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WINNERS & NOMINEES!



ASHLEY GORLEY



HILLARY LINDSEY



CLINT LAGERBERG



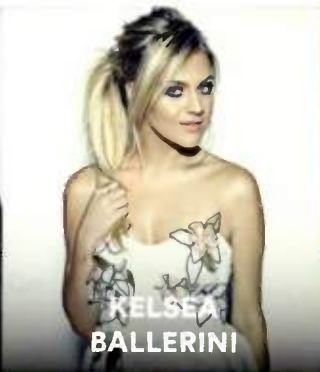
STEVEN LEE OLSEN



JOSH OSBORNE



A THOUSAND HORSES



**KELSEA
BALLERINI**



**DIERKS
BENTLEY**



BIG & RICH



**BROTHERS
OSBORNE**



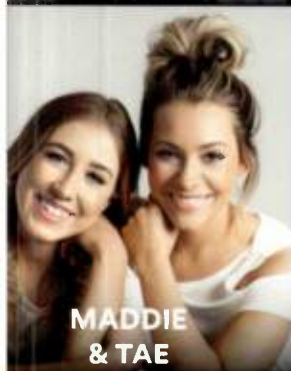
**BRANDY
CLARK**



DAN + SHAY



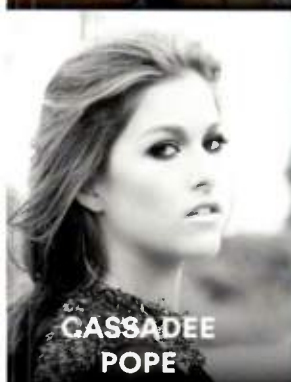
LADY ANTEBELLUM



**MADDIE
& TAE**



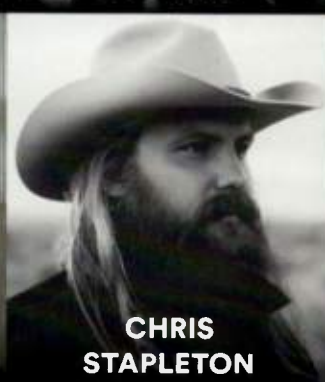
OLD DOMINION



**CASADEE
POPE**



RASCAL FLATTS



**CHRIS
STAPLETON**



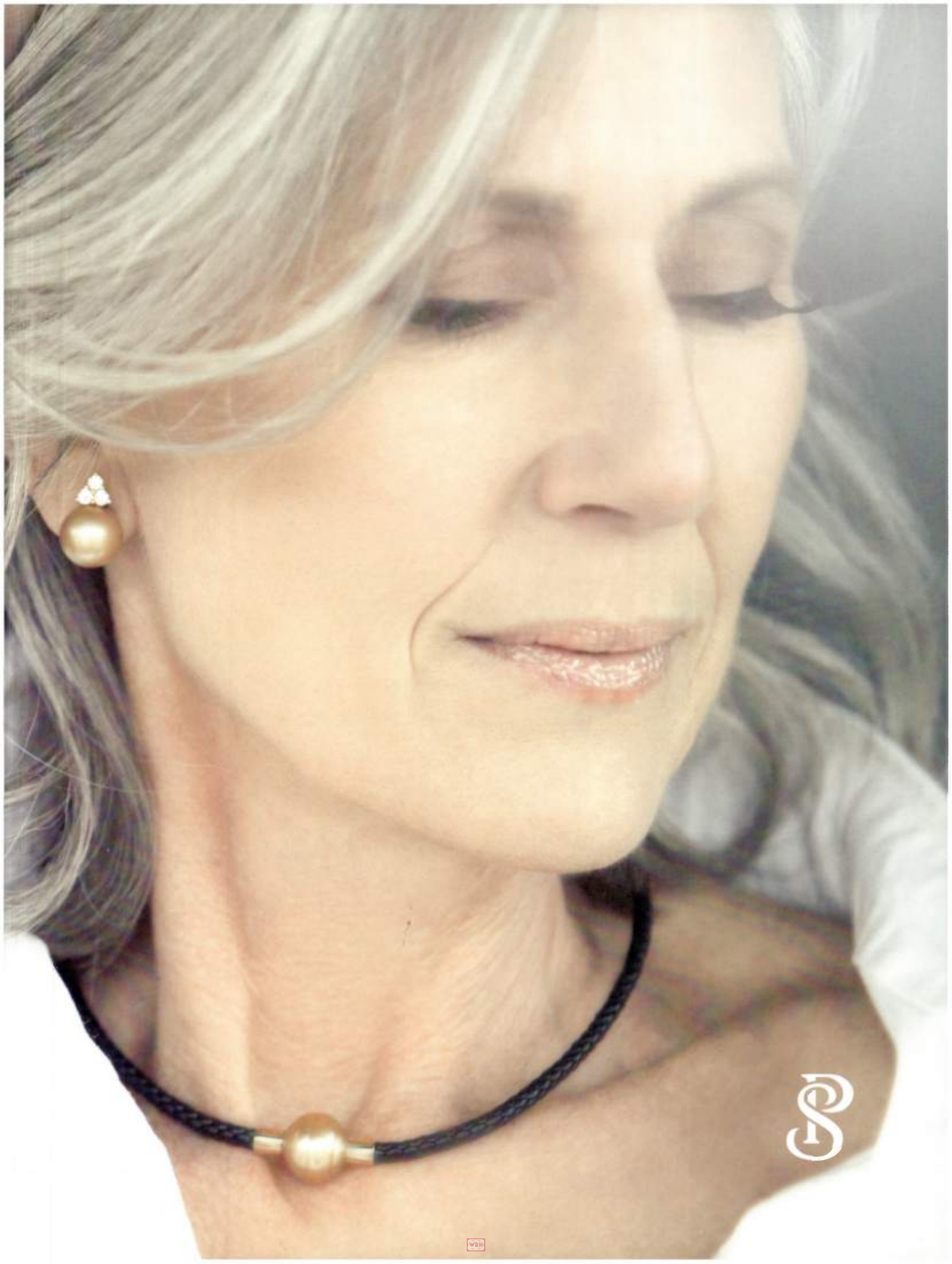
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YOUNG**

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congratulates our clients on their
52nd Academy of Country Music Award™ nominations

Entertainer Of The Year

CARRIE UNDERWOOD
KEITH URBAN

Male Vocalist Of The Year

KEITH URBAN

Female Vocalist Of The Year

KELSEA BALLERINI
MAREN MORRIS
KACEY MUSGRAVES
CARRIE UNDERWOOD

Vocal Duo Of The Year

DAN + SHAY

Vocal Group Of The Year

ELI YOUNG BAND
LADY ANTEBELLUM
LITTLE BIG TOWN

New Male Vocalist Of The Year

JON PARDI

New Female Vocalist Of The Year

LAUREN ALAINA
CAM
BRANDY CLARK
MAREN MORRIS

New Vocal Duo Or Group Of The Year

A THOUSAND HORSES
DAN + SHAY
LOCASH

Song Of The Year

"Blue Ain't Your Color"
KEITH URBAN

"Humble And Kind"

TIM MCGRAW
LORI MCKENNA

"Kill A Word"

featuring
RHIANNON GIDDENS*

Songwriter Of The Year

LORI MCKENNA

Video Of The Year

"Forever Country"

ALABAMA
FAITH HILL
ALAN JACKSON
LADY ANTEBELLUM
LITTLE BIG TOWN
MARTINA MCBRIDE
TIM MCGRAW
KACEY MUSGRAVES
WILLIE NELSON
DARIUS RUCKER
RANDY TRAVIS
CARRIE UNDERWOOD
KEITH URBAN

"Humble And Kind"

TIM MCGRAW

"PETER D'AN"

KELSEA BALLERINI

"VICE"

TREY FANJOY

Vocal Event Of The Year

"Forever Country"

ALABAMA
FAITH HILL
ALAN JACKSON
LADY ANTEBELLUM
LITTLE BIG TOWN
MARTINA MCBRIDE
TIM MCGRAW
KACEY MUSGRAVES
WILLIE NELSON
DARIUS RUCKER
RANDY TRAVIS
CARRIE UNDERWOOD
KEITH URBAN

"May We All"

featuring
TIM MCGRAW

"Think Of You"

featuring
CASSADEE POPE

Single Record Of The Year

"Blue Ain't Your Color"

KEITH URBAN

"Humble And Kind"

TIM MCGRAW

"My Church"

MAREN MORRIS

Album Of The Year

HERO

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COMPASS



A MESSAGE FROM THE

CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

On behalf of the ACM Board of Directors, welcome to the 52nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards. We're glad you're here for Country Music's Party of the Year®!

Every great party has to have a great host, and we have two of them: Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley. They're both very talented and good guys, and I'm looking forward to watching their continued onstage chemistry.

This year's show represents new beginnings and continues to honor our past. The Academy has a new CEO, Pete Fisher, who joined us in January from the esteemed Grand Ole Opry. As Chairman of the Board, I can tell you that Pete is a consummate and passionate professional who elevates both the CEO position and our Academy. Pete brings a passion for country music as well as a heart for giving, which makes him the perfect choice to lead the ACM for years to come. We've also moved to a new home, the amazing T-Mobile Arena, which is a state-of-the-art venue built for both the live viewing experience and television.

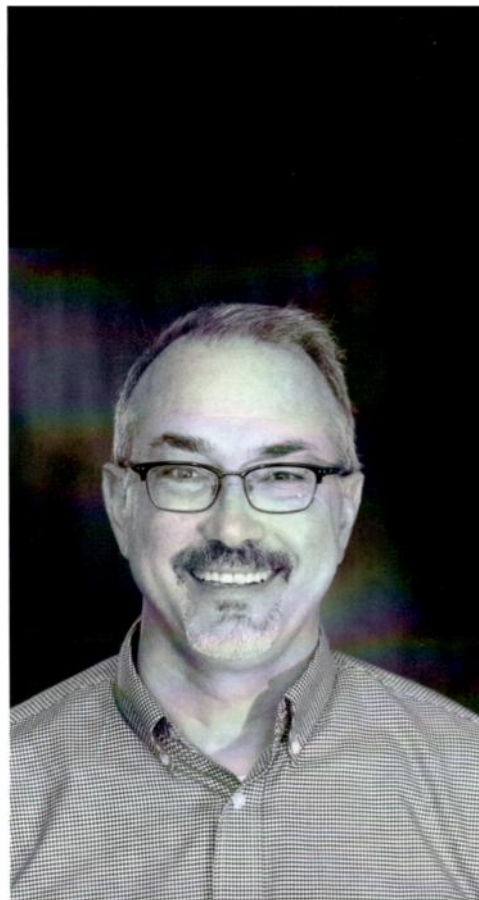
Hopefully, you've been able to spend time at the ACM Party for A Cause® events over the last few days. We've had an incredible line up of superstars as well as some promising up-and-comers. The best part of the Party though, is that the proceeds benefit the good work of ACM Lifting Lives and help continue its mission of improving lives through the power of music. Thanks to you and some very talented artists, Lifting Lives has donated more than \$8 million to a number of very worthy organizations.

Tonight, we're all in for an incredible lineup of performances and awards presentations. That said, there's a lot of hard work that goes into the making of a premiere awards show. I'd like to send a sincere thank you to my fellow officers, President Ben Vaughn, Vice President Duane Clark, Treasurer Carmen Romano, Parliamentarian Paul Moore and Sergeant-at-Arms Tim DuBois; a special thank you to Secretary Tommy Moore; and finally to CEO Pete Fisher, EVP Tiffany Moon and Senior Vice Presidents Teresa George, Lisa Lee, Erick Long and Brooke Primero as well as Vice President Alexa Fasheh and their teams for their tireless efforts to bring us a great event.

On behalf of the ACM Board of Directors and the hardworking staff that puts together this extravaganza every year, we hope you enjoy the show!

Sincerely,

Ken Tucker



"THIS YEAR'S SHOW
REPRESENTS NEW
BEGINNINGS AND
CONTINUES TO HONOR
OUR PAST."

TERRY RYKEN

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COMPASS

CEO OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 52nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards! We are happy to be back for our 14th year in Las Vegas, and we're excited for our very first show at the amazing T-Mobile Arena. I would like to extend a special thank you to Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley who return as our hosts to celebrate an incredible year of achievements in country music.

Seeing that we're in Vegas where luck means everything, I hope you were lucky enough to experience the ACM Party For A Cause events where we featured more than 80 performers in 13 venues. I'd like to thank CAA, WME and all our talent agency partners along with our artist management and label partners who always help ensure our events are a big success. Special thanks to our co-chairs, Ed Warm and George Couri, and the entire events committee for your dedication and commitment this year. Of course, a special note of thanks to country radio for the vital role you play in the Academy's success and the success of our entire industry.

I'd also like to send a special thank you to Lady Antebellum's Charles Kelley, who hosted this year's ACM Lifting Lives Golf Classic, as well as our co-chairs, Gayle Holcomb and Darin Murphy.

All the events around the ACM Awards benefit ACM Lifting Lives, whose mission is improving lives through the power of music. To date, the Academy has given more than \$8 million to ACM Lifting Lives, which has funded 100 grants, 75 emergency grants through Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund and partnerships with Music Health Alliance, Seacrest Foundation, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and many, many others. Our thanks go out to the ACM Lifting Lives Board and officers: Chairman Ed Warm; President Debbie Carroll and Vice-President Tree Paine.

We couldn't do any of this without the ACM Board of Directors, our devoted volunteers, and especially our officers — Chairman Ken Tucker, President Ben Vaughn, Vice-President Duane Clark, Treasurer Carmen Romano, Parliamentarian Paul Moore and Sergeant-at-Arms Tim DuBois. Our officers and board are truly the backbone of the Academy, lending their time, talents and wisdom to ensure the ACM delivers on its mission.

If the officers and board are the backbone, our staff here at the Academy are the hands and feet, living and breathing everything the organization represents 365 days a year. I want to especially recognize our senior leadership team, Tiffany Moon, Teresa George, Lisa Lee, Brooke Primero, Erick Long, Alexa Fasheh and David Young and thank each one of you for the passion you display every single day to continue the Academy's 53-year legacy.

We rely on numerous partners and friends to accomplish all that we do. To Les Moonves, Jack Sussman and the entire team at CBS, thank you for nearly two decades of sharing the ACM story with the world. A special word of thanks to our partners at MGM/T-Mobile — Richard Sturm, Mark Prows, Chris Baldizan, Dan Quinn and Sid Greenfeig. Thank you for your continued partnership and support. I'd like to also extend a sincere thank you to our partner in these awards, Dick Clark Productions, most notably, Allen Shapiro, Mike Mahan, Mark Bracco, Barry Adelman and RAC Clark. Thank you, gentlemen, for your commitment to excellence and teamwork.

In closing, I want to express my sincere appreciation to our board, officers and staff for welcoming me to this extraordinary organization in late January of this year. After nearly 15 years of service on our ACM Board of Directors and a 30-year career in country music, I could never imagine being given the opportunity to lead the Academy into the future. I am truly grateful.

Sincerely,

Pete Fisher



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A MESSAGE FROM THE

CHAIRMAN OF ACM LIFTING LIVES

Welcome to The Week Vegas Goes Country! The 5th Annual ACM Party for a Cause has returned to its roots, bringing both the biggest stars and the headliners of tomorrow to events all around Las Vegas this week. We hope you got to enjoy some of these concerts, all benefiting the good work of ACM Lifting Lives.

This year, ACM Lifting Lives added another new key partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This partnership is in addition to amazing associations we already have in place with Vanderbilt University's Kennedy Center, Music Health Alliance, Harmonicas for Health and the Ryan Seacrest Foundation. Lifting Lives is also proud to have worked with the Entertainment Industry Foundation's Stand Up to Cancer, and we are excited to grow that relationship in the years to come.

One of the things that makes Lifting Lives so special is that we are able to move in quickly to help where it's needed. When horrible fires ravaged East Tennessee this year, we contributed \$100,000 to Dolly Parton's My People Fund. The minute Lifting Lives decided to make the donation, ACM Award winner Taylor Swift stepped up and matched the donation dollar-for dollar! We are also especially proud of our ACM Lifting Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund, which without any hesitation or fanfare helps those in the country music community who have immediate and emergency financial needs. Money raised from the ACM Lifting Lives Golf Classic, this year hosted by Lady Antebellum's Charles Kelley, goes straight into the Holcomb fund each year.

Congratulations to all the ACM Award winners and nominees, and thank you for your support of ACM Lifting Lives! We truly appreciate all the artists, managers and industry professionals who give their valuable time to Lifting Lives. Thanks to their participation, the success of the 51st ACM Awards, ACM Honors and more, Lifting Lives received a record \$1.5 million dollar donation this past year.

ACM Lifting Lives continues to grow each year, and we are very excited to work with the Academy of Country Music's new CEO, Pete Fisher. He has been a Lifting Lives Board member for many years, and brings a wealth of charitable experience along with him. A huge thank you to him, Tiffany Moon, Tommy Moore and the entire ACM staff — your dedication to ACM Lifting Lives is remarkable!

