

THE 48TH ACADEMY

OF

COUNTRY
MUSIC

AWARDS

MGM GRAND

LAS VEGAS

... ..
APRIL 7TH 2013

LIVE ON CBS

Sixteen countries. Three continents.
Nine time zones. I've seen the world with
these guys, and have the phone bill to
prove it. But I don't do this for stamps in
my passport. Every time they take a new
stage in a sold-out stadium, I'm making
sure everything back home is just the
way they left it.

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CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 ACM AWARDS NOMINEES

BLAKE SHELTON

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

ERIC CHURCH

MIRANDA LAMBERT

JASON ALDEAN

TAYLOR SWIFT

LUKE BRYAN

ELI YOUNG BAND

MARTINA MCBRIDE

LITTLE BIG TOWN

TOBY KEITH

KACEY MUSGRAVES

BRANTLEY GILBERT

FLORIDA
GEORGIA LINE

HUNTER HAYES

BIG & RICH

JAY JOYCE

SUGARLAND

THE BAND
PERRY

ZAC BROWN BAND

THOMPSON SQUARE

LEE BRICE

KENNY CHESNEY

SARAH BUXTON

RODNEY CRAWSON

DALLAS DAVIDSON

JANA KRAMER

LUKE LAIRD

TIM MCGRAW

VINCE GILL

RASCAL FLATTS

SUNNY SWEENEY

GLEN DUNCAN

PHIL
BARTON

BRETT
BEAVERS

JOHNNY
BULFORD

JEFF
HYDE

WILL
HOGE

RYAN
TYNDELL

TROY
VERGES

JEFF
STEVENS

NATHAN
CHAPMAN

CHUCK
AINLAY

NATASHA
BEDINGFIELD

JEFF
BHASKER

J.T.
CORENFLOS

LARRY
FRANKLIN

AUBREY
HAYNIE

KEVIN
"SWINE"
GRANT

JIM
HOKI

DAN
DUGMORE

ERIC
DARKEN

MIKE
JOHNSON

CHARLIE
JUDGE

GREG
LEISZ

BRENT
MASON

GORDON
MOTE

LARRY
AXTON

MIKE
WRUCKE

BRYAN
SUTTON

HANK
SINGER

BMI

write on.

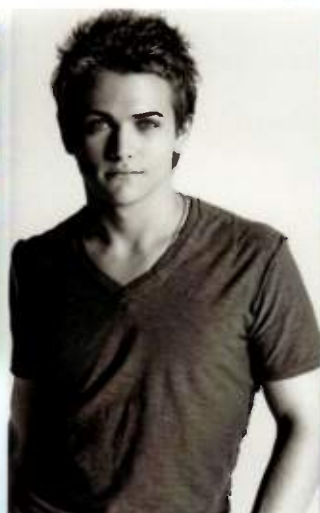
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The Songs. The Artists. The Best.

*Congratulations
To Our ACM Awards
Nominees*



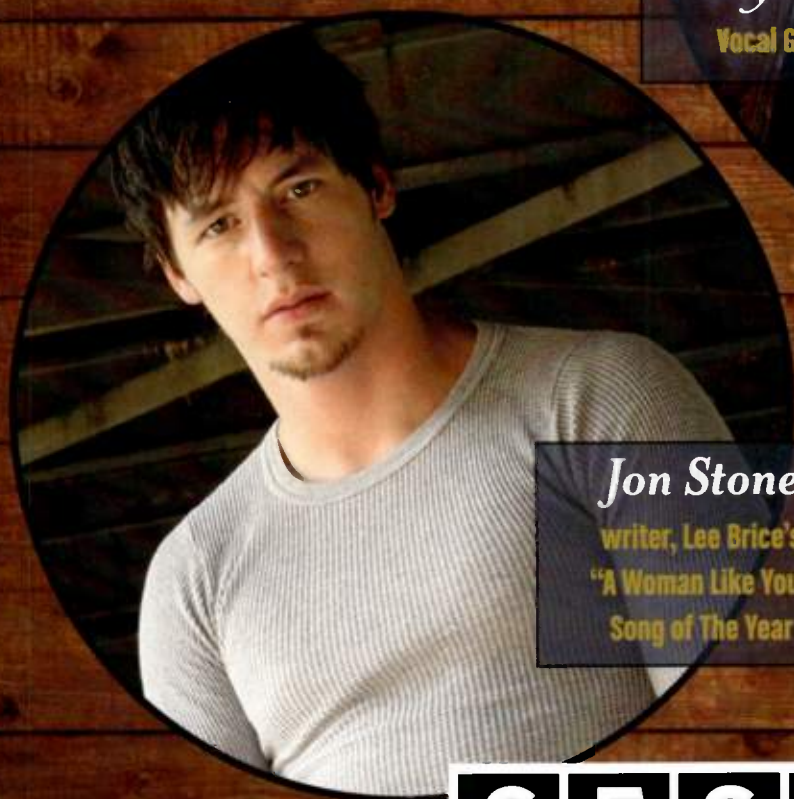
Thompson Square

Vocal Duo of the Year, New Vocal Duo
or Group of The Year



Lady Antebellum

Vocal Group of the Year



Jon Stone

writer, Lee Brice's
"A Woman Like You"
Song of The Year



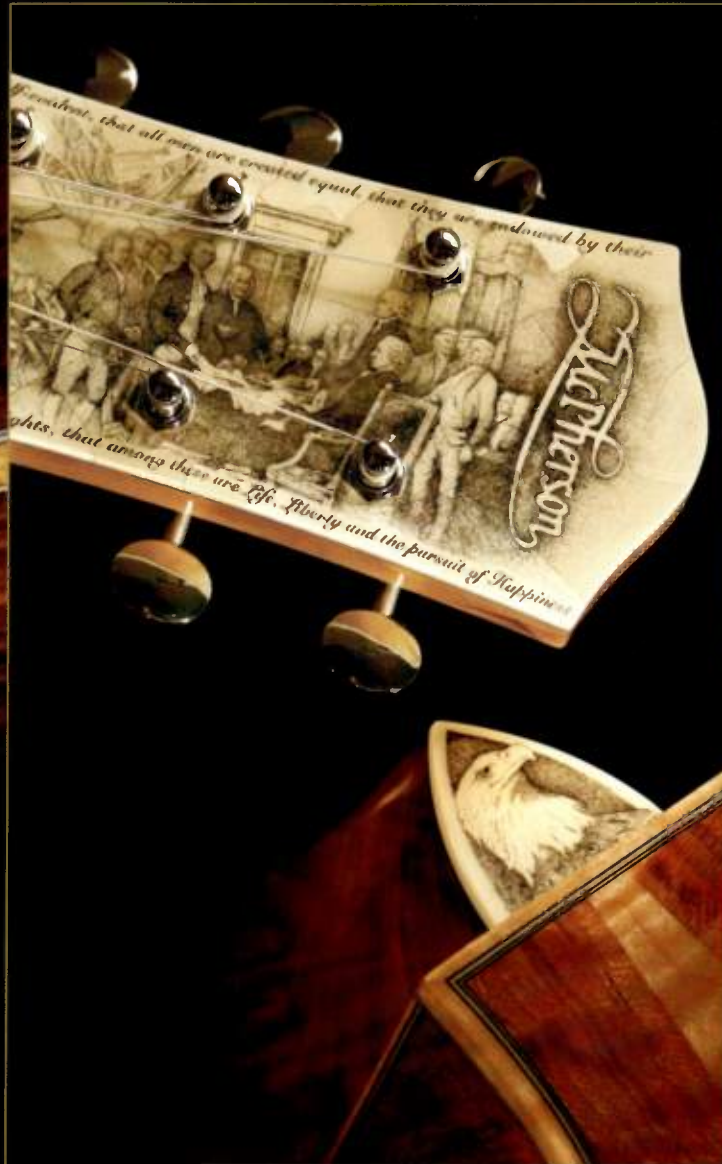
Cary Barlowe

contributing songwriter to
Carrie Underwood's *Blown Away*
Album of The Year



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SEEMS A BIT OF AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



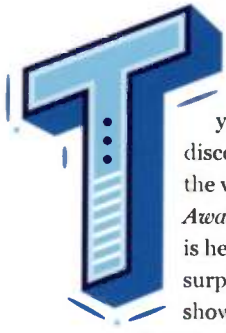
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A MESSAGE FROM

The Chairman *of the* Academy of Country Music



Thank you for joining us for the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards! Everyone at the Academy has dedicated themselves to presenting the most entertaining and exciting show of the year. Country music continues to grow, and everyday new fans are discovering country's gifted artists and amazing songs. This year, for the very first time, Luke Bryan will be joining Blake Shelton as *ACM Awards* host here at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, while Brad Paisley is headlining the ACM Fan Jam at Orleans Arena. There will be many surprises and once in a life time performances at both locations. Tonight's show will present country music's superstars along with new artists who

have broken through on their way to superstardom. The Academy and our partners at Dick Clark Productions and CBS are committed to bringing you the best show TV has to offer.

The Academy of Country Music is proud to present Country Music's Party of the Year® in the entertainment center of Las Vegas, where there is something for every fan. In addition to hosting ACM Fan Jam, The Orleans Hotel & Casino will be the location for THE ACM EXPERIENCE—a three-day, open-to-the-public event that includes the brand new ACM Party for a Cause Festival with headliners Dierks Bentley and The Band Perry. Monday evening the Academy will be back in the MGM Grand Garden Arena to tape our latest special, *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*, which will air on CBS later this year. 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 Lifting Lives Chairman Bruce Bowman and the dedicated Lifting Lives board. We want to thank the artists and the country music industry for continued support by helping Lifting Lives make a difference in so many lives.

We would also like to thank all the artists who performed at ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience including headliners Gary Allan and Jake Owen. We hope you had the opportunity to visit THE ACM EXPERIENCE and take advantage of all the amazing music and lifestyle events that surround the *ACM Awards*. The Academy would like to invite you to experience the ACM year round by checking out our website at acmcountry.com for exclusive artist interviews and intimate performances through our "ACM Acoustic" series. 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 a special night.

Sincerely,

BUTCH WAUGH



*"I would like to
thank all the artists,
the fans and the
country music
industry for all you
have done to make
this a special night."*



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A MESSAGE FROM

The President *of the* Academy of Country Music



Welcome to the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. Tonight's show promises to be an amazing showcase of the best talent country music has to offer. In addition to a sellout crowd at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, there will be a second sold out venue on the broadcast, with Brad Paisley featured in the 3rd Annual ACM Fan Jam at the Orleans Arena. As if that weren't enough, we are proud to welcome the new co-hosting team of Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, whose colorful personalities will surely add plenty of entertainment to the show. Whether you are watching in the audience or on TV, get ready for the most exciting award show you'll see all year!

Tomorrow evening the Academy will be back in MGM Grand Garden Arena to tape *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night* with star studded performances by many of today's top touring acts. At Tim's request, ticket proceeds from the live event will benefit ACM Lifting Lives, the Academy's charitable arm that partnered with him last summer on his Operation Homefront program. The Academy is proud to work with Lifting Lives Chairman Bruce Bowman, President Lori Badgett and the Lifting Lives Board of Directors. We would also like to welcome two key staff additions, Hannah Martin and Wes Perry, whose work will help further the mission of Lifting Lives. We want to thank the country artists and the country music industry for their continued support in helping Lifting Lives.

On behalf of my fellow officers, Chairman Butch Waugh and Vice President Darin Murphy, as well as my colleagues on the board, we hope you have enjoyed an historic weekend in Vegas. This year, the Academy launched the first ever ACM Party For A Cause Festival at The Orleans Hotel & Casino. With performances by artists such as The Band Perry, Brantley Gilbert, Justin Moore, Dierks Bentley, Eli Young Band, Hunter Hayes and more, combined with THE ACM EXPERIENCE all weekend long, thousands of fans were able to enjoy a special atmosphere. We would like to thank all of the artists who performed at both the Festival and at the ACM Concerts on Fremont Street, including many of our new artists as well as headliners Gary Allan and Jake Owen. None of these events would be possible without the existence of a world class awards show to anchor the weekend's events. We would like to sincerely thank our partners, Dick Clark Productions and CBS for their support.

Finally, I would like to thank ACM CEO Bob Romeo, Executive Vice President and Managing Director Tiffany Moon, and the rest of the remarkable ACM staff for their year round passion and dedication. And thank you to the artists, fans and the country music industry for all you have done to make this night so special. Enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

KEN ROBOLD



"We are proud to welcome the new co-hosting team of Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, whose colorful personalities will surely add plenty of entertainment to the show."



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 **ACM AWARDS** NOMINEES

JOSH KEAR



SHANE McANALLY



ERIC PASLAY



BIG & RICH



LOVE & THEFT



KELLY CLARKSON



LADY ANTEBELLUM



NATASHA BEDINGFIELD



RASCAL FLATTS



SUGARLAND



ZAC BROWN BAND



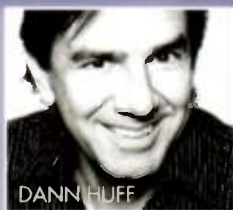
MARK BRIGHT



BUDD CANNON



DANN HUFF



BRIAN KENNEDY



MICHAEL KNOX



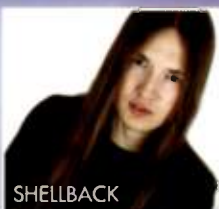
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SHELLBACK



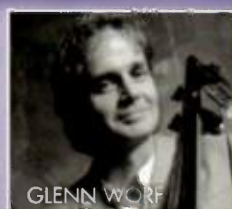
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WE CREATE MUSIC



A MESSAGE FROM

The CEO *of the* Academy of Country Music



When we wrapped last year's show I didn't think we would be able to top it. Until tonight. With our hosts, Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, the caliber of our nominees, talented performers and the power and popularity of the country music format, the 48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards is our biggest show yet.

The Orleans Hotel & Casino hosted so many events this year, most of which were created for the fans—including THE ACM EXPERIENCE, our successful lifestyle event, and the inaugural ACM Party For A Cause Festival. The festival, two days

of music with headliners The Band Perry and Dierks Bentley, is yet another opportunity for the fans to "give back." With a portion of proceeds from ticket sales benefiting charities that are important to the Academy and the artists who have done so much to help us grow over the years, the festival really is a landmark event for the ACM and our charitable arm, ACM Lifting Lives. The ACM Fan Jam, featuring Brad Paisley, also takes place at Orleans Arena and is once again an exciting remote broadcast into the main show at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience, our official "after-hours" party, headlined by Gary Allan and Jake Owen, continues to be an amazing, free concert series. And for the third year, Darius Rucker was kind enough to host the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic. We couldn't be more grateful to the artists for helping us this year, and inspiring us with their music and goodwill. Country music artists really are the nicest and most giving people to work with. The Week Vegas Goes Country® really did take on a new meaning this year!

We have another exceptional show for you tomorrow night—*ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*. Tim has asked some of his closest friends to perform their favorite hits, along with some surprising duets and moments that will prove to be unforgettable. Proceeds from the special taping will benefit ACM Lifting Lives, as well as artist-selected charities and causes which will be highlighted through our monthly web feature, "My Cause."

I would be remiss if I didn't recognize someone who has been a part of the ACM family for so many years. On behalf of our Board of Directors, and the entire industry for that matter, I would like to thank Reba. She was our host for 14 years and did so much for the ACM brand, the quality of our show and the genre altogether. Her grace, charm, genuine nature and sense of humor rub off on everyone she meets and we were lucky to have her as our leading lady.

A heartfelt thank you to the radio stations that play our music, the ACM Board of Directors, our partners at Dick Clark Productions, CBS, MGM Grand and The Orleans Hotel & Casino, and to all of the artists, managers, record labels and fans who make this week possible—we owe so much of our success to you.

Sincerely,

BOB ROMEO



"We couldn't be more grateful to the artists for helping us this year, and inspiring us with their music and goodwill."



