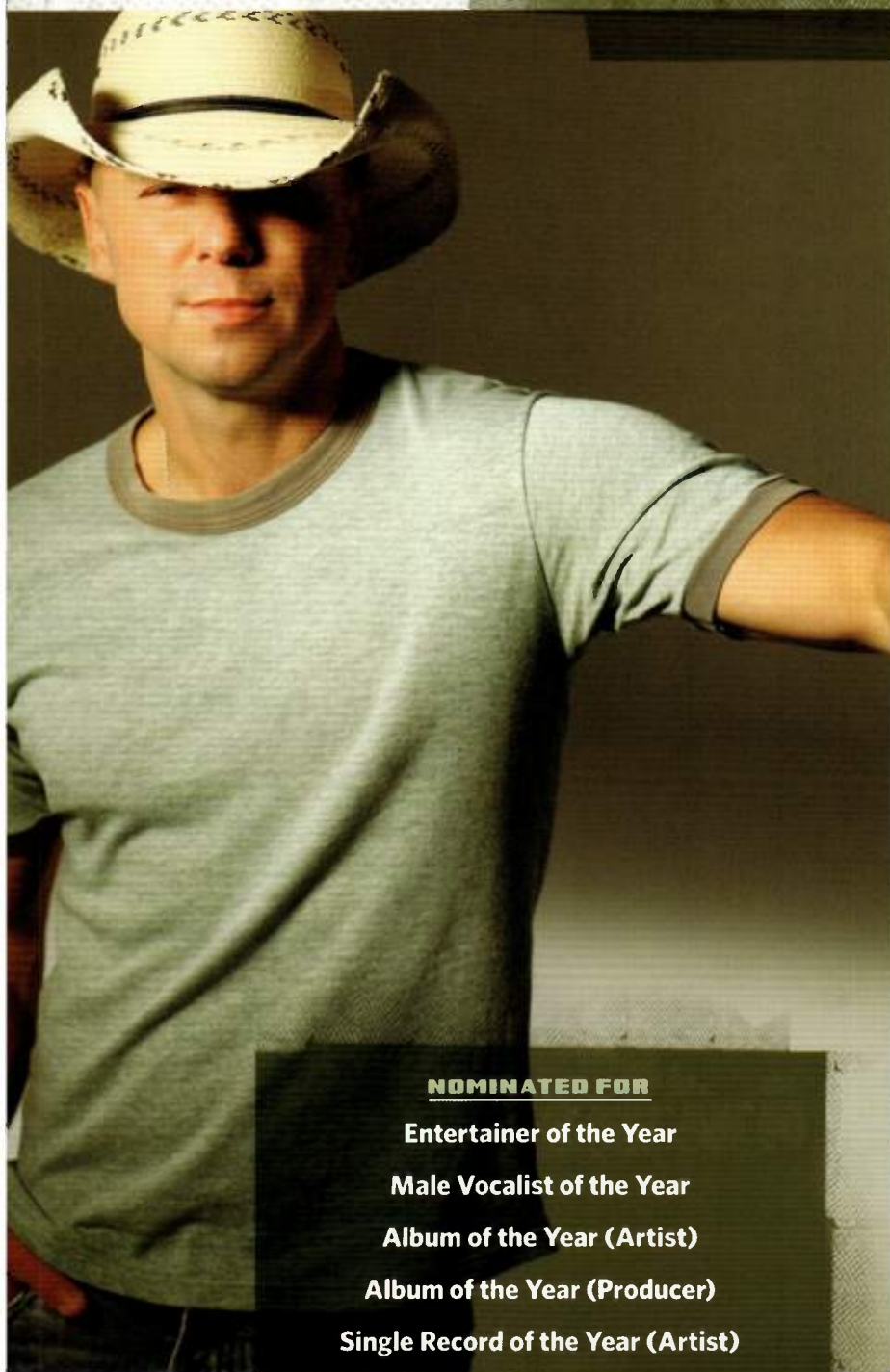
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KENNY CHESNEY

**NOMINATED FOR**

Entertainer of the Year
Male Vocalist of the Year
Album of the Year (Artist)
Album of the Year (Producer)
Single Record of the Year (Artist)
Single Record of the Year (Producer)
Song of the Year (Artist)
Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)
Vocal Event of the Year (Producer)

Kenny Chesney commanded country fans' attention in 2011 with a standout summer stadium tour and smash hits like "Somewhere With You," "Live a Little," "You and Tequila" and "Reality." And the reality is, Chesney remains one of the ACM's most-awarded stars. He received the Top New Male Vocalist award for 1997 for early hits like "Me and You," "When I Close My Eyes" and his first No. 1 hit, "She's Got It All." Within a decade, he'd claimed the 2002 Male Vocalist of the Year award and four consecutive Entertainer of the Year trophies (2004-2007), thus earning him the ACM's rare Triple Crown award. Nearly two decades into an astonishing career, Chesney continues to rack up significant sales. His latest album, *Hemingway's Whiskey*, reached platinum certification in 2011, as did "Somewhere With You" and a longtime concert staple, "Summertime." Meanwhile, "You and Tequila" with rising star Grace Potter earned platinum status and two Grammy nominations. The accolades led Chesney to being named one of CMT's Artists of the Year. The "Reality" music video conveys the excitement of Chesney's live show, which more than a million fans experienced firsthand in 2011 during his trek with the Zac Brown Band. He'll surely duplicate that success this summer on the Brothers of the Sun Tour with Tim McGraw. Since 1995, Chesney has landed 41 Top 10 singles at country radio.

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BRAD PAISLEY



NOMINATED FOR

Entertainer of the Year

Male Vocalist of the Year

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Brad Paisley has visited the podium at

every ACM Awards ceremony for the last seven years. Thus, he may not be overstating things with the title of his latest album, *This Is Country Music*. The title track sparked memories for longtime listeners, which he rewarded again with "Old Alabama," a tribute to one of his favorite bands that was certified gold. Joining with one of country music's current superstars, Carrie Underwood, led to a quick platinum plaque for "Remind Me." Meanwhile, *Hits Alive* also struck gold in 2011, as did the single "Water." After receiving the trophy for 1999 ACM Top New Male Vocalist, Paisley built his sturdy career on a mix of fun tunes and thoughtful ballads. "Whiskey Lullaby," "When I Get Where I'm Going," "Online," "Waitin' on a Woman" and "Start a Band" have all earned various ACM Awards, while Paisley himself has won the Male Vocalist of the Year trophy for the last five years. In 2011, he earned recognition as a CMT Artist of the Year and published a unique memoir, *Diary of a Player*, which details his fascination with guitars. During a rare break in his schedule, he celebrated his sensational year with a party on the Grand Ole Opry stage. As one of country's most innovative artists, look for his Virtual Reality World Tour in 2012.