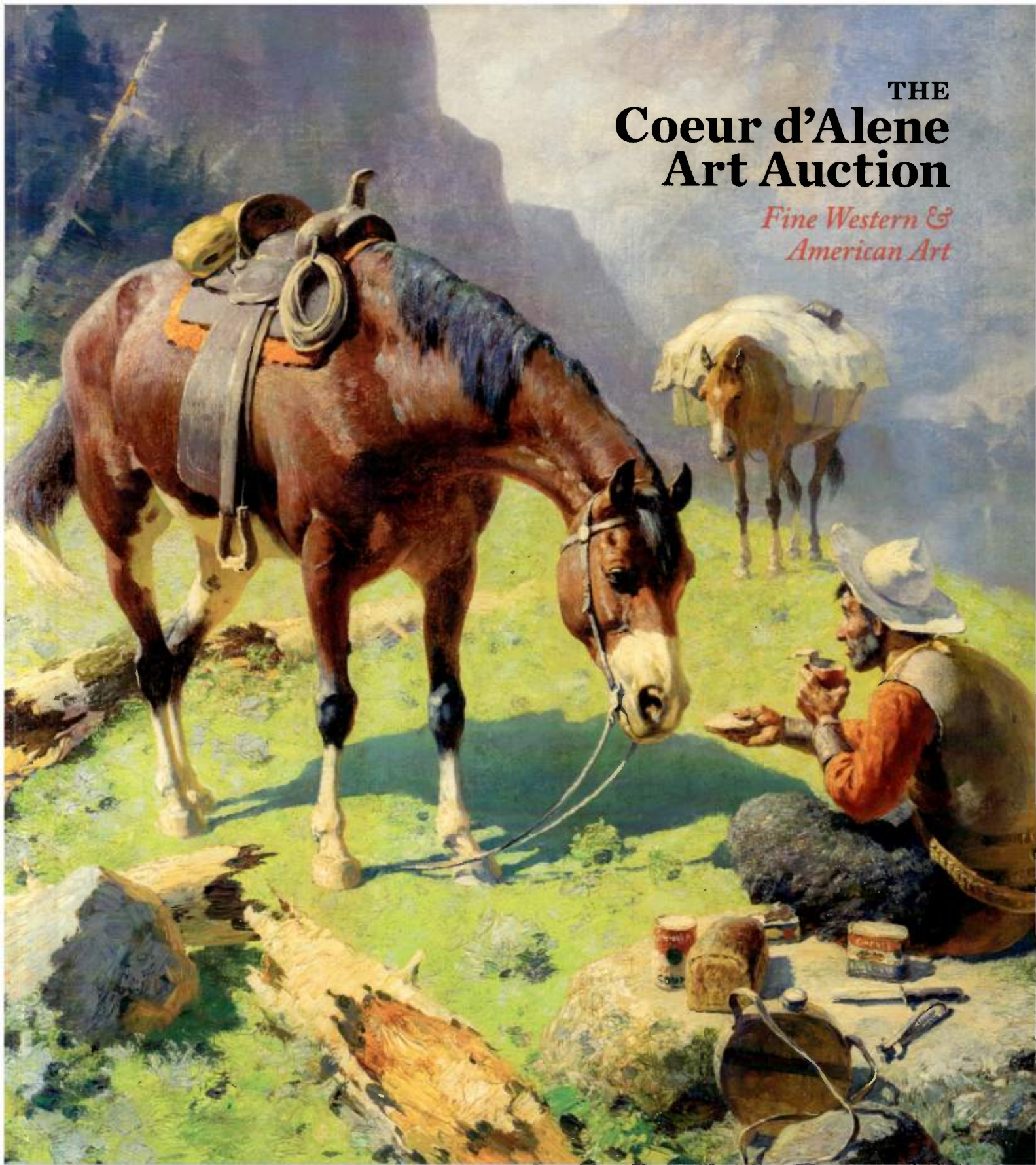
Sincerely,

Ed Warm



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William R. Leigh (1866–1955), *Tidbits* (detail), oil on canvas, 28×22 inches, Estimate: \$250,000–350,000

A MESSAGE FROM THE

PRODUCERS OF THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

Welcome to the 52nd Annual Academy of Country Music Awards™! Tonight, we celebrate one of the most important nights in country music as we continue a decades-long tradition of honoring the most successful artists, songs and accomplishments of the past year. This is "The Week Vegas Goes Country," and as part of the festivities, we welcome you to our first ceremony broadcast live from T-Mobile Arena.

To mark the occasion we have planned a fantastic show for you. It's filled with spectacular performances, one-of-a-kind collaborations, unforgettable moments, and of course, some big surprises!

For their second consecutive year as co-hosts, we are honored to welcome country mega stars Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley back to our stage. These two close buddies represent the best in country music, and their winning personalities, No. 1 hits, and touring success have made them true ambassadors of the genre.

Inside tonight's room full of country music's top hit makers, you can expect the kind of music, laughs and great moments the ACM Awards have become known for. Of course, none of this would be possible without you, the country music fans. It's your support that has brought us this far, and it's your enthusiasm that will keep us going for as long as country music is played. So thank you for being the most important part of our show tonight, and get ready to enjoy Country Music's Party of the Year®!

Sincerely,

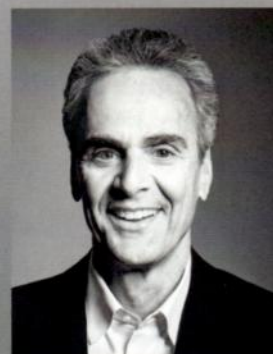
Allen Shapiro, CEO/Executive Producer

Michael Mahan, President/Executive Producer

R.A. Clark, Executive Producer

Barry Adelman, Executive Producer

Mark Bracco, Executive Producer



Allen Shapiro



Michael Mahan



R.A. Clark



Barry Adelman



Mark Bracco

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Thanks for everything Stoney's!*

- Kane Brown -

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family. I always look forward to
playing there!*

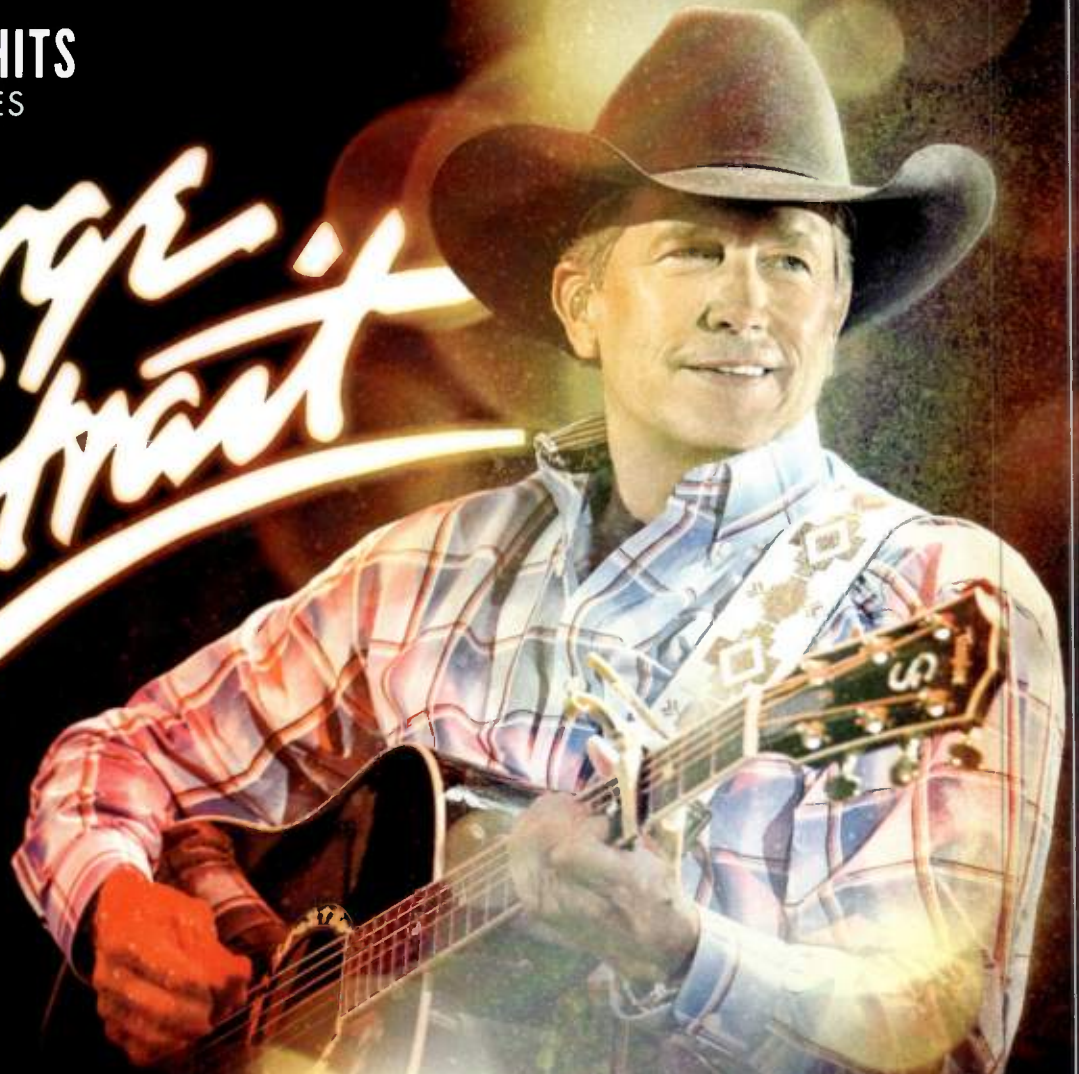
- Brett Young -

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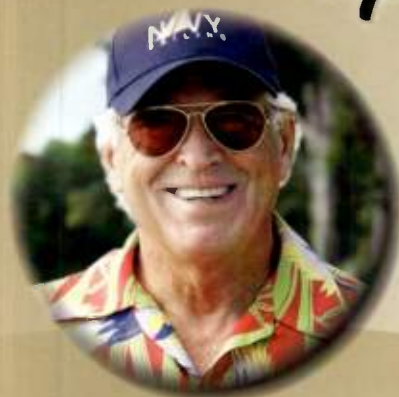
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OUR **HOSTS**

LUKE BRYAN & DIERKS BENTLEY

On a chilly overcast day at Nashville's Citation Studios, it couldn't have been warmer inside. As a live DJ played everything from old AC/DC to Johnny Cash and The Gap Band, Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley hurled vinyl records toward the cameras for the *ACM Awards* network promos, cracking each other up as only old friends can.

The CBS promo team basically plopped Luke and Dierks down in the middle of a musician's playground with vintage microphones, amps and guitars, giving them the perfect backdrop to showcase their considerable charm. That charm will be on full display tonight here on the T-Mobile Arena stage as the duo once again hosts the 52nd *ACM Awards*. And they're ready — even for any Academy Awards-style mishaps.

"The Oscars taught us that no matter how prepared we are or how great we do up there, as long as there's a huge screw up at the end, that's all they're going to talk about," Dierks joked.

It's the chemistry between these two friends that makes them the perfect ringleaders for what promises to be one of the most diverse *ACM Awards* yet. The pair worked closely with the show producers and writers to come up with some moments that will have fans talking.

"They are two very close friends that hang out together not because they're booked together, they hang out together because they really like each other," said *ACM Awards* Executive Producer Barry Adelman. "Their humor comes from their relationship together, and when you hang with them you hear it all the time. It's our job to get that on TV, and we will."

"I think that's why I kind of took on the challenge of doing this with Luke — that it is a challenge," Dierks explained. "It's something totally different for me. It makes you respect everyone who's ever done it before. Watching the Oscars and Jimmy

Kimmel and watching Fallon and watching James [Corden] at the Grammys, and they're so good."

Although the duo is returning for a second year, they're doing it in a brand new venue. After 10 years in the MGM Grand Garden Arena, we've moved across the street to T-Mobile Arena, which has afforded show producers a chance to shake things up on stage. One change is the addition of famed creative director Baz Halpin, who crafted Katy Perry's Super Bowl halftime show and counts among his clients Taylor Swift, Britney Spears, Usher and Pink.

"I like [a new location] because it does put everybody on their toes, and it forces creativity," said Executive Producer RAC Clark. "We brought aboard Baz as co-executive producer to really help us craft the look and feel of the show since we're in a new arena. He's been actively involved as we've been formulating the performances, and it's going to look very different than years past, and we're really excited about it."

Seven-time *ACM Award* winner Bryan says that no matter what side of the strip you're on, the Vegas location is always a safe bet.

"I think the Vegas factor is always very important for the whole vibe of the show," Luke said. "The fans are coming out here, and you can just feel it in the room that everybody is excited to be in Vegas. It feels like a party, and I think it's kind of up to Dierks and me to create that vibe on stage — create it for the artists in the room and certainly for the fans in the room and at home."

In addition to hosting, Luke and Dierks are both *ACM Award* winners and come into this year's show as nominees. Luke is up for *ACM Entertainer of the Year*, an award he has taken home twice. Dierks is vying for three awards, including *Male Vocalist of the Year*, *Album of the Year* (*Black*) and *Vocal Event of the Year* ("It's Different for Girls" featuring Elle King). ■

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LEFT: The first ACM Entertainer of the Year, Merle Haggard. **RIGHT:** Dick Clark, Billy Mize, unidentified guest, DJ Biff Collie and Buck Owens at an early ACM ceremony.

BOTTOM: Tommy Wiggins, left, one of the Academy's original four founders, at the first "West Coast Country Music Awards" ceremony in 1963.



ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC MISSION

The proud history of the Academy of Country Music® lends credence to its official mission of "improving lives by connecting fans, artists and the industry." In the half century since its inception, the Academy has grown from a regional Southern California trade organization to a national powerhouse dedicated to a higher purpose. Now, more than five decades in, the ACM® is still supporting new artists and established superstars, entertaining country music fans from coast to coast and helping others with charitable good works.

The Academy was officially founded in 1964 in Los Angeles when performer Tommy Wiggins, songwriter Eddie Miller and club owners Mickey and Chris Christensen teamed up with other performers, radio and record label executives to establish the Country and Western Music Academy. Their vision was to promote country music in the western 13 states and to support artists based on the West Coast such as Billy Mize, Johnny Bond, Glen Campbell, Merle Haggard, Roger Miller, Buck Owens, Wynn Stewart, Jimmy Wakely and Tex Williams. In 1965, an official board of directors was formed. The Academy hosted its first official country music awards show in 1966 (after three informal awards banquets held at the Christensen's Red Barrel Niteclub) honoring the industry's accomplishments during the previous year. It was the first country music awards program held by a major organization, propelling country music into the public spotlight for the first time. Winners that year included Kay Adams, Merle Haggard, Bonnie Owens and Buck Owens.

The Academy's signature "hat" trophy was created in 1968, the same year Fran Boyd was hired as the Academy's first paid employee. During the early 1970s, the organization changed its name to the Academy of Country and Western Music and finally to the Academy of Country Music (ACM). The Academy also expanded its efforts to broaden the horizons of the country music industry, sponsoring the "Country Music Caravan" in Los Angeles and beginning its history of charitable endeavors with a "Concern for Prisoners of War" benefit concert (also held in Los Angeles), and, later, the ACM Celebrity Golf Classic.

The awards show hit the airwaves in 1972, broadcast for the first time in national syndication on the ABC network. Gene Weed took over producing and directing the show in 1974, and in 1979 the Academy joined forces with Dick Clark Productions to produce the show. Dick Clark and Al Schwartz served as producers while Weed continued to direct. The Academy named Bill Boyd executive director, and he also served as the talent coordinator for the show. Under their guidance, the ACM Awards moved first to the NBC network and finally to CBS, where it remains today.



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In 1995, Fran Boyd (the Academy's first paid employee) became executive director after her husband, Bill Boyd, passed away. Boyd had steered the Academy since 1980 and held many key positions before taking on the role of executive director that was later bequeathed to his wife. After 34 years of service to the Academy, Fran Boyd retired in 2002 and handed the reins over to Bob Romeo, who served for 13 years. In January 2017, Nashville's Pete Fisher became the new CEO of the Academy of Country Music. After 17 years as vice president and general manager of the Grand Ole Opry, Fisher relocated to the Academy's headquarters in Los Angeles, bringing with him more than 30 years of experience in the country music community.

The show is still produced by dick clark productions under the direction of longtime Executive Producers Barry Adelman and Richard A. "RAC" Clark, as well as dick clark's Mark Bracco, Mike Mahan and Allen Shaprio.