HERE'S A QUARTER (CALL SOMEONE WHO CARES) MAMAS DON'T LET YOUR BABIES GROW UP TO BE COWBOYS

WHISKEY BENT AND HELLBOUND

FOR CHESTER B. THE RACE IS ON

FEEL LIKE A ROCK STAR CHATTAHOOCHEE

HARD WORKIN' MAN FISHIN' IN THE DARK

MILD CARD BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE

TELEWACKER TEQUILA MAKES HER CLOTHES FALL OFF

ACT NATURALLY PICK UP MAN

SWEET DREAMS CALLIN' BATON ROUGE

ARE YOU SURE HANK DONE IT THIS WAY

PONTOON WORKIN' MAN BLUES

ALL MY FRIENDS SAY BRYANT'S BOUNCE

DON'T ROCK THE JUKEBOX

CLUSTER PLUCK WE OWNED THE NIGHT

HONKY TONKIN'S WHAT I DO BEST

LOVE LIKE CRAZY RING OF FIRE

A LITTLE MORE COUNTRY THAN THAT

GUITARS & CADILLACS

DOWN TO MY LAST TEAR DROP

HOT WIRED COUNTRY BOY

THINK I'LL JUST STAY HERE AND DRINK

THE CONVERSATION

HILLBILLY ROCK WHAM BAM

HOLLYWOOD BOOGIE

SHE CRANKS MY TRACTOR

WHO WOULDN'T WANNA BE ME

ON THE ROAD BAR EXAM

LOVE YOU MORE TODAY

GUITAR MAN IF I DIE YOUNG

ALL OVER AGAIN WITCHITA LINEMAN

CHRISTINE'S TUNE (DEVIL IN DISGUISE)

CORN PICKIN' TAKE ME BACK TO TULSA

LET ME LOVE YOU TONIGHT I WALK THE LINE

HELLO MARY LOU SHE AIN'T RIGHT

LUCKENBACH, TEXAS (BACK TO THE BASICS OF LOVE)

TAKE THIS JOB AND SHOVE IT

LITTLE MOMENTS ON A GOOD NIGHT

ONE MORE LAST CHANCE START A BAND

COUNTRY MUSIC GOT A HOLD OF ME

LOT OF LEAVIN' LEFT TO DO HEARTBROKE

BUCKAROO BABY LIKES TO ROCK IT

THE RIGHT PLACE HOT ROD LINCOLN

RED WHITE AND PINK SLIP BLUES LUXURY LINER

TIGER BY THE TAIL THAT'S WHEN YOU KNOW

HAMMER OF THE HONKY TONK GODS

MEET IN THE MIDDLE TEN FEET AWAY

FOLSOM PRISON BLUES

SOME DAYS YOU GOTTA DANCE

MY NEXT BROKEN HEART

BLEED RED SOMEBODY LIKE YOU

HONKY TONK MAN

OKLAHOMA BORDERLINE

DUMAS WALKER HEARTS DESIRE

MYSTERY TRAIN

I'VE ALWAYS BEEN CRAZY

FIREMAN LIZA JANE

ONLY PRETTIER FOOLS RUSH IN

WHAT THE COWGIRLS DO



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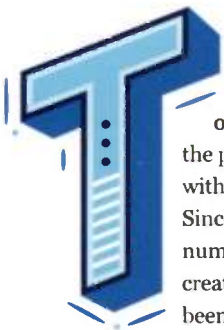
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A MESSAGE FROM

The Chairman *of* ACM Lifting Lives



his past year has been another year of great accomplishments and bringing positive change to the lives of so many people. As I enter into my fifth year serving on the ACM Lifting Lives® Board, I am so proud of this organization and its efforts to meet our mission of "improving lives through the power of music." The influence of ACM Lifting Lives has grown substantially with the leadership of the board and support of artists, industry and fans. Since inception, ACM Lifting Lives has given more than \$5 million dollars to numerous worthy causes and supports many projects throughout the year to create awareness and help those in need. Being a part of this organization has been a highlight of my career.

In 2012, we continued our online initiative, "ACM Lifting Lives: My Cause," featuring artists' favorite charities and celebrating the artist's good work through our online platforms, press releases, social media conversations and a cash contribution to the cause in the artist's name. Over the past 3 years, Lifting Lives has given more than \$50,000 to artists' charities. We also held the second annual benefit concert at Joe's Bar in Chicago with Gary Allan headlining. The 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. On April 6, 2013, Darius Rucker hosted the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic, benefitting this fund. Tonight, singer-songwriter Jewel joins us in a partnership with ConAgra to bring attention to the nation's growing hunger problem in this year's ACM Lifting Lives moment on the ACM Awards.

Alongside the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, we sponsored the third annual ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp for people with developmental disabilities. The camp has been a huge success and we continue to gain amazing support in artist involvement and participation. We were lucky enough to have Luke Bryan, Brett Eldredge, Jana Kramer, Lauren Alaina, David Lee Murphy and Big & Rich come and support the camp. 2013 marks the first of a four-year commitment from ACM Lifting Lives to support the ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp at the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center. This year we will continue to focus on grant-making to a wide array of organizations, continuing to build strong relationships with artists and their causes and the industry, connecting with and engaging people in our cause and responding to emergency relief needs.

In closing, my sincere thanks and appreciation to our former Chairman Mark Hartley for his leadership and advice, President Bill Mayne and Vice President Lori Badgett and the ACM Lifting Lives Board of Directors and Advisors for all of their dedication and commitment in making this a successful organization. I would also like to thank Academy of Country Music CEO Bob Romeo and the ACM staff for their steadfast support and hard work. Finally, a special thanks to all of the artists and industry professionals for their continued support of ACM Lifting Lives. We are truly grateful.

Sincerely,

BRUCE BOWMAN



"Since inception, ACM Lifting Lives® has given more than \$5 million dollars to numerous worthy causes and supports many projects throughout the year to create awareness and help those in need."



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A MESSAGE FROM

The Producers *of the* Academy of Country Music Awards



Welcome to the *48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards*... We are very excited about tonight's show, because it's a unique, exciting blend of new and never-before-seen moments! The "new" part comes with our brand new co-host, Luke Bryan, who will be adding his music and comedy talent to the hosting duties with Blake Shelton (returning for the third time.) Blake and Luke have a chemistry on and off camera, so we should all have an "anything can happen" experience.

Plus, there's a new venue for the ACM Fan Jam. It's taking place at Orleans Arena, where Brad Paisley will be performing and inviting some of his all-star friends to join him.

As for those "never before seen" moments, two icons of country music, Garth Brooks and George Strait, will sing together tonight for the very first time. They will perform a classic song tribute to the late Dick Clark, who was the driving force of the Academy show on the TV side. We proudly salute his memory tonight.

In addition, Tim McGraw will sing for the first time on TV with Keith Urban and Taylor Swift. Then all three and many others will be part of our show on Monday, *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*. This special will air on CBS in a few weeks.

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

As always, this evening's entertainment is dedicated to you, the country music fan. Have a great night and enjoy the show!



Allen Shapiro
CEO/Executive Producer



Orly Adelson
President/Executive Producer



R. A. Clark
Executive Producer



Barry Adelman
Producer



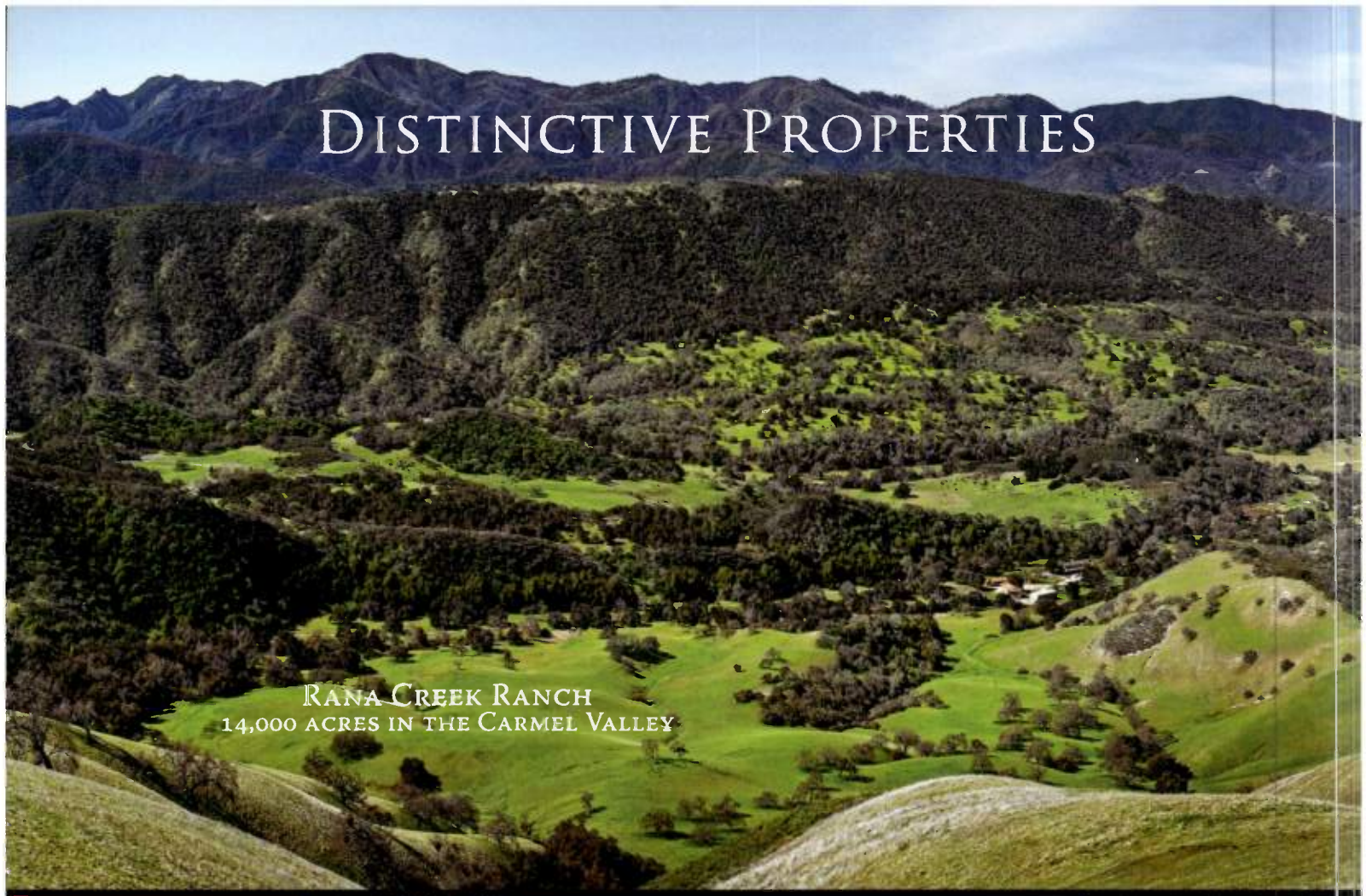
We join the artists and fans in
celebrating a shared passion...



Country MUSIC

Congratulations 2013 Nominees!

ANDERSON
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An aerial photograph of a vast, rolling landscape in the Carmel Valley. The terrain is a mix of vibrant green grassy fields and dense, dark green forests. In the far distance, a range of rugged, dark mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear sky.

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OUR HOSTS

Blake Shelton & Luke Bryan

Since the dawn of time, much gossip has been shared within the confines of a beauty salon. But instead of the usual talk about marriages gone wrong, bad plastic surgery and nail polish color, the conversation in the hair and makeup room at Nashville's 429 Event Space was strictly limited to hunting stories, Hank Williams, Jr., and songwriting. That's because in the chairs were the very manly Blake Shelton and Luke Bryan, who were gamely succumbing to being groomed for the *ACM Awards* promo shoot.

It was an odd sight to behold, two of country's hottest male singers bonding under capes in their makeup chairs, but if anyone can understand what the other one is going through, it's certainly Blake and Luke. Blake has become a household name across America from his work on NBC's hit show *The Voice*, racking up 12 No. 1 singles and launching the new album *Based on a True Story* in the process. Luke, fresh off a sold-out tour with buddy Jason Aldean, is red hot right now, earning five No. 1 hits and headlining his own Dirt Road Diaries Tour this year. Each is balancing ever rising careers with family life (Blake with wife Miranda Lambert and Luke with wife Caroline and boys "Bo" and "Tate"). Both are nominated for *ACM Entertainer of the Year* and both will helm the show as *ACM Awards* co-hosts tonight.

If their CBS promo shoot was any indication, we're in for a wild ride when pair takes the stage here at the MGM Grand Garden Arena. There's an obvious easy going friendship between the two, which often collapsed into laughter and a few four-letter words when a take would go wrong. Neither are afraid to bust on the other mercilessly when called for. When trying to get a straight answer as to why they're a good combo, it goes something like this:

Why are you guys a good team as hosts?

BLAKE: Why would you assume it's going to be good?

LUKE: Thank you for wishing that positively.

BLAKE: Luke and I have been writing the script for the show the last ten minutes or so, and I think we've got it where we want it. We've got some good jokes in there about country music and the stereotypes and how most of them are true because we all have had relations with our cousins.



Refer back to paragraph three. Didn't I tell you we're in for a wild ride?

Blake comes into his gig with two years under his belt, co-hosting the *ACM Awards* in 2011 and 2012 with the multi-talented Reba McEntire. While both his prior outings were huge successes, he hasn't offered much in the way of advice to Luke for his first live TV hosting job.

"Blake said 'Don't plant your corn in the spring. Don't play leapfrog with a unicorn.' That's about all the advice I got out of him," Luke joked.

Blake added, "You need that rock up there, and that's what Reba represented. She was the solid rock that you knew she was going to get it done. In a co-hosting situation, you need somebody to pivot off of and that you can count on, which is why this year I feel like I really got screwed over because the *ACMs* just looks for whoever is getting the hottest, current country airplay at the moment and nobody researches to see 'Can this guy read?' 'Can he memorize?' Any background checks on him?"

This rapid-fire back and forth is a good sign for *ACM Awards* producers Rac Clark and Barry Adelman, who are charged with writing the script and corralling their buckwild hosts for the live three-hour show.

"We will provide a script and then keep our fingers crossed! We'll certainly encourage them to have fun and bring their off camera relationship onto the show," said Adelman. "They're both funny, unpredictable guys and the show is live. Sounds like great TV to us!"



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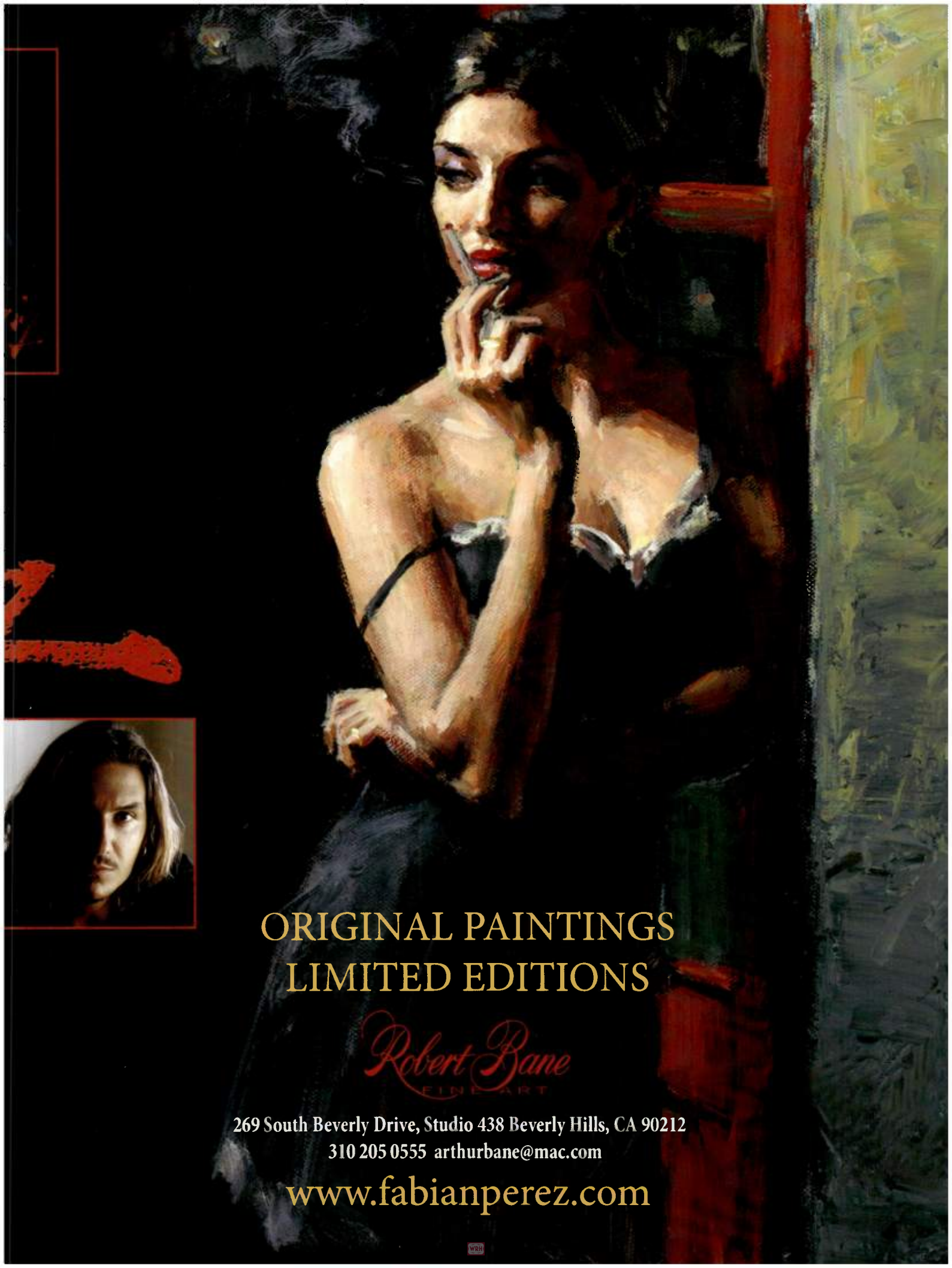
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ACM LIFTING LIVES®

Jewel Lends Her 'Hands'



**Singer-songwriter
Jewel joins with
ACM Lifting Lives
and ConAgra
Foods to spotlight
child hunger**

.....