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BLAKE SHELTON

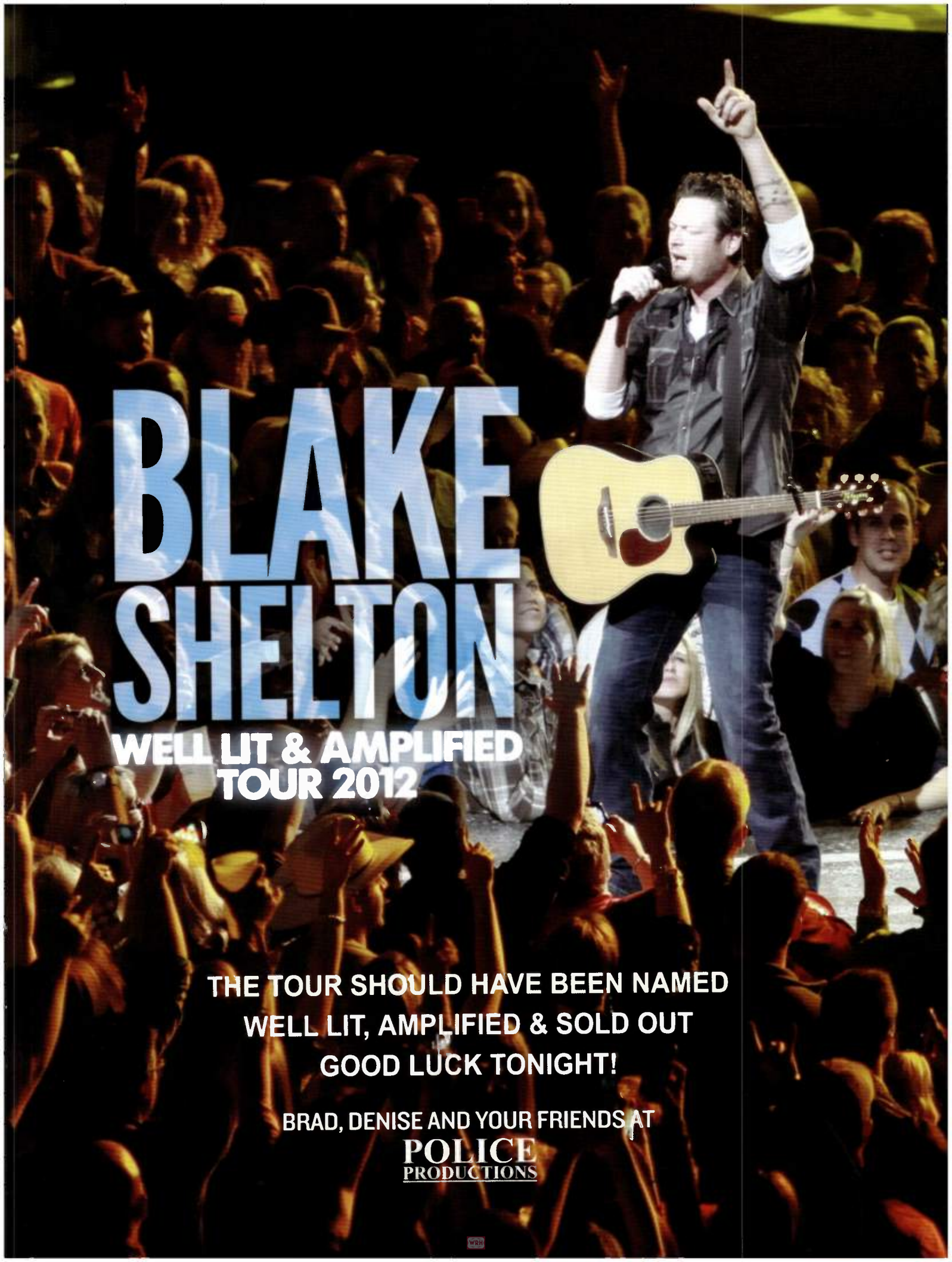


NOMINATED FOR

Entertainer
of the Year

Male Vocalist
of the Year

Blake Shelton continued to charm country fans in 2011 with engaging No. 1 hits like "Who Are You When I'm Not Looking," "Honey Bee" and "God Gave Me You." Plus, he co-hosted the ACM Awards for the first time, encouraged aspiring singers on *The Voice* and married country star Miranda Lambert. Shelton earned his first-ever platinum certification in 2011 with "Honey Bee," followed by "God Gave Me You" going platinum in 2012. He also achieved gold status with "Home," as well as the albums *Red River Blue* and *Loaded: The Best of Blake Shelton*. The Grammys acknowledged his hot streak, too. *Red River Blue* grabbed a nomination for best country album, "Honey Bee" received a spot in the best country solo performance category and "God Gave Me You" (written by Dave Barnes) landed a nod for best country song. In addition, he co-produced a new single for Neal McCoy, recorded with Lionel Richie and enthusiastically covered the iconic pop hit, "Footloose." This year, Shelton is headlining arenas on the Well Lit & Amplified Tour with more than a decade of hits to draw from, including the ACM Award-winning "Hillbilly Bone." In October, he'll visit some beach on the inaugural Blake Shelton and Friends cruise. Despite the packed schedule, though, he still finds time to keep his loyal followers entertained with his clever, quirky updates on Twitter.

A photograph of country music artist Blake Shelton performing on stage. He is wearing a dark button-down shirt over a white long-sleeved shirt and jeans. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and an acoustic guitar in his left, with his right arm raised in a "rock on" gesture. The background is filled with a large, enthusiastic crowd of fans, many of whom have their hands raised. The lighting is warm and focused on the performer.

BLAKE SHELTON

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**BRAD, DENISE AND YOUR FRIENDS AT
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TAYLOR SWIFT



Taylor Swift, the ACM's reigning Entertainer of the Year,

enchanted fans around the world in 2011 with her lavish Speak Now World Tour. Amid the theatrical setting, however, Swift ensured that her songs remained the star of the show. As the lead single from *Speak Now*, "Mine" immediately connected with fans, leading to the Video of the Year trophy at the CMT Music Awards and a double-platinum single. Next, the platinum "Back to December" showed a melancholy side of her songwriting. However, Swift strutted through "Mean" with such spirit that even the harshest critics would have to smile. "Mean" received Grammy Awards for best solo country performance and best country song, while *Speak Now* earned a nomination for best country album. Swift was also named one of CMT's Artists of the Year and *Billboard* honored her as its Woman of the Year. Her other projects included launching her Wonderstruck fragrance, writing and performing "Safe and Sound" for *The Hunger Games* soundtrack, lending her voice to the film *The Lorax*, and releasing a live CD/DVD of her Speak Now World Tour. Just four years ago, Swift earned her first ACM Award as Top New Female Vocalist. Showing her staying power, her self-titled debut reached five million in sales in 2011, while *Speak Now* has sold four million units. She is the top-certified digital artist in country music history.

NOMINATED FOR

Entertainer of the Year
Female Vocalist of the Year
Video of the Year (Artist)

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ALABAMA

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Alabama brought their mountain music

back to country radio in 2011 with "Old Alabama," a lively collaboration with Brad Paisley. The distinguished group received the ACM's Artist of the Decade award for the 1980s after winning the Entertainer of the Year award for five consecutive years. They landed their first ACM Award as the 1980 Top Vocal Group, a category they claimed for six straight years. Three of their most popular albums – *Feels So Right*, *The Closer You Get* and *Roll On* – also earned ACM Awards in the 1980s. Between 1980 and 1999, the ensemble charted 51 Top 10 hits, with 32 reaching No. 1. They are also the recipients of the ACM's Pioneer Award and Milestone Award. In 2011, original



band members Randy Owen, Jeff Cook and Teddy Gentry returned to the peak position with "Old Alabama" and the digital single achieved gold status. The band also recorded "Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way" for a Waylon Jennings tribute album. In June, they hosted the Bama Rising tornado relief concert in Birmingham, Ala., with a roster of all-star guests. The band is expected to perform around 30 concerts in 2012, with plans for a new album, too.

DIERKS BENTLEY

NOMINATED FOR

Song of the Year (Composer)

Dierks Bentley built his new album, *Home*, on the foundation of party anthems, romantic ballads and a poetic look at patriotism. Along with recording the album in Asheville, N.C., Bentley spent 2011 focused on his Country & Cold Cans Tour, along with raising money for children's hospitals in Illinois, Ohio and Tennessee through his Miles & Music for Kids events. Bentley claimed the 2003 Top New Artist ACM Award thanks to his debut smash, "What Was I Thinkin'." Since then he's joined the Grand Ole Opry and gathered 14 Top 10

singles, with eight of those reaching No. 1. "Am I the Only One" climbed all the way to the top in 2011 and reached gold status. He followed that success with "Home," a heartfelt ballad that displays his love for his country. Bentley's home state of Arizona chose it as their official song for the state's 100th anniversary. To celebrate the album's release, Bentley headlined a crowd-pleasing show at Nashville's Ryman Auditorium with guests Will Hoge, Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild and musical heroes The Del McCoury Band. For his encore, he sang an adorable duet with his three-year-old daughter, Evie.

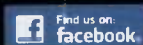


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ERIC CHURCH

NOMINATED FOR

Album of the Year (Artist)

Video of the Year (Artist)

Eric Church earned widespread critical acclaim and long-awaited commercial success in 2011, confirming the talent that his dedicated fans have seen all along. With his latest album, *Chief*, Church secured his first Grammy nomination (for best country album) as well as his first No. 1 hit, "Drink in My Hand." The latter song reached gold status, joining his 2011 certifications for "Homeboy," "Love Your Love the Most" and "Smoke a Little Smoke." *Chief* also earned a gold plaque less than three months after it debuted at No. 1 on both the country and pop charts. No wonder this North Carolina native landed last year's ACM Award for New Solo Vocalist. He



spent much of 2011 opening for hard-working stars like Jason Aldean and Toby Keith. And this year he's headlining arena shows as part of the Blood, Sweat & Beers Tour with Brantley Gilbert and numerous newcomers. As a songwriter and performer, Church finds inspiration in country music's Outlaws, yet brings his own perspective to albums like 2007's *Sinners Like Me* and 2009's gold-certified *Carolina*. He and his wife, Caroline, welcomed their first son, Boone McCoy Church, in October.

KELLY CLARKSON

NOMINATED FOR

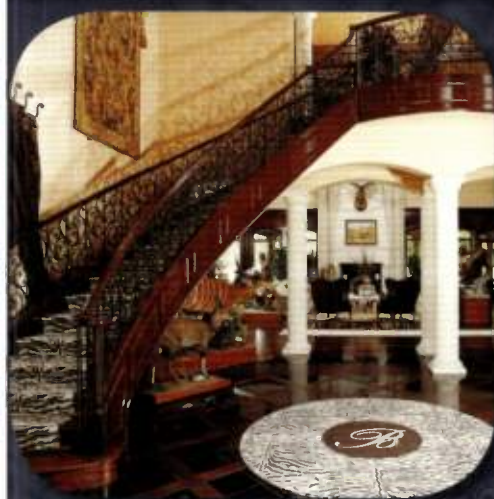
Single Record of the Year (Artist)

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Kelly Clarkson may be one of the biggest pop stars in the world, yet she became an avid country fan while growing up in Burleson, Texas. In the 10 years since winning *American Idol*, she has developed a country audience by sharing powerful ballads with Nashville's biggest stars. Her incredible duet version of "Because of You" with Reba McEntire carried them to the upper reaches of the country chart and spawned a unique, collaborative tour. Clarkson returned to country radio in a huge way last year as a dazzling duet partner with Jason Aldean on "Don't You Wanna Stay." The No. 1 smash single topped the country charts, crossed over to adult contemporary radio and grabbed a Grammy nomination for best country duo/group performance. Of course, Clarkson remains prominent on the pop scene, too. Her signature sass was showcased on "Mr. Know It All" and her latest album, *Stronger*, achieved gold status in less than two months. Her impressive hit streak includes "Since U Been Gone," "Behind These Hazel Eyes," "Breakaway," "Miss Independent," "Never Again," "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)" and "Walk Away." She delivered the national anthem at Super Bowl XLVI in February.



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CHARLIE DANIELS

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Charlie Daniels has stood firmly on the country music scene for nearly 40 years and remains one of its most recognizable stars. His outspoken personality and love for tradition made him a natural fit to join Aaron Lewis' gold-certified single, "Country Boy." Daniels first entered the country charts in 1973 with "Uneasy Rider." Six years later, as the dynamic leader of the Charlie Daniels Band, his career exploded with "The Devil Went Down to Georgia," an instant classic that won a Grammy, reached platinum status and certified him as a country icon. The Charlie Daniels Band also claimed the 1979 and 1980 ACM Awards for touring band of the year. Their enduring career compilation, *A Decade of Hits*, has sold more than four million copies since its 1983 release,



while 1979's *Million Mile Reflection* is triple-platinum. Other top-selling titles include platinum albums like *Fire on the Mountain*, *Full Moon* and *Simple Man*, as well as the gold albums *Midnight Wind*, *Saddle Tramp* and *Windows*. In recent years, Daniels has satisfied his fans with a string of new albums from the realms of bluegrass, country and Christmas music. To honor his numerous contributions, Daniels earned the 1997 ACM Pioneer Award.