After being staged in Los Angeles since the 1960s, the ACM Awards left Southern California for the first time in history and settled into Las Vegas at the Mandalay Bay Resort & Casino Events Center in 2003, then moving to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in 2006 (the Academy also adopted a sleeker, modern version of the "hat" trophy that year). In 2015, the Academy moved the show to AT&T Stadium — the

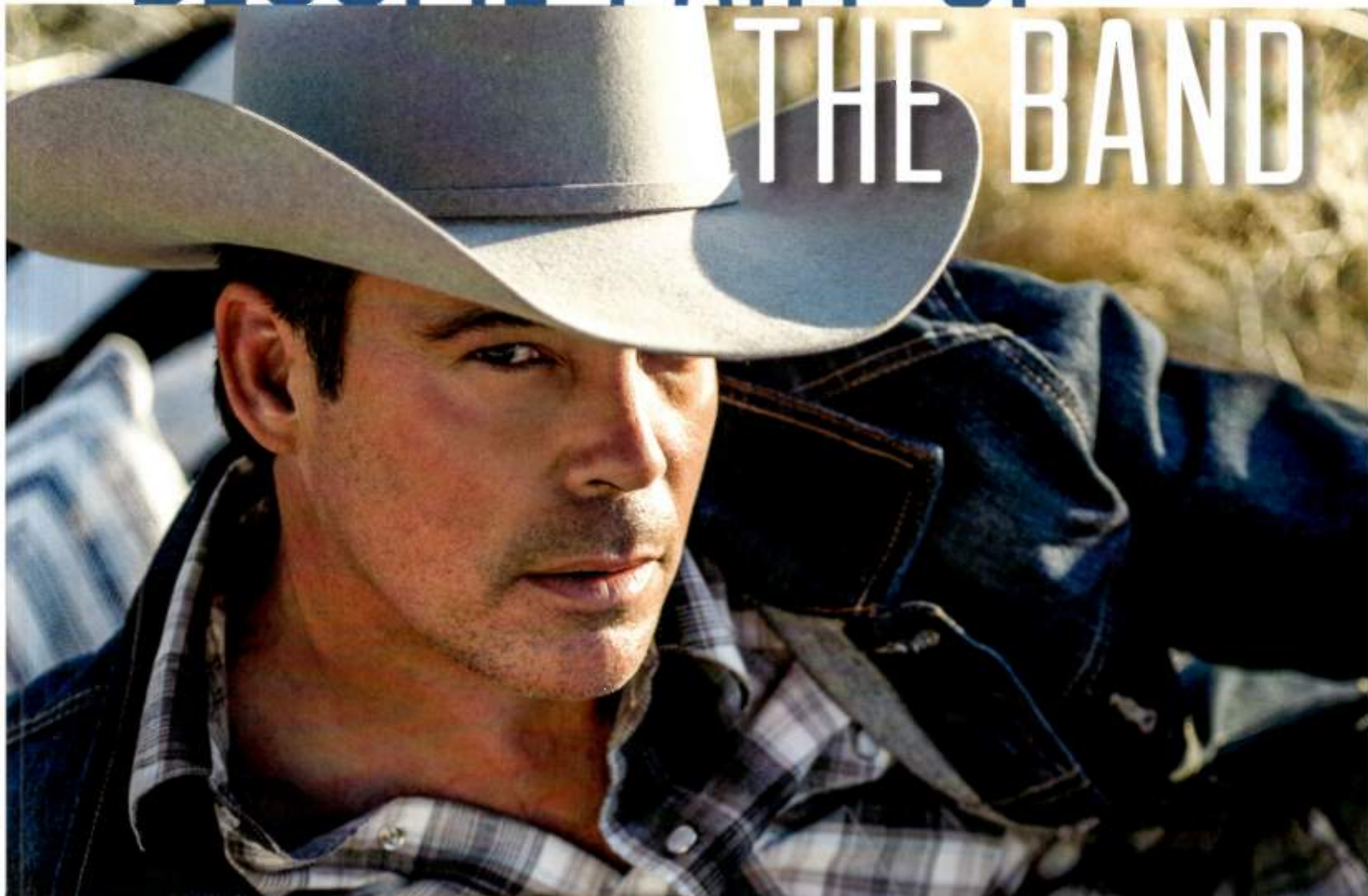
home of the Dallas Cowboys — to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ACM Awards. The show (as well as the two-day ACM Party for a Cause Festival at Globe Life Park) sold out in 18 minutes, landing in the Guinness Book of World Records as the most attended live awards show (with more than 70,000 fans in the house). After that triumphant event, the Academy returned to the MGM Grand Garden Arena in 2016, and tonight, it finds a brand new home in the state-of-the-art T-Mobile Arena.

While the Academy strives to foster high-quality entertainment through the annual awards show and ACM Honors in Nashville, many events such as the annual ACM Party for a Cause and ACM Lifting Lives Golf Classic serve a dual purpose as fundraisers for the Academy's charitable arm. ACM Lifting Lives strives to improve lives through the power of music by supporting deserving charities through its annual grant cycle, as well as supporting those in the music industry hit with unexpected and catastrophic expenses through the Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief Fund. To date, more than \$8 million dollars has gone to a variety of causes nationwide — including Seacrest Studios, Stand Up 2 Cancer, Folds of Honor and Nashville's Vanderbilt Kennedy Center for the annual ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp. ■

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: George Strait; Janie Fricke, Sylvia, Donna Fargo, Tammy Wynette, Reba McEntire and Debby Boone; Hosts Luke Bryan and Dierks Bentley; Carrie Underwood duets with rocker Steven Tyler



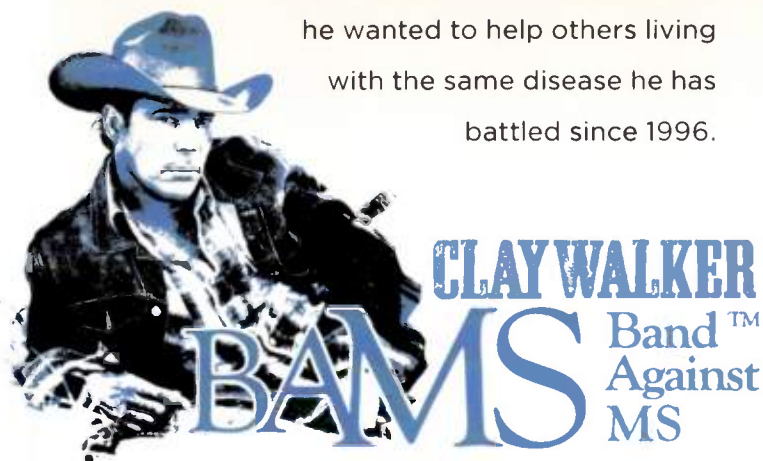
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52ND ACM AWARDS



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52ND ACM AWARDS

NOMINEES

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company-Label(s)

BLACK

Dierks Bentley

PRODUCERS: Ross Copperman, Arturo Buenahora Jr.
RECORD LABEL: Capitol Records Nashville

DIG YOUR ROOTS

Florida Georgia Line

PRODUCER: Joey Moi
RECORD LABEL: Big Machine Label Group

HERO

Maren Morris

PRODUCERS: busbee, Brad Hill, Maren Morris
RECORD LABEL: Columbia Nashville

RIPCORN

Keith Urban

PRODUCERS: Jeff Bhasker, busbee, Nathan Chapman, Nitzan Kaikov, Dann Huff, Tyler Johnson, Johnny Price, Nile Rodgers, Keith Urban, Greg Wells
RECORD LABELS: Hit Red Records, Capitol Records Nashville

THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS

Miranda Lambert

PRODUCERS: Frank Liddell, Eric Masse, Glenn Worf
RECORD LABELS: RCA Nashville, Vanner Records

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company-Label(s)

"BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR"

Keith Urban

PRODUCERS: Dann Huff, Keith Urban
RECORD LABELS: Hit Red Records, Capitol Records Nashville

"H.O.L.Y."

Florida Georgia Line

PRODUCER: Joey Moi
RECORD LABEL: Big Machine Label Group

"HUMBLE AND KIND"

Tim McGraw

PRODUCERS: Byron Gallimore, Tim McGraw
RECORD LABELS: McGraw Music, Big Machine Records

"MY CHURCH"

Maren Morris

PRODUCERS: busbee, Maren Morris
RECORD LABEL: Columbia Nashville

"VICE"

Miranda Lambert

PRODUCERS: Frank Liddell, Eric Masse, Glenn Worf
RECORD LABELS: RCA Nashville, Vanner Records

SONG OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Songwriter(s)/Publisher(s)/Artist(s)

"BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR"

Keith Urban

SONGWRITERS: Clint Lagerberg, Hillary Lindsey, Steven Lee Olsen
PUBLISHERS: WB Music Corp (ASCAP), Music Of The Corn (ASCAP), HillarodyRathbone Music (ASCAP), BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP), House of Sea Gayle Music (ASCAP), Spirit Catalog Holdings (S.a.r.l.), Spirit Two Nashville (ASCAP)

"DIE A HAPPY MAN"

Thomas Rhett

SONGWRITERS: Thomas Rhett, Sean Douglas, Joe Spargur
PUBLISHERS: EMI Blackwood Music Inc (BMI), Cricket On The Line (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp (BMI), Eastman Pond Publishing (BMI), Music of Big Deal (BMI), Nice Life (BMI), Frederic And Reid Music (BMI), BMG Platinum Songs (BMI), Brodsky Spensive Publishing (BMI)

"HUMBLE AND KIND"

Tim McGraw

SONGWRITER: Lori McKenna
PUBLISHERS: Songs of Universal Inc (BMI), Hoodie Songs (BMI)

"KILL A WORD"

Eric Church

Featuring Rhiannon Giddens

SONGWRITERS: Eric Church, Luke Dick, Jeff Hyde
PUBLISHERS: Emileon Songs (BMI), Little Louder Songs (BMI), Longer And Louder Music (BMI), Mammaw's Fried Okra Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI)

"TENNESSEE WHISKEY"

Chris Stapleton

SONGWRITERS: Dean Dillon, Linda Hargrove
PUBLISHERS: Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International (BMI), EMI Algee (BMI)

"VICE"

Miranda Lambert

SONGWRITERS: Miranda Lambert, Shane McAnally, Josh Osborne
PUBLISHERS: Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Smack Hits (GMR), Kobalt Music Group, Ltd. (GMR), Anderson Fork In The Road Music (ASCAP), Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc. (ASCAP), Smackville Music (ASCAP)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY XFINITY

Awarded to Producer(s)/Director(s)/Artist(s)

"FIRE AWAY"

Chris Stapleton

DIRECTOR: Tim Mattia
PRODUCER: Jennifer Ansell

"FOREVER COUNTRY"

Artists of Then, Now & Forever

DIRECTOR: Joseph Kahn
PRODUCERS: Nathan de la Rionda, Jil Hardin, Charleen Manca, Joanna Carter, Chandra LaPlume, Sarah Trahern, Damon Whiteside

"HUMBLE AND KIND"

Tim McGraw

DIRECTOR: Wes Edwards
PRODUCER: Jennifer Ansell

"PETER PAN"

Kelsea Ballerini

DIRECTOR: Kristin Barlowe
PRODUCER: Michelle Abnet

"VICE"

Miranda Lambert

DIRECTOR: Trey Fanjoy
PRODUCER: Ashley Bergeron Ford

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

(Off Camera Award)

Ashley Gorley

Luke Laird

Hillary Lindsey

Shane McAnally

Lori McKenna

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Awarded to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company-Label(s)

"DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS"

Dierks Bentley

Featuring Elle King

PRODUCERS: Ross Copperman, Arturo Buenahora Jr.
RECORD LABEL: Capitol Records Nashville

"FOREVER COUNTRY"

Artists of Then, Now & Forever

PRODUCER: Shane McAnally
RECORD LABEL: MCA Nashville

"MAY WE ALL"

Florida Georgia Line

Featuring Tim McGraw

PRODUCER: Joey Moi
RECORD LABEL: Big Machine Label Group

"SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE"

Kenny Chesney

Featuring P!nk

PRODUCERS: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney
RECORD LABELS: Blue Chair Records, Columbia Nashville

"THINK OF YOU"

Chris Young

Featuring Cassadee Pope

PRODUCERS: Corey Crowder, Chris Young
RECORD LABELS: RCA Nashville, RCA Records



RADIO AWARDS

(Off Camera Awards)

Winner indicated by ➤

NATIONAL ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

Big D, Bubba, Patrick Thomas, Carsen – The Big D and Bubba Show

Cody Alan – CMT After MidNite with Cody Alan

Kix Brooks – American Country Countdown with Kix Brooks

➤ **Lon Helton** – Country Countdown USA

Tracy Lawrence – Honky Tonkin' with Tracy Lawrence

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

(Major Market)

Chris & Nina – KMLE-FM – Phoenix, AZ

➤ **George, Mo & Cowboy Dave** – KILT-FM – Houston, TX

Paul Schadt, Meg Butterly, Geof Knight – WKKT-FM – Charlotte, NC

➤ **Rob & Linda Show - Rob Stone & Linda Lee** – WYCD-FM – Southfield, MI

Tanner in the Morning – WSOC-FM – Charlotte, NC

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

(Large Market)

Ally & Andy – WDSY-FM – Pittsburgh, PA

Big Dave, Chelsie and Statt – WUBE-FM – Cincinnati, OH

Dave O'Brien – WLHK-FM – Indianapolis, IN

Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt & Kevin Freeman – WFMS-FM – Indianapolis, IN

Marty McFly – WSM-FM – Nashville, TN

➤ **Q Morning Crew - Mike, Marty and Janie** – WQDR-FM – Raleigh, NC

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

(Medium Market)

Andy Ritchie, Alison Mencer, Jimmy Holt – WIVK-FM – Knoxville, TN

Jack Ryan – WMYL-FM – Clinton, TN

Scott Wynn & Sarah Kay – WQMX-FM – Akron, OH

Steve & Geoff – KUZZ-FM – Bakersfield, CA

➤ **Steve & Gina in the Morning on Kat 103.7** – KXKT-FM – Omaha, NE

ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

(Small Market)

Ben Butler and Arnie Andrews – WCOW-FM – Sparta, WI

Brent Lane and Candy Cullerton – WYCT-FM – Pensacola, FL

Jason and Ashley "The Q Crew" on Q100.3 – KRWQ-FM – Medford, OR

➤ **Scotty Cox & Cara Denis** – KCLR-FM – Columbia, MO

The Roger & Carly Morning Show – KORA-FM – Bryan, TX

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

(Major Market)

➤ **KKBQ-FM** – Houston, TX

KMLE-FM – Phoenix, AZ

KUPL-FM – Portland, OR

WIL-FM – St. Louis, MO

WKKT-FM – Charlotte, NC

WSOC-FM – Charlotte, NC

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

(Large Market)

KAJA-FM – San Antonio, TX

WQDR-FM – Raleigh, NC

WSIX-FM – Nashville, TN

WSM-FM – Nashville, TN

➤ **WUBE-FM** – Cincinnati, OH

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

(Medium Market)

CKRY-FM – Calgary, AB

KAWO-FM – Boise, ID

KUZZ-FM – Bakersfield, CA

KXKT-FM – Omaha, NE

➤ **WIVK-FM** – Knoxville, TN

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

(Small Market)

KCLR-FM – Columbia, MO

➤ **KKNU-FM** – Eugene, OR

KTHK-FM – Idaho Falls, ID

WCOW-FM – Sparta, WI

WXFL-FM – Florence, AL

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Jason Aldean
Luke Bryan
Florida Georgia Line
Carrie Underwood
Keith Urban

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Jason Aldean
Dierks Bentley
Thomas Rhett
Chris Stapleton
Keith Urban

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Kelsea Ballerini
Miranda Lambert
Maren Morris
Kacey Musgraves
Carrie Underwood

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Big & Rich
Brothers Osborne
Dan + Shay
Florida Georgia Line
Maddie & Tae

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Eli Young Band
Lady Antebellum
Little Big Town
Old Dominion
Rascal Flatts

Winner indicated by ➤

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

Kane Brown
Chris Janson
Chris Lane

➤ **Jon Pardi**
Brett Young

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

Lauren Alaina
Cam

Brandy Clark

➤ **Maren Morris**

NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR

PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

A Thousand Horses
➤ **Brothers Osborne**

Dan + Shay

LOCASH

Maddie & Tae



ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Upon winning the ACM Entertainer of the Year trophy last year, Jason Aldean entered the elite class of ACM Triple Crown recipients, following past wins in the categories of Male Vocalist (for 2012-2014) and New Male Vocalist (for 2005). In September, his seventh album *They Don't Know* impacted the *Billboard* 200 at No. 1 — his third consecutive album to do so. His relentless touring has kept fans interested in his impressive catalog as “Big Green Tractor” and “She’s Country” climbed to triple-platinum status in 2016, while “Burnin’ It Down” grabbed double-platinum. Even his debut single, 2005’s “Hicktown,” notched a platinum certification. Meanwhile, the Macon, Georgia, native is no stranger to the ACM podium thanks to hits like “Don’t You Wanna Stay” (2011 Single and Vocal Event, with Kelly Clarkson) and “The Only Way I Know” (2012 Vocal Event, with Luke Bryan and Eric Church). His incredible touring achievements were rewarded with the 2012 ACM Crystal Milestone Award. Now with more than a decade on the charts, Aldean divided his touring time in 2016 by headlining the Six String Circus Tour and sharing a bill with Kenny Chesney on stadium shows. The first two singles from *They Don't Know* — “Lights Come On” and “A Little More Summertime” — peaked at No. 1. Aldean will launch his They Don't Know Tour in April, followed by an exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opening in May. His new single, “Any Ol’ Barstool,” recalls the traditional country music he grew up on.