You would never know it now, but singer-songwriter Jewel experienced significant hardship in her early years. There were times when she wasn't sure where she would spend the night or find her next meal. This experience in her life provided the inspiration for her hit song "Hands," a song about desperate times but not losing sight of the hope that still exists.

Tonight, Jewel will perform a live mash-up of her song "Hands" and "Fill a Heart" as the ACM Lifting Lives show moment during the *48th Academy of Country Music Awards*. "Fill a Heart," written by Tori Kelly for the Child Hunger Ends Here® program, brings the story of hunger to life. It draws awareness to the issue of child hunger for the nearly 17 million children who live in food insecure homes in the U.S. Today, more than 1 in 5 American children don't know where their next meal is going to come from, a number that is shocking to say the least. These numbers are a sure sign that something must change and ConAgra Foods has vowed to end this crisis. The song is also a motivator for parents and children alike to learn how they can help end child hunger.

"I've never had a chance to perform ["Hands"] on an awards show, even though it was a big hit," Jewel said. "So, this is a neat opportunity for me. I wanted to say how excited I am and how thankful I am. I love ConAgra Foods, and I think they do great work."

ACM Awards Executive Producer Rac Clark says Jewel is the perfect artist to bring this issue to light.

"Due to her own adversity, she's lived something most people will never experience," Clark said. "She's been there and back, so she brings a special kind of real emotion to this moment."

ACM Lifting Lives, the charitable arm of the Academy, is spotlighting the issue in conjunction with ConAgra Foods, which has been helping feed children in need for 15 years. Since 1993, ConAgra Foods and ConAgra Foods Foundation have provided more than 300 million pounds of food, which translates into 360 million meals, and invested more than \$50 million in leading anti-hunger nonprofit organizations. The company has also established the Child Hunger Ends Here® program. Whenever a customer buys finds a specially-marked package of brands like Banquet®, Hunt's®, Marie Callender's®, PAM®, Chef Boyardee®, Orville Redenbacher's®, Manwich®, Snack Pack®, or Peter Pan® Peanut Butter, and enters the code from the package at childhungerendshere.com, ConAgra Foods will donate the monetary equivalent of one meal to Feeding America. One code equals one meal.¹ It's that simple.

¹ For every code entered by 8/31/13, ConAgra Foods will donate 12.5¢, the cost for Feeding America to provide one meal through its network of local food banks. Maximum: 3 million meals. Guaranteed minimum donation: 1 million meals (\$125,000). Limit 5 code entries per person/computer each day. Valid in U.S. only.

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180
YEARS OF TRADITION

ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

History

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 official 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 and is now its CEO. 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

Dick Clark hosts the Academy of Country & Western Music Awards in 1973.



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. THE ACM EXPERIENCE, now in its second year, brings a family country lifestyle event to the ACM festivities. Staged at The Orleans Hotel & Casino this year, the event also includes the first ever two-day ACM Party for a Cause Festival.

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. Subsequent specials benefiting ACM Lifting Lives under the "ACM Presents" banner have included *Brooks & Dunn: The Last Rodeo*, *Girls Night Out: Superstar Women of Country*, *Lionel Richie and Friends* and this year's *Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*.

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.

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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NOMINEES

Entertainer of the Year

Jason Aldean
Luke Bryan
Miranda Lambert
Blake Shelton
Taylor Swift

Male Vocalist of the Year

Jason Aldean
Luke Bryan
Eric Church
Toby Keith
Blake Shelton

Female Vocalist of the Year

Miranda Lambert
Martina McBride
Kacey Musgraves
Taylor Swift
Carrie Underwood

Vocal Duo of the Year

Big & Rich
Florida Georgia Line
Love and Theft
Sugarland
Thompson Square

Vocal Group of the Year

The Band Perry
Eli Young Band
Lady Antebellum
Little Big Town
Zac Brown Band

New Male Vocalist of the Year

Lee Brice
Brantley Gilbert
Hunter Hayes

New Female Vocalist of the Year

Jana Kramer
Kacey Musgraves
Sunny Sweeney

New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year

Florida Georgia Line
Love and Theft
Thompson Square

New Artist of the Year

Presented by Kohl's
Department Stores
(Winners of New Male, New Female & New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year)
Florida Georgia Line
Brantley Gilbert
Jana Kramer

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

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

Blown Away

Carrie Underwood
(19/Arista Nashville)
Produced by: Mark Bright

Chief

Eric Church
(EMI-Nashville)
Produced by: Jay Joyce

Red

Taylor Swift
(Big Machine Records)
Produced by: Jeff Bhasker, Nathan Chapman, Dann Huff, Jacknife Lee, Max Martin, Shellback, Taylor Swift, Butch Walker, Dan Wilson

tailgates & tanlines

Luke Bryan
(Capitol Nashville)
Produced by: Mark Bright, Jeff Stevens

Tornado

Little Big Town
(Capitol Nashville)
Produced by: Jay Joyce

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

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

"Even If It Breaks Your Heart"

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

"Over You"

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

"Pontoon"

Little Big Town (Capitol Nashville)
Produced by: Jay Joyce

"Springsteen"

Eric Church (EMI-Nashville)
Produced by: Jay Joyce

"Wanted"

Hunter Hayes (Atlantic/WMN)
Produced by: Hunter Hayes, Dann Huff

SONG OF THE YEAR

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

"A Woman Like You"

Lee Brice
Composers: Phil Barton, Johnny Bulford, Jon Stone
Publishers: 3JB Music (BMI), Adios Pantalones (SESAC), Hears That Skyline Music (SESAC), Sixteen Stars Music (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (BMI)

"Even If It Breaks Your Heart"

Eli Young Band
Composers: Will Hoge, Eric Paslay
Publishers: Cal IV Songs (ASCAP), Will Hoge Music (BMI)

"Over You"

Miranda Lambert
Composers: Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton
Publishers: Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI)

"Springsteen"

Eric Church
Composers: Eric Church, Jeff Hyde, Ryan Tyndell
Publishers: Bug Music (BMI), ole Purple Cape Music (BMI), Sinnerlina (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI)

"Wanted"

Hunter Hayes
Composers: Hunter Hayes, Troy Verges
Publishers: Happy Little Man Publishing (BMI), Songs From The Engine Room (BMI), Songs Of Universal Inc. (BMI)

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

(Off Camera Award)

Rodney Clawson
Dallas Davidson
Josh Kear
Luke Laird
Shane McAnally

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

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

"Creepin'"

Eric Church
Producer: Iris Baker
Director: Peter Zavadi

"Merry Go 'Round"

Kacey Musgraves
Producer: Perry Bean, Kacey Musgraves
Director: Perry Bean

"Tornado"

Little Big Town
Producer: Iris Baker
Director: Shane Drake

"Wanted"

Hunter Hayes
Producer: Stephanie Reeves, Eric Williams
Director: Traci Goudie, Patrick Hubik

"We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together"

Taylor Swift
Producer: John Nguyen
Director: Declan Whitebloom

"The Wind"

Zac Brown Band
Producer: Ben Kalina
Director: Mike Judge

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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

"Don't Rush"

Kelly Clarkson Featuring Vince Gill
(19/RCA/Columbia Nashville)
Produced by: Dann Huff

"Easy"

Rascal Flatts Featuring Natasha Bedingfield
(Big Machine Records)
Produced by: Dann Huff, Brian Kennedy, Rascal Flatts

"Feel Like A Rock Star"

Kenny Chesney (Duet With Tim McGraw)
(Blue Chair/BNM)
Produced by: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

"Let It Rain"

David Nail Featuring Sarah Buxton
(MCA Nashville)
Produced by: Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell

"The Only Way I Know"

Jason Aldean With Luke Bryan & Eric Church
(Broken Bow)
Produced by: Michael Knox

Off Camera Awards

The following off-camera awards will be presented during the annual ACM Honors event held in Nashville this fall.

INDUSTRY AWARDS

CASINO OF THE YEAR

Agua Caliente Casino - Rancho Mirage, CA
Hard Rock Hotel & Casino - Tulsa, OK
Northern Quest Casino - Airway Heights, WA
Red Rock Casino & Resort - Las Vegas, NV
WinStar World Casino - Thackerville, OK

NIGHTCLUB OF THE YEAR

Buck Owens' Crystal Palace - Bakersfield, CA
Joe's Bar - Chicago, IL
The Dusty Armadillo - Rootstown, OH
Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill - Denver, CO
Wild Bills - Duluth, GA

VENUE OF THE YEAR

Blossom Music Center - Cuyahoga Falls, OH
BOK Center - Tulsa, OK
Klipsch Music Center - Noblesville, IN
Meadowbrook - Gilford, NH
Ryman Auditorium - Nashville, TN

DON ROMEO TALENT BUYER OF THE YEAR

Billy Brill - Billy Alan Productions
Jerry Hufford - Buck Owens' Crystal Palace
Gary Osier - Gary Osier Presents
Pat Powelson - Jayson Promotions, Inc.
Fran Romeo - Romeo Entertainment Group

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

Brad Garrett - Police Productions
Darin Lashinsky - NS2
Debra Rathwell - AEG Live
Glenn Smith - Glenn Smith Presents
Ed Warm - Joe's Bar

MUSICIAN / BANDLEADER / INSTRUMENTALIST / [MBI] AWARDS

PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Brett Beavers
Buddy Cannon
Dann Huff
Jay Joyce
Michael Knox

AUDIO ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Chuck Ainlay
Derek Bason
Mills Logan
Steve Marcantonio
F. Reid Shippen

BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Dennis Crouch
Kevin "Swine" Grantt
Larry Paxton
Jimmie Lee Sloas
Glenn Worf

PERCUSSIONIST/ DRUMMER OF THE YEAR

Eddie Bayers
Matt Chamberlain
Chad Cromwell
Chris McHugh
Greg Morrow

FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Glen Duncan
Larry Franklin
Aubrey Haynie
Hank Singer
Joe Spivey

GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

Tom Bukovac
J.T. Corenflos
Jay Joyce
Rob McNelley
Brent Mason

PIANO/KEYBOARD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

John Jarvis
Charlie Judge
Gordon Mote
Steve Nathan
Michael Rojas

SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT(S) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Eric Darken
Glen Duncan
Jim Hoke
Bryan Sutton
Ilya Toshinsky

STEEL GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Dan Dugmore
Mike Johnson
Greg Leisz
Russ Pahl
Scotty Sanders

RADIO AWARDS

The following radio awards will be presented during the annual Radio Winners event held the day prior to the ACM Awards telecast, on April 6th in Las Vegas.

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - NATIONAL

Blair Garner - After MidNite with Blair Garner
Cody Alan - CMT Radio Live with Cody Alan
Kix Brooks - American Country Countdown with Kix Brooks
Shawn Parr - The Country's Hotlist with Shawn Parr
Whitney Allen - The Big Time with Whitney Allen

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

Cornbread, Judi Diamond & Cap'n Mac - WIL-FM (St. Louis, MO)
Dr. Don Carpenter, Rachel Grunwald & Jason the 300lb. Cowboy - WYCD-FM (Detroit, MI)
Drew Walker - WUSN-FM (Chicago, IL)
Edwards & Lee - WYCD-FM (Detroit, MI)
Trish Biondo - WUSN-FM (Chicago, IL)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

Chris Carr, Maverick & Statt - WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH)
Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt & Kevin Freeman - WFMS-FM (Indianapolis, IN)
Lisa McKay - WQDR-FM (Raleigh, NC)
Q Morning Crew - Mike Wheless, Marty Young & Janie Carothers - WQDR-FM (Raleigh, NC)
Randy Carroll and Jamie Martin - KAJA-FM (San Antonio, TX)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET

Cash and Carey - KWEN-FM (Tulsa, OK)
Jack Ryan - WMYL-FM (Knoxville, TN)
Party Marty Mitchell - WKMK-FM (Monmouth-Ocean, NJ)
Rowdy Yates, Sunny Leigh & Carly Rush - KVOO-FM (Tulsa, OK)
Tom and Becky - WBBS-FM (Syracuse, NY)

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

Brent Lane - WYCT-FM (Pensacola, FL)
Dex and Mo - WUSY-FM (Chattanooga, TN)
Gator Harrison, Styckman & Cowboy Kyle - WUSY-FM (Chattanooga, TN)
Jamie Mac - KCLR-FM (Columbia, MO)
Philip Gibbons - WGSQ-FM (Cookeville, TN)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MAJOR MARKET

KNIX-FM (Phoenix, AZ)
KUPL-FM (Portland, OR)
WDSY-FM (Pittsburgh, PA)
WQYK-FM (St. Petersburg, FL)
WYCD-FM (Detroit, MI)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - LARGE MARKET

KAJA-FM (San Antonio, TX)
WFMS-FM (Indianapolis, IN)
WLHK-FM (Indianapolis, IN)
WSM-AM (Nashville, TN)
WUBE-FM (Cincinnati, OH)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - MEDIUM MARKET

KUZZ-AM/FM (Bakersfield, CA)
WBBS-FM (Syracuse, NY)
WGNA-FM (Schenectady, NY)
WKMK-FM (Monmouth-Ocean, NJ)
WMYL-FM (Knoxville, TN)

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR - SMALL MARKET

KCLR-FM (Columbia, MO)
WXFL-FM (Florence, AL)
WYCT-FM (Pensacola, FL)



Model: Ashley Lauren

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ENTERTAINER *of the* YEAR NOMINEE



**JASON
ALDEAN**

Jason Aldean's fans immediately got on board

with the release of his newest album, *Night Train*. Within months, the album was certified platinum and lead single "Take a Little Ride" shot to the top of the country charts. Of course it's full steam ahead for Aldean, who's racked up a long line of gold and platinum certifications. "Dirt Road Anthem" has sold more than three million copies, followed by double-platinum distinctions for "She's Country" and "Don't You Wanna Stay." The latter song, a powerful duet with Kelly Clarkson, won two ACM Awards last year in the Single and Vocal Event categories. Aldean won his first ACM as the 2005 New Male Vocalist, thanks to hits like "Hicktown" and his first No. 1 single, "Why." As a young man, he divided his time between Georgia and Florida, and finally earned a shot in Nashville after countless club dates and numerous false starts. Since then, every album he's released on Broken Bow Records has been certified platinum or higher. More smash singles include "Big Green Tractor," "The Truth," "Tattoos on This Town," "Fly Over States" and "The Only Way I Know," a lively ACM nominated collaboration with Eric Church and Luke Bryan. With millions of concert tickets sold in his career, Aldean is headlining the Night Train Tour in 2013, with stadium shows in Chicago, Boston and Athens, Ga. He became the first country artist to ever headline historic Fenway Park, which helped him earn the ACM Crystal Milestone Award.