ELI YOUNG BAND

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Group of the Year

Single Record of the Year (Artist)

Song of the Year (Artist)

Eli Young Band exploded at country radio in 2011 with "Crazy Girl," a persistent mid-tempo hit that ended up becoming the format's most-played single of the year. Plus it climbed all the way to No. 1 and reached platinum status. Written by Lee Brice and Liz Rose, the song's momentum helped the Texas-based band land a spot on Dierks Bentley's tour and a slot on *Late Night With David Letterman*. They followed that with "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," a powerful narrative written by Will Hoge and Eric Paslay. Sung from the perspective of a young man driven to succeed in the music world, the track leads the band's latest album, *Life at Best*. Known for their energetic live show, Eli Young Band headlined a show at the Houston Rodeo in 2011 and toured Australia with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill earlier this year. Their set list includes early singles like "Always the Love Songs" and "When It Rains," which helped establish their presence at country radio. They'll tour with Rascal Flatts in 2012. Eli Young Band members are lead singer Mike Eli, guitarist James Young, drummer Chris Thompson and bassist Jon Jones.

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SARA EVANS

NOMINATED FOR

Female Vocalist of the Year

Sara Evans emerged from a long hiatus

with "A Little Big Stronger," an empowering single that vividly described her state of mind at the time. Naturally, her return was met with open arms as the single climbed to No. 1 at country radio and reached platinum status. Her fans also embraced *Stronger*, her first album of new material in six years. With a radio resurgence, Evans signed onto the Rascal Flatts tour and filmed a cinematic video for "My Heart Can't Tell You No," a longing ballad originally released by Rod Stewart that she always dreamed of recording. Evans also branched into book publishing with *Love Lifted Me* and appeared on *Dancing With the Stars*, five years after she bowed out of the competition to spend time with



her children. At that time, Evans had catapulted to fame with a 2005 ACM Award for Female Vocalist of the Year and No. 1 hits like "No Place That Far," "Born to Fly," "Suds in the Bucket" and "A Real Fine Place to Start." Coming full circle, she updated "Born to Fly" with a bluegrass twist for *Stronger*, ensuring that she always keeps things interesting.

BRANTLEY GILBERT

NOMINATED FOR

New Artist of the Year

Brantley Gilbert keeps his home in Jefferson, Ga., yet he's taken Nashville by storm as a performer and songwriter. With a dedicated fan base known as the BG Nation already in place due to years of intense touring, Gilbert grabbed his first No. 1 single as an artist in 2011 with the gold-certified "Country Must Be Country Wide." He maintained that momentum at radio with "You Don't Know Her Like I Do." Meanwhile, as a songwriter, he's landed two huge cuts with Jason Aldean – the platinum "My Kinda Party" and the double-platinum "Dirt Road Anthem." (Both are from Aldean's ACM-nominated album, *My Kinda Party*.) When Gilbert was 19, he was nearly killed in a car accident. The experience prompted him to pursue a career in music. His musical influences include Southern rock, rugged country and heartfelt soul. Although he began performing acoustically, he built his following on his electric live show. Gilbert's debut album, *Modern Day Prodigal Son*, appeared on Average Joe's Entertainment in 2009. A deluxe, expanded version of his *Halfway to Heaven* album arrived on The Valory Music Co. in 2011. Gilbert is opening shows on Eric Church's Blood Sweat & Beers Tour in 2012.



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VINCE GILL

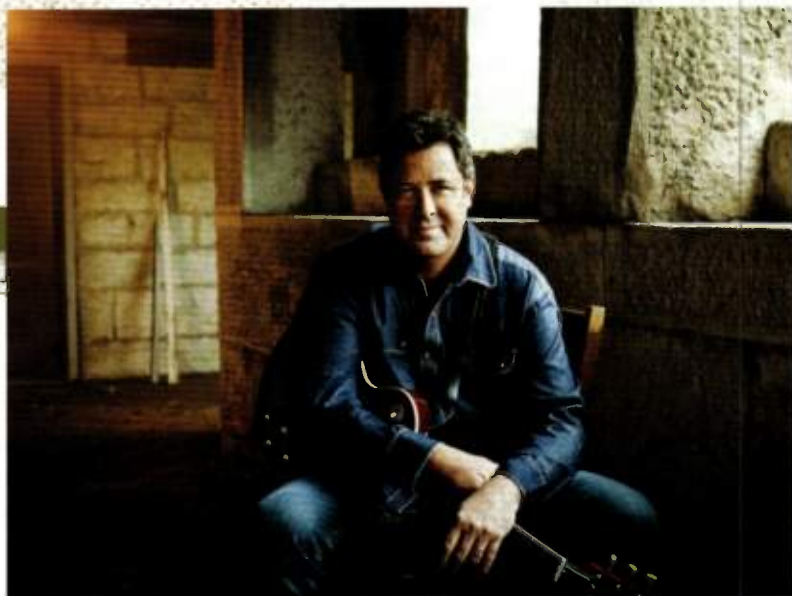
NOMINATED FOR

Song of the Year (Artist)

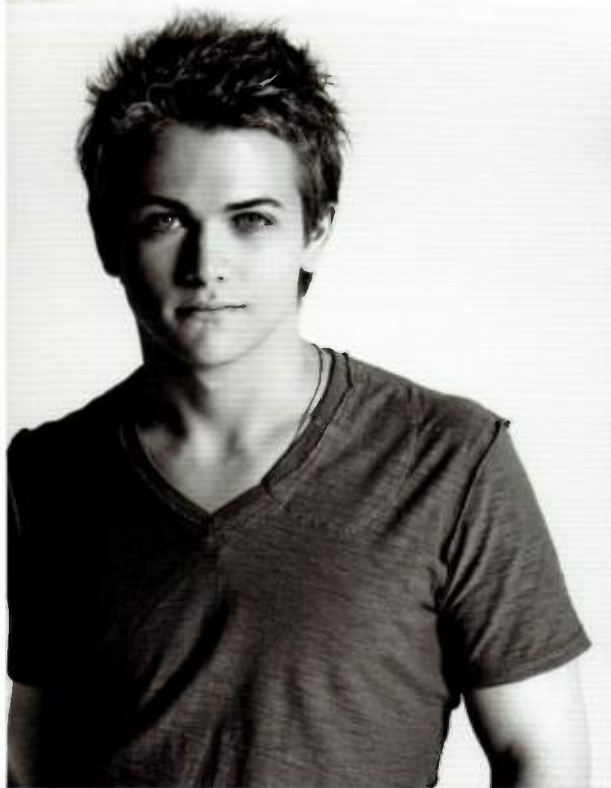
Song of the Year (Composer)

Vince Gill is the only nominee this year

to win an ACM Award in the 1980s, the 1990s and the 2000s. The friendly Oklahoma native claimed the 1984 ACM Award for Top New Male Vocalist, thanks to early singles on RCA. As the 1990s began, Gill transitioned to MCA Nashville and enjoyed an enviable career that brought 1992 and 1993 ACM Awards for Male Vocalist of the Year, as well as the 1992 Song of the Year trophy (as artist and composer) for "I Still Believe in You." Meanwhile the album of the same name emerged as a career landmark, with more than five million copies sold. Gill is well-known as a generous collaborator, both musically and



philanthropically. He received the 2005 ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award as well as a 2006 ACM Vocal Event award for harmonizing with Sheryl Crow on Brooks & Dunn's "Building Bridges." Gill returned to the country scene in 2011 with a new album, *Guitar Slinger*. The diverse project includes his Grammy-nominated single, "Threaten Me With Heaven," which he wrote with his wife Amy Grant and friends Dillon O'Brian and the late Will Owsley. Gill joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007.



HUNTER HAYES

NOMINATED FOR

New Artist of the Year

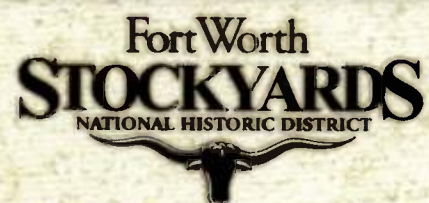
Hunter Hayes caused a stir among country fans with "Storm Warning," his catchy debut single. At 20, this Louisiana native has already shared the stage with country legends like Hank Williams Jr. (as a 5-year-old accordion prodigy) and contemporary superstars like Taylor Swift (on select dates of her Speak Now World Tour). For his self-titled debut album, Hayes wrote or co-wrote all the songs and co-produced the project with Dann Huff. Hayes also played every instrument on the album. He cites Garth Brooks, Clint Black and LeAnn Rimes as major influences, as well as the Cajun music he heard in his home state. At age 4, Hayes landed a regular gig as an accordion player at a neighborhood Cajun restaurant. When he turned 5, he took the lead spot in the band. One year later he learned guitar and appeared in the film *The Apostle* with Robert Duvall. Now living in Nashville, Hayes has notched writing credits on songs recorded by Rascal Flatts and Montgomery Gentry and landed on the *Footloose* and *Act of Valor* soundtracks. He's also sung on *Late Night With David Letterman* and the Grand Ole Opry. Following his tour with Rascal Flatts, Hayes will tour throughout 2012.