ALSO NOMINATED FOR

Male Vocalist
of the Year

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YOUR ARTISTS, SONGWRITERS AND STAFF

HAVE ALREADY WRITTEN!



LUKE BRYAN

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

uke Bryan brings a down-home approach to country music, even though he's selling out arenas for multiple nights. In 2016, the superstar notched a platinum album with *Kill the Lights*, while six singles from throughout his career achieved platinum. *Kill the Lights* spent two weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 and spawned chart-topping singles like "Kick the Dust Up," "Strip it Down," "Home Alone Tonight" (a duet with Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild), "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" and "Move." Bryan headlined the Kill the Lights Tour through early 2017. A five-time ACM Awards co-host, Bryan won ACM Entertainer of the Year trophies for 2012 and 2014. After selling 1.7 million tickets on tour and charting six No. 1 singles from his album *Crash My Party*, Bryan graciously accepted the ACM's Gene Weed Special Achievement Award in 2015. His mantle also includes two ACM Awards in the Vocal Event category: "This Is How We Roll" with Florida Georgia Line (2014), and "The Only Way I Know" with Jason Aldean and Eric Church (2012). In addition, he won 2009 trophies for New Artist and New Solo Vocalist. Bryan grew up in Leesburg, Georgia, as the son of a peanut farmer. He honors his rural roots through Farm Tour concerts in smaller communities, raising money to provide scholarships to area students. Bryan released the *Farm Tour... Here's to the Farmer* EP in 2016. In February, he performed the national anthem at Super Bowl LI. His latest single is the poignant "Fast."

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FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Florida Georgia Line, the reigning ACM Duo of the Year, showed their romantic side with "H.O.L.Y." Undeniably one of the biggest love songs of the year, the single reached double-platinum within a month and spent 18 weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. By year's end, "H.O.L.Y." was the most-streamed and top-selling country single of 2016. The success ushered in the immediate success of their crowd-pleasing new album, *Dig Your Roots*, and its namesake tour. Florida Georgia Line have been on a hot streak since winning trophies for 2012 New Artist and New Vocal Duo or Group. They also picked up three consecutive Vocal Duo trophies (2013-2015) and a 2014 trophy in the Vocal Event category for "This Is How We Roll," a triple-platinum duet with Luke Bryan. Always up for a collaboration, the duo partnered with Tim McGraw for their latest smash, "May We All." In 2016, Florida Georgia Line accepted a Diamond award, signifying 10 million units, for their career-defining single, "Cruise." They also notched platinum status for the 2014 album *Anything Goes* and its title track. Additional single certifications in 2016 include double-platinum for "Stay," platinum for "Sippin' on Fire," and gold for "Confession." Hubbard hails from Monroe, Georgia, while Kelley is from Ormond Beach, Florida. They met as students at Belmont University in Nashville and have used their industry expertise to open a music publishing company, Tree Vibe Music. Their latest single is "God, Your Mama, and Me," featuring the Backstreet Boys, who will join the duo on tour this year.

ALSO NOMINATED FOR

Vocal Duo
of the Year

Album
of the Year

Vocal Event
of the Year

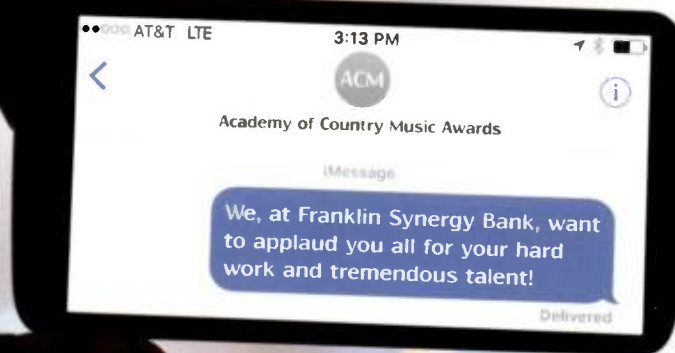
Single Record
of the Year

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Ellen May

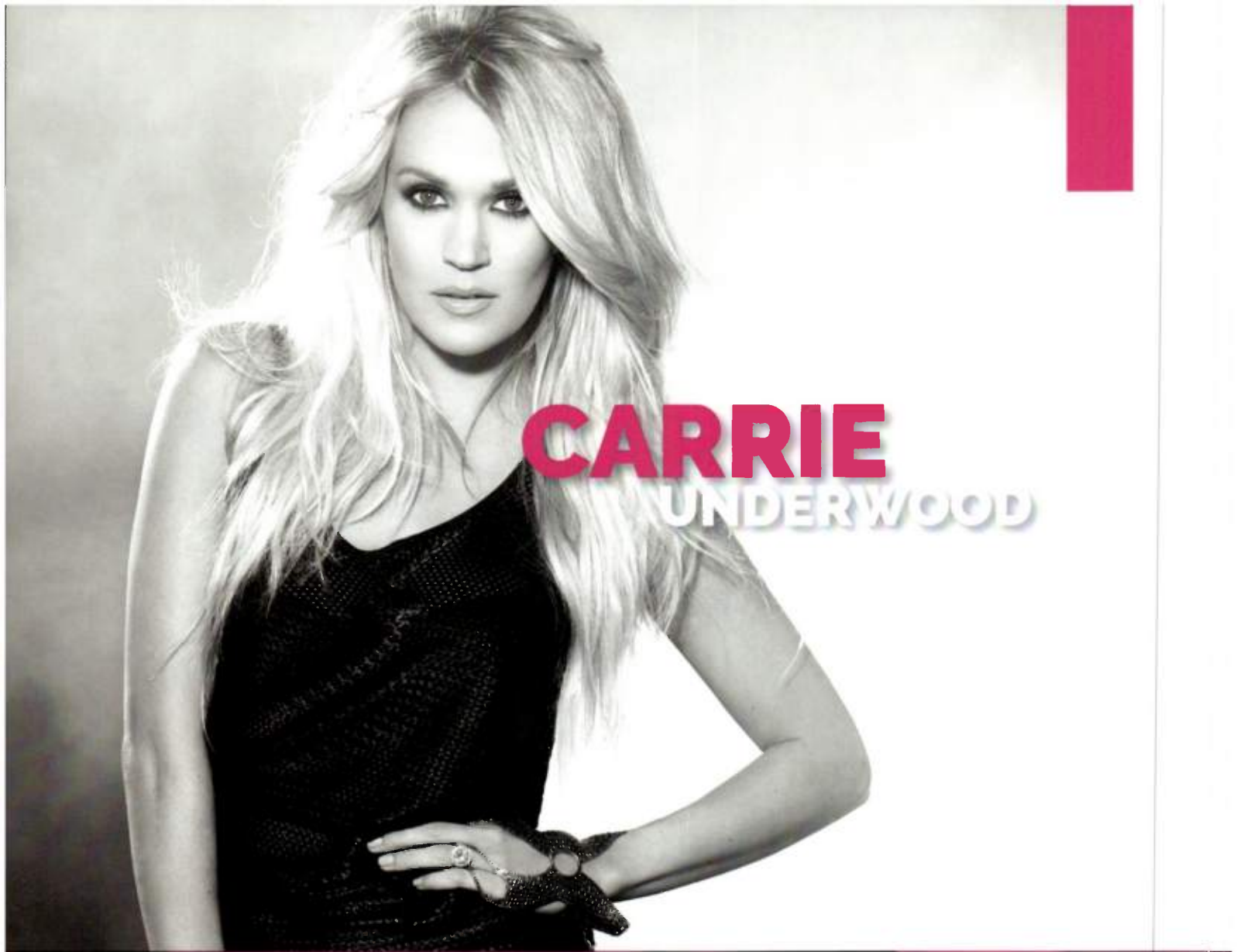
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CARRIE UNDERWOOD

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Carrie Underwood added a dazzling new chapter to her career with 2015's *Storyteller*, the superstar's latest platinum album. The project's first three singles — "Smoke Break," "Heartbeat" and "Church Bells" — all achieved gold certifications in 2016. The new music kept fans flocking to shows across North America, Europe and Australia. She also tackled "Oh, Sunday Night," a new theme song for NBC's *Sunday Night Football*. A recipient of the ACM's Triple Crown award, she's received two Entertainer trophies (2008, 2009), three for Female Vocalist (2006-2008) and the New Female Vocalist award (2005). She's also been a winner in the categories of Album (2006, *Some Hearts*), Video (2006, "Before He Cheats") and Single ("Jesus Take the Wheel," 2005). Proving her enduring popularity since winning *American Idol* in 2005, Underwood notched numerous album certifications in 2016, including platinum for *Greatest Hits: Decade #1* (2014), double-platinum for *Blown Away* (2012), triple-platinum for *Play On* (2009), quadruple-platinum for *Carnival Ride* (2007), and eight-times platinum for *Some Hearts* (2005). In 2016, she earned the ACM Lifting Lives Gary Haber Award honoring her humanitarian work. She has received the ACM Gene Weed Special Achievement Award for starring in 2013's *The Sound of Music Live!* Underwood joined the Grand Ole Opry in 2008. "Church Bells" received a Grammy nomination for best country solo performance, while "Dirty Laundry" soaked up more success at country radio. Her new single is "The Fighter," an upbeat duet with Keith Urban.

ALSO NOMINATED FOR

Female Vocalist
of the Year

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEE

Keith Urban wasted no time in dominating country radio in 2016 — this time with music from his newest album, *Ripcord*. As Urban's latest No. 1 hit, "Blue Ain't Your Color" followed smashes like "Wasted Time," "Break on Me" and "John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16." Urban experimented with multiple producers to give *Ripcord* some unexpected textures. Not that he needed to reinvent himself. His remarkable achievements already include ACM Awards in the categories of Male Vocalist (2004, 2005), Album (2004, for *Be Here*) and New Male Vocalist (2000). An extraordinary guitarist and an exceptional team player, Urban also shared wins in the music Video category ("Highway Don't Care" with Tim McGraw and Taylor Swift) and for Vocal Event in 2008 ("Start a Band" with Brad Paisley) and 2013 ("We Were Us" with Miranda Lambert). In recognition of his worldwide appeal, he was the 2009 recipient of the ACM's Jim Reeves International Award. After wrapping up his role as a judge on *American Idol* in 2016, the good-natured superstar kicked off his summer tour of arenas and amphitheaters, playing 70 shows on four continents. He accepted the ACM's Mae Boren Axton Award later that year for his longstanding dedication and service to the Academy of Country Music. Since 2000, Urban has charted 37 consecutive Top 10 country hits — the longest hot streak since Alabama — and has notched 21 No. 1 singles on the *Billboard* chart. The beautiful "Blue Ain't Your Color" earned two Grammy nominations, while *Ripcord* competed for best country album. His new single is "The Fighter," an upbeat duet with Carrie Underwood.

ALSO NOMINATED FOR

Male Vocalist
of the Year

Album
of the Year
(artist and producer)

Single Record
of the Year
(artist and producer)

Song
of the Year

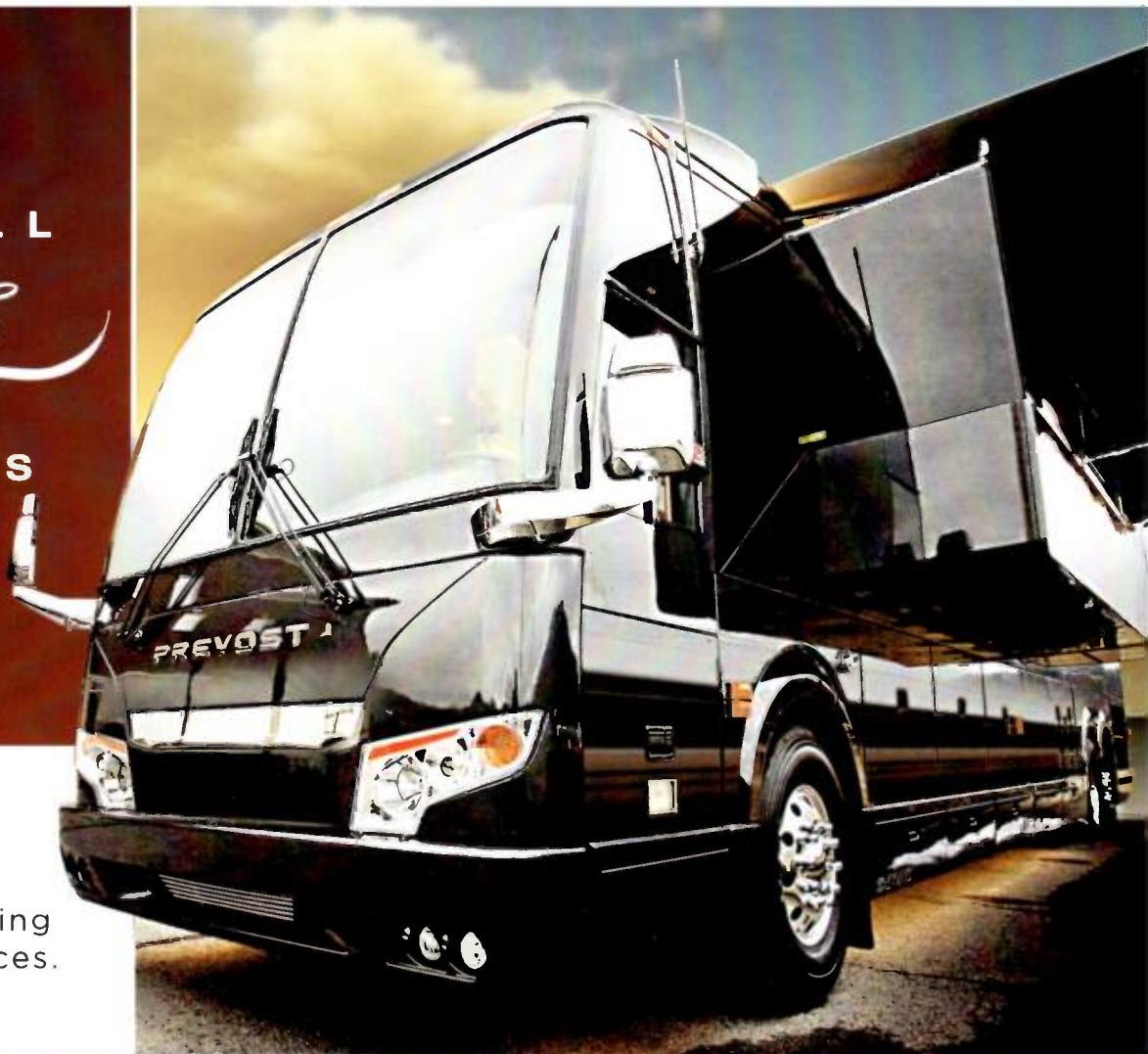
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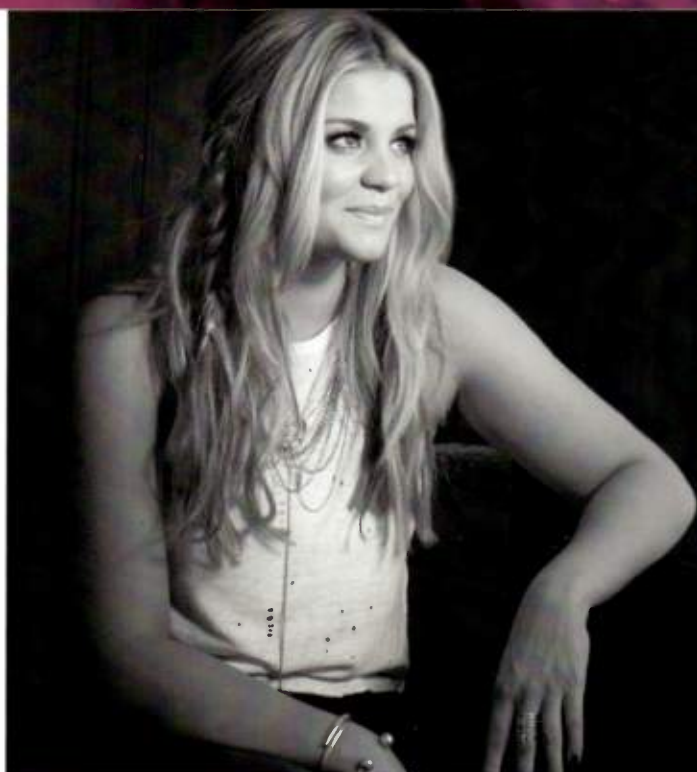
A THOUSAND HORSES COMBINED THE WORDS "SOUTHERN" AND "PERSONALITY" to create the title of their debut album, *Southernality*. The band signaled a strong start with "Smoke," a No. 1 hit that became their first gold single. Growing up, lead singer Michael Hobby and guitarist Bill Satcher met while checking out guitars at the only music store in Newberry, South Carolina. Graham DeLoach, a cousin of Satcher's who plays bass, would come up from Georgia to visit during summers and holidays. They all moved to Nashville and met Brown, a friend of a friend who joined the band on guitar. They lived together and wrote songs, eventually landing a record deal in 2010 with a rock label in Los Angeles. Through that contract, they started working with producer Dave Cobb, who stuck with them after that label contract ended. They got a second chance with Republic Nashville, which issued *Southernality* in 2015. After "Smoke," the band released "(This Ain't No) Drunk Dial" and continued touring heavily. Their music draws heavily on their Southern influences, such as the Allman Brothers Band, Lynyrd Skynyrd and Tom Petty, while still being influenced by country legends like Alabama, Garth Brooks and Alan Jackson. They released "Southernality" as a single in 2016 and spent months on the road opening shows on Jason Aldean's Six String Circus Tour.