Nominated For:

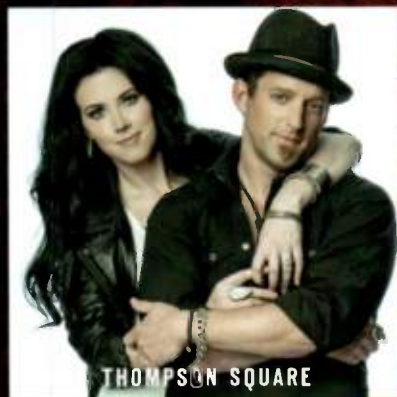
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR • MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

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JASON ALDEAN



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JAMES WESLEY



RANDY HOUSER



LINDSAY ELL

RED BOW
RECORDS



JOE NICHOLS



RACHEL FARLEY

BBR
MUSIC GROUP

ENTERTAINER *of the* YEAR NOMINEE



**LUKE
BRYAN**

Luke Bryan put his career into overdrive

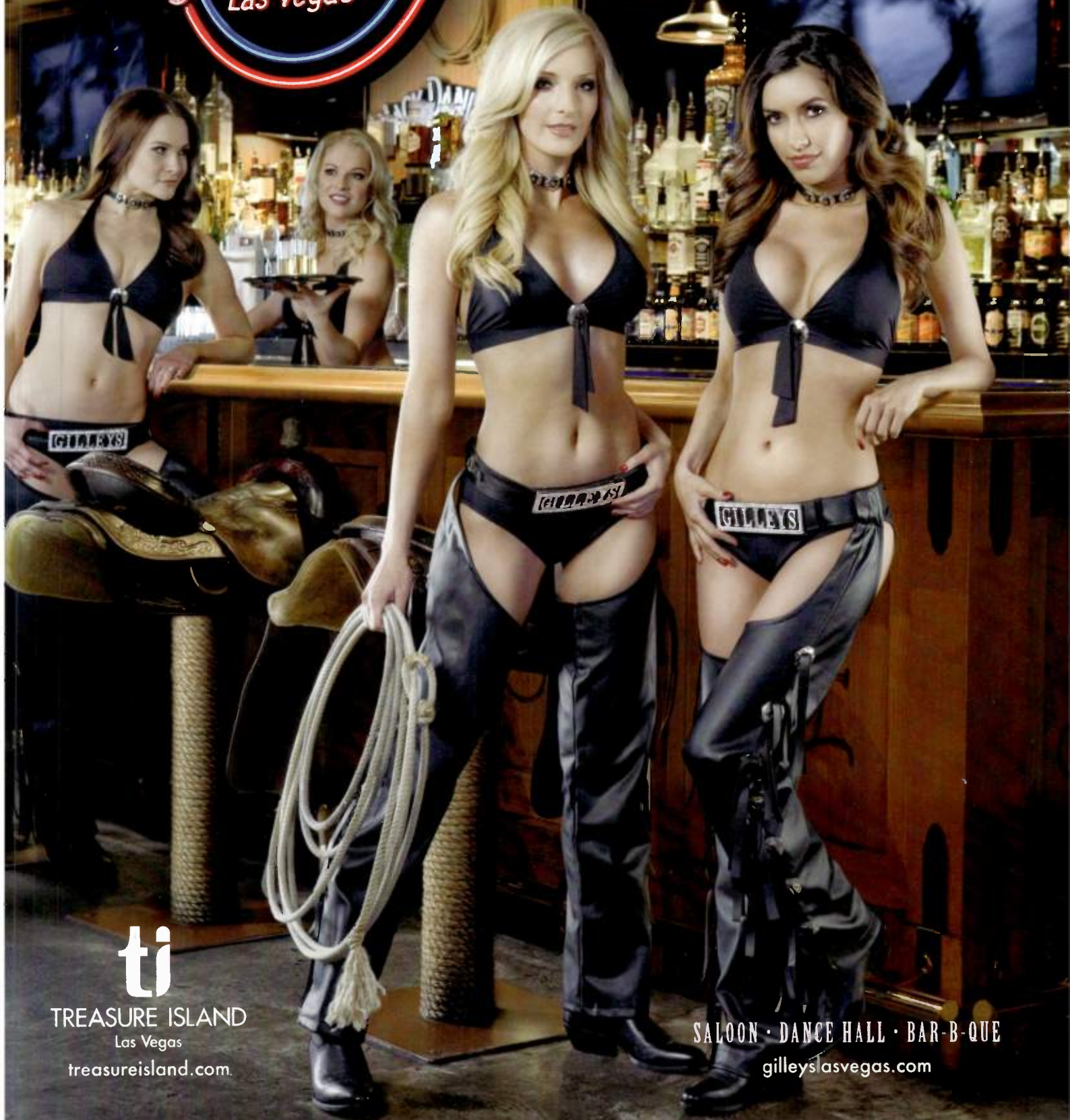
with *tailgates & tanlines*, his latest album for Capitol Nashville. Since its release, three of its smash singles have reached double-platinum: "Country Girl (Shake It For Me)," "I Don't Want This Night to End" and "Drunk on You." The album is approaching sales of two million units. Country fans could see this coming after Bryan picked up 2009 ACM Awards for New Artist of the Year and New Solo Vocalist of the Year. He released his debut album *I'll Stay Me* in 2007. Its lead single, "All My Friends Say," reached the Top 10, as did "Country Man." His next album, *Doin' My Thing*, offered more hits like "Do I," "Rain Is a Good Thing" and "Someone Else Calling You Baby." His sensual single "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye" grabbed gold in December. In early 2013, he climbed the chart with "The Only Way I Know," joining Jason Aldean and Eric Church, and began headlining his long-awaited Dirt Road Diaries Tour. Beyond those singles and albums, this upbeat entertainer keeps fans satisfied with EPs like to chart-topping *Spring Break... Here to Party* and beached-themed concerts. Meanwhile his small-town Farm Tours give back to Southern communities through scholarships. After all, Bryan grew up working on his father's peanut farm near his hometown of Leesburg, Ga. This is Bryan's first year to co-host the *ACM Awards*.

Nominated For:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR • MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)



The west gets wild.



ti

TREASURE ISLAND

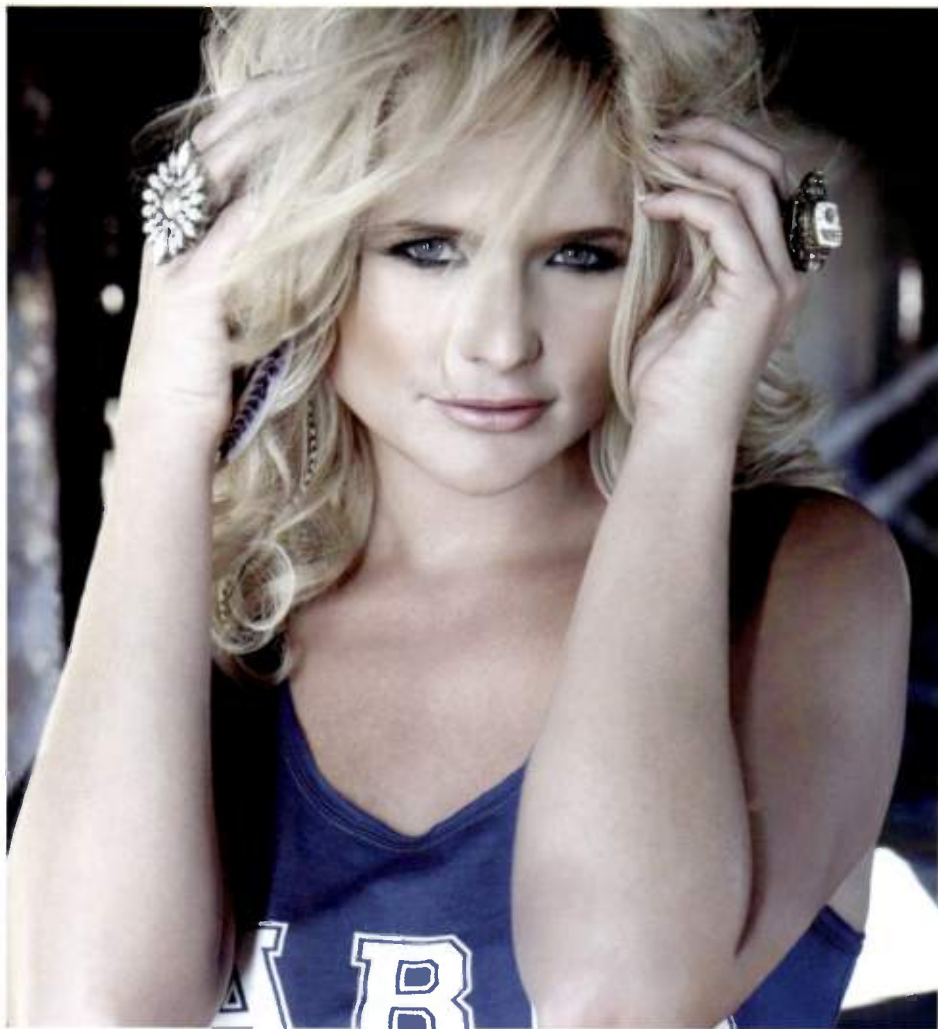
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ENTERTAINER *of the* YEAR NOMINEE



**MIRANDA
LAMBERT**

Miranda Lambert blazed through 2012

with the headlining On Fire Tour, a platinum single for "Over You" and ACM Awards for Album of the Year (*Four the Record*) and Female Vocalist. A native of Lindale, Texas, Lambert claimed her first ACM Award as 2006 New Female Vocalist of the Year following the success of her fiery video, "Kerosene." Just one year later she proved her potential with an Album of the Year victory for *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*, a feat she repeated with *Revolution*. By now, Lambert has earned trophies in nearly every ACM category. Her victorious videos include "White Liar" and "The House That Built Me." The latter song earned 2010 ACM Single and Song distinctions as well as a Grammy award. She is the ACM's reigning Female Vocalist with three consecutive wins. In December she received a Grammy nod for the gold-certified *Four the Record*, released by RCA Records. Along with singing "Jingle Bell Rock" with her husband Blake Shelton on his Christmas album, Lambert invested time in her MuttNation organization for animals in need, as well as a new boutique store called the Pink Pistol in Tishomingo, Okla. Not one to slow down, she teamed with Dierks Bentley on the Locked and Reloaded Tour in early 2013. Listen for new music on the album *Annie Up* with her band Pistol Annies (with Ashley Monroe and Angaleea Presley) coming May 7th.

Nominated For:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR • FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • SONG OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/COMPOSER)



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ENTERTAINER *of the* YEAR NOMINEE



**BLAKE
SHELTON**

*Blake Shelton,
the reigning ACM
Male Vocalist,*

chose the title *Based on a True Story...* for his new album on Warner Music Nashville. And for his longtime fans, Shelton's story has a very happy ending. Now a household name thanks to his role on *The Voice*, the wise-cracking crooner can look back at a long and winding career path that led him to center stage. A native of Ada, Okla., Shelton received his first ACM nominations as the 2001 and 2002 New Male Vocalist, after scoring a No. 1 debut single with "Austin." As the decade progressed, he continued to notch No. 1 hits, yet he didn't claim his first ACM trophy until "Hillbilly Bone." (He shared that 2009 Vocal Event win with one of his favorite artists, Trace Adkins.) With newfound career momentum and Twitter followers that celebrated his wacky sense of humor, Shelton accepted an invitation from Reba to co-host the *ACM Awards* in 2011. His No. 1 hits kept pouring in, including double-platinum singles like "Honey Bee" and "God Gave Me You." Shelton married fellow ACM nominee Miranda Lambert in 2011 and released the gold-certified album *Cheers It's Christmas* last year. His latest success story is the seductive "Sure Be Cool If You Did." Shelton will open a new chapter of his career when his Ten Times Crazier Tour launches in July. The Academy celebrated Shelton's mainstream successes with the Gene Weed Special Achievement Award.

Nominated For:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR • MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR (COMPOSER)

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ENTERTAINER *of the* YEAR NOMINEE



**TAYLOR
SWIFT**

*Taylor Swift,
the reigning ACM
Entertainer of the
Year,*

has carried home that trophy twice. Thanks to an enormous fan base and skillful songwriting, Swift has become a global ambassador for country music. That visibility and chart success was rewarded with the 2010 ACM Jim Reeves International Award as well as the 2008 Crystal Milestone Award. Swift is back on the road with *Red*, a triple-platinum project released last year on Big Machine Records. Flipping through the radio dial, you'll hear hits like the Grammy-nominated "We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together," the hopeful "Begin Again" and the pop-inflected "I Knew You Were Trouble." Swift made her first trip to the ACM podium as the 2007 New Female Vocalist. The following year, *Fearless* won ACM honors for Album of the Year – and it's sold more than six million copies. (Not far behind, *Speak Now* and her self-titled debut have reached quadruple status.) Her multi-platinum singles include "Love Story," "You Belong With Me," "Our Song" and "Mine." With more than a dozen gold and platinum achievements to her credit, Swift remains the top-certified digital artist in country music history. She is also making waves in Hollywood by lending her voice to *The Lorax* animated film and recording the Grammy-winning "Safe and Sound" for the *Hunger Games* soundtrack. Swift joins Tim McGraw on his new song, "Highway Don't Care"

Nominated For:

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR • FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR;
ALBUM OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/PRODUCER) • VIDEO OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)



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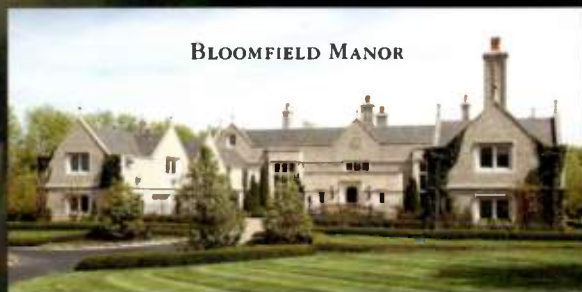
Marilyn Hoffman is the only broker in the world to regularly exhibit and promote her listings at the world's top events, attended by potential buyers for her exclusive listings. For example, she had the only real estate at the prestigious Carousel of Hope Ball in Beverly Hills. Other exhibits include the Barrett-Jackson Classic Car Auction in Scottsdale, the International Safari Show in Reno and Dallas, the Salon de Cheval in Paris, the Bal de la Mer in Monte Carlo, the March of Dimes Ball, the Heart Ball in Palm Beach, the Concours d'Elegance in Pebble Beach, the Thalias Ball and the Starkey Foundation in Beverly Hills, the Winter Equestrian Festival, the Quarter Horse Congress, the Dallas Dressage Show, the NCHA World Championship Futurity, the Rolex Three Day Event and many other prestigious events.

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Natasha Bedingfield

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Natasha Bedingfield has sold millions of albums as a pop star in Europe, thanks to the revealing hit "Unwritten." That riveting performance earned a Grammy nomination, sold two million digital downloads and helped attract a devoted fan base in the United States. Her persistent 2008 single "Pocketful of Sunshine" also reached double-platinum status while the album of the same name has been certified gold. Additional hit singles include "Love Like This," "These Words" and "Touch." The fashionable British musician released her latest album, *Strip Me*, in late 2010. Rascal Flatts selected Bedingfield as their ideal singing partner after the group decided to turn "Easy" into a duet. They filmed the glamorous video at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville and premiered it during a CMT special. Bedingfield is preparing to launch a new album, which she recorded in Los Angeles, London and Sweden. She is also producing the project. On the Grammy red carpet in February, she told Fuse, "I have 'in love' feelings right now because I'm in love with my music. I feel very happy and that's when you know you're on a good thing. You keep digging until you feel that feeling."