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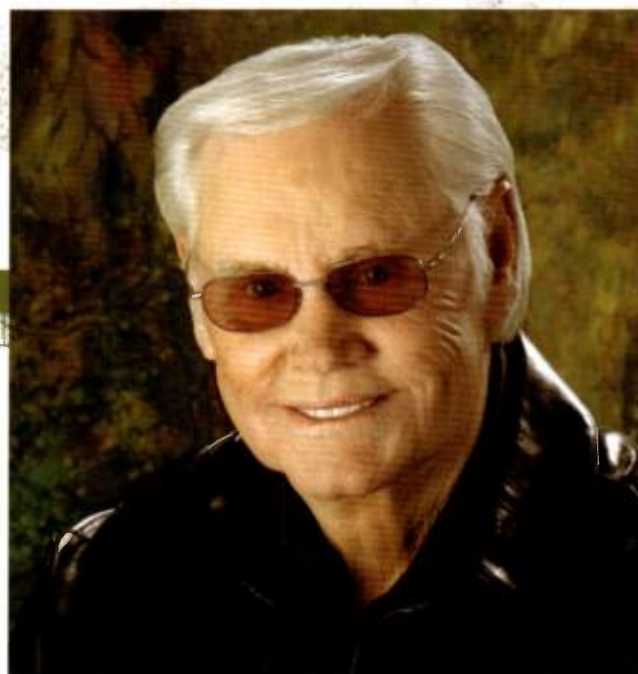
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GEORGE JONES

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

George Jones' magnificent voice continues to inspire today's top country artists while still embodying the genre's rich traditions. Jones earned his first Top 10 hit, "Why Baby Why," in 1955. And over the next 35 years, his distinctive baritone graced 78 Top 10 country hits. Perhaps his most famous recording is "He Stopped Loving Her Today," a song that prompted 1980 ACM Awards for Single, Song and Male Vocalist. Five years later, his video for "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes" also claimed an ACM Award. In a nod of admiration, Kenny Chesney partnered with Jones on a remake of "Small Y'all" on the ACM-nominated *Hemingway's Whiskey*, while Jones and Aaron Lewis grabbed a gold single and an ACM nomination for their



collaboration, "Country Boy." In addition, Jason Aldean name-checks the Possum in the double-platinum "Dirt Road Anthem" by singing about "swerving like George Jones." The country icon celebrated his 80th birthday in 2011 with a special Grand Ole Opry show featuring friends like Alan Jackson, Jamey Johnson, The Oak Ridge Boys and Lee Ann Womack. In recognition of his brilliant career, Jones earned the 1992 ACM Pioneer Award. He joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1992.



TOBY KEITH

NOMINATED FOR

Single Record of the Year (Artist)

Single Record of the Year (Producer)

Video of the Year (Artist)

Toby Keith charged ahead in 2011 with two memorable hits, the gold-certified "Made in America" and the platinum "Red Solo Cup." Known for taking a stand, as well as poking fun at himself and others, this Oklahoma superstar has satisfied his loyal fans for more than two decades. After offering a long string of hit singles to radio, such as "Should've Been a Cowboy," Keith took the reins in 1999 by switching labels and releasing a bold new project, *How Do You Like Me Now?* The title track became a huge hit and helped Keith

win ACM Awards for Male Vocalist and Album of the Year. Since then, he's repeated in both categories – and also claimed the 2002 and 2003 Entertainer trophy. In addition, "Beer For My Horses" landed ACM Awards both as a music video and a film. In 2011, Keith performed for the USO, sang on *Dancing With the Stars* and raised \$20,000 for NSAI with a Bluebird Café concert. To top things off, he launched Wild Shot Mezcal, just in time to toast *Glee*'s rendition of "Red Solo Cup." The title of Keith's latest gold-certified album, *Clancy's Tavern*, pays homage to his grandmother's supper club.

WHAT DO TOBY KEITH, KENNY CHESNEY, KEITH URBAN,
BRAD PAISLEY, WAYLON JENNINGS, CHARLEY PRIDE,
MIRANDA LAMBERT, GARY ALLAN, CHARLIE DANIELS,
KENNY ROGERS, MERLE HAGGARD, BLAKE SHELTON,
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LADY ANTEBELLUM

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Group of the Year
Album of the Year (Artist)
Album of the Year (Producer)
Song of the Year (Artist)
Song of the Year (Composer)
Video of the Year (Artist)

Lady Antebellum owned more than just the night in 2011. To start the year, band members Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott secured five Grammys and "Need You Now" rose to five million digital downloads. Meanwhile, "American Honey" reached platinum and "Lookin' for a Good Time" grabbed gold. That momentum led to a headlining tour and appearances on



American Idol, *Dancing With the Stars* and *Saturday Night Live*. Plus they were named a CMT Artist of the Year. On a more somber note, they performed the national anthem at the NFL season opener on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. By the end of 2011, they scored No. 1 hits with "Just a Kiss" (which ultimately reached double platinum status) and "We Owned the Night" (a gold single). Both tracks are from their Grammy-winning platinum album, *Own the Night*. The trio won the ACM's New Vocal Duo or Group just four years ago. Along with past trophies in the Song, Single and Album categories (for "Need You Now" and its namesake album), they are the ACM's reigning Group of the Year, winning for the last two years. Following a string of U.S. dates, the group will tour Europe this summer.



MIRANDA LAMBERT

NOMINATED FOR

Female Vocalist of the Year
Album of the Year (Artist)

Miranda Lambert delivered two acclaimed albums in 2011, while still maintaining an active tour schedule and a new marriage to fellow country star Blake Shelton. Her radio presence led to numerous certifications in 2011, including platinum plaques for "The House That Built Me" and "White Liar," as well as her second album, *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. In addition, "Heart Like Mine" and "Only Prettier" reached gold status. Over the summer, she teamed with singer-songwriter friends Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley to form the Pistol Annies, a tough-yet-tender trio that often surprises fans at Lambert's concerts. Later that year, she checked in with "Baggage Claim" and a brand new solo album, *Four the Record*. Perhaps four is her lucky number because her music brought in four ACM Awards last year, including victories in the Single, Song and Video categories for "The House That Built Me." She is also the reigning ACM Female Vocalist of the Year, winning for the last two years. Her previous ACM trophies include New Female Vocalist, Album (for *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend* and *Revolution*) and Video ("White Liar"). Lambert and Shelton co-wrote her new single, "Over You," about Shelton's late brother. She launched her On Fire tour earlier this year.

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AARON LEWIS

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Vocal Event of the Year (Producer)

Aaron Lewis followed his heart from modern rock to contemporary country with a gold-certified single, "Country Boy." Joined by Charlie Daniels and George Jones, the Staind star attracted new fans with his nod toward traditional country, while placating longtime listeners with his rugged, edgy vocals. Following up "Country Boy," Lewis continued his momentum with an EP, *Town Line*, recorded in Nashville with producer James Stroud. Released in March, the album debuted at No. 1 on *Billboard's* country chart. He's currently working on a full-length follow-up. Growing up in rural Vermont, Lewis spent summers with his grandfather, a World War II veteran and an avid country fan. That early influence also affected Lewis' songwriting style, as he often employs an acoustic guitar and straightforward lyrics. With an Australian tour just wrapped, Staind will launch an



arena tour in the U.S. in April. Their biggest rock hits include the gold-certified singles "It's Been a While" and "Right Here." Their 2001 album, *Break the Cycle*, has sold more than five million copies. They've also enjoyed double-platinum success with 1999's *Dysfunction* and platinum plaques for 2003's *14 Shades of Grey* and 2005's *Chapter IV*. An outdoor enthusiast, Lewis lives in rural Massachusetts with his family.



LOVE AND THEFT

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Duo of the Year

Love and Theft have taken another look at the country charts with "Angel Eyes," their first single as a duo. Eric Gunderson of Charlotte, N.C., and Stephen Barker Liles of Palm Harbor, Fla., met in Nashville in their early 20s. Both are pastors' kids who once led services in their home churches. Prior to landing their first record deal with Lyric Street, Gunderson did tile and carpentry work, while Liles parked cars and worked at Blockbuster Video. Musically speaking, they both cite Elvis Presley as a major influence, as well as the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band and Roy Orbison. Early in their career, the former trio landed an opening spot on Taylor Swift's tour. (In fact, Liles was the inspiration for her song, "Hey Stephen.") Plus their breakthrough single, "Runaway," cracked the Top 10 at country radio, helped secure a tour with Tim McGraw and Lady Antebellum, and led to a Grand Ole Opry performance. Liles' songwriting credits include Martina McBride's "Wrong Baby Wrong" and Canaan Smith's "We Got Us." The band's first project for RCA is expected later this year. Their name is borrowed from an acclaimed Bob Dylan album.

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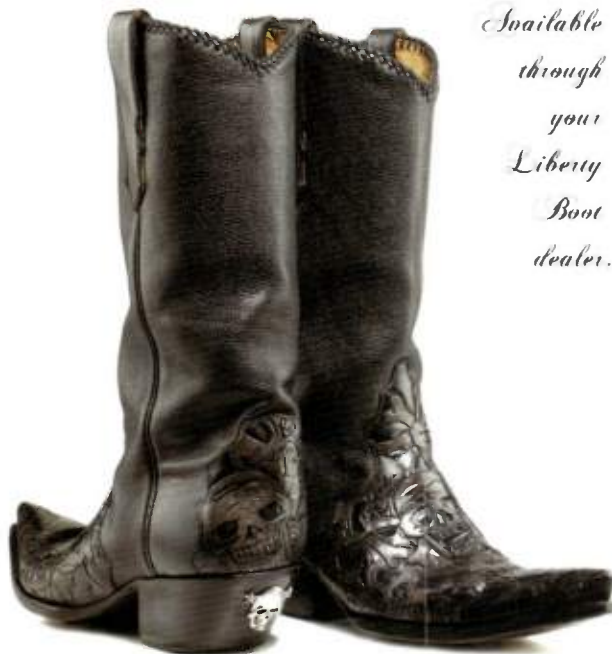
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fig. 2

fig. 3



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MARTINA McBRIDE

NOMINATED FOR

Female Vocalist of the Year



Martina McBride's fans have loved her throughout her incredible career. And she rewarded their loyalty by taking chances on her latest album, *Eleven*. The title fits perfectly because it's her 11th album, it contains 11 new songs and she is the most-played female artist at country radio over the last 11 years. She recorded the album in Atlanta and promoted it with a cross-country Amtrak trek. A confident performer and a compassionate artist, McBride connected with her audience in 2011 with "Teenage Daughters" and the Grammy-nominated "I'm Gonna Love You Through It," her first two singles since signing

to Republic Nashville. She also sang on *Dancing With the Stars*, hosted a network special about adoption and appeared on the Opry stage as the famous backdrop turned pink to raise awareness of breast cancer. With such a powerful voice and a kind spirit, it's no surprise that she's a three-time ACM Female Vocalist and an ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award winner. More than a dozen singles from her tenure at RCA Nashville are collected on the new compilation, *Hits and More*. Of course, fans enjoyed a mix of old and new material when she joined George Strait on tour in early 2012.