NOMINATED FOR

NEW VOCAL DUO
OR GROUP OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

LAUREN ALAINA

LAUREN ALAINA NAVIGATED THROUGH A NUMBER OF PERSONAL SETBACKS before finally arriving with a new album, *Road Less Traveled*, in January. The title track proved to be the long-awaited hit she needed, paving the way for an opening slot on a tour with Martina McBride. Alaina got acquainted with country fans in 2011 as a 16-year-old contestant on *American Idol*. She placed second on the series and released a debut album, *Wildflower*, a few months later. "Like My Mother Does" became the first of her Top 40 country hits, trailed by "Georgia Peaches," "Eighteen Inches" (co-written by one of her heroes, Carrie Underwood), "Barefoot and Buckwild," and "Next Boyfriend." The latter track was the cornerstone of a 2015 self-titled EP. Alaina grew up in Rossville, Georgia, and started singing wherever she could as a young girl. As she entered the national spotlight, she fought with an eating disorder, her parents' divorce and vocal cord surgery. Her poignant song, "Same Day, Different Bottle," was inspired by her father's alcoholism. Produced by busbee, *Road Less Traveled* features 12 songs co-written by Alaina. She partnered with Jesse Frasure and pop star Meghan Trainor on the title track. In 2016, she announced her first film, also titled *Road Less Traveled*. Alaina stars in the movie as a songwriter who runs into her high school sweetheart while planning her wedding.



NOMINATED FOR

NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

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NOMINATED FOR

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

JASON ALDEAN

AS THE REIGNING ACM ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR, Jason Aldean entered the elite class of ACM Triple Crown recipients, following past wins in the categories of Male Vocalist (for 2012-2014) and New Male Vocalist (for 2005). In September, his seventh album *They Don't Know* impacted the *Billboard* 200 at No. 1 — his third consecutive album to top the chart. The Macon, Georgia, native is no stranger to the ACM podium thanks to hits like “Don’t You Wanna Stay” (2011 Single and Vocal Event, with Kelly Clarkson) and “The Only Way I Know” (2012 Vocal Event, with Luke Bryan and Eric Church). His incredible touring achievements were rewarded with the 2012 ACM Crystal Milestone Award. Now with more than a decade on the charts, Aldean divided his touring time in 2016 by headlining the Six String Circus Tour and sharing a bill with Kenny Chesney on stadium shows. The first two singles from *They Don't Know* — “Lights Come On” and “A Little More Summertime” — peaked at No. 1. Aldean will launch his *They Don't Know* Tour in April, followed by an exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum opening in May. His new single, “Any Ol’ Barstool,” recalls the traditional country music he grew up on.

ARTISTS OF THEN, NOW & FOREVER

THREE ICONIC SONGS MAKE UP THE FABRIC OF “FOREVER COUNTRY,” a musical salute to the 50th Annual CMA Awards. Seamlessly arranged by producer and ACM Award nominee Shane McAnally, “Forever Country” brings together John Denver’s “Take Me Home, Country Roads,” Willie Nelson’s “On the Road Again” and Dolly Parton’s “I Will Always Love You.” Taken as a whole, the lyrics underscore the life of touring country artists, their love for the fans and their commitment to the music. Hundreds of country stations premiered the track on the morning of September 16, leading the song to debut at No. 1 on *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs Chart. Proceeds from the sale and streaming of the song were donated to music education initiatives supported by the CMA Foundation. Directed by Joseph Kahn, the innovative video weaves footage of the artists with the glossy imagery of a country music landscape. Artists included Alabama, Jason Aldean, Dierks Bentley, Brooks & Dunn,



NOMINATED FOR

VIDEO OF THE YEAR **PRESENTED BY XFINITY**
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Luke Bryan, Eric Church, Brett Eldredge, Vince Gill, Faith Hill, Alan Jackson, Lady Antebellum, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, Martina McBride, Tim McGraw, Ronnie Milsap, Kacey Musgraves, Willie Nelson, Brad Paisley, Dolly Parton, Charley Pride, Rascal Flatts, Reba, Darius Rucker, Blake Shelton, George Strait, Randy Travis, Carrie Underwood, Keith Urban and Trisha Yearwood.

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VIDEO OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY XFINITY

KELSEA BALLERINI

KELSEA BALLERINI BRIGHTENED COUNTRY MUSIC with her debut single, "Love Me Like You Mean It," guiding the way to the 2015 ACM New Female Vocalist trophy. The perky, up-tempo track climbed to No. 1, earned a gold certification, and received a stamp of approval from one of her musical heroes, Taylor Swift. Ballerini followed that with two more No. 1 hits: "Dibs" and "Peter Pan." She co-wrote all three of those hits, as well as her latest single, "Yeah Boy." Ballerini was raised near Knoxville, Tennessee, singing in school and church choirs and taking voice lessons. Growing up, she enjoyed a diverse range of music, from Frank Sinatra to Britney Spears, then became a dedicated country fan after discovering artists like Keith Urban, Dixie Chicks, Shania Twain and Sugarland. When she was 15, she moved to Nashville with her mother after her parents split up — a challenging time that inspired her to focus on songwriting. In 2013, she landed a publishing deal with Black River Entertainment and received a record deal from Black River (wrapped as a gift) at the company's Christmas party that year. CMT has included her in its Next Women of Country campaign and tour, while *Billboard* presented her with its Rising Star award at the annual Women of Music honors. Her debut album is appropriately titled *The First Time*.

DIERKS BENTLEY

DIERKS BENTLEY MADE HIS WORLD GO BLACK when the collection of all-new songs arrived in May. The rebound anthem "Somewhere on a Beach" shot to No. 1 and earned platinum certification. After that, the gold-certified "Different for Girls" carried him to the top of the country radio chart for the 14th time — and introduced his duet partner, pop star Elle King, to new listeners. The performance received a Grammy nomination for best country duo/group performance. Bentley filmed the gorgeous music video for "Black" in Iceland with his wife Cassidy, whose maiden name is Black. Bentley also has a long-term relationship with the ACM, since winning the 2003 statuette for New Artist of the Year. That initial victory arrived after staking a claim at country radio with "What Was I Thinkin'?" — a rambunctious song that remains a crowd favorite. He continued to rack up nominations for albums like *Up on the Ridge* and *Riser*, as well as the hits "Home" and "I Hold On." The hilarious "Drunk on a Plane" video led to a 2014 ACM trophy, thanks to Bentley's hilarious performance as a buttoned-up pilot (a goofy role based on his real-life flying license). Three prior albums (*Feel That Fire*, *Home*, and *Riser*) also achieved gold in 2016. Bentley is co-hosting the ACM Awards for the second year and is currently headlining his What the Hell World Tour.



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MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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VIDEO OF THE YEAR – “PETER PAN”

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VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

BIG & RICH

BIG & RICH MARCHED UP THE COUNTRY CHART in 2016 with "Lovin' Lately," their latest collaboration — this time with Tim McGraw. Along with their own unique chemistry, the duo has amassed a stack of hit songs recorded with friends like Hank Williams Jr. and Gretchen Wilson. As Big & Rich, Big Kenny and John Rich marched into mainstream recognition in 2004 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." They also landed on radio playlists with singles such as "Holy Water," "Big Time" and "Comin' to Your City." The MuzikMafia co-founders racked up four consecutive nominations for Vocal Duo prior to taking a break in 2008. After pursuing individual career and philanthropic efforts, they issued the 2012 album *Hillbilly Jedi*. They satisfied their fans with singles like "Look at You" in 2014 and "Run Away With You" in 2015. As songwriters, their shared cuts include Jason Aldean's "Hicktown" and the ACM-nominated song, "Amarillo Sky." Their respective catalogs boast Tim McGraw's "Last Dollar (Fly Away)" for Big Kenny and Faith Hill's "Mississippi Girl" for John Rich. Their new single is "California," from their upcoming album, *Did It For the Party*.

BROTHERS OSBORNE

BROTHERS OSBORNE BROKE THROUGH WITH "STAY A LITTLE LONGER," a simmering platinum single that anchors their 2016 debut album, *Pawn Shop*. Of course, the brothers are not exactly overnight sensations. John and TJ were raised in the blue-collar waterfront town of Deale, Maryland, in a family of seven. Their mother was a hairdresser and their father was a plumber, although he wrote songs and played informal shows for friends in a shed behind the house. In time, he converted the building into a home studio for his guitar-playing sons. Then they formed a father-and-sons band called Deuce and a Quarter and started playing covers in local bars. Their repertoire ranged from Merle Haggard and Dwight Yoakam to Lynyrd Skynyrd and Bob Seger. After both siblings moved to Nashville, they formed Brothers Osborne with TJ on vocals. After two Top 40 country singles ("Let's Go There" and "Rum"), they released a five-song EP on EMI Nashville in 2014 and built a fan base through relentless touring. On *Pawn Shop*, Lee Ann Womack lends her vocals to "Loving Me Back," while musical influences like Hank Williams, Tom Petty and Bruce Springsteen shine through. They launched the headlining Dirt Rich Tour in 2016. Their latest single, "21 Summer," received a Grammy nomination. Brothers Osborne has already been named this year's ACM New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year Presented by T-Mobile.



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KANE BROWN

BEFORE LANDING A RECORD DEAL, KANE BROWN CONNECTED TO FANS THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA. The platforms gave him a chance to express himself by covering his favorite country songs as well as unveiling new material. Brown grew up in Redback, Tennessee, raised by a single mother. In high school, he encountered the music of country star Chris Young and won an 11th grade talent contest with a rendition of "Gettin' You Home (The Black Dress Song)." Then he started filming himself singing songs by Lee Brice, Brantley Gilbert and Alan Jackson, grabbing a significant fan base. In 2014, he had a viral hit with "Don't Go on Me," attracting Nashville's attention. A year later he released an EP and a single, "Used to Love You Sober." The video received more than 15 million views. That momentum led to a record deal with RCA Nashville, which issued the EP *Chapter 1* in early 2016. Brown's self-titled debut album followed in December and debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* country album chart. Singles from the project include "Ain't No Stopping Us Now" and "Thunder in the Rain." Throughout the album, Brown draws on his own life experiences, ranging from being biracial and homeless, to facing abuse by his stepfather. Songwriters on the project include Florida Georgia Line and Chris Young. Lauren Alaina appears on the song "What Ifs."

LUKE BRYAN

IN 2016, GEORGIA NATIVE LUKE BRYAN NOTCHED A PLATINUM ALBUM WITH *KILL THE LIGHTS*, which spent two weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* 200 and spawned chart-topping singles like "Kick the Dust Up," "Strip it Down," "Home Alone Tonight" (a duet with Little Big Town's Karen Fairchild), "Huntin', Fishin' and Lovin' Every Day" and "Move." Bryan headlined the Kill the Lights Tour in stadiums through early 2017. A five-time ACM Awards co-host, Bryan won ACM Entertainer of the Year trophies for 2012 and 2014. After selling 1.7 million tickets on tour and charting six No. 1 singles from his album *Crash My Party*, Bryan graciously accepted the ACM's Gene Weed Special Achievement Award in 2015. His mantle also includes two ACM Awards in the Vocal Event category: "This Is How We Roll" with Florida Georgia Line (2014), and "The Only Way I Know" with Jason Aldean and Eric Church (2012). In addition, he won 2009 trophies for New Artist and New Solo Vocalist. In February, he was in the spotlight performing the national anthem at Super Bowl LI. His latest single is the poignant "Fast."



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CAM

CAM IGNITED HER CAREER WITH "BURNING HOUSE," a heartbreaking song inspired by a bad dream about an ex-boyfriend. Fueled by country radio, fans responded to the emotional ballad in a big way. She earned a platinum single, toured with Brad Paisley and received a Grammy nomination. All of this momentum ushered in her debut album, *Untamed*. Cam released the project through RCA Records in New York and Arista Nashville. Her initial single, the peppy "My Mistake," brought press attention from diverse outlets like *Billboard*, *Perez Hilton* and *The Washington Post*. Cam was born in Southern California, but her family relocated to the northern part of the state when she was a child. Starting in the fourth grade, Cam was part of the Contra Costa Children's Choir, which sang in 14 different languages and toured internationally. She studied psychology research at the University of California-Davis and pursued a music career in Los Angeles before relocating to Nashville. Her fondness for yellow often turns heads. Always incorporated into her wardrobe, the color reflects her cheery and relatable personality. She also shortened her given name of Camaron Ochs to present a friendly nickname to fans. In 2016, she released the striking music video for her single "Mayday," headlined the intimate Burning House Tour in listening rooms across the country and married Adam Weaver in Joshua Tree, California.

KENNY CHESNEY

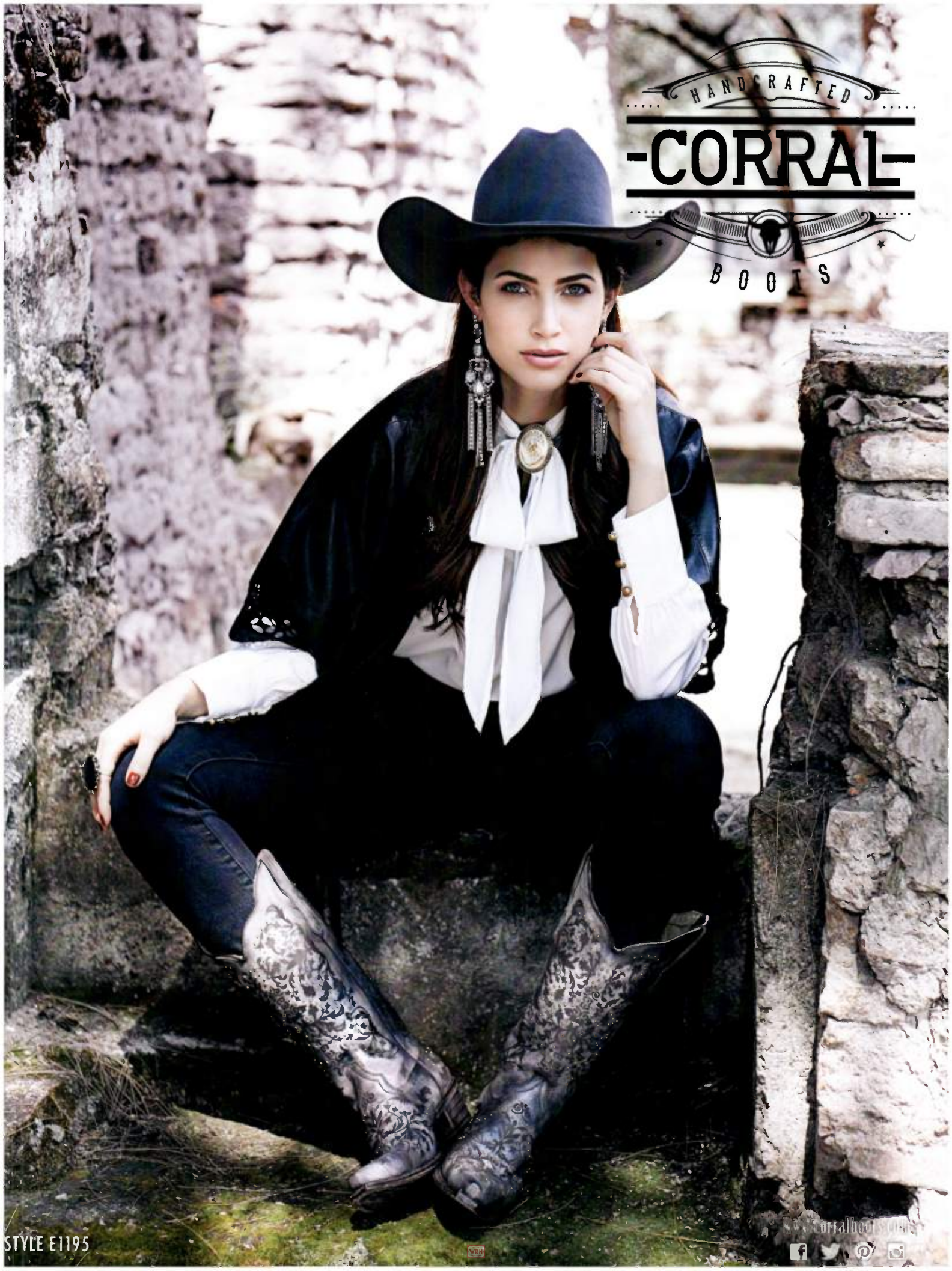
KENNY CHESNEY GAVE LISTENERS A REASON TO SHOUT with *Cosmic Hallelujah*, the latest No. 1 album in his hit parade. Pop star P!nk teamed up with Chesney for "Setting the World on Fire," a magnificent duet that became the country superstar's 27th No. 1 hit on *Billboard*'s country charts. He introduced the album with the lead single "Noise," which made a statement about the distractions of the modern world. With one of the most enduring careers in country music today, Chesney has sold more than 30 million albums since 1994. He claimed his first ACM Award as the 1997 New Male Vocalist. Five years later, he picked up Male Vocalist. Upon winning his first ACM Entertainer trophy, he secured the rare ACM Triple Crown achievement. At the 50th ACM Awards, Chesney accepted the 50th Anniversary Crystal Milestone Award for winning that top award four years in a row (2004-2007). Along the way, he earned trophies for the categories of Single of the Year (2002's "The Good Stuff") and Vocal Event of the Year ("Find Out Who Your Friends Are" with Tim McGraw and Tracy Lawrence). He accepted the 2011 ACM Crystal Milestone Award for selling more than 10.5 million tickets over 11 national tours. Born and raised in East Tennessee, the iconic entertainer headlined the Spread the Love Tour in 2016. His new single is titled "The Bar at the End of the World."