Big & Rich

Nominated For:

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Big & Rich returned to the country airwaves in 2012 with the compelling single, "That's Why I Pray," allowing fans to hear a more serious side of their music. But with an album title like *Hillbilly Jedi*, which was released by Warner Music Nashville over the summer, it's clear that John Rich and Big Kenny are ready to shoot for the stars. Big & Rich marched into country music in 1994 with "Save a Horse (Ride a Cowboy)," a suggestive single that immediately became a country music catchphrase. The outrageous video earned an ACM Award nomination, an honor repeated by the poignant "8th of November" and their romantic No. 1 hit, "Lost in This Moment." The Muzik Mafia co-founders racked up four consecutive nominations for Vocal Duo prior to taking a break in 2008. After pursuing individual career and philanthropic endeavors, they reunited in 2011 to record "Fake I.D." for the *Footloose* soundtrack. As songwriters, they have enjoyed cuts together, as on Jason Aldean's "Hicktown" and "Amarillo Sky," while their respective catalogs include Tim McGraw's "Last Dollar (Fly Away)" for Big Kenny and Faith Hill's "Mississippi Girl" for Rich. The duo kicked off 2013 with a new single, "Cheat on You."





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Lee Brice

Nominated For:

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • SONG OF THE YEAR

Lee Brice brought an everyman sensibility to his string of hit country songs in 2012, the biggest year yet in his career. Along with releasing the Curb Records album *Hard 2 Love*, Brice received platinum certifications for his singles "Hard to Love" and "A Woman Like You" and won an ACM Award for co-writing Eli Young Band's "Crazy Girl." Already this year he's received platinum certification for his breakthrough single, "Love Like Crazy," which stayed on the chart for a record-setting 56 weeks in 2009 and 2010 and became the most-played country song of 2010. His latest single is "I Drive Your Truck," a ballad about honoring a deceased brother by revisiting one of his favorite activities. A native of Sumter, S.C., Brice credits influences like the Oak Ridge Boys and Alabama, who were two of his father's favorites. He played football for Clemson University until an injury sidelined him in his senior year. During one spring break, he trekked to Nashville and decided to pursue a career in music. Along with eight of the songs on *Hard 2 Love*, Brice's songwriting credits include Jason Aldean's "Not Every Man Lives," Garth Brooks' "More Than a Memory" and Tim McGraw's "Still."



Sarah Buxton

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Sarah Buxton lends her distinctive voice to David Nail's No. 1 hit, "Let It Rain," allowing fans to hear her skilled harmonies. Without question, listeners already know her songwriting. Keith Urban's rendition of her composition "Stupid Boy" climbed to No. 3 at country radio and won a Grammy. And as a solo artist signed to Lyric Street Records, Buxton charted several Top 40 singles of her own, including "Innocence," "That Kind of Day" and "Space." That early momentum helped her secure two consecutive ACM nominations in the New Female Vocalist category and an invitation to sing "Sweet and Wild" with Dierks Bentley on his *Greatest Hits* album. In addition, she released a homemade music video for the cheerful song, "Outside My Window." The track became her highest-charting single to date and the video aired on CMT. Buxton's self-titled album arrived in 2010. Since then, she has enjoyed even more songwriting success, including Urban's "Put You in a Song" and Gary Allan's "Pieces." A Kansas native, Buxton moved to Nashville to attend Belmont University. She is married to guitarist Tom Bukovac. They welcomed their first child, Marshall, in December. Buxton is now a member of the new band Skyline Motel.



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Kenny Chesney

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/PRODUCER)

Kenny Chesney connected with country fans in 2012 with the epic songs "Feel Like a Rock Star" and "Come Over," which fit perfectly into his Brothers of the Sun stadium tour with Tim McGraw. His album *Welcome to the Fishbowl* was just one of many sales landmarks in 2012. Platinum peaks included "Come Over," "Don't Blink" and "You and Tequila," as well as his 2009 compilation, *Greatest Hits II*. He also grabbed gold for "Feel Like a Rock Star" and one of his signature songs, "No Shoes, No Shirt, No Problems." Chesney is a rare ACM Triple Crown winner, thanks to his 1997 New Male Vocalist award, his 2002 Male Vocalist award and four trophies for Entertainer of the Year (2004 to 2007). "The Good Stuff" and "Find Out Who Your Friends Are" (with Tracy Lawrence and McGraw) also won ACM Awards. Chesney is now waving his "Pirate Flag" at country radio, signaling the approach of a new album, *Life on a Rock*, later this month on Blue Chair/Columbia Records. A 2011 ACM Crystal Milestone Award winner recognized for his incredible touring achievements, Chesney launched his new No Shoes Nation Tour last month in Tampa, Fla.



Eric Church

Nominated For:

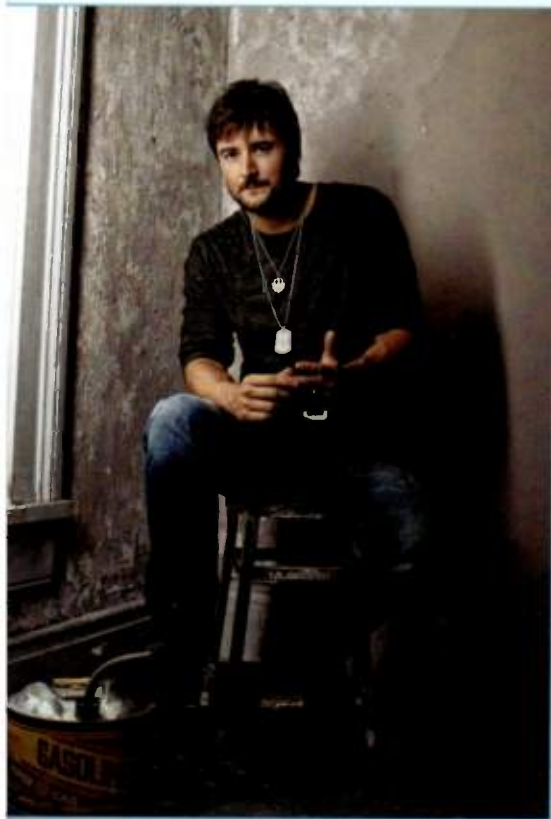
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • ALBUM OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

SONG OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/COMPOSER)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Eric Church testified to the power of his fans as "Springsteen" reached double platinum status and earned Grammy nominations for best country solo performance and best country song. That smash single leads a long list of success stories, such as the platinum singles "Drink in My Hand," "Smoke a Little Smoke" and "Homeboy." Church also struck gold earlier this year with "Creepin'" and "Hell on the Heart." His dedicated fans, known as the Church Choir, are the ones you'll hear screaming their approval on Church's live album, *Caught in the Act*, due April 9 on EMI Nashville. Church recorded the project at the Tivoli Theatre in Chattanooga, Tenn., after spending much of the year headlining his Blood, Sweat and Beers Tour. In addition, he premiered a documentary titled *Mixtape* on CMT last year. A North Carolina native, Church accepted his first ACM Award in the New Solo Vocalist category two years ago. As a performer and songwriter, Church finds inspiration in country music's outlaws, yet brings his own perspective to albums like 2006's *Sinners Like Me*, 2009's *Carolina* and 2011's *Chief*. After a block of Canadian dates, Church will open shows on Kenny Chesney's No Shoes Nation Tour this summer.





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Kelly Clarkson

Nominated For:

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. More than 10 years after winning *American Idol*, she has cultivated a country audience by sharing memorable melodies with Nashville's biggest stars. Clarkson claimed ACM Awards in the Single of the Year and Vocal Event categories last year as a dazzling duet partner with Jason Aldean on the crossover smash, "Don't You Wanna Stay." She has also partnered with heroes like Reba on the dramatic "Because of You" and Vince Gill on the sensual "Don't Rush." Both tracks received ACM nominations in the Vocal Event category. Of course, Clarkson remains prominent on the pop scene. Known for her upbeat and occasionally goofy personality, her signature sass was showcased on "Stronger (What Doesn't Kill You)" while her platinum album *Stronger* earned a Grammy. Her impressive hit streak includes "Since U Been Gone," "Behind These Hazel Eyes," "Breakaway," "Miss Independent," "Mr. Know It All," "Never Again" and "Walk Away." She also lends her powerful vocals to Blake Shelton's *Cheers It's Christmas* and Jewel's *Greatest Hits*. Clarkson released the collection *Greatest Hits: Chapter One* late last year.



Eli Young Band

Nominated For:

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

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

Eli Young Band examined the heartbreak and thrill of an aspiring artist in their 2012 anthem, "Even If It Breaks Your Heart." Along with topping the Country Airplay chart, the track brought a Grammy nomination for songwriters Will Hoge and Eric Paslay. It also proved that this Texas-based band could sustain a national profile after the incredible success of "Crazy Girl," the most-played country single of 2011 and last year's winner for ACM Song of the Year. The title of their Republic Nashville album, *Life at Best*, turned out to be spot-on. Eli Young Band toured Australia with Tim McGraw and Faith Hill in early 2012, followed by numerous tour dates with Rascal Flatts. This summer they'll join Kenny Chesney's No Shoes Nation stadium tour. Their high-energy set list includes early singles like "Always the Love Songs" and "When It Rains," which helped establish their presence at country radio. They have also headlined a concert at the Houston Rodeo, landed an invitation to sing on *Late Night With David Letterman* and shared the stage with rowdy crowd favorites like Dierks Bentley. Eli Young Band members are lead singer Mike Eli, guitarist James Young, drummer Chris Thompson and bassist Jon Jones.





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Florida Georgia Line

Nominated For:

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR • NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR
NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Florida Georgia Line crossed innumerable state lines when the wildly successful “Cruise” carried them on tour across the country. The upbeat single reached double-platinum status in February and serves as a calling card for their full-length album, *Here’s to the Good Times*, released in December. The duo takes its name from the home states of its members, who met as students at Nashville’s Belmont University. Brian Kelley comes from Ormond Beach, Fla., and Tyler Hubbard hails from Monroe, Ga. They were introduced by a mutual friend and quickly found a connection on a personal and professional level. They committed to the idea of pursuing a career as performers while in a McDonald’s parking lot. Prior to signing a contract with Big Machine Records, they issued an independent EP titled *It’s Just What We Do* and found a champion in Jake Owen, who invited them to join the lineup of the CMT on Tour package late last year. Jason Aldean acknowledged the duo’s promising talent, too, when he recorded “Black Tears,” co-written by Hubbard and Canaan Smith. The duo’s catchy new single is “Get Your Shine On.” In 2013, the duo is opening shows for Luke Bryan’s Dirt Road Diaries Tour.



Brantley Gilbert

Nominated For:

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Brantley Gilbert gave his fans a high-impact concert experience in 2012, spending much of the year opening for Toby Keith and Eric Church. He also embarked on his headlining Hell on Wheels Tour, indicating that his work ethic is truly paying off. His singles “Country Must Be Country Wide” and “You Don’t Know Her Like I Do” reached gold status, as did his album, *Halfway to Heaven*. As a songwriter, he’s landed two huge cuts with Jason Aldean—the double-platinum “My Kinda Party” and the triple-platinum “Dirt Road Anthem.” When Gilbert was 19, he was nearly killed in a car accident. The experience prompted the Jefferson, Ga., native 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 devoted BG Nation 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. His dramatic new single is “More Than Miles.” He became engaged to fellow ACM New Artist of the Year nominee Jana Kramer on Jan. 20, his 28th birthday.



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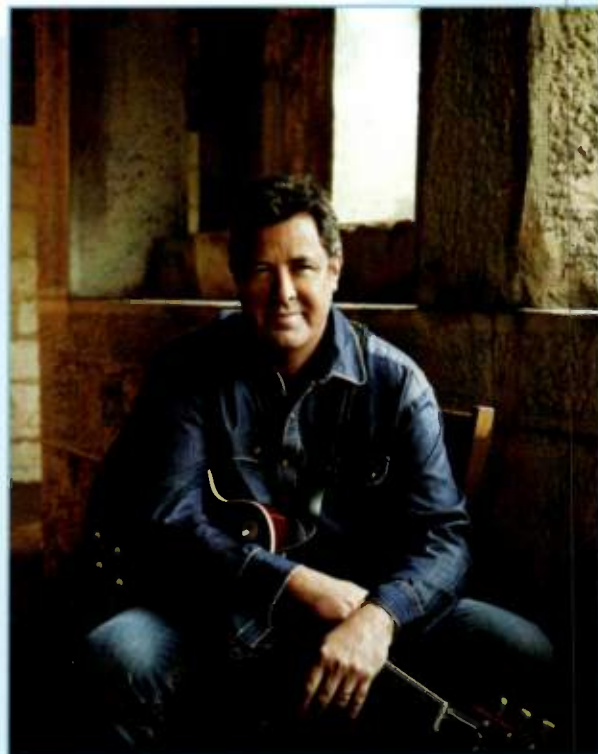
BOYDGAMING

Vince Gill

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

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 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 the acclaimed album *Guitar Slinger* and the tender single, "Threaten Me With Heaven." Last year he teamed up with the Time Jumpers, a Grammy-nominated band that draws on classic country and Western swing influences. Gill joined the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2007.



Hunter Hayes

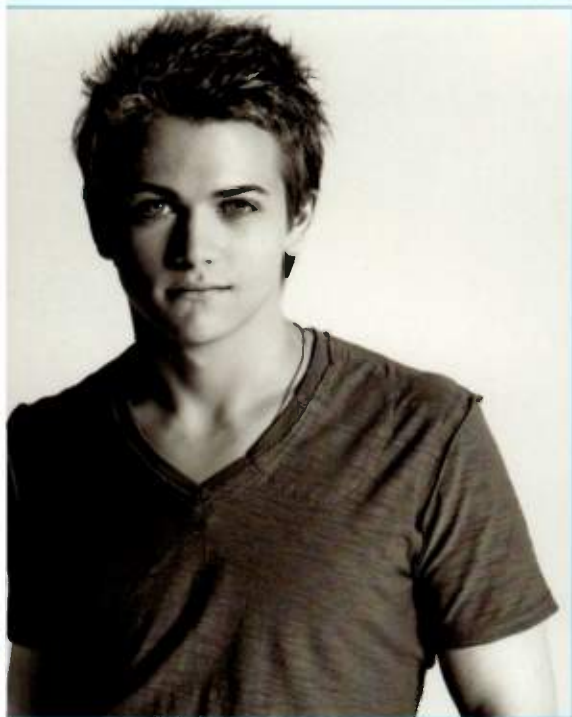
Nominated For:

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/PRODUCER)

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

Hunter Hayes helped raise country music's profile in the pop world with the overwhelming success of "Wanted." That sensitive single grabbed double-platinum status earlier this year, following up on the gold success of his debut single "Storm Warning." Earlier this year Hayes received three Grammy nominations, including a nod for Best New Artist across all genres. For his gold-certified debut release on Warner Music Nashville, Hayes wrote or co-wrote all the songs and co-produced the self-titled project with Dann Huff. He also played every instrument on the album. He cites Garth Brooks and Clint Black as major influences, as well as the Cajun music he heard growing up in Louisiana. Now living in Nashville, Hayes has notched songwriting credits for Rascal Flatts (with whom he toured) and Montgomery Gentry. He's also landed on the *Footloose* and *Act of Valor* soundtracks and appeared on *Late Night With David Letterman* and the Grand Ole Opry. On stage he shared the spotlight (at age 5) with Hank Williams Jr., and opened shows on Taylor Swift's Speak Now World Tour. Lately this 21-year-old has been learning the ropes from Carrie Underwood, who selected him as the special guest on her Blown Away Tour.





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Toby Keith

Nominated For:

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Toby Keith continues to satisfy country fans with his singing, his songwriting and his swagger. Twenty years after reaching No. 1 with "Should've Been a Cowboy," this Oklahoma native has kept his spot as one of country music's most reliable artists. After numerous hits in the 1990s, 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 trophies. In addition, "Beer For My Horses" landed ACM Awards both as a music video and a film. Last year, the double-platinum "Red Solo Cup" claimed an ACM trophy in the music video category. Beyond the charts, Keith is a respected entrepreneur with brands like Toby Keith's I Love This Bar and Grill and Wild Shot Mezcal in his portfolio. Released on Show Dog Universal, Keith's latest album *Hope on the Rocks* offers the crowd-pleasing "I Like Girls That Drink Beer" and the poignant title track, which he calls one of his finest songwriting achievements.