SCOTTY McCREERY

NOMINATED FOR

New Artist of the Year



Scotty McCreery made the leap from a deep-voiced *American Idol* hopeful into a platinum-certified country star in 2011. More than 38 million viewers tuned in to his winning moment, which shuttled the likable young singer into the elite ranks of *Idol* winners (and ACM nominees) such as Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood. Within three months, he had headlined the American Idols Live! Tour and earned a platinum album for his debut project, *Clear As Day*. Meanwhile, his first two singles, "I Love You This Big" and "The Trouble With Girls," have reached gold status. His countless TV appearances include *Good Morning America*, *The Tonight Show With Jay Leno*, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and *Hart of Dixie*. McCreery says he decided to audition for *Idol* to get some professional feedback on his talent. Just 17 when he ultimately won, McCreery returned to finish high school in his hometown of Garner, N.C. He has cited Elvis Presley and Josh Turner among his musical heroes, as well as classic country stars such as Johnny Cash, Merle Haggard, Conway Twitty and Hank Williams. In addition to recording new music, McCreery will tour with Brad Paisley's Virtual Reality Tour this year.

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MONTGOMERY GENTRY

NOMINATED FOR

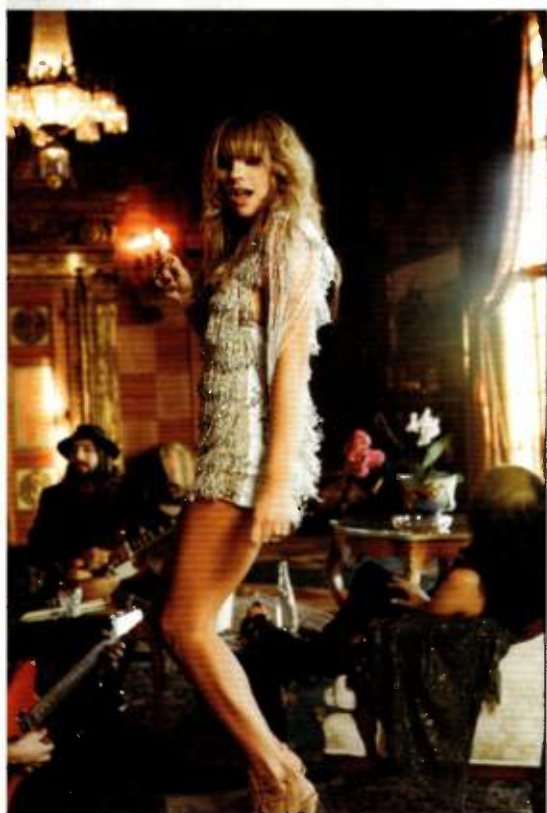
Vocal Duo of the Year

Montgomery Gentry are still on the run

after more than a decade of success in country music. In 2011, they overcame personal and professional obstacles to release a new single, "Where I Come From." That confident tune is found on their latest album, *Rebels on the Run*, their first project for Average Joe's Entertainment. In recent years, Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry faced significant setbacks as Montgomery was diagnosed with prostate cancer, in addition to the duo exiting their longtime record label. Nevertheless, the guys bounced back with a performance at the Grand Ole Opry, which they joined in 2009. For more than a decade, the duo has been a



favorite among country fans. They accepted the 1999 ACM Award for New Vocal Duo, thanks to early hits like "Hillbilly Shoes" and "Lonely and Gone." Along with a solid stretch of success at country radio, their charitable efforts also led to the 2009 ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award. Montgomery Gentry have scored 15 Top 10 hits, including the No. 1 singles "If You Ever Stop Loving Me," "Something to Be Proud Of," "Lucky Man," "Back When I Knew It All" and "Roll With Me."



GRACE POTTER

NOMINATED FOR

Single Record of the Year (Artist)

Song of the Year (Artist)

Grace Potter had never met Kenny Chesney when he invited her to sing on "You and Tequila." However, he was a big fan of her charismatic albums and dynamic voice, so he reached out to work with her. Just three days after receiving the phone call, she joined Chesney in a Nashville studio to cut the bittersweet ballad. They filmed the sun-dappled video in Malibu, Calif., because the song reminded Chesney of breezy sunset drives along the Pacific Coast Highway. A Vermont native, Potter draws on her soul, rock and songwriting influences to create an invigorating and electric style of music. Potter and her band, The Nocturnals, headlined three concerts at the Ryman Auditorium in Nashville this fall. Over the winter, she voiced a character in Disney's animated *Prep and Landing*, released a Christmas EP and unveiled her signature Gibson Flying V Guitar. Grace Potter & The Nocturnals' bold new album, *The Lion The Beast The Beat*, is due this summer. Following their performances at Coachella Music & Arts Festival and the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival, Grace Potter & The Nocturnals will open shows for Kenny Chesney and Tim McGraw's Brothers of the Sun Tour this summer.

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RASCAL FLATTS

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Group of the Year

Rascal Flatts surged in 2011 with a platinum album, an innovative tour and a welcome invitation to join the Grand Ole Opry. The trio's 2010 project album, *Nothing Like This*, has sold a million copies, thanks to hits like the platinum-certified "I Won't Let Go" and the gold-certified "Easy" with pop star Natasha Bedingfield. They also serenaded Oprah Winfrey for the final season of her iconic talk show. Meanwhile, Vince Gill surprised Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney on stage with an offer to become Grand Ole Opry cast members and he personally inducted them to the fold in October. On tour, the group brought along a wedding chapel (inspired by their peppy hit "Why Wait") along with a karaoke



contest and a traveling museum. Needless to say, the band has garnered countless accolades to display. Two years after earning the 2000 New Vocal Duo or Group award, Rascal Flatts picked up the Song of the Year (for "I'm Movin' On") and the first of seven consecutive trophies for Vocal Group of the Year. They also received the 2007 ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award. Rascal Flatts will headline The American Band Tour over the summer. A new album, *Changed*, arrives on April 3.



STEEL MAGNOLIA

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Duo of the Year

Steel Magnolia parlayed their victory on CMT's *Can You Duet?* into a Top 5 country hit, "Keep on Lovin' You." The duo of Joshua Scott Jones and Meghan Linsey first heard each other sing in a karaoke bar, a moment that inspired the storyline in the "Keep on Lovin' You" video. They soon teamed up, personally and professionally, and combined their unique musical influences. Linsey grew up in Louisiana and sang with a local band starting at age 14. She cites blues singer Susan Tedeschi and country legend Tanya Tucker as her influences. Meanwhile, Jones was raised in rural Illinois and found inspiration in The Beatles, Waylon Jennings and Gospel music. The duo's self-titled debut album, issued in early 2011 and produced by Dann Huff, also features the singles "Just By Being You (Halo and Wings)," "Last Night Again" and "Bulletproof." Linsey and Jones wrote or co-wrote seven of the project's 12 tracks. They celebrated the release with a concert at Nashville's Wildhorse Saloon, where they earned their record deal. Along with a performance spot on *The Late Show With David Letterman*, Steel Magnolia maintained an active touring schedule in 2011, opening for artists like Blake Shelton and Reba.

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SUGARLAND

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Duo of the Year

At the top of their game, Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush scored a platinum album for *The Incredible Machine* and a double-platinum certification for the undeniably catchy single, "Stuck Like Glue." They found an excited audience in Europe and all across the U.S., while showcasing their creativity and enjoyable material. Even the upbeat catalog hit, "Settlin'," reached gold status in 2011. Ending the year on a happy note, Nettles quietly married Justin Miller, a model who appeared in the duo's sensual "Want To" video. Hooking fans on early hits like "Baby Girl" and "Something More," Sugarland claimed their first ACM Award as the 2005 New Vocal Duo or Group. Two years later, "Stay" (written by Nettles) took top honors in the Single and Song categories. Sugarland is the ACM's reigning Vocal Duo of the Year, with two wins in the category.



THE BAND PERRY

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Group of the Year

The Band Perry has proven itself worthy of winning the ACM's New Artist award in 2011. The sibling trio of Kimberly, Neil and Reid Perry has been heard on numerous TV shows, multiple radio formats and countless concert stages thanks to their smash breakthrough hit, "If I Die Young." Written by Kimberly Perry, the single reached No. 1 at country radio, sold four million downloads, crossed over to the pop charts and led to a Grammy nomination for best new artist — the only country performer in the category this year. Their follow-up hit, "You Lie," also captured gold status, while their self-titled debut sold more than a million copies. Last year, they toured with superstars such as Tim McGraw, Reba and Keith Urban, along with headlining dates on their Purveyors of Performance Tour. They wrapped up the year with an appearance on *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*. Along with unexpected covers (such as Queen's "Fat Bottomed Girls"), The Band Perry can fill their set list with radio favorites like their debut single, "Hip to My Heart," as well as the gold-certified No. 1 hit, "All Your Life." Look for them in early 2012 on tour with Brad Paisley.



CONGRATULATIONS
THE BAND PERRY

ACM VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR NOMINEE



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THOMPSON SQUARE

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Duo of the Year

Thompson Square truly took off in 2011, thanks to their breakout hit, "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not." Keifer and Shawna Thompson were bartending in Nashville honky-tonks and pursuing solo careers until they decided to extend their personal relationship into a professional one as well. Even though the flirtatious song was written by Jim Collins and David Lee Murphy, Thompson Square have often stated that "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not" is just like their own story. The upbeat single climbed to No. 1, reached platinum status and earned two Grammy nominations. That success paved the way for the sweet Top 10 single, "I Got You." Keifer and Shawna play every role in the clever music video, most notably the variety show hosts



inspired by Sonny and Cher. Shawna is a native of Chatom, Ala., and cites Alabama and Reba as influences. Keifer grew up in Miami, Okla., listening to Roger Miller, Merle Haggard, Tom Petty and Bruce Springsteen. Keifer and Shawna moved to Nashville within a week of each other and met at a singing competition. The duo is opening for Lady Antebellum this year. Their romantic new single is "Glass."