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
(artist and producer)

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SONG OF THE YEAR
(artist and songwriter)

ERIC CHURCH

WHEN ERIC CHURCH SINGS ABOUT HAVING A RECORD YEAR, he's actually diving into his vinyl collection to get over a broken heart. Country listeners found the lyrics incredibly relatable and sent the moody single to No. 1. Prior to that, the North Carolina native caught everyone off guard with *Mr. Misunderstood*, an unannounced album that arrived at retailers (and at the doorstep of his premium fan club members in the form of a white vinyl record) in late 2015. The title track recalls a young man whose life is changed by music, an early romance and the determination to achieve his dreams by paying his dues. That storyline echoes Church's own journey to country stardom. After battling to get a foothold on the charts, Church won his first ACM trophy as New Solo Vocalist of the Year for 2010. He followed with 2012 awards for the Album *Chief* and the Vocal Event "The Only Way I Know" with Jason Aldean and Luke Bryan. He received the 2014 ACM Jim Reeves International Award in recognition of his extensive European tour. He added another ACM trophy in 2015 for the "Mr. Misunderstood" music video. His No. 1 hits include "Drink in My Hand," "Springsteen," "Give Me Back My Hometown," "Talledega," and "Raise 'Em Up" (a duet with Keith Urban). His newest single is "Kill a Word" featuring Rhiannon Giddens.

BRANDY CLARK

BRANDY CLARK HAD A BIG YEAR WITH *BIG DAY IN A SMALL TOWN*, one of the most critically-acclaimed country albums of 2016. "Girl Next Door" became her first Top 40 country hit and she joined good friend Jennifer Nettles on tour. The *Nashville Scene* put Clark on the cover of its annual country music critics' poll in January, after a strong showing in the songwriter, female vocalist, single and album categories. With songs like "Hold My Hand" and "Stripes," Clark's debut album *12 Stories* prompted numerous media profiles detailing her unusual entry into country music. Clark grew up in the small town of Morton, Washington. Her father died in a logging accident and her mother worked in the mill office. Clark was also employed in the lumber industry but dreamed of a country music career like her heroes Patsy Cline, Loretta Lynn and Merle Haggard. She moved to Nashville in the late '90s to be an artist, then started to develop her songwriting talent. In 2010, she landed two songs on Reba's album, *All the Women I Am*, then broke through as a writer on The Band Perry's "Better Dig Two." Credits like Miranda Lambert's "Mama's Broken Heart" and Kacey Musgraves' "Follow Your Arrow" brought ACM Song of the Year nominations. She begins a co-headlining tour with Charlie Worsham in early April.



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DAN + SHAY

DAN + SHAY CLIMBED TO NO. 1 ON THE COUNTRY CHART in 2016 with "From the Ground Up," the lead single from their latest album *Obsessed*. The duo performed the song on *The Bachelorette* over the summer, helping the track reach gold certification. These gentlemen have kept their momentum going since first enchanting listeners in 2014 with "19 You + Me," their platinum debut single. Dan + Shay used the last lyric of that song as the corresponding album's title, *Where It All Began*. Dan Smyers grew up in suburban Pittsburgh while Shay Mooney is a native of Natural Dam, Arkansas. They met at a late-night jam session at Smyers' house in 2012 and found a musical bond in their harmony-driven singing and detailed songwriting. They cite Rascal Flatts, Tim McGraw and Keith Urban as musical influences, along with '90s pop and R&B. The duo built on their early success with the breezy "Show You Off" and a sparkling rendition of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas." They notched their first No. 1 single in 2015 with "Nothin' Like You," a sweet ode to romance and individuality. Shay Mooney is a co-writer on Rascal Flatts' No. 1 hit, "I Like the Sound of That." Dan + Shay released a thoughtful new single, "How Not To," in September. Their headlining *Obsessed* Tour is now underway.

ELI YOUNG BAND

ELI YOUNG BAND OFFERED A UNIQUE SPIN ON SPIRITUALITY with "Saltwater Gospel," a feel-good song that hints at more music to come. The ensemble cranked it up with *Turn It On*, a 2015 digital EP that ushered in four original tunes. The Texas-based band also landed a country dance hit with "Honey I'm Good," a collaboration with pop star Andy Grammer. Country fans still raise a glass to the band's smash(ed) single, "Drunk Last Night," which reached platinum in 2015. The early buzz on that single helped the band's corresponding album, *10,000 Towns*, debut at No. 1 on *Billboard*'s country albums chart in 2014. Eli Young Band examined the heartbreak and thrill of an aspiring artist in their ACM-nominated anthem, "Even If It Breaks Your Heart." The song's success followed the double-platinum popularity of "Crazy Girl," the most-played single of 2011 and an ACM Award-winning Song of the Year. Their catalog includes Top 40 singles like "Always the Love Songs" and "When It Rains," which established their presence at country radio in the early 2000s. More recently they have satisfied fans with singles like "Say Goodnight," "Dust" and "Turn It On." Eli Young Band is lead singer Mike Eli, guitarist James Young, bassist Jon Jones and drummer Chris Thompson. This is their fifth nomination for ACM Vocal Group of the Year.



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VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

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ALBUM OF THE YEAR
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE, THE REIGNING ACM DUO OF THE YEAR, SHOWED THEIR ROMANTIC SIDE WITH "H.O.L.Y." Undeniably one of the biggest love songs of the year, the single reached double-platinum within a month and spent 18 weeks at No. 1 on *Billboard's* Hot Country Songs chart. By year's end, "H.O.L.Y." was the most-streamed and top-selling country single of 2016. The success ushered in the immediate success of their crowd-pleasing new album, *Dig Your Roots*, and its namesake tour. Florida Georgia Line have been on a hot streak since winning trophies for 2012 New Artist and New Vocal Duo or Group. They also picked up three consecutive Vocal Duo trophies (2013-2015) and a 2014 trophy in the Vocal Event category for "This Is How We Roll," a triple-platinum duet with Luke Bryan. The duo partnered with Tim McGraw for their latest smash, "May We All." Their new single is "God, Your Mama, and Me," featuring the Backstreet Boys, who will join the duo on tour this year.

RHIANNON GIDDENS

RHIANNON GIDDENS' STRIKING VOICE WAS INTRODUCED TO COUNTRY FANS THROUGH "KILL A WORD," a powerful collaboration with Eric Church that is a centerpiece of his album, *Mr. Misunderstood*. Like Church, Giddens grew up in North Carolina. As a founding member of old-time folk group Carolina Chocolate Drops, she won a 2010 Grammy in the best traditional folk album category for *Negro Jig*. Although she remains a member of the band, frequently playing fiddle and banjo along with singing, Giddens often explores other avenues to spread her music. She earned raves for her performance in the *Another Day, Another Time* concert film inspired the 2013 movie, *Inside Llewyn Davis*. A year later, she was part of a collective behind *Lost on the River: The New Basement Tapes*, a compilation of songs based on Bob Dylan's unreleased, unfinished lyrics. She embarked on a solo career in 2015 with *Tomorrow Is My Turn*. Recorded in Nashville and Los Angeles, that diverse album includes her versions of Dolly Parton's "Don't Let It Trouble Your Mind" and Patsy Cline's "She's Got You," along with songs infused with gospel, jazz and blues. In February, she returned to the spotlight with an internationally acclaimed album, *Freedom Highway*, which she recorded in Louisiana in just eight days. A gifted actress, Giddens also has a recurring role as Hallie Jordan on CMT's *Nashville*.



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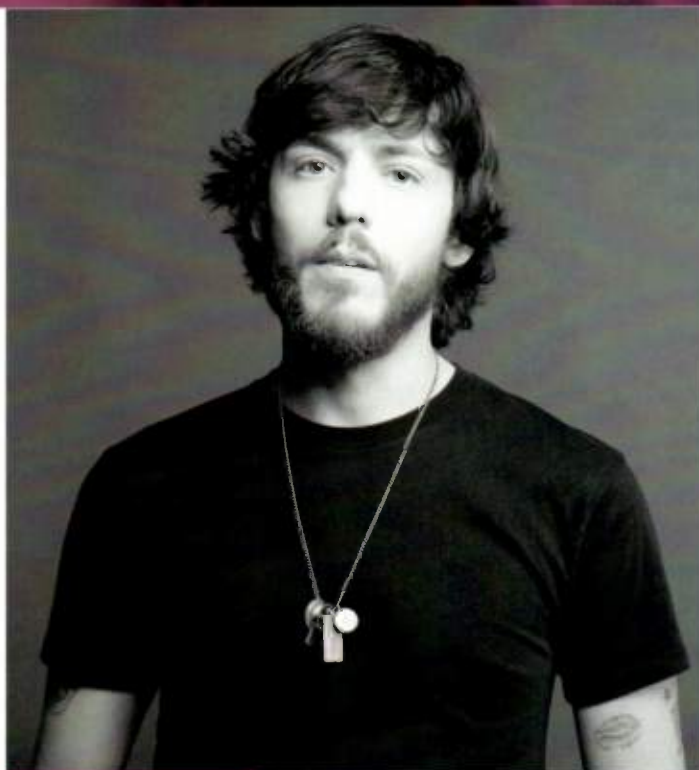
SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

ASHLEY GORLEY

ASHLEY GORLEY HAS WRITTEN SOME OF THE MOST POPULAR COUNTRY SONGS of the last decade for superstars and rising artists alike. In 2016 he was named Nashville Songwriters Association International (NSAI) Songwriter of the Year for the second time. He earned his first recognition from the ACM when Trace Adkins' "You're Gonna Miss This" landed in the 2005 Song of the Year category. Since then, he's written for Jason Aldean ("Just Gettin' Started," "Tonight Looks Good on You"), Luke Bryan ("Kick the Dust Up," "That's My Kind of Night"), Brad Paisley ("American Saturday Night," "Then"), and Carrie Underwood ("Good Girl," "Heartbeat"). Within the last year, artists such as Jake Owen ("American Country Love Song"), Blake Shelton ("Guy With a Girl") and Cole Swindell ("You Should Be Here") benefitted from his songwriting craft. Gorley grew up in Danville, Kentucky, and moved to Nashville to attend Belmont University. A founder of Tape Room Music, Gorley is known for discovering and nurturing songwriting talent — not to mention his relentless work ethic. His most recent hits include Frankie Ballard's "Young & Crazy," Lee Brice's "That Don't Sound Like You," Chase Bryant's "Little Bit of You," Billy Currington's "Don't It," Dan + Shay's "Nothin' Like You," Brett Eldredge's "Don't Ya," Joe Nichols' "Yeah," and Thomas Rhett's "T-Shirt." This is his fourth consecutive nomination for ACM Songwriter of the Year.

CHRIS JANSON

CHRIS JANSON FINALLY FOUND SMOOTH SAILING WITH "BUY ME A BOAT," a platinum-certified smash that followed a decade of paying dues in Nashville. A Missouri native, Janson moved to Nashville at age 18 after turning down a scholarship to study veterinary medicine. He gained a following by playing Tootsies Orchid Lounge in downtown Nashville, with his dynamic stage presence appealing to locals and tourists alike. For a year at Tootsies, he performed four shows a day. Once his reputation spread, he signed two label deals, but neither one panned out. However, his songwriting career kept him going, particularly with Tim McGraw's "Truck Yeah." For the sake of having something new to promote on a summer tour, Janson recorded and released "Buy Me a Boat" independently. Bobby Bones aired it on his national radio show simply because he liked it, then his listeners sent it to No. 1 on the iTunes country chart. CMT got on board and paid for a music video to be shot. The Grand Ole Opry has welcomed him to the stage more than a hundred times. In 2015, Janson released his debut album, *Buy Me a Boat*, via Warner Music Nashville. His latest singles include "Power of Positive Drinkin'" and "Holdin' Her." He also co-wrote Tim McGraw's 2016 single, "How I'll Always Be." Look for Janson on tour with Sam Hunt this year.



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NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Chris Janson

NEW VOCAL DUO GROUP OF THE YEAR

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“Fire Away” Chris Stapleton
(song co-written by Danny Green)

“Peter Pan” Kelsea Ballerini
(song co-written by Jesse Lee)

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VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

ELLE KING

ELLE KING RULED THE ROCK AND ALTERNATIVE CHARTS WITH "EX'S AND OH'S," an international success that positioned her as an in-your-face songwriter and performer. The double-platinum anthem earned two Grammy nominations and inspired an eye-catching video with babes aplenty — incidentally, all hunky men. The following year she ascended to No. 1 on the country chart with "Different For Girls," a duet with Dierks Bentley that also earned a Grammy nod. For King, country music is indeed part of her musical approach. She cites women like Aretha Franklin, Wanda Jackson and Dolly Parton as key influences, along with AC/DC and soul star Otis Redding. She is the daughter of comedian Rob Schneider and model London King. Growing up she was encouraged by her stepfather to constantly discover new music. As a teen in New York City, she sneaked into music venues by brandishing her fake ID, with a goal to get on stage. She released an EP in 2012 and performed "Playing for Keeps" on *Late Night With David Letterman*. RCA Records issued a full-length album, *Love Stuff*, in 2015. The gold-certified collection shows off her raspy vocals and banjo prowess while retaining her undeniable attitude. The heavily-tattooed singer recorded "Good Girls" for the latest *Ghostbusters* soundtrack and scored another Top 10 rock hit with "America's Sweetheart" — a title she's not at all interested in attaining.

LADY ANTEBELLUM

LADY ANTEBELLUM SWEEPED INTO 2017 BY ANNOUNCING A NEW ALBUM, NEW SINGLE AND NEW WORLD TOUR. "You Look Good" made an instant impact at country radio as listeners immediately recognized the superb blend of Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott and Dave Haywood. For the first time, the band used a horn section — another example the group's willingness to experiment. Lady A took a break in 2016 as its members pursued solo projects. Kelley released a solo album that focused on his soulful voice and ear for exceptional songwriting. Scott issued the Grammy-winning inspirational album, *Love Remains*. Haywood produced an EP by rising band Post Monroe. Reuniting at the Ryman Auditorium, Lady Antebellum hosted the 2016 ACM Honors, televised for the first time in primetime on CBS. Their history with the ACM stretches back to winning the 2007 statuette for New Vocal Duo or Group, following "Love Don't Live Here." They achieved their first No. 1 single in 2009 with the Grammy-winning "Run to You." Their mantle grew more crowded with "Need You Now," an instant classic that led to ACM trophies in the Single, Song, and Album categories, as well as five Grammys. They have won three consecutive ACM Vocal Group trophies (2009-2011) as well as the 2012 Jim Reeves International Award. Their upcoming You Look Good Tour will visit six countries. Produced by busbee, the album *Heart Break* arrives on June 9.