Jana Kramer

Nominated For:

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

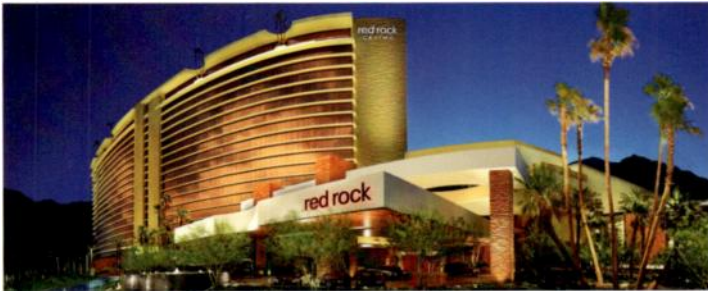
Jana Kramer drew the attention of country fans in 2012 with her breakthrough single, "Why Ya Wanna." Sung from the perspective of a woman who's not quite sure how to remain friends with an ex, the heart-on-your-sleeve single climbed to No. 3 at country radio and reached gold status. Kramer traveled with Brad Paisley's Virtual Reality Tour over the summer, connecting face-to-face with fans that might have recognized her from a solid acting career before she crossed over into country music. Her notable television credits include *One Tree Hill* (as Alex Dupre), *Friday Night Lights* and the new edition of *90210*. Kramer was born in Detroit and raised in Rochester, Mich. Her debut album was produced by Scott Hendricks and released by Warner Music Nashville in June. She co-wrote two of the songs on the album—"Goodbye California" and "One of the Boys." In early 2013, she introduced her disarming new single, "Whiskey," as well as her engagement to fellow ACM New Artist of the Year nominee Brantley Gilbert. CMT also named her one of its Next Women of Country. Kramer will maintain an active touring calendar in 2013, appearing at Country Thunder USA in Florence, Ariz., and Stagecoach in Indio, Calif.



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Lady Antebellum

Nominated For:

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Lady Antebellum is lookin' for a good time with the dynamic new single, "Downtown." Clearly they have plenty of reasons to paint the town. The trio of Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott wished fans a Merry Christmas in 2012 with the Capitol Nashville album *On This Winter's Night*, which was quickly certified gold. Their appealing singles "Dancin' Away With My Heart" and "We Owned the Night" also reached that shining sales landmark, while "Just a Kiss" climbed to double-platinum status. Lady Antebellum has won ACM Awards for Vocal Group for the last three years—not long after earning their first ACM Award as the New Vocal Duo or Group of 2007. Their signature song "Need You Now" remains one of country's most in-demand modern classics, with five Grammy Awards and six million digital downloads to its credit. In addition, Lady Antebellum won ACM trophies in the Song, Single and Album categories for "Need You Now" and its namesake album. The band headlined the Own the Night Tour in 2012, taking it around the world and winning the ACM Jim Reeves International Award for its success. Look for a brand new album, *Golden*, in May.



Little Big Town

Nominated For:

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR • ALBUM OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (ARTIST) • VIDEO OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Little Big Town made a splash in 2012 with "Pontoon," their first-ever No. 1 single. Extolling the joys of mmmm-motorboatin', the summertime sensation showed the friendly quartet's fun-loving side. The sunny song scored platinum status and won a Grammy. Meanwhile their *Tornado* album on Capitol Nashville earned rave reviews, claimed gold status and swept the title track into the Top 10. Of course, this perfect storm has been brewing a long time. Little Big Town won their first ACM Award as the 2006 New Vocal Duo or Group and this is the seventh year they received a Vocal Group nomination. They broke through in 2005 with the gold-certified "Boondocks," a celebration of small-town life. In the wake of more hits like "Bring It on Home," "Fine Line" and "Little White Church," the band's success is now at high tide. Their stunning rendition of "Deep River Woman" brightened Lionel Richie's *Tuskegee* album, and they will entertain at the New Orleans Jazz Fest in May. They launched 2013 with a theater tour and will travel with Keith Urban later this year. Little Big Town is Karen Fairchild, Kimberly Schlapman, Phillip Sweet and Jimi Westbrook. The band's new single is "Your Side of the Bed."



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Love and Theft

Nominated For:

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR • NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

Love and Theft seized the top spot at country radio with the gold-certified "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' sons who led services in their home churches. Prior to landing their first record deal with Lyric Street Records, 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 is the inspiration for her song, "Hey Stephen.") Their breakthrough single "Runaway" cracked the Top 10 at country radio and helped secure a tour with Tim McGraw and Lady Antebellum. Liles' songwriting credits include Martina McBride's "Wrong Baby Wrong," while Gunderson co-wrote "Angel Eyes." In July, the band released its self-titled RCA album, which also features the single "Runnin' Out of Air." After tours with Brad Paisley and Jake Owen in 2012, they will hit the road with Tim McGraw in May.



Martina McBride

Nominated For:

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR



Martina McBride's fans have loved her throughout her incredible career. A confident performer and a compassionate artist, McBride connected with her audience with her latest album, *Eleven*, and especially the Grammy-nominated single, "I'm Gonna Love You Through It." The emotional song became an anthem for women facing breast cancer. With such a powerful voice and a kind spirit, it's no surprise that this Kansas native is a three-time ACM Female Vocalist and an ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award winner. McBride has become a hero to many of country music's female artists, thanks to her undeniable blend of femininity and empowerment. A longtime member of the Grand Ole Opry, McBride's career highlights include memorable hits like "My Baby Loves Me," "Independence Day," "Wild Angels," "A Broken Wing," "I Love You" and many more. She has also collaborated with iconic figures like Jimmy Buffett, Dolly Parton, Kid Rock and Bob Seger. Her career at RCA Records was celebrated last year with the double-disc set, *The Essential Martina McBride*. After spending 2012 performing intimate shows in theaters, McBride will treat fans to a mix of old and new material when she joins George Strait on The Cowboy Rides Away Tour.

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Tim McGraw

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Tim McGraw paved the way for the next phase of his outstanding career with *Two Lanes of Freedom*, his first album on Big Machine Records. This Louisiana native nabbed his first ACM Award as the 1994 New Male Vocalist. That same year, *Not a Moment Too Soon* won the trophy for Album of the Year. In addition, McGraw's mantle includes two ACM Awards for Male Vocalist, five trophies for "It's Your Love" (with Faith Hill) and three for "Live Like You Were Dying." The overwhelming success of the couple's Soul 2 Soul Tour was rewarded with the 2006 ACM Career Achievement Award. An eager collaborator, McGraw has shared two Vocal Event victories with Hill and one with longtime pals Kenny Chesney and Tracy Lawrence. He earned his latest nomination for "Feel Like a Rock Star," an anthem performed with Chesney during their stadium-sized Brothers of the Sun Tour. Recent collaborations include "Sail On" with Lionel Richie and "Highway Don't Care" with Taylor Swift and Keith Urban. Following the success of "One of Those Nights," McGraw will embark on his Two Lanes of Freedom Tour in May. The primetime concert special *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*—benefiting ACM Lifting Lives—will tape on Monday, April 8th at the MGM Grand Garden Arena and will air on CBS later this year.



Kacey Musgraves

Nominated For:

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

VIDEO OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/PRODUCER)

Kacey Musgraves found acclaim in country music circles with "Merry Go Round," her thought-provoking debut single on Mercury Records. A success at radio this year, the poetic single presents a candid look at the real reason some people never leave their hometowns. *Rolling Stone* called it one of the best songs of 2012 and *Esquire* dubbed her "supernaturally effortless" and a "songwriter's songwriter." Meanwhile, NPR named her the best new artist of 2012. Musgraves is an East Texas native who teamed with songwriters Shane McAnally and Luke Laird for production of her debut album, *Same Trailer Different Park*, which was released in March. She wrote or co-wrote all of the material on the project. "The making of this record was such a fun and meaningful time for me," she says. "As a writer, singer and producer I learned so much throughout the whole process." She adds that the music "came from a very real and inspired place in my brain and heart." In addition to being chosen as one of CMT's Next Women of Country, Musgraves has spent the spring opening shows on Little Big Town's Tornado Tour. This summer she will join Kenny Chesney's No Shoes Nation stadium tour.



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David Nail

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

David Nail tapped into widespread success with “Let It Rain,” his No. 1 single featuring Sarah Buxton on harmony. Sung from the perspective of a husband asking for forgiveness, the single achieved gold certification. Nail co-produced his latest MCA Nashville album, *The Sound of a Million Dreams*, with Frank Liddell. Along with “Let It Rain,” the project also features sterling collaborations with Will Hoge (“Catherine”) and Lee Ann Womack (“Songs for Sale”). Born and raised in Kennett, Mo., Nail absorbed the musical tastes of his father, a longtime band director who favored artists like Glen Campbell to Elton John. Rather than pursue a collegiate career in baseball, Nail opted to move to Nashville to try music. After years of rejection and stalled projects, Nail finally got a break with the 2009 album, *I’m About to Come Alive*. Its ACM-nominated single “Red Light” reached gold status, “Turning Home” (co-written by Kenny Chesney) grabbed a Grammy nomination and “Strangers on a Train” offered beautiful harmonies by Miranda Lambert. Nail’s latest effort is a digital EP featuring piano-vocal renditions of “The Sound of a Million Dreams,” “Half Mile Hill” and Adele’s “Someone Like You.” He is currently on tour with Little Big Town.



Rascal Flatts

Nominated For:

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR (ARTIST/PRODUCER)

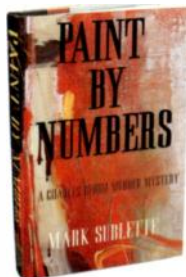
Rascal Flatts named their latest album *Changed*, yet they have been incredibly consistent throughout their blockbuster career. The gold-certified Big Machine Records project picked up steam with “Banjo,” a fast-paced No. 1 country hit. The gold-certified “Come Wake Me Up” showed the dramatic side of the band with a cinematic video to match, while the spiritual approach of the band shone through on the title track. Already this year the new Grand Ole Opry members jammed with Journey for *CMT Crossroads* and traveled to Australia for a series of concerts. Two years after earning the 2000 New Vocal Duo or Group award, Rascal Flatts picked up Song of the Year (“I’m Movin’ On”) and the first of seven consecutive trophies for Vocal Group of the Year. With a longtime reputation for philanthropy, the band received the 2007 ACM/The Home Depot Humanitarian Award and they remain visible advocates for the Monroe Carell Jr. Children’s Hospital at Vanderbilt in Nashville. The guys in Rascal Flatts—lead singer Gary LeVox, bassist Jay DeMarcus and guitarist Joe Don Rooney—tour consistently, drawing on 14 years of hits in their rich catalog. In 2012, the band received its own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. This year, their international concert schedule includes Norway, Sweden, England and Ireland.



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 – Michael Blake, *Dances with Wolves*

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Sugarland

Nominated For:

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Sugarland's Jennifer Nettles and Kristian Bush share a special connection with country fans, sometimes even building their set list on spontaneous fan requests. That's easy to do when drawing from multi-platinum albums like *Twice the Speed of Life*, *Enjoy the Ride* and *Love on the Inside*. Signed to Mercury Nashville, the charming duo scored a platinum album for their latest project, *The Incredible Machine*, and a double-platinum certification for the undeniably catchy single, "Stuck Like Glue." Ending 2012 on a happy note, Nettles and her husband Justin Miller welcomed their first child, a son named Magnus Hamilton Miller, in December. The couple first appeared on-camera together in the band's video, "Want To." Meanwhile, Bush maintains an active producing and songwriting career from his home base in Atlanta. 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" took top honors in the Single and Song categories and won Nettles a 2008 ACM Crystal Milestone Award for being the first woman in 37 years to perform and be the sole writer on an ACM Song of the Year. Sugarland is a two-time winner in the ACM Vocal Duo category.



Sunny Sweeney

Nominated For:

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Sunny Sweeney served up a Top 10 hit with "From a Table Away," her breakthrough single on Big Machine Records. In this compelling cheating song, Sweeney portrays a woman who sees first-hand that her off-limits love interest is going to remain with his wife. In addition, her album *Concrete* earned acclaim for its sharp songwriting, and the follow-up single "Staying's Worse Than Leaving" proved that she had something more to say. Although she travels to Nashville to write songs every month, Sweeney is a proud Texas native and still makes her home there. She cites country legends like Loretta Lynn and Dolly Parton as her primary influences, and their traditional approach to country music is immediately evident in Sweeney's songwriting and delivery. Although she is nominated for ACM New Female Vocalist, Sweeney has been building her budding country music career for nearly 10 years. Sweeney married her boyfriend Jeff Hellmer in Las Vegas on Nov. 11, 2011. In 2013, she will be focusing on touring and songwriting. After receiving the ACM nomination, Sweeney noted, "I started doing this for free beer, so this is amazing. It shows that people appreciate all of the hard work that I've put into it."



Three Corral boots with fringe are displayed against a textured, parchment-like background. The boots are arranged vertically, with the top boot in dark brown leather, the middle boot in dark green leather, and the bottom boot in medium brown leather. All three boots feature long, dense fringe that hangs down the front. The boots are positioned on a thick, coiled rope. The Corral logo is in the top right corner, and contact information is in the bottom right corner.

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The Band Perry

Nominated For:

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

The Band Perry permeated the airwaves with five singles from their self-titled, platinum debut album. Now they're back with a brand new project, *Pioneer*, on Republic Nashville. Working with producer Dann Huff, the sibling trio of Kimberly, Neil and Reid Perry captured the raw energy of their live show on record. Fans immediately dug into "Better Dig Two," which struck gold and hit No. 1 at country radio. The Band Perry collected 2010 ACM Awards for New Vocal Duo or Group and overall New Artist of the year on the strength of "If I Die Young." Written by Kimberly Perry, that melancholy track has sold four million digital downloads and paved the way for the platinum "You Lie," the No. 1 gold single "All Your Life" and the poetic "Postcard From Paris." The family band grew up in Mobile, Ala., and made Greeneville, Tenn., their home base. They introduced themselves to millions of fans through opening for superstars like Tim McGraw, Reba and Keith Urban, along with headlining their Purveyors of Performance Tour and singing on *Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve*. The crowd-pleasing group toured with Brad Paisley in 2012, and they are joining Rascal Flatts on the road this year.



Thompson Square

Nominated For:

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR • NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

Thompson Square shaped their fast-rising country career with "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not," a playful, platinum single that helped them win their first ACM Vocal Duo award last year. A happily married couple, 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 they did not write the flirtatious song, Thompson Square have often stated that "Are You Gonna Kiss Me or Not" is just like their own story. That chart-topping success led the way for the sweet Top 10 single, "I Got You," as well as the poignant ballad, "Glass." 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. Thompson Square returned to the country airwaves this year with "If I Didn't Have You," the lead single from *Just Feels Good* on Stoney Creek Records. The duo is appearing on Luke Bryan's Dirt Road Diaries Tour this year.



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Carrie Underwood

Nominated For:

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR • ALBUM OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

Carrie Underwood caused a frenzy with *Blown Away*, her dynamic album on 19 Recordings/Arista Nashville. The fast-paced “Good Girl” and the dramatic title track raced to the top of the charts, racking up platinum status along the way. In February, “Blown Away” received Grammy awards for Best Country Solo Performance and Best Country Song. After taking a year off from significant touring, she returned to the road in a big way with her dazzling Blown Away Tour. Clearly there is a demand for this former *American Idol* champion’s impressive catalog. Since 2012, this appealing Grand Ole Opry member has earned double-platinum honors for “Jesus, Take the Wheel,” platinum status for “So Small” and “I Told You So” and a gold distinction for “Mama’s Song.” Her 2005 debut album, the ACM Award-winning *Some Hearts*, has sold more than seven million copies. In addition, Underwood is an ACM Triple Crown winner, following her victories as New Female Vocalist, Female Vocalist (three times) and Entertainer (twice). Her breakthrough single “Jesus, Take the Wheel” and video for the triple-platinum crossover hit “Before He Cheats” have also collected ACM Awards. The mysterious music video for “Two Black Cadillacs” is inspired by Stephen King’s novel, *Christine*.