CARRIE UNDERWOOD

NOMINATED FOR

Female Vocalist of the Year

Vocal Event of the Year (Artist)

Carrie Underwood shared the spotlight with movie stars and music icons in 2011, yet her singular voice still stands out to loyal country music fans. Early in the year, Underwood appeared in *Soul Surfer*, an inspirational film that featured her as a wise youth minister. She also recorded with the likes of Tony Bennett ("It Had to Be You"), Brad Paisley ("Remind Me") and Randy Travis ("Is It Still Over"). Her solo career, of course, remained strong. "Mama's Song" received a Grammy nod for best country solo performance and her album *Play On* reached double-platinum status. In addition, the singles "Just a Dream," "Last Name," "Remind Me" and "Undo It" each sold a million copies. Underwood also visited Australia on a promotional tour, as well as her hometown of Checotah, Okla., to build a community playground. Underwood is an ACM Triple Crown winner, following her victories as New Female Vocalist, Female Vocalist (three times) and Entertainer (twice). Her single "Jesus Take the Wheel," her album *Some Hearts* and her video for "Before He Cheats" have also collected ACM Awards. She will release a new album featuring her latest hit "Good Girl" on May 1.



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CHRIS YOUNG

NOMINATED FOR

Male Vocalist of the Year
Single Record of the Year (Artist)



Chris Young has given traditional country music a contemporary spin, which has resulted in five consecutive No. 1 singles. Although he won a recording contract through *Nashville Star* in 2006, Young's career built rather slowly until the gold-certified "Gettin' You Home (The Black Dress Song)" arrived in 2009. Since then, the upbeat Murfreesboro, Tenn., native has been on a hot streak. His breakthrough album, *The Man I Want to Be*, reached gold status in 2011. So did "Tomorrow," the romantic lead single to his latest album, *Neon*. Within the last three years, Young has taken "Gettin' You Home,"

"The Man I Want to Be," "Voices," "Tomorrow" and "You" to No. 1 at country radio. Young toured extensively in 2011, opening for artists like Jason Aldean, Rascal Flatts and Blake Shelton. In April he performed for U.S. troops in Iraq and Kuwait on behalf of the Stars for Stripes organization. His newfound momentum also led to appearances on *Good Morning America* and *Late Night With Jimmy Fallon*. Young, who has wanted to be a country singer since he was a freshman in high school, co-wrote seven of the 10 songs on *Neon*. In early 2012, "You" and "Voices" also reached gold status.

ZAC BROWN BAND

NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Group of the Year



The Zac Brown Band fed their fans a steady diet of No. 1 hits, invigorating concerts and home-cooked meals in 2011. Early in the year, "Colder Weather" climbed to No. 1 and reached gold status. Their live album, *Pass the Jar*, also struck gold. And by the end of the year, "Knee Deep" (with Jimmy Buffett) and "Keep Me in Mind" topped the country chart, too. Meanwhile, their *You Get What You Give* album received a platinum certification, and Brown earned a Grammy nomination for contributing "Where the River Goes" to the *Footloose* soundtrack. Last year, the hard-working ensemble won an ACM award in the vocal event category for "As She's Walking Away," a wise look at love featuring Alan Jackson. They were also named the 2008 Top New Vocal Duo or Group, thanks to their debut single, "Chicken Fried." That tasty track led to more big hits, including "Whatever It Is," "Toes," "Highway 20 Ride" and "Free." They played stadiums with Kenny Chesney over the summer, then headlined the Southern Ground Music and Food Festival in Charleston, S.C. Brown, a former restaurant owner, has been known to help cook hearty meals backstage for lucky fans. On stage, though, every band member – fiddler Jimmy DeMartini, keyboardist Coy Bowles, bassist John Driskell Hopkins, drummer Chris Fryar and multi-instrumentalist Clay Cook – is given a chance to shine.

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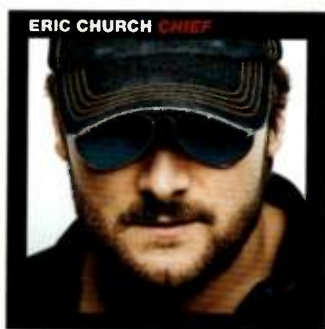
Following Chief Joseph's surrender to General Howard on October 5, 1877, the first photograph ever taken of the Nez Perce leader shows him wearing this war shirt. It is singularly the most significant Native American artifact in the history of the West.

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ALBUM OF THE YEAR



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Four The Record - Miranda Lambert

RCA

PRODUCED BY: Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell, Glenn Worf



Hemingway's Whiskey - Kenny Chesney

BNA

PRODUCED BY: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney



My Kinda Party - Jason Aldean

Broken Bow Records

PRODUCED BY: Michael Knox



Own The Night - Lady Antebellum

Capitol Records Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Lady Antebellum, Paul Worley

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SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR



"Crazy Girl" - Eli Young Band

Republic Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Mike Wrucke



"Don't You Wanna Stay" - Jason Aldean With Kelly Clarkson

Broken Bow Records

PRODUCED BY: Michael Knox



"Red Solo Cup" - Toby Keith

Show Dog-Universal Music

PRODUCED BY: Toby Keith



"Tomorrow" - Chris Young

RCA

PRODUCED BY: James Stroud



"You And Tequila" - Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter

BNA

PRODUCED BY: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

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SONG OF THE YEAR



"Crazy Girl" - Eli Young Band

COMPOSERS: Lee Brice, Liz Rose

PUBLISHERS: Cake Taker Music (BMI), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Sweet Hysteria Music (BMI)



"Home" - Dierks Bentley

COMPOSERS: Brett Beavers, Dierks Bentley, Dan Wilson

PUBLISHERS: Big White Tracks (ASCAP), Chestnut Barn Music (BMI), Chrysalis Music/BMG Rights (ASCAP), Chrysalis One Songs (BMI)



"Just A Kiss" - Lady Antebellum

COMPOSERS: Dallas Davidson, Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott

PUBLISHERS: Dwhaywood Music (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. (BMI), EMI Foray Music (SESAC), Hillary Dawn Songs (SESAC), Radiobullets Publishing (BMI), Warner-Tamberlane Publishing Corp. (BMI)



"Threaten Me With Heaven" - Vince Gill

COMPOSERS: Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Dillon O'Brian, Will Owsley

PUBLISHERS: Dillion O'Brian Songs (BMI), Grant Girls Music (ASCAP), Vinny Mae Music (BMI), Willie-O Music (ASCAP)

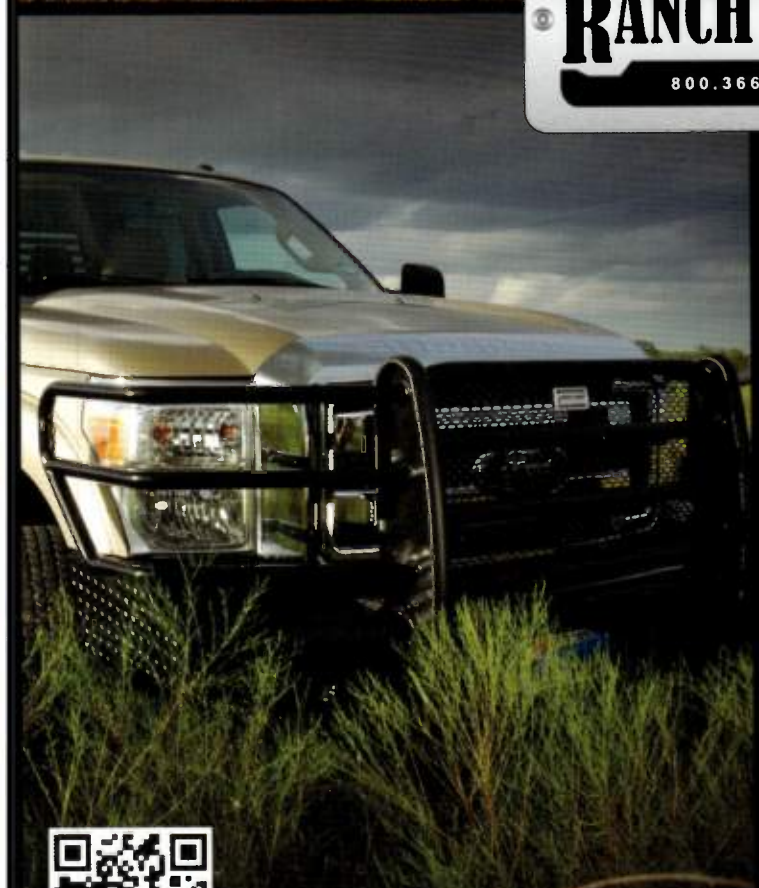


"You And Tequila" - Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter

COMPOSERS: Matraca Berg, Deana Carter

PUBLISHERS: Deanaling Music (ASCAP), Hannaberg Music (BMI), Songs of Universal Inc. (BMI), WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

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VIDEO OF THE YEAR



"Homeboy" - Eric Church

PRODUCER: Brandon Arolfo

DIRECTOR: Peter Zavadil



"Just A Kiss" - Lady Antebellum

PRODUCER: Don Lepore

DIRECTOR: Shaun Silva



"Mean" - Taylor Swift

PRODUCER: Oualid Mouaness

DIRECTOR: Declan Whitebloom



"Red Solo Cup" - Toby Keith

PRODUCER: Mark Kalbfeld

DIRECTOR: Michael Salomon



"Tattoos On This Town" - Jason Aldean

PRODUCER: John Burke

DIRECTOR: Wes Edwards

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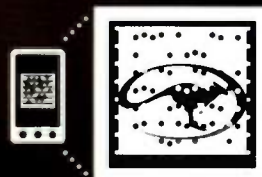
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VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR



"Country Boy" - Aaron Lewis Featuring George Jones & Charlie Daniels

R&J Records

PRODUCED BY: Aaron Lewis, James Stroud



"Don't You Wanna Stay" - Jason Aldean With Kelly Clarkson

Broken Bow Records

PRODUCED BY: Michael Knox



"Old Alabama" - Brad Paisley Featuring Alabama

Arista Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Frank Rogers



"Remind Me" - Brad Paisley Duet With Carrie Underwood

Arista Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Frank Rogers



"You And Tequila" - Kenny Chesney Featuring Grace Potter

BNA

PRODUCED BY: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

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Cincinnati, OH



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**Roger, Tom &
Melissa**

WPCV-FM
Lakeland, FL



**MEDIUM MARKET
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Tim Fox and
Tracy Berry**

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Promoter of the Year

Brian O'Connell - Live Nation

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Dallas Davidson

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MBI WINNERS

Producer of the Year

Frank Liddell

Audio Engineer of the Year

Justin Niebank

Bass Player of the Year

Michael Rhodes

Percussionist/ Drummer of the Year

Shannon Forrest

Guitarist of the Year

Kenny Greenberg

Fiddle Player of the Year

Stuart Duncan

Piano/Keyboard Player of the Year

John Hobbs

Specialty Instrument(s) Player of the Year

Aubrey Haynie

Steel Guitar Player of the Year

Paul Franklin



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CLIFFIE STONE PIONEER AWARD

EMMYLOU HARRIS

Emmylou Harris brought a graceful delivery, beautiful harmonies and a wealth of exceptional material to her career in country music. Harris was discovered at a nightclub in Washington D.C., then provided her signature vocals to Gram Parsons' seminal recordings. On her own, she arrived on the country charts in 1975. Over the next decade, she racked up 21 Top 10 singles, including five No. 1 hits. The *Trio* album with talented friends Dolly Parton and Linda Ronstadt earned the 1987 ACM Award for Album of the Year. Harris was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008.