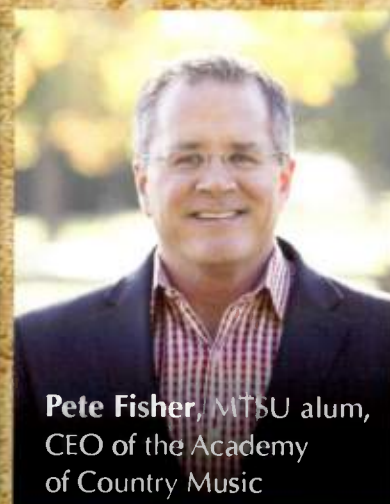
NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR



Hillary Scott,
MTSU alum, multiple
award-winning performer

Joseph L. Jones



Pete Fisher, MTSU alum,
CEO of the Academy
of Country Music

Kate Kavanagh

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NOMINATED FOR

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

LUKE LAIRD

LUKE LAIRD HAS BEEN A FORMIDABLE PRESENCE ON THE COUNTRY CHART FOR A DECADE. His co-writing sessions with Carrie Underwood have yielded hits like "Last Name," "So Small," "Mama's Song," "Undo It" and "Temporary Home." Stars like Blake Shelton ("Hillbilly Bone"), Sara Evans ("A Little Bit Stronger") and Rodney Atkins ("Take a Back Road") pulled from his catalog, while Eric Church emerged as a regular co-writer on hits like "Drink in My Hand," "Give Me Back My Hometown," and "Talladega." Laird grew up in Hartsford, Pennsylvania, and enrolled at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro to study the music industry. He gained early cuts with Lee Ann Womack, Tim McGraw and Rascal Flatts. His abundant catalog includes Little Big Town's "Pontoon," Frankie Ballard's "Sunshine & Whiskey," Brad Paisley's "Beat This Summer" and Kenny Chesney's "American Kids." Newer credits include Luke Bryan's "I See You" and "Fast," Miranda Lambert's "Smokin' and Drinkin'," Tim McGraw's "Diamond Rings and Old Barstools" and Jon Pardi's "Head Over Boots." Laird and his wife, Beth, launched Nashville-based publishing company and management company Creative Nation in 2011. Their roster includes Barry Dean, Natalie Hemby, Lori McKenna and Steve Moakler. Laird won his first ACM Award as a producer for Kacey Musgraves' *Same Trailer, Different Park*. He won ACM Songwriter of the Year for 2014. This is his fifth nomination in the category.

MIRANDA LAMBERT

MIRANDA LAMBERT IS THE REIGNING ACM FEMALE VOCALIST, an award she's received seven consecutive years. In 2016 she temporarily stepped out of the spotlight to create *The Weight of These Wings*, a double album that landed on the country albums chart at No. 1 in November. Lambert wrote or co-wrote 20 of the album's 24 tracks. The first disc is titled *The Nerve*; the second is titled *The Heart*. The project received praise from *Billboard*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Entertainment Weekly*, NPR, *Rolling Stone* and *Variety*, while the lead single, "Vice," earned two Grammy nominations. Of course the native of Lindale, Texas, is no stranger to industry acclaim. She has acquired numerous ACM trophies for hits like "Smokin' and Drinkin'," "Automatic," "Mama's Broken Heart," "We Were Us," "Over," "Over You," "The House That Built Me" and "White Liar," as well as additional Album of the Year victories for *Platinum* (which was officially certified platinum in 2016), *Four the Record*, *Revolution*, and *Crazy Ex-Girlfriend*. That impressive success proves her 2006 win for ACM New Female Vocalist was well-deserved. She toured the U.S. on her own headlining Keeper of the Flame Tour as well as a special guest on Kenny Chesney's Spread the Love tour. She graciously accepted the first-ever ACM Merle Haggard Spirit Award at ACM Honors in 2016. Her new single is the self-penned "We Should Be Friends."



NOMINATED FOR

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR (artist and songwriter)
VIDEO OF THE YEAR **PRESENTED BY XFINITY**

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OUR ACM AWARD NOMINEE



LUKE LAIRD

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR





NOMINATED FOR

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

CHRIS LANE

CHRIS LANE CATAPULTED INTO COUNTRY STARDOM with “Fix,” a sensational No. 1 single that surpassed 30 million plays on Spotify and achieved gold status. Like Sam Hunt and Florida Georgia Line before him, Lane mashed up urban styles with a country influence to rise from underground favorite to mainstream success. Lane grew up in Kernersville, North Carolina, focused on an athletic career. Although he played baseball in college, a number of injuries prevented him from going to the next level. Instead he picked up the guitar and started playing in cover bands around his hometown. He independently released an album credited to Chris Lane Band in 2012, then found modest success on the country airplay chart with “Broken Windshield View” in 2014. The relationships he made while promoting that song helped him emerge with “Fix,” an undeniable pop-country breakout hit. In late 2015, Lane issued his debut solo album, *Girl Problems*, which puts his soaring vocals amid musical styles ranging from ‘80s rock and disco, to modern country and feel-good pop. By this time, Lane had accumulated a strong fan base by touring with Florida Georgia Line, Dustin Lynch and Rascal Flatts. In addition to more dates with Florida Georgia Line in 2017, he will open select shows for Tim McGraw and Faith Hill’s Soul2Soul World Tour. His romantic new single is “For Her.”

HILLARY LINDSEY

HILLARY LINDSEY MOVED TO NASHVILLE FROM WASHINGTON, GEORGIA, in 1994 to build a career as an artist. She studied the music industry and landed a publishing deal, then a record deal. But after the label contract fell apart, she took some time to regroup — and then started writing again. Since that time she has solidified her reputation as one of Nashville’s most-recorded songwriters. Sara Evans, Lady Antebellum and Martina McBride climbed the charts with her compositions. Carrie Underwood has built nearly her entire repertoire around Lindsey’s talent for co-writing, with credits on 12 singles ranging from “Jesus, Take the Wheel” to “Dirty Laundry.” In 2016 she teamed with Lady Gaga to write “A-Yo,” “Million Reasons,” and “Grigio Girls” for the pop superstar’s album *Joanne*. Lindsey also sang in Lady Gaga’s band on *Saturday Night Live*. Prior to that, she partnered with her pals in The Love Junkies (the collective that includes Lindsey, Lori McKenna, and Liz Rose) to write the Grammy-winning “Girl Crush,” recorded by Little Big Town. Additional credits include Gary Allan’s “Every Storm (Runs Out of Rain),” Florida Georgia Line’s “God, Your Mama and Me” (featuring the Backstreet Boys), and Tim McGraw’s “Shotgun Rider.” She is currently nominated for ACM Song of the Year with Keith Urban’s “Blue Ain’t Your Color.” This is her first nomination in the Songwriter of the Year category.



NOMINATED FOR

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR

LITTLE BIG TOWN

THE REIGNING ACM VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR, Little Big Town is still populated with the original four members, even as their audience has grown to millions. The band accepted the ACM Crystal Milestone award last year in recognition of “Girl Crush,” which spent 13 consecutive weeks at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Hot Country Songs chart — the longest run for a group since 1959. The smoldering single reached triple-platinum status, won two Grammys, and paved the way to multiple prime-time performances. The band has accepted ACM trophies for Vocal Group (2012, 2014, 2015), Video (“Tornado”) and Vocal Event (“Smokin’ and Drinkin’” with Miranda Lambert). In 2016, Little Big Town collaborated with pop star Pharrell Williams for a surprise EP, *Wanderlust*. Of course, country fans who love harmony singing have adored Karen Fairchild, Kimberly Schlapman, Phillip Sweet and Jimi Westbrook for more than a decade. In 2005, the quartet landed their first Top 10 hit with “Boondocks” and won the 2006 ACM Award for New Vocal Duo or Group. Since then they’ve charted hits like “Bring it on Home,” “Little White Church,” “Pontoon” and “Day Drinking.” The band received another gold plaque in 2016 for their album *Pain Killer*. A new album, *The Breaker*, arrived in February, coinciding with the start of a Ryman Auditorium residency. Taylor Swift wrote the album’s emotional lead single, “Better Man.”



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR



NOMINATED FOR

NEW VOCAL DUO
OR GROUP OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

LOCASH

LOCASH IS RIDING HIGH AFTER MORE THAN A DECADE IN THE TRENCHES. Uplifting and up-tempo, “I Love This Life” infiltrated the airwaves in 2015. A year later, their flirtatious follow-up, “I Know Somebody,” became their first No. 1 single. By then, the duo of Chris Lucas and Preston Brust had already achieved notoriety as songwriters with cuts like Tim McGraw’s “Truck Yeah” and Keith Urban’s “You Gonna Fly.” (Songwriting talent runs in Brust’s family, as his great-uncle Albert E. Brumley wrote “I’ll Fly Away.”) Lucas grew up on ‘80s rock and ‘90s R&B, but fell in love with country music after his dad gave him seats to a Garth Brooks concert. Lucas moved to Nashville in the late ‘90s and landed a job at the Wildhorse Saloon. In 2002, he met Brust, a fan of Quiet Riot and Motley Crue who had relocated to Nashville from Kokomo, Indiana. Working together at the venue as emcees and musicians, their dynamic chemistry was undeniable. They formed a band called LoCash Cowboys, a riff on the name of Brust’s childhood pals — the Locash Money Boys. Starting in 2010, the band enjoyed modest success at country radio and accumulated thousands of fans on the road. Before releasing new music, they simplified their name to LOCASH. An album, *The Fighters*, arrived in 2016. Their new single is “Ring On Every Finger.”



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

MADDIE & TAE

MADDIE & TAE SPREAD THEIR WINGS WITH "FLY," an empowering Top 10 single they wrote about inner strength and learning as you go. As their second hit, it showed a softer side of the duo, who glided up to No. 1 on the country chart in 2014 with "Girl in a Country Song." Maddie Marlow is a native of Sugar Land, Texas, and Tae Dye hails from Ada, Oklahoma. Growing up as fans of the Dixie Chicks, Marlow and Dye met at the age of 15 through a vocal coach and spent a summer in Nashville learning about music publishing. After interest from Big Machine Label Group, Marlow decided against college and Dye graduated high school early in order to relocate to Nashville. They wrote "Girl in a Country Song" with producer Aaron Scherz on St. Patrick's Day — and luck was on their side. The humorous single rose to platinum status and reminded listeners that women in country music are more than just pretty characters. Following an EP in 2014, Maddie & Tae released their full-length debut album, *Start Here*, in 2015. The duo co-wrote all 11 songs on the album. In early 2016, "Fly" achieved gold status. In addition to preparing their own fashionable capsule collection for the Bloomingdale's AQUA line, the duo hooked more fans with their singles "Shut Up and Fish" and "Sierra." The pair is currently working on a new album.

SHANE McANALLY

SHANE McANALLY HAS WRITTEN FOR NEARLY EVERY ACM NOMINEE THIS YEAR, even grabbing a Song of the Year nomination for Miranda Lambert's "Vice." His 2016 hot streak also includes Dierks Bentley and Elle King's "Different for Girls," Brothers Osborne's "Stay a Little Longer," and Thomas Rhett's "T-Shirt." He's received past ACM nods for Song of the Year for Kenny Chesney's "American Kids," Lambert's "Mama's Broken Heart" and Kacey Musgraves' "Follow Your Arrow." His producer credits include Sam Hunt's *Montevallo*, Old Dominion's *Meat and Candy*, and the all-star vocal event, "Forever Country," as well as Musgraves' *Same Trailer Different Park* (2013 ACM Album of the Year), *Pageant Material* and *A Very Kacey Christmas*. McAnally was named ACM Songwriter of the Year for 2013. He grew up in Texas and came to Nashville as an artist, but found more success as a songwriter as stars lined up for his songs: Kenny Chesney's "Somewhere With You," Luke Bryan's "Kiss Tomorrow Goodbye," Jake Owen's "Alone With You," The Band Perry's "Better Dig Two," and Lady Antebellum's "Downtown." Newer credits include Midland's "Drinkin' Problem," William Michael Morgan's "I Met a Girl," and Keith Urban's "John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16."



NOMINATED FOR

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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SHANE McANALLY

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR

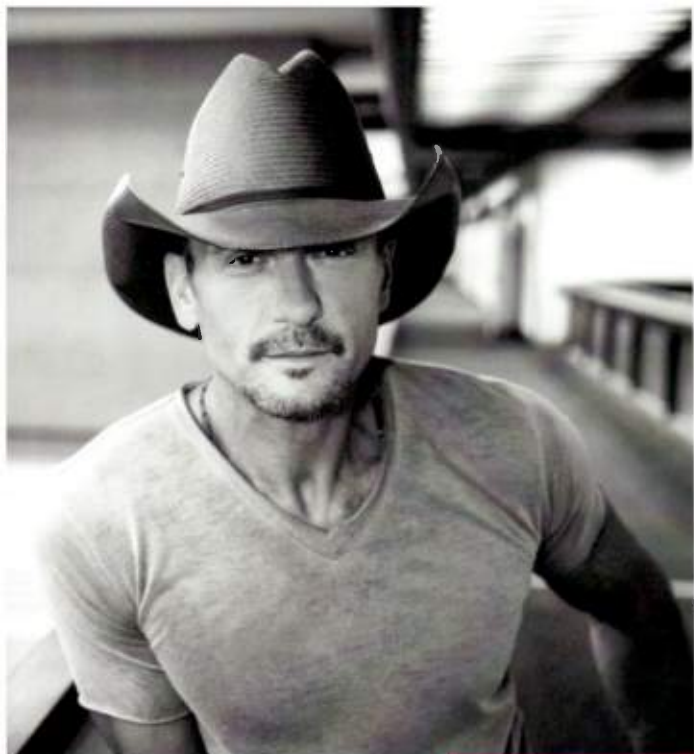
"Vice" (Miranda Lambert)

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

"Forever Country"

(Artists of Then, Now & Forever)





NOMINATED FOR

SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (artist and producer)
SONG OF THE YEAR
VIDEO OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY XFINITY
VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

TIM MCGRAW

TIM MCGRAW IS THAT RARE MODERN SUPERSTAR with a history that stretches back nearly 25 years. That sense of perspective brought an important dimension to "Humble and Kind," an artistic highlight in the singer's long career. Lori McKenna wrote the thoughtful song as advice to her own children, yet families everywhere responded to the lyrics. The single climbed to platinum certification and inspired a book of the same name. The track comes from the entertainer's latest album, *Damn Country Music*, which also spawned the hits "Top of the World" and "How I'll Always Be." In addition, McGraw guest-starred on Big & Rich's "Lovin' Lately" and Florida Georgia Line's "May We All." He 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. McGraw's mantle boasts two ACM Awards for Male Vocalist (1998, 1999), five trophies for "It's Your Love" (with Faith Hill) and three for "Live Like You Were Dying." The cinematic video for 2013's "Highway Don't Care" also picked up an ACM statuette. McGraw and Hill's dazzling Soul 2 Soul Tour was rewarded with the ACM's 2006 Career Achievement Award. The couple will return to the road in a new incarnation of Soul 2 Soul this spring. Their elegant duet, "Keep Your Eyes on Me," appears on the soundtrack to McGraw's latest movie, *The Shack*.

LORI MCKENNA

LORI MCKENNA HAS NEVER LIVED IN NASHVILLE, yet she's gradually become one of the most desirable co-writers in Music City. At her kitchen table in Stoughton, Massachusetts, she wrote a heartfelt message to her five kids in the form of "Humble and Kind." Tim McGraw carried the song to No. 1 and it is nominated this year for ACM Song of the Year. "Humble and Kind" also led to McKenna winning her second consecutive Grammy for Country Song of the Year. The first one was for Little Big Town's triple-platinum single, "Girl Crush." One of McKenna's earliest champions was Faith Hill, who recorded "Stealing Kisses" for 2005's *Fireflies*. McKenna continued recording her own albums as more stars cut her songs, including Hunter Hayes ("I Want Crazy") and Keith Urban ("The Luxury of Knowing"). Listeners with an appreciation for craftsmanship studied songs like "How to Survive," "Numbered Doors," and "Your Next Lover." When McKenna was 7, her mother Lorraine passed away, a life-changing event that inspired the songs "Leaving This Life" and "Still Down Here." She released a new album, *The Bird & The Rifle*, in 2016. The project received a Grammy nod for Best Americana Album, while "Wreck You" was up for Best American Roots Performance and Best American Roots Song. She is a co-writer on Little Big Town's new single, "Happy People."



NOMINATED FOR

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR

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NOMINATED FOR

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
 NEW FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
 PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE
 ALBUM OF THE YEAR (artist and producer)
 SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (artist and producer)

MAREN MORRIS

COUNTRY FANS SANG THE PRAISES OF "MY CHURCH" as the 2016 breakout hit from Texas native Maren Morris ascended the chart. Although she invokes musical heroes like Hank Williams and Johnny Cash in her lyrics, the dynamic single offers a new slant on spirituality. Growing up, Morris would sing in her parents' beauty shop and started learning how to play guitar when she was 12. In high school, she began playing in bars whenever she could get in. Her tastes ran from Chaka Khan to Clint Black, indicating an early comfort level with R&B and country music. She moved to Nashville at 19. Inspired by artists like Sheryl Crow, Dixie Chicks and Patty Griffin, she started crafting original material. After writing "My Church" with busbee, she stashed it away in case she ever landed a record deal. Her debut album *HERO* arrived at No. 1 on the *Billboard* country albums chart in June. A month later, "My Church" was certified platinum. She toured North America as a guest on Keith Urban's tour, then returned to the airwaves with the upbeat single "80s Mercedes." Highlights of 2016 include four Grammy nominations and a Grammy win for Best Country Solo Performance, as well as two collaborations with Alicia Keys (for ACM Honors and *CMT Crossroads*) and an appearance on *Saturday Night Live*. Following a number of club dates, she will support Sam Hunt on tour starting in June. Morris has already been named this year's ACM New Female Vocalist of the Year Presented by T-Mobile.