Zac Brown Band

Nominated For:

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR • VIDEO OF THE YEAR (ARTIST)

The Zac Brown Band bid farewell to 2012 with a harmony-driven heartbreak ballad, “Goodbye in Her Eyes.” By early 2013, the track topped the country chart—the latest in a long list of No. 1 singles. Powered by “The Wind” as its lead single, not to mention its clever animated video, the acclaimed Atlantic/Southern Ground album *Uncaged* struck gold and earned a Grammy award. Meanwhile, the group’s breakthrough album, *The Foundation*, has climbed to triple-platinum status, thanks to hits like “Chicken Fried,” “Whatever It Is,” “Toes,” “Highway 20 Ride” and “Free.” No wonder the Georgia-based band picked up the 2008 ACM Award for New Vocal Duo or Group. They maintained momentum with 2010’s platinum project, *You Get What You Give*. Its lead single, “As She’s Walking Away,” grabbed a Vocal Event trophy, which they shared with home state hero, Alan Jackson. Zac Brown Band brought its Southern Ground Music and Food Festival to Nashville and Charleston, S.C., in 2012 with an eclectic roster of musicians hand-picked by Brown. Fiddler Jimmy DeMartini, keyboardist Coy Bowles, bassist John Driskell Hopkins, drummer Chris Fryar, multi-instrumentalist Clay Cook and percussionist Daniel de los Reyes round out the ever-growing Zac Brown Band lineup.





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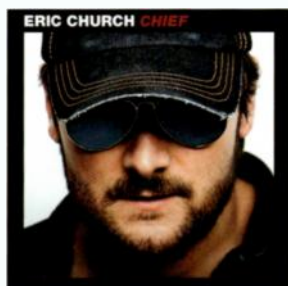




***Blown Away* – Carrie Underwood**

19/Arista Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Mark Bright



***Chief* – Eric Church**

EMI-Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Jay Joyce



***Red* – Taylor Swift**

Big Machine Records

PRODUCED BY: Jeff Bhasker, Nathan Chapman, Dann Huff, Jacknife Lee, Max Martin, Shellback, Taylor Swift, Butch Walker, Dan Wilson



***tailgates & tanlines* – Luke Bryan**

Capitol Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Mark Bright, Jeff Stevens



***Tornado* – Little Big Town**

Capitol Nashville

PRODUCED BY: Jay Joyce



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"Even If It Breaks Your Heart" – Eli Young Band

Republic Nashville
PRODUCED BY: Mike Wrucke



"Over You" – Miranda Lambert

RCA
PRODUCED BY: Chuck Ainlay,
Frank Liddell, Glenn Worf



"Pontoon" – Little Big Town

Capitol Nashville
PRODUCED BY: Jay Joyce



"Springsteen" – Eric Church

EMI-Nashville
PRODUCED BY: Jay Joyce



"Wanted" – Hunter Hayes

Atlantic/WMN
PRODUCED BY: Hunter Hayes, Dann Huff

SONG of the YEAR



“A Woman Like You” – Lee Brice

COMPOSERS: Phil Barton, Johnny Bulford, Jon Stone

PUBLISHERS: 3JB Music (BMI), Adios Pantalones (SESAC), Hears That Skyline Music (SESAC), Sixteen Stars Music (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (BMI)



“Even If It Breaks Your Heart” – Eli Young Band

COMPOSERS: Will Hoge, Eric Paslay

PUBLISHERS: Cal IV Songs (ASCAP), Will Hoge Music (BMI)



“Over You” – Miranda Lambert

COMPOSERS: Miranda Lambert, Blake Shelton

PUBLISHERS: Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI)



“Springsteen” – Eric Church

COMPOSERS: Eric Church, Jeff Hyde, Ryan Tyndell

PUBLISHERS: Bug Music (BMI), ole Purple Cape Music (BMI), Sinnerlina (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI)



“Wanted” – Hunter Hayes

COMPOSERS: Hunter Hayes, Troy Verges

PUBLISHERS: Happy Little Man Publishing (BMI), Songs From The Engine Room (BMI), Songs Of Universal Inc. (BMI)



“Creepin’” – Eric Church

PRODUCER: Iris Baker
DIRECTOR: Peter Zavadil



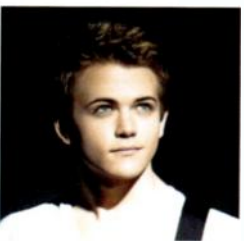
“Merry Go ‘Round” – Kacey Musgraves

PRODUCER: Perry Bean, Kacey Musgraves
DIRECTOR: Perry Bean



“Tornado” – Little Big Town

PRODUCER: Iris Baker
DIRECTOR: Shane Drake



“Wanted” – Hunter Hayes

PRODUCER: Stephanie Reeves, Eric Williams
DIRECTOR: Traci Goudie, Patrick Hubik



“We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together” – Taylor Swift

PRODUCER: John Nguyen
DIRECTOR: Declan Whitebloom



“The Wind” – Zac Brown Band

PRODUCER: Ben Kalina
DIRECTOR: Mike Judge

VOCAL EVENT *of the* YEAR



“Don’t Rush” – Kelly Clarkson Featuring Vince Gill

19/RCA/Columbia Nashville

PRODUCER: Dann Huff



“Easy” – Rascal Flatts Featuring Natasha Bedingfield

Big Machine Records

PRODUCER: Dann Huff, Brian Kennedy, Rascal Flatts



“Feel Like A Rock Star” – Kenny Chesney [Duet With Tim McGraw]

Blue Chair/BNA

PRODUCER: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney



“Let It Rain” – David Nail Featuring Sarah Buxton

MCA Nashville

PRODUCER: Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell



“The Only Way I Know” – Jason Aldean With Luke Bryan & Eric Church

Broken Bow

PRODUCER: Michael Knox

ACM RADIO Awards

Radio Station of the Year



Major Market

WYCD-FM

Detroit, MI



Large Market

KAJA-FM

San Antonio, TX



Medium Market

KUZZ-AM/FM

Bakersfield, CA



Small Market

KCLR-FM

Columbia, MO

On-Air Personality of the Year



National

CODY ALAN

CMT Radio Live
with Cody Alan



Major Market

**CORNBREAD,
JUDI DIAMOND
& CAP'N MAC**

WIL-FM
St. Louis, MO



Large Market

**CHRIS CARR,
MAVERICK & STATT**

WUBE-FM
Cincinnati, OH



Medium Market

**ROWDY YATES,
SUNNY LEIGH &
CARLY RUSH**

KVOO-FM
Tulsa, OK



Small Market

**GATOR HARRISON,
STYCKMAN &
COWBOY KYLE**

WUSY-FM
Chattanooga, TN

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Joe's Bar - Chicago, IL

VENUE OF THE YEAR

Ryman Auditorium - Nashville, TN

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Jerry Hufford - Buck Owens' Crystal Palace

PROMOTER OF THE YEAR

Ed Warm - Joe's Bar

Songwriter of the Year Winner

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Dallas Davidson

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PRODUCER OF THE YEAR

Jay Joyce

AUDIO ENGINEER OF THE YEAR

Chuck Ainlay

BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Jimmie Lee Sloas

PERCUSSIONIST/ DRUMMER OF THE YEAR

Matt Chamberlain

GUITARIST OF THE YEAR

J.T. Corenflos

FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Aubrey Haynie

PIANO/KEYBOARDS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Michael Rojas

SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT(S) PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ilya Toshinsky

STEEL GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Mike Johnson

CLIFFIE STONE PIONEER Award



The Judds

The Judds gave country music an acoustic boost in the 1980s, ultimately racking up 20 Top 10 hits. They picked up seven consecutive ACM Awards in the Top Vocal Duet category as well as a Song of the Year trophy for "Why Not Me." Their winning streak began in 1984 with "Mama He's Crazy," the first of 14 No. 1 hits. Fans also identified with the ups and downs of Naomi and Wynonna's mother-daughter relationship, adding another dimension to modern classics like the nostalgic "Grandpa (Tell Me 'Bout the Good Old Days)" and the empowering "Love Can Build a Bridge."



Keith Whitley

Keith Whitley brought a blend of traditional bluegrass, classic country and contemporary songwriting influences to his timeless recordings. Although his catalog is regrettably small, this Kentucky native stands as one of the most respected vocalists of his era, thanks to a rich baritone that effortlessly conveyed the emotion of any song. Whitley first entered the Top 10 in 1986 with "Ten Feet Away," setting the stage for enduring ballads like "Don't Close Your Eyes," "When You Say Nothing at All" and "I'm No Stranger to the Rain," all of which reached No. 1. Whitley died in 1989 at age 33.

GENE WEED SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT Award



Blake Shelton

Blake Shelton stepped into his role on NBC's *The Voice* as a well-known figure in country music circles. Now he's a household name to millions of viewers who appreciate his lively personality, his honest approach toward aspiring talent and his camaraderie with pop stars like Christina Aguilera, Cee Lo Green and Adam Levine. That broad appeal paved the way for a network special to coincide with his first holiday album, *Cheers, It's Christmas*. A three-time ACM Awards co-host, Shelton is climbing the charts with "Sure Be Cool If You Did." Look for his Ten Times Crazier Tour starting in July.

JIM REEVES INTERNATIONAL Award



Lady Antebellum

Lady Antebellum seized the day with their Own the Night World Tour, ultimately performing to more than a million fans in 11 countries and three continents. Along with packing venues in the U.S. and Canada, the trio sold out three shows at the Sydney Opera House in Australia. Band members Dave Haywood, Charles Kelley and Hillary Scott also accepted the honor of opening for a musical hero, Bruce Springsteen, at London's Hard Rock Calling. A three-time winner in the ACM Vocal Group category, Lady Antebellum will release its fourth studio album, *Golden*, in May, likely taking their newest hit "Downtown" around the globe.



MAE BOREN AXTON *Award*



Tommy Wiggins

Tommy Wiggins co-founded the organization that is now the Academy of Country Music. While pursuing opportunities performing on radio and on stage, Wiggins lived in Tucson, Ariz., and Nashville before relocating in 1960 to Los Angeles, where he appeared on local television shows. Along with releasing several singles on Stadium Records, Wiggins launched a radio industry publication titled *D.J.'s Digest*. In 1964, he teamed with songwriter Eddie Miller and club owners Mickey and Chris Christensen to stage a Los Angeles-based awards show and form the Country Western Music Academy—later renamed the Academy of Country Music—to draw attention to country artists based on the West Coast.

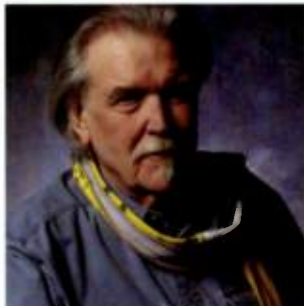
CRYSTAL MILESTONE *Award*



Jason Aldean

Jason Aldean soared to stadium headliner status in 2012. He sold out his first stadium show last year, moving more than 27,000 tickets for Crew Stadium in Columbus, Ohio. All tickets were purchased more than two months in advance. Aldean's arena show tickets went quickly too. He sold 24,000 tickets in two minutes for his Indianapolis show, along with 20,000 seats in just four minutes in St. Louis. Aldean is now swinging for the rafters with his Night Train Tour. Stadium shows on the itinerary include Wrigley Field in Chicago, Sanford Stadium in Athens, Ga., and Boston's Fenway Park—which sold out in seven minutes setting a venue record and making Aldean the first country act to headline the historic ballpark.

POET'S *Award*



Guy Clark

Guy Clark has earned the respect of countless songwriters by crafting his compositions with wit, wisdom and warmth. This native Texan made a lasting impression with his 1975 debut album *Old No. 1*. His extensive songwriting catalog includes cuts by Johnny Cash ("Texas 1947"), Kenny Chesney ("Hemingway's Whiskey"), Rodney Crowell ("She's Crazy for Leaving") and Ricky Skaggs ("Heartbroke"). Meanwhile, his own recordings of "L.A. Freeway" and "Desperadoes Waiting for a Train" make listeners feel as though they know him personally. The 2011 collection *This One's For Him: A Tribute to Guy Clark* received a Grammy nomination for best folk album.



Hank Williams

Hank Williams remains one of the most revered songwriters in history. A native of Alabama, Williams' commercial style found a champion in music publisher Fred Rose in 1946. Despite a brief career, Williams catalog includes "Cold, Cold Heart," "Hey Good Lookin'," and "Your Cheatin' Heart." His compositions have been recorded by Tony Bennett, Jimmy Buffett, Norah Jones, Jerry Lee Lewis, Charley Pride, Linda Ronstadt and Hank Williams Jr., among many others. The legendary figure died at the age of 29 in the back of a Cadillac on the way to a show on New Year's Day 1953. He was elected to the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1961 and received the 1973 ACM Pioneer Award.

ACM PRESENTS

TIM MCGRAW'S SUPERSTAR SUMMER NIGHT



Tim McGraw has not only conquered the world of country as a superstar artist who has sold more than 40 million albums, won three Grammys and 15 ACM Awards, he's also a bona fide movie and TV star with friends in all genres of music. Tim is mining his amazing contact list to gather the lineup for his very own network TV special, *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night*.

The show, taping Monday, April 8th here at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, will feature some of Tim's favorite music to kick the 2013 touring season off right. Among the performers will be fellow country artists Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Luke Bryan, Lady Antebellum, Taylor Swift and Keith Urban as well as R&B artist Ne-Yo, international rap star Pitbull and many more.

Sitting down in the Nashville offices of Big Machine Records, Tim grins when hinting about what the night might entail. Fans can expect a few new tunes from his latest album, *Two Lanes of Freedom*, which has already produced hits "Truck Yeah" and "One of Those Nights." Beyond that it's anyone's guess.

"I have no idea what I'm going to perform," he teases. "I'm thinking about it, but I don't know yet. I'll do some new songs and probably one or two older ones that were hits that everyone wants to hear. We'll figure it out. As long as the band knows them I'm alright!"

For those surprised to see names like Ne-Yo and Pitbull in the mix, Tim says he admires great musicians who also happen to be good people.

"Ne-Yo is a guy I've worked with a couple of times on my record and on his record who I think has just got one of the greatest voices in music. And then Pitbull—at the Grammys this year I ran into him, and we really hit it off backstage. He just is a really genuine, really solid guy and those are the kind of people I like to work with. So it's going to be cool. We get to do a few collaborations, and artists get to do the songs that they love and the songs that they're going to be out touring with this summer. It's just going to be a big night of music."

In addition to gathering his talented friends together for a great night of music, Tim is also excited that the special will benefit ACM Lifting Lives. The charitable arm of the Academy—which strives to "improve lives through the power of music"—worked with Tim on his Operation Homefront initiative in 2012. For every stop on his Brothers of the Sun Tour, McGraw gave a mortgage-free home to a U.S. Veteran in need.

"Lifting Lives is just a great charity, and it didn't seem like it was the right thing to do without emphasizing that charity," McGraw explained. "I can't imagine doing this show and not making that a big part of it. I think that's why everybody is involved is because it's for a great cause, and I think that's why all the artists that I called have agreed to do it."

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THE WEEK

Vegas Goes Country®



For the third year in a row, the Academy is selling out not one, but two major venues in Las Vegas tonight. Just across the strip at Orleans Arena, 14-time ACM Award winner Brad Paisley is headlining the ACM Fan Jam, which you'll also get to enjoy as live remote segments in the *48th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards* broadcast.

Paisley signed on to headline Fan Jam after guesting with hosts Zac Brown Band last year. "This was a really wild place, this arena that was just down the street from the big ole award show where everybody is kind of worried about winning and dressed up to the nines," Brad recalled. "Fan Jam was just playing music and a bunch of fans and really what county music is all about."

ACM Fan Jam is just one more way the Academy is touching fans and giving them the chance to get up close and personal with the artists they love. The Week Vegas Goes Country® truly took over the strip from one end to the other! Moving to The Orleans Hotel & Casino this year, THE ACM EXPERIENCE was back for a second year with some new events and old favorites. Fans could shop at the ACM Expo, check out the newest trucks at the Ram Ride and Drive and hear great music at ACM Fan Jam and the first ACM Party for a Cause Festival, a brand-new two-day event benefiting some great charitable causes. Outnumber Hunger was the cause for Friday night's lineup, brought together by General Mills, Big Machine Label Group and Feeding America. Joining headliners The Band Perry onstage were Greg Bates, Cassadee Pope, Florida Georgia Line, Justin Moore, and Brantley Gilbert. Kix Brooks hosted Saturday's show, which benefited military-inspired non-profits Wounded Warrior Project, Folds of Honor, and Nellis Air Force Base Youth Education Programs. Dierks Bentley headlined the second day of the festival with performances from Dustin Lynch, Love and

Theft, Kix Brooks, Lee Brice, Hunter Hayes, and Eli Young Band.