BILLY SHERRILL

Billy Sherrill produced many of country's most famous names and wrote numerous classics throughout the 1960s and 1970s. The Alabama native joined Epic Records in 1964, where his credits as both a producer and songwriter included David Houston's "Almost Persuaded," Charlie Rich's "The Most Beautiful Girl" and Tammy Wynette's "Stand By Your Man." He also served as a producer on George Jones' "He Stopped Loving Her Today" (which earned Sherrill an ACM Award for Producer of the Year), as well as Johnny Paycheck's "She's All I Got" and Tanya Tucker's "Delta Dawn." He joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2010.

RICKY SKAGGS

Ricky Skaggs energized country music in the 1980s by taking his traditional sound in a lively new direction. Over that decade, the Kentucky native charted 19 Top 10 singles, including 11 No. 1 hits. Rather than writing his material, he gathered first-rate songs by the likes of Guy Clark, Bill Monroe, Webb Pierce, Mel Tillis and Cindy Walker. He was named the ACM's 1981 Top New Male Vocalist and received five ACM Awards for Touring Band of the Year. Since that time, Skaggs has focused on bluegrass music and now leads one of the most respected ensembles in the genre.



DWIGHT YOAKAM

Dwight Yoakam captured the imagination of traditionalists and new listeners alike by giving hillbilly music a modern twist. Born in Kentucky but based in Los Angeles, Yoakam debuted with a twangy cover of Johnny Horton's "Honky Tonk Man," which led him to the ACM's 1986 Top New Male Vocalist trophy. In all, Yoakam landed 14 Top 10 hits - some he wrote ("I Sang Dixie") and others he revived (Elvis Presley's "Little Sister"). Along with acclaimed albums and music videos, Yoakam proudly partnered with Buck Owens on the endearing 1988 duet, "Streets of Bakersfield." He remains active in music and film.

CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

VINCE GILL

Vince Gill returned to the country scene in 2011 with an appealing new album, *Guitar Slinger*, and the enthusiastic response proved that he had been missed. Nashville Mayor Karl Dean proclaimed an official Vince Gill Week in conjunction with the album's release. Gill also served as Grand Marshal of Nashville's Christmas parade. In addition, Gill and wife Amy Grant graced the cover of *Good Housekeeping*, while Sting shared the stage with him on an acclaimed *CMT Crossroads*. Meanwhile, the Country Music Hall of Fame member appeared on multiple talk shows and earned a Grammy and ACM Song of the Year nod for "Threaten Me With Heaven."



CRYSTAL MILESTONE AWARD

KENNY CHESNEY

Over the past decade, four-time ACM Entertainer of the Year Kenny Chesney has sold more than 10,500,000 tickets on his 11 national tours, selling out stadiums across the country. His successful shows have promoted the entire genre to delighted fans while helping other country acts and cross-over artists gain exposure nationwide. The Academy is honoring Kenny for this remarkable achievement.



JIM REEVES INTERNATIONAL AWARD



ALAN JACKSON

Alan Jackson's down-home music and laidback personality has translated well internationally. He played for eager audiences in Sweden and Norway in August 2011, brought back by popular demand following his 2009 shows. Jackson's album, *Good Time*, has also earned platinum sales in Norway. Jackson also toured Australia for the first time in March 2011. He'll play four arena shows in Canada in April 2012, as well as a summer concert at the Craven Country Jamboree in Saskatchewan. Jackson won his first ACM Award as 1990's Top New Male Vocalist, an honor that coincided with career-building tour dates in the UK and Germany.

POET'S AWARD

BOBBY BRADDOCK

Bobby Braddock is a master storyteller with more than 40 years of songwriting success. A Florida native, Braddock moved to Nashville in 1964 and worked for a time as Marty Robbins' piano player. His classic cuts include Tammy Wynette's divine "D-I-V-O-R-C-E" and George Jones' iconic (and ACM Award-winning) "He Stopped Loving Her Today," as well as the famous couple's enduring duet, "Golden Ring." Braddock also earned ACM nominations as a songwriter for Tracy Lawrence's "Time Marches On," Toby Keith's "I Wanna Talk About Me" and Billy Currington's "People Are Crazy." He joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2011.



ROGER MILLER

Roger Miller charmed listeners with characteristic wit on classics like "King of the Road" and "Dang Me." Miller, an Oklahoma native, grabbed early songwriting success with Ray Price's "Invitation to the Blues." In 1985, he earned acclaim for writing the score of the musical *Big River*. To honor his brilliant career, he received the 1987 ACM Pioneer Award. Miller died in 1992 and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1995. Contemporary stars like Brooks & Dunn and Alan Jackson have kept his legacy alive with terrific renditions of "Husbands and Wives" and "Tall, Tall Trees," respectively.

MAE BOREN AXTON AWARD

GAYLE HOLCOMB

By all accounts, Gayle Holcomb is a force to behold. Her boundless energy and unshakeable confidence have served her well in her rise as an agent at William Morris. Those attributes also have bolstered the Academy of Country Music during her 17 years as a board member and five years as ACM chairman. During her tenure as chair, Holcomb was a driving force for the organization's rapid change and growth, lobbying—and ultimately prevailing—to boldly move the Awards show from Los Angeles to Las Vegas in 2003. Holcomb helped launch ACM Lifting Lives in 2005, guiding the vision for the charity as it got underway initially, and continuing her support of the organization by becoming chairman. She made the initial endowment to form the ACM Lifting Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund, in honor of her mother, to enable the Fund to respond quickly to unforeseen, immediate financial needs of ACM members, staff and members of the country music community.





ACM PRESENTS: LIONEL RICHIE *and* FRIENDS IN CONCERT

You may know him from his time with the Commodores ("Brick House," "Easy," "Sail On") or his legendary hits of the '80s ("Dancing on the Ceiling," "Hello," "All Night Long"). Now, legendary singer-songwriter Lionel Richie is diving into his country roots with a duets album and the network TV special *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends - In Concert*, set to tape April 2nd in Las Vegas.

Born and raised in Tuskegee, Alabama, Richie says country music has always been one of his influences. His grandmother was a classical musical instructor at Tuskegee University, but he was surrounded not only by classical music but also by Gospel, R&B and country. He later turned that country influence into gold by collaborating with the country legends who cut his songs, including Conway Twitty ("Three Times a Lady"), Alabama ("Deep River Woman") and Kenny Rogers ("Lady").

"How I became the songwriter that I did was because of all those little songs in my head," Richie recalled of his musical melting pot in Tuskegee. "I couldn't help but tap into them one by one."

The singer's new country album, aptly titled *Tuskegee*, hit stores in March on Nashville's Mercury Records. The project features duets of Richie's classic hits with country's elite stars, many of whom had grown up with Richie's hits as a kind of soundtrack to their formative years.

"I think for the first time we're going to kind of look at me as a songwriter and what made me write these songs. After a while I got over the fear of letting my kids - I call my songs 'my kids' - get all changed around," Richie said. "I said to each artist, take these songs and make them yours, as if you were walking out on the stage and you were going to perform

them on your show...and that was good. They did a killer job."

The lineup for the ACM special includes country heavy hitters Jason Aldean, The Band Perry, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Sara Evans, Lady Antebellum, Martina McBride, Tim McGraw, Jennifer Nettles, Rascal Flatts, Kenny Rogers and many more.

Show producers R.A. Clark and Barry Adelman have had a long association with Richie through Dick Clark Productions and the *American Music Awards*, which the singer famously hosted in 1985 with his buzz word "out-RAGEOUS!" They both say the Lionel-country connection is a natural one.

"Both of us go way back with Lionel and we have witnessed firsthand the power of his songs across all musical genres," concurred Clark and Adelman. "That's why so many top country artists are excited to be part of this special."

Richie is thrilled his duet partners are coming to Vegas to perform with him live, but he's even more excited about the unexpected things that could happen onstage at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

"We've got surprises for you. Even in my own show I'm going to be in awe of what's going to happen," Richie said. "This has been a long time in coming and I just want to make sure that everybody gets a chance to see this. I'm going to be having the best time of my life."

Tickets for *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends in Concert* can be purchased online at acmcountry.com or ticketmaster.com. Proceeds from the show will benefit ACM Lifting Lives, the Academy's philanthropic arm which works to improve lives through music. The show will air Friday, April 13th at 9 p.m. ET/PT on CBS. —**Andrew Young**



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THE WEEK VEGAS GOES COUNTRY®

No matter where you came from, there is no way you haven't felt a little country on the streets of Vegas this week. Our brightest stars have been everywhere entertaining fans and *themselves* at ACM events from Las Vegas Boulevard to Fremont Street.