Across town ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience kept the fun going as the "after hours" hang. Headliners Jake Owen and Gary Allan were joined by Randy Houser, Chris Janson, Jana Kramer, Kip Moore, Joe Nichols and Sunny Sweeney.

Darius Rucker was up bright and early April 6th to host the ACM Lifting Lives Celebrity Golf Classic. Buzzing with country artists and industry leaders, the event at TPC Las Vegas raised money for the ACM Lifting Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund, which provides confidential emergency financial assistance to those in the music community in need.

True to ACM style, the party never stops after the last award is given out at the *48th ACM Awards*. For those of you who were lucky enough to get tickets to the quickly sold-out ACM All-Star Jam, you should start to dance now. Held at the MGM Grand Marquee Ballroom immediately after the awards show, you never know who could show up to this unofficial after party. The night is sure to be star-studded!

And don't forget to play hooky from work on Monday, April 8th and stay with us for the all-star concert special *ACM Presents: Tim McGraw's Superstar Summer Night* featuring Tim's favorite musicians for a great night of music benefiting ACM Lifting Lives.

TAKE HOME ALL THE EXCITEMENT FROM THIS YEAR'S ACM AWARDS!

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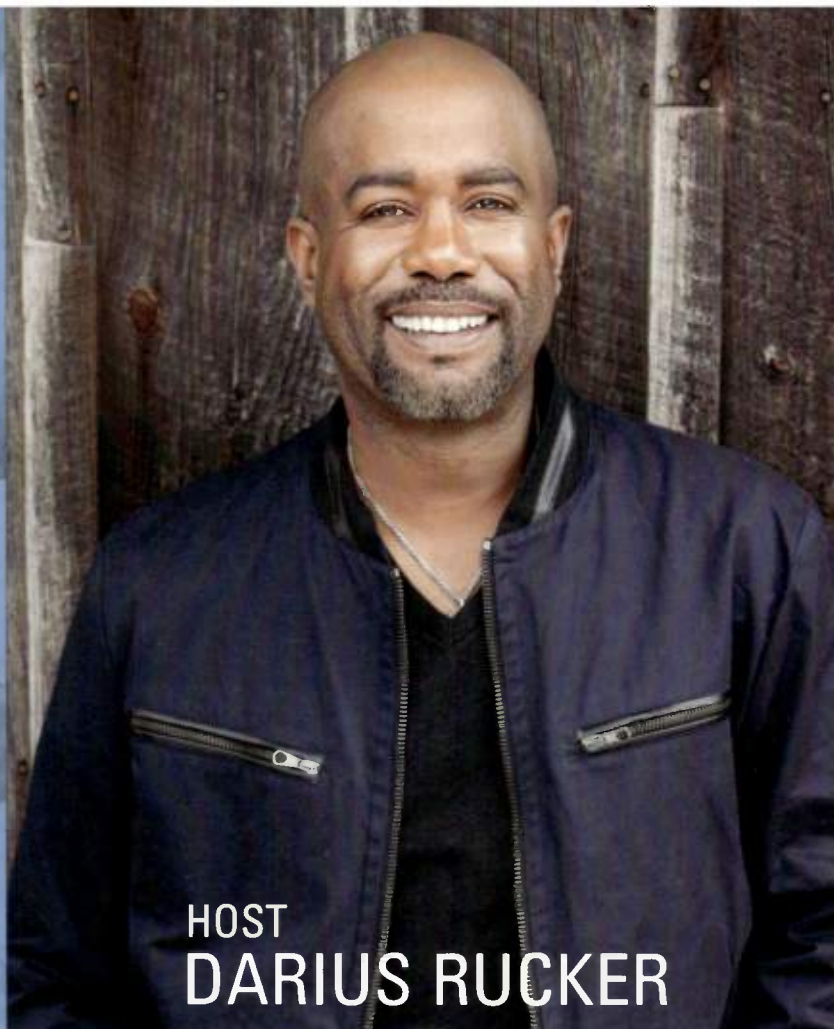


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PAST WINNERS

Note: Winners are honored for work done in the previous calendar year, thus a trophy awarded on the show in 2012 would be dated 2011.

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
2011 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
2011 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
2011 Blake Shelton

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
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2005 Brooks & Dunn
2006 Brooks & Dunn
2007 Brooks & Dunn
2008 Sugarland
2009 Brooks & Dunn
2010 Sugarland
2010 Thompson Square

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
2011 Lady Antebellum

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

2003 Dierks Bentley
2004 Gretchen Wilson
2008 Julianne Hough
2009 Luke Bryan
2010 The Band Perry
2011 Scotty McCreery

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. Bannan
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)

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

2011 Dallas Davidson

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 Lehnig
- 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
- 2011 **For The Record**; **Miranda Lambert**; RCA; Produced by Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell & Glenn Worf

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

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

- 1967 **"Gentle On My Mind"**; **Glen Campbell**; Al Delroy (A&R); Capitol Records
- 1968 **"Little Green Apples"**; **Roger Miller**; Smash
- 1969 **"Okie From Muskogee"**; **Merle Haggard**; Capitol Records
- 1970 **"For the Good Times"**; **Ray Price**; Columbia Records
- 1971 **"Easy Lovin'"**; **Freddie Hart**; Capitol Records
- 1972 **"Happiest Girl/USA"**; **Donna Fargo** (birth name: **Yvonne Vaughn Silver**); Dot
- 1973 **"Behind Closed Doors"**; **Charlie Rich**; Epic Records
- 1974 **"Country Bumpkin"**; **Cal Smith**; MCA Records
- 1975 **"Rhinstone Cowboy"**; **Glen Campbell**; Capitol Records
- 1976 **"Bring It On Home"**; **Mickey Gilley**; Playboy Records
- 1977 **"Lucille"**; **Kenny Rogers**; United Artists
- 1978 **"Tulsa Time"**; **Don Williams**; ABC Records
- 1979 **"All The Gold in California"**; **Larry Gatlin & Gatlin Bros.**; Columbia Records
- 1980 **"He Stopped Loving Her Today"**; **George Jones**; Epic Records; Produced by Billy Sherrill
- 1981 **"Elvira"**; **Oak Ridge Boys**; MCA Records; Produced by Ron Chancey
- 1982 **"Always On My Mind"**; **Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1983 **"Islands In The Stream"**; **Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers**; RCA Records; Produced by Barry Gibb & Karl Richardson

- 1984 **"To All The Girls I've Loved Before"**; **Julio Iglesias & Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Richard Perry
- 1985 **"Highwayman"**; **Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, & Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1986 **"On The Other Hand"**; **Randy Travis**; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Keith Stegall & Kyle 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
- 2011 **"Don't You Wann Stay"**; **Jason Aldean & Kelly Clarkson**; Broken Bow Records; Produced by Michael Knox

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 **"Rhinstone 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, Senor, Peso Music, & Wallet Music; Composed by Larry Collins & Sandy Pinkard
- 1982 **"Are The Good Times Really Over"**; **Merle Haggard**; Published by Shade Tree Music; Composed by Merle Haggard
- 1983 **"The Wind Beneath My Wings"**; **Gary Morris**; Published by Warner House of Music & WB Gold Music; Composed by Jeff Silbar & Larry Henley

PAST WINNERS

- 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 Llee Music, Lodge Hall, Two Sons Music, & WB Music Corp.; Composed by Fred Parris, Mike Reid, & Troy Seals
- 1986 **"On The Other Hand"** **Randy Travis**; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music; Composed by Don Schlitz & Paul Overstreet
- 1987 **"Forever And Ever Amen"** **Randy Travis**; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music; Composed by Don Schlitz
- 1988 **"Eighteen Wheels And A Dozen Roses"** **Kathy Mattea**; Published by Believeus Or Not Music, Screen GEMS-EMI Music, & Warner-Tamlerlane Publishing Corp.; Composed by Gene Nelson & Paul Nelson
- 1989 **"Where've You Been"** **Kathy Mattea**; Published by Cross Keys Music (ASCAP) & Wrensong (ASCAP); Composed by Don Henry & Jon Vezner
- 1990 **"The Dance"** **Garth Brooks**; Published by Morganactive Music & Pookie Bear Music; Composed by Tony Arata
- 1991 **"Somewhere in My Broken Heart"** **Billy Dean**; Published by EMI April Music Inc., EMI Blackwood Music Inc., & Lion-Hearted Music (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by Billy Dean & Richard Leigh
- 1992 **"I Still Believe in You"** **Vince Gill**; Published by Benefit Music & Inspector Barlow Music (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by John Jarvis & Vince Gil
- 1993 **"I Love The Way You Love Me"** **John Michael Montgomery**; Published by BMG Songs Inc. & Taste Auction (ASCAP/BMI); Composed by Chuck Cannon & Victoria Shaw
- 1994 **"I Swear"** **John Michael Montgomery**; Published by Morganactive Music & Rick Hall Music (ASCAP); Composed by Frank J. Myers & Gary Baker
- 1995 **"The Keeper Of The Stars"** **Tracy Byrd**; Published by Murrah Music Corp., New Haven Music, Pal Time Music Inc. (BMI), Sixteen Stars Music; & Songs of Poly Gram Int'l; Composed by Danny Mayo, Dickey Lee, & Karen Staley
- 1996 **"Blue"** **LeAnn Rimes**; Published by Fory Knox Music (BMI) & Trio Music; Composed by Bill Mack
- 1997 **"It's Your Love"** **Faith Hill & Tim McGraw**; Published by EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI); Composed by Stephony Smith
- 1998 **"Holes In The Floor Of Heaven"** **Steve Wariner**; Published by Hamstein Cumberland, KidJulie (BMI), & Steve Wariner; Composed by Billy Kirsch & Steve Wariner
- 1999 **"Amazed"** **Lonestar**; Published by Careers-BMG Music Publishing Inc., Golden Wheat Music, Silverkiss Music, Songs of Nashville DreamWorks (BMI), & Warner-Tamlerlane 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), Dwaywood Music (BMI), Hillary Dawn Publishing (SESAC), Radiobullets Publishing (BMI), Warner-Tamlerlane 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)
- 2011 **"Crazy Girl"** **Eli Young Band**; Composed by Lee Brice & Liz Rose; Published by Cake Taker Music (BMI), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Sweet Hysteria Music (BMI)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

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

- 1984 **"All My Rowdy Friends Are Comin' Over Tonight"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by John Goodhugh
- 1986 **"Whoever's In New England"** **Reba McEntire**; Directed by Jeff Schock & Jon Small; Produced by Jon Small
- 1987 **"80's Ladies"** **K.T. Oslin**; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1988 **"Young Country"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by Bill Fishman & Preacher Ewing; Produced by Brent Bowman
- 1989 **"There's A Tear In My Beer"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by Ethan Russell; Produced by Joanne Gardner
- 1990 **"The Dance"** **Garth Brooks**; Directed by Garth Brooks & John Lloyd Miller; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1991 **"Is There Life Out There?"** **Reba McEntire**; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Robin Beresford
- 1992 **"Two Sparrows in a Hurricane"** **Tanya Tucker**; Directed by Joanne Gardner; Produced by Brent 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
- 2011 **"Red Solo Cup"** **Toby Keith**; Directed by Michael Salomon; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld

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/COS; 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
- 2011 **"Don't You Wann Stay"** **Jason Aldean & Kelly Clarkson**; Broken Bow Records; Produced by Michael Knox

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A special thanks to host
Luke Bryan
All participating artists, their
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Scott Williams - Cabela's
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Storme Warren - Emcee

Brad Paisley Production Crew

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Very special thanks to Dallas
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ACM LIFTING LIVES SHOW MOMENT

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ACM WEEKEND ON FREMONT STREET EXPERIENCE CONCERTS

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Alicia Hirschi
Sasha Hrsak, Thomas Bruny,
Robert Gallego & Megan
Conklin
R.J. Romeo - Production/
Stage Manager
Larry Hall - HAS Productions, Inc.

ALLIED PRA

ALL-STAR JAM

All the participating artists,
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Jerry Hufford, Shawn Pennington
& Fran Romeo - Artists
Relations/Producers
Steve Bogdanovich -
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Lisa Webb - Musical Director/
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Glenn Smith, Shannon Schneider -
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Laurie Serie - Backstage Manager
Amy Reynolds - Production
Assistant
Raffaela Braun - Production
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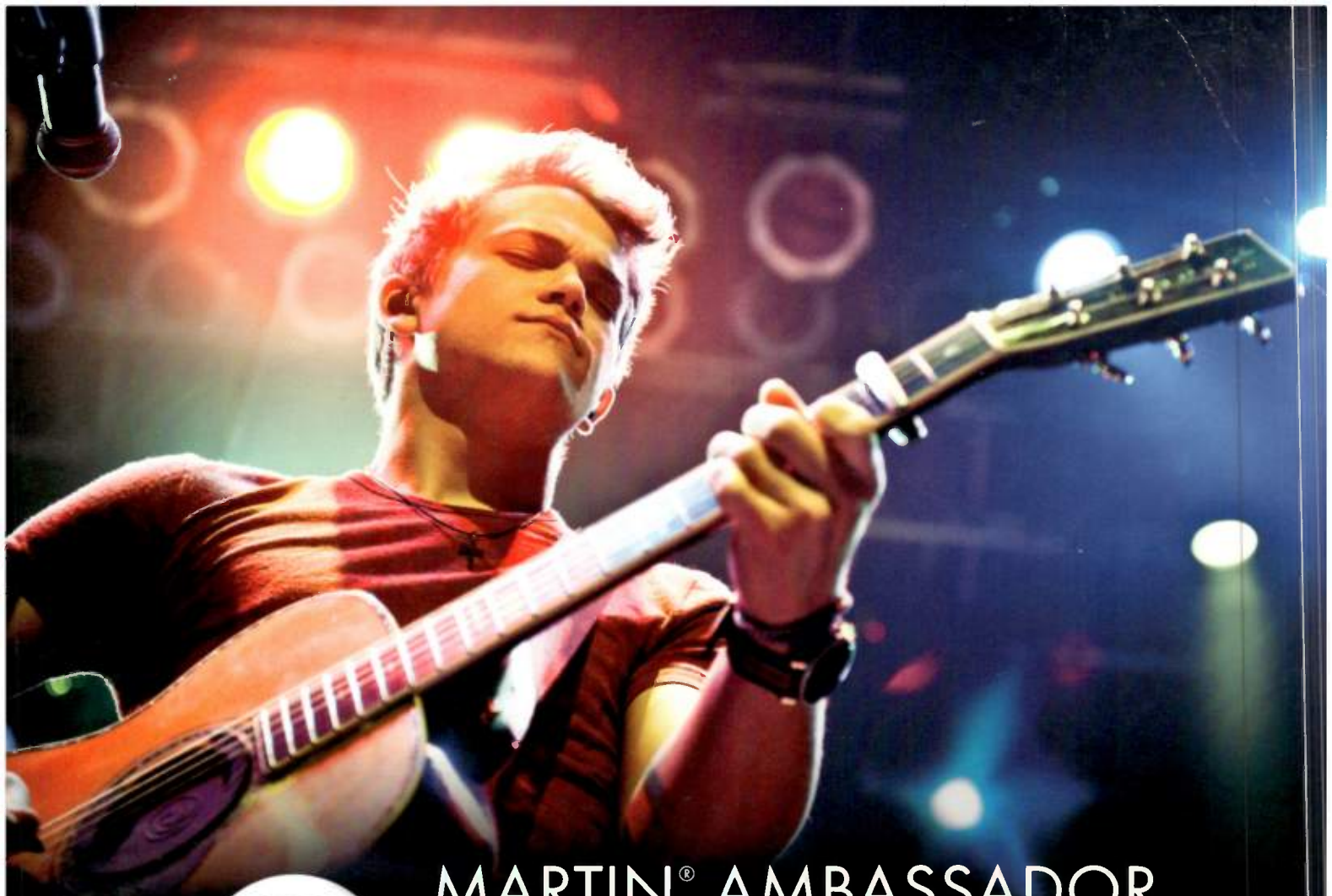
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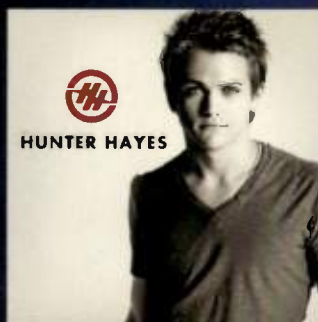
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