ACM Award-winning artist Luke Bryan kicked off ACM Weekend on Fremont Street on Friday night. The two stages of free entertainment also featured performances by ACM Vocal Duo of the Year nominees Love and Theft as well as ACM New Artist of the Year nominees Brantley Gilbert, Hunter Hayes and Scotty McCreery. Saturday night's Fremont Street concert featured ACM winner and two-time 2012 ACM nominee Eric Church as headliner, along with three-time ACM nominees Eli Young Band, Laura Bell Bundy, Craig Campbell and Jana Kramer.

Saturday was a full day of events, starting bright and early with the 2nd annual NRA Country/ACM Celebrity Shoot with host Blake Shelton. Across town, host Darius Rucker and other avid golfers started the day with the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic. The tournament came back after a short hiatus, and money raised from the event benefits the Lifting Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund.

This afternoon, THE ACM EXPERIENCE wrapped up three days of food, shopping and music at Mandalay Bay. The Academy's first-ever lifestyle event was free and open to the public, and it featured the ACM EXPO, ACM BBQ Throwdown and the Ram Ride and Drive.



Right now at the Mandalay Bay Events Center, the 2nd annual ACM Fan Jam is heating up with hosts Zac Brown Band. The event will be part of the live *ACM Awards* broadcast tonight, bringing you some great performances you won't see anywhere else.

And after the show ends, the annual ACM All-Star Jam will kick into high gear in the MGM Grand Marquee Ballroom. You never know who will show up to jam well into the night, so when the credits roll, grab your ticket and head on over.

Don't forget to join us right here again tomorrow night at 7:30 p.m. for *ACM Presents: Lionel Richie and Friends—In Concert*. This amazing network special will feature duets from Richie's country album *Tuskegee* and a few special guests, including Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, The Band Perry, Kenny Chesney, Sara Evans, Lady Antebellum, Martina McBride, Tim McGraw, Jennifer Nettles, Rascal Flatts, Kenny Rogers and many more. Proceeds will benefit

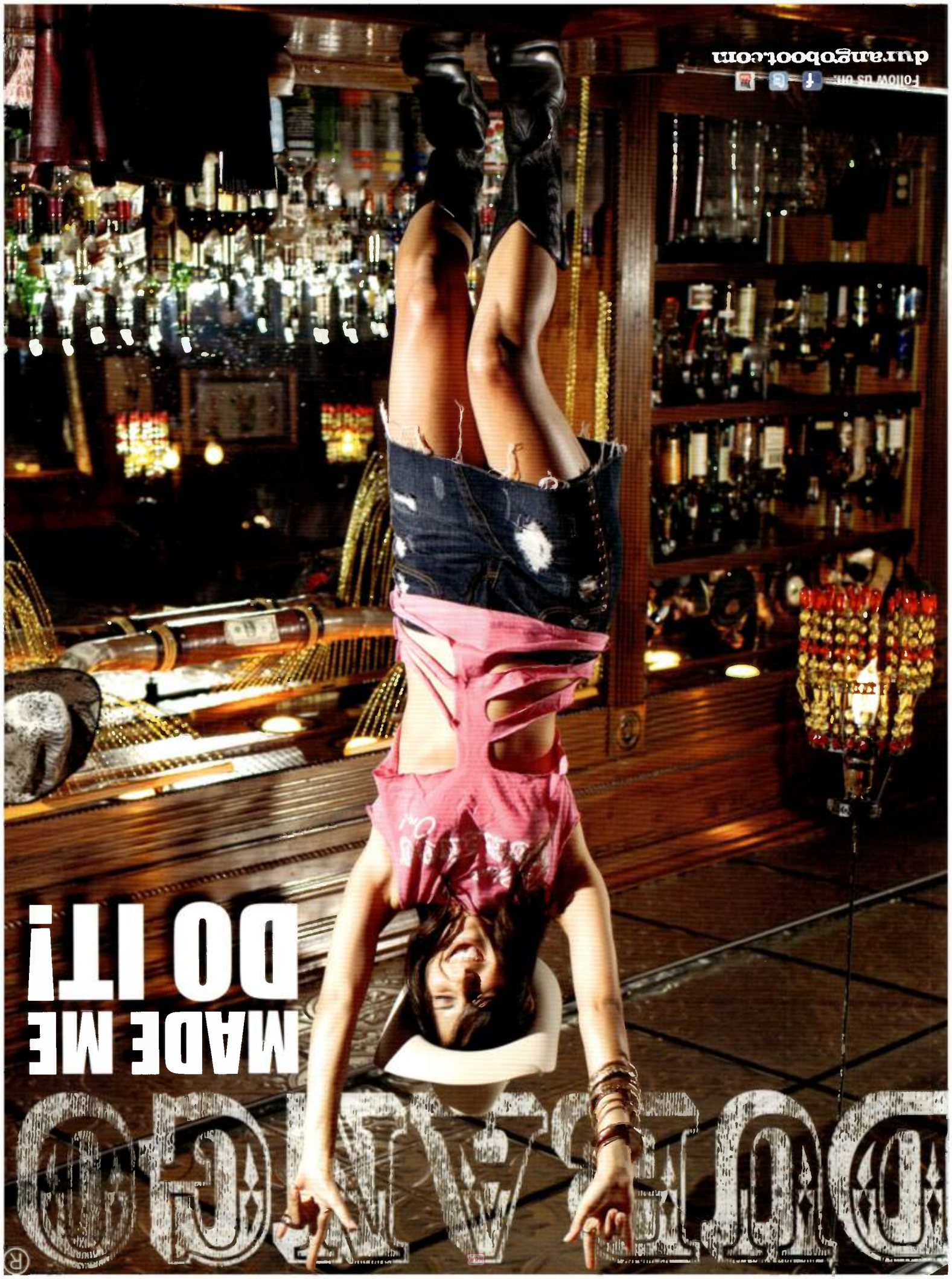
ACM Lifting Lives, the charitable arm of the Academy that improves lives through the power of music.

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To support U.S. athletes training for the Games, visit Duracell’s Facebook ([Facebook.com/Duracell](https://www.facebook.com/Duracell)) or YouTube page ([YouTube.com/Duracell](https://www.youtube.com/Duracell)) and upload a message of support to the Virtual Stadium.

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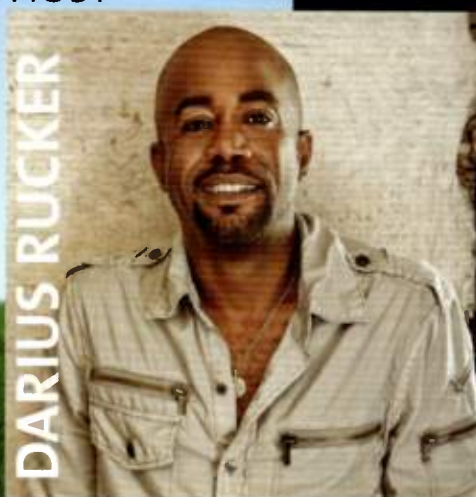


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PAST WINNERS

Note: Winners are honored for work done in the previous calendar year, thus a trophy awarded on the show in 2011 would be dated 2010.

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
- 2009 Carrie Underwood
- 2010 Taylor Swift

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 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
- 2009 Miranda Lambert
- 2010 Miranda Lambert

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 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
- 2009 Brad Paisley
- 2010 Brad Paisley

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

(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
- 2009 Brooks & Dunn
- 2010 Sugarland

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

- 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
- 2009 Lady Antebellum
- 2010 Lady Antebellum

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

- 2003 Dierks Bentley
- 2004 Gretchen Wilson
- 2008 Julianne Hough
- 2009 Luke Bryan
- 2010 The Band Perry

NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

- 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
 2010 The Band Perry

NEW VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

- 2009 Joey + Rory

NEW VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

- 2009 Gloriana

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 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

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 1977 Eddie Rabbitt
 1978 John Conlee
 1979 R.C. Banno n
 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

NEW SOLO VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 2009 Luke Bryan
 2010 Eric Church

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)

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
- 2009** **Revolution**; **Miranda Lambert**; Columbia Nashville;
Produced by Frank Liddell & Mike Wrucke
- 2010** **Need You Now**; **Lady Antebellum**; Capitol Records Nashville;
Produced by Lady Antebellum & Paul Worley

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

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

- 1967** **"Gentle On My Mind"** **Glen Campbell**;
Al DeLoey (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
- 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** **"Rhinestone 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 Lehnig
- 1987** **"Forever And Ever Amen"** **Randy Travis**; Warner Brothers Records; Produced
by Kyle Lehnig
- 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
- 2009** **"Need You Now"** **Lady Antebellum**; Capitol Records Nashville;
Produced by Lady Antebellum, Paul Worley
- 2010** **"The House That Built Me"** **Miranda Lambert**; Columbia Nashville;
Produced by Frank Liddell, Mike Wrucke

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 Bynum
- 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 Putnam
- 1981** **"You're The Reason God Made Oklahoma"** **David Frizzell & Shelly West**;
Published by Cibie Music Companies, Senior, 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 Tackmorton
- 1985** **"Lost in the Fifties (In The Still Of The Night)"** **Ronnie Milsap**;
Published by Lee 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 Believers 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 Gill
- 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)
- 2009 **"Need You Now"** Lady Antebellum; Composed by Dave Haywood, Josh Kear, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott; Published by 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)
- 2010 **"The House That Built Me"** Miranda Lambert; Composed by Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; Published by Built On Rock (ASCAP), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Tomdouglassmusic (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 Hedgecock
- 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
- 2009 **"White Liar"** Miranda Lambert; Directed by Chris Hicky; Produced by Tameron Hedge
- 2010 **"The House That Built Me"** Miranda Lambert; Directed by Trey Fanjoy; Produced by Trent Hardville

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 Buffett; 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
- 2009 **"Hillbilly Bone"** Blake Shelton featuring Trace Adkins; Reprise Records/Warner Music Nashville; Produced by Scott Hendricks
- 2010 **"As She's Walking Away"** Alan Jackson & Zac Brown Band; Atlantic/Bigger Picture/Southern Ground; Produced by Keith Stegall & Zac Brown

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