KACEY MUSGRAVES

KACEY MUSGRAVES MAY NOT BE CUT OUT FOR BEAUTY PAGEANTS, but it's likely she'd win talent competitions with her witty songwriting, sweet voice and clever music videos. She topped the *Billboard* country albums chart with 2015's *Pageant Material* and indulged her love of kitschy country with the music video for "Biscuits." She followed that with another music video co-starring one of her heroes, Willie Nelson, singing a duet of his lesser-known gem, "Are You Sure?" Other musical contributions include her most delightful rendition of "A Spoonful of Sugar" for the *We Love Disney* compilation, as well as lending vocals to "Guess You Had to Be There" on Brian Wilson's album, *No Pier Pressure*. Her composition "You Can't Stop Me" also landed in the series Nashville. As a new artist, Musgraves brought a fresh perspective to country music with *Same Trailer Different Park*, a collection that candidly portrayed small-town life on "Merry Go Round" and offered open-minded social commentary on "Follow Your Arrow." *Same Trailer Different Park* won the 2013 ACM trophy for Album of the Year. After touring with the likes of Kenny Chesney and Katy Perry, the East Texas native opened George Strait's concerts in Las Vegas in 2016 and 2017. She also released her first holiday album, *A Very Kacey Christmas*. She will open shows for Willie Nelson and John Prine later this year.



NOMINATED FOR

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

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NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

OLD DOMINION

OLD DOMINION ENTERED INTO A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNTRY RADIO when the band shot to No. 1 with "Break Up With Him." That breakthrough platinum single led the band to receive the 2015 ACM Award for New Vocal Duo or Group of the Year. Four of the five members have connections to Virginia, which prompted the band's name. Singer Matt Ramsey and drummer Whit Sellers met in middle school around Roanoke. Sellers befriended guitarist Brad Tursi and bassist Geoff Sprung at Harrisonburg's James Madison University. Separately, they relocated to Nashville to pursue music careers, eventually meeting up with Detroit-raised multi-instrumentalist Trevor Rosen. Written by all five members of the band, "Break Up With Him" first broke through at SiriusXM's The Highway, then crossed over to terrestrial radio. In 2016, the band opened stadium shows for Kenny Chesney and earned gold certifications for the single "Snapback" as well as their debut album *Meat and Candy*. By year's end, "Song For Another Time" returned the band to the top of the country airplay chart. Individual band members have written songs for Dierks Bentley, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Blake Shelton, and Keith Urban. The band recently released "No Such Thing As a Broken Heart," the first single from its upcoming album.

JON PARDI

JON PARDI EARNED A RADIANT RESPONSE FROM CALIFORNIA SUNRISE, an album that echoes the music of his honky-tonk heroes. Pardi grew up in Northern California and gained an early interest in country music. He started writing songs at 12, joined a band at 14 and decided to move to Nashville at 19. Along the way he has worked for a number of unexpected employers — from a grocery store and a car dealership, to operating machinery and being a lifeguard. In time, Pardi landed a record deal and scored his first hit, "Up All Night," from his debut album *Write You a Song*. The single was certified gold, giving him enough momentum to play clubs across the country and build a substantial fan base. "Head Over Boots," the lead single from *California Sunrise*, became the inescapable feel-good tune of 2016. Country fans who latched onto his charisma from the very beginning found themselves shoulder to shoulder with new listeners as Pardi's approach to music appeals to traditionalists and contemporary fans alike. "Head Over Boots" was certified platinum, setting the stage for a successful follow-up, "Dirt on My Boots." This year he is warming up the crowds for Dierks Bentley's headlining tour. Pardi has already been named this year's ACM New Male Vocalist of the Year Presented by T-Mobile.



NOMINATED FOR

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

P!NK

P!NK BLAZED A TRAIL TO NO. 1 WITH "SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE," a Grammy-nominated duet with Kenny Chesney from his newest album, *Cosmic Hallelujah*. It may have been her first appearance at country radio, but she's no stranger to dominating the charts with collaborations. In the late '90s, she recorded with the R&B bands Basic Instinct and Choice. In 2000, her career exploded with *Can't Take Me Home*, an album that spawned three hit singles and a tour with 'N Sync. Two years later, she teamed with Christina Aguilera, Mya and Lil' Kim for "Lady Marmalade" from *Moulin Rouge*, while 2012's "Just Give Me a Reason" (from the No. 1 album *The Truth About Love*) featured Nate Ruess. Although she's clearly a team player, P!nk is an unquestionably singular talent, incorporating aerial acrobatics and power anthems into her impressive arena shows. She was born as Alecia Moore and grew up in Doylestown, Pennsylvania. She takes her name from a character named Mr. Pink in the film *Reservoir Dogs*. Singles like "So What," "Raise Your Glass," "Get the Party Started," "Try" and "Blow Me (One Last Kiss)" remain crowd favorites. *Rose Ave.*, an exquisite duet project with her friend Dallas Green (and credited to You+Me) landed in 2014. P!nk provided the raging single "Just Like Fire" to the 2016 film, *Alice Through the Looking Glass*.



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

CASSADEE POPE

CASSADEE POPE CONTINUES HER UNIQUE JOURNEY THROUGH COUNTRY MUSIC, going from a punk-pop band to reality TV to a No. 1 country single. Pope grew up in West Palm Beach, Florida, and began developing her singing talent in middle school. In 2008, she and guitarist Mike Gentile formed the band Hey Monday. Their demo was discovered by Fall Out Boy's Pete Wentz, who signed them to a record on his own Decaydance label, in a joint venture with Columbia Records. Hey Monday released a full-length album later that year, followed by three EPs over the next three years. The band went on hiatus while Pope pursued an opportunity to sing on *The Voice*. As a member of Team Blake, she won Season 3 and landed a record deal with Big Machine Label Group. Her platinum single, "Wasting All These Tears," arrived in June 2013; in October, the album *Frame By Frame* debuted at No. 1 on the *Billboard* country chart. She toured with Tim McGraw and Dierks Bentley in 2014, in addition to making multiple TV appearances and releasing a follow-up single, "I Wish I Could Break Your Heart." She reappeared in 2016 with the irresistible Chris Young duet, "Think of You." The recording led to new fans, a Grammy nomination and a spot on Young's tour. Pope released an EP, titled *Summer*, in 2016.



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

RASCAL FLATTS

RASCAL FLATTS RACKED UP THEIR LATEST NO. 1 SINGLE when “I Like the Sound of That” topped the chart last spring. The feel-good, gold-certified single is their 30th Top 10 single in *Billboard*, and their 13th No. 1 hit. The band has continued to tour relentlessly since getting their start in 2000 with “Prayin’ for Daylight.” Throughout their career they have found crossover success on career singles like “Bless the Broken Road,” “Life Is a Highway” and “What Hurts the Most.” Band members Gary LeVox, Jay DeMarcus and Joe Don Rooney spent the late ‘90s playing gigs in downtown Nashville and as sidemen on other artists’ tours. Early in their career, they received the 2000 ACM Award for New Vocal Duet or Group and won 2002 Single of the Year for “I’m Movin’ On.” Remarkably they racked up seven straight years of winning ACM Vocal Group of the Year, for 2002-2008. The ACM honored them with the 2007 Humanitarian Award, while the Grand Ole Opry inducted them in 2011. In 2014, the trio accepted the ACM’s Jim Reeves International Award for promoting country music abroad. They released a Christmas collection, *The Greatest Gift of All*, in 2016. In January, Rascal Flatts announced a new single, “Yours If You Want It.” This is their 12th nomination in the Vocal Group of the Year category.

THOMAS RHETT

THE LOVE AFFAIR CONTINUES BETWEEN THOMAS

RHETT’S “Die a Happy Man” and romantic country fans. In early 2016, it became the first single since 2008 to spend six weeks atop the country airplay chart. In May it surpassed double-platinum status; by the end of the year it landed a Grammy nomination for best country song. But this is no overnight success. Thomas Rhett earned his first No. 1 country single in 2013 with the double-platinum “It Goes Like This.” He returned to the summit with “Make Me Wanna,” which also reached platinum. He titled his new album *Tangled Up* to reflect all the musical styles that influenced its irresistible sound — country, pop, R&B, rap, rock and oldies. Among the other platinum singles on the project, “Crash and Burn” casually shrugs off another failed attempt at finding love, while “T-Shirt” is an irresistibly sexy tune. In October, the Nashville native released a deluxe edition of *Tangled Up* featuring newest hit, “Star of the Show,” along with guest appearances from Danielle Bradbery and Tori Kelly. His songwriting catalog includes material recorded by Jason Aldean (“I Ain’t Ready to Quit”), Lee Brice (“Parking Lot Party”) and Florida Georgia Line (“Round Here”). Following a number of arena shows opening for Aldean in 2016, Thomas Rhett embarked on his international Home Team Tour in February.



NOMINATED FOR

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

SONG OF THE YEAR (artist and songwriter)



Hilton

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CHRIS STAPLETON

CHRIS STAPLETON PICKED UP ACM TROPHIES IN FOUR CATEGORIES

LAST YEAR — Male Vocalist, New Male Vocalist, Album (*Traveller*) and Song ("Nobody to Blame"). The recognition arrived more than a decade after becoming a standout songwriter in the Nashville music community. *Traveller* captured the attention of country traditionalists and mainstream media as Stapleton made the transition from best-kept secret to *Saturday Night Live*. Stapleton grew up in eastern Kentucky. His father, who was a coal miner, introduced a diverse array of music while driving with his son — and those sounds of outlaw country, Ray Charles and Otis Redding seeped in. With encouragement from some Nashville songwriters he knew, Stapleton moved to Music City in 2001. He's had major cuts with Kenny Chesney, Thomas Rhett, Darius Rucker, George Strait and Josh Turner while earning Grammy nominations as a member of a blues-influenced bluegrass band called The SteelDrivers. Stapleton wrote or co-wrote 12 of the 14 songs on *Traveller*. Produced by Dave Cobb, the project achieved double-platinum certification in 2016. Gold singles were also awarded to "Fire Away," "Nobody to Blame," "Parachute" and the title track. His powerful music video for "Fire Away," which shines a light on the often taboo topic of mental illness, is nominated for ACM Video of the Year presented by Xfinity.

NOMINATED FOR

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR
VIDEO OF THE YEAR **PRESENTED BY XFINITY**

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

CARRIE UNDERWOOD ADDED A DAZZLING NEW CHAPTER TO HER CAREER with 2015's *Storyteller*, the superstar's latest platinum album. The project's first three singles — "Smoke Break," "Heartbeat" and "Church Bells" — all achieved gold certifications in 2016. The new music kept fans flocking to shows across North America, Europe and Australia. She also tackled "Oh, Sunday Night," a new theme song for NBC's *Sunday Night Football*. A recipient of the ACM's Triple Crown award, she's received two Entertainer trophies (2008, 2009), three for Female Vocalist (2006-2008) and the New Female Vocalist award (2005). She's also been a winner in the categories of Album (2006, *Some Hearts*), Video (2006, "Before He Cheats") and Single ("Jesus Take the Wheel," 2005). On (2009), quadruple-platinum for *Carnival Ride* (2007), and eight-times platinum for *Some Hearts* (2005). In 2016, she earned the ACM Lifting Lives Gary Haber Award honoring her humanitarian work. She has also received the ACM Gene Weed Special Achievement Award for starring in 2013's *The Sound of Music Live!* Her new single is "The Fighter," an upbeat duet with Keith Urban.



NOMINATED FOR

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR



GARTH BROOKS APPAREL.COM

GARTH BROOKS
SEVENS
BY **CINCH**



NOMINATED FOR

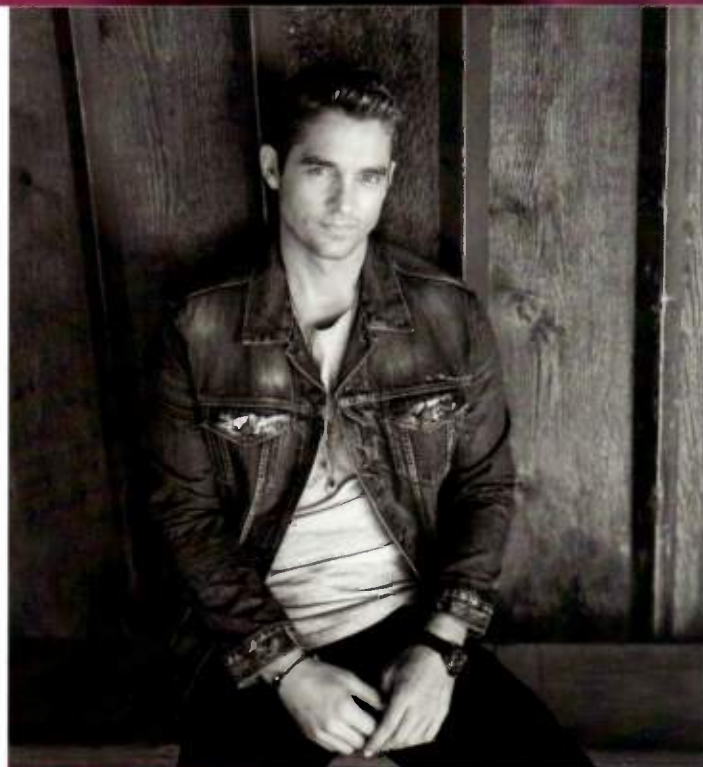
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR (artist and producer)
SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR (artist and producer)
SONG OF THE YEAR

KEITH URBAN

KEITH URBAN WASTED NO TIME IN DOMINATING COUNTRY RADIO IN 2016 — this time with music from his newest album, *Ripcord*. As Urban's latest No. 1 hit, "Blue Ain't Your Color" followed smashes like "Wasted Time," "Break on Me" and "John Cougar, John Deere, John 3:16." Urban experimented with multiple producers to give *Ripcord* some unexpected textures. Not that he needed to reinvent himself. His remarkable achievements already include ACM Awards in the categories of Male Vocalist (2004, 2005), Album (2004, for *Be Here*) and New Male Vocalist (2000). An extraordinary guitarist and an exceptional team player, Urban also shared wins in the music Video category ("Highway Don't Care" with Tim McGraw and Taylor Swift) and for Vocal Event in 2008 ("Start a Band" with Brad Paisley) and 2013 ("We Were Us" with Miranda Lambert). In recognition of his worldwide appeal, he was the 2009 recipient of the ACM's Jim Reeves International Award. After wrapping up his role as a judge on *American Idol* in 2016, the good-natured superstar kicked off his summer tour of arenas and amphitheaters, playing 70 shows on four continents. He accepted the ACM's Mae Boren Axton Award later that year for his longstanding dedication and service to the Academy of Country Music. His new single is "The Fighter," an upbeat duet with Carrie Underwood.

BRETT YOUNG

BRETT YOUNG BOUNDED ONTO THE COUNTRY LANDSCAPE with "Sleep Without You," a sweet introduction to his rich vocal and confident delivery. Young grew up in Orange County in Southern California, and established himself as a promising baseball player. An elbow injury ended his athletic career in 2003. Unlike many artists, Young didn't grow up singing. Instead he played guitar while leading worship services, but only stepped up to the microphone to sing when the leader of the band was unavailable. But in 2014, he heard Gavin Degraw's album *Chariot* and found the inspiration to pursue music. He started writing and recording independent albums before deciding to make the leap from California to Nashville. Healing from a broken heart, he found a receptive community of songwriters to help him tell his story. His demos caught the attention of Big Machine Label Group as well as the publishing arm Big Machine Music. Shows like USA's *Chrisley Knows Best*, MTV's *Real World* and E!'s *Kourtney and Kim Take New York* featured his music. Drawn to emotionally expressive singers, he cites Marvin Gaye, Kenny Rogers and Tim McGraw as primary vocal influences. Following a tour with Brad Paisley, he will join Justin Moore and Lee Brice on the road in 2017. Produced by Dann Huff, Young's self-titled debut album arrived in February. His new single is "In Case You Didn't Know."



NOMINATED FOR

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
PRESENTED BY T-MOBILE

CHRIS YOUNG

CHRIS YOUNG CONTINUES TO MIX TRADITIONAL COUNTRY with heavy metal — in the form of numerous gold and platinum certifications. In 2016, he grabbed gold for his newest album, *I'm Comin' Over*, as well as the huge duet with Cassadee Pope, "Think of You." He also earned platinum status with the sensual single "I'm Comin' Over," while career-making songs like "Aw Naw," "Gettin' You Home" "Who I Am With You" and "You" climbed to that same level. It's been more than 10 years since Young's rise from *Nashville Star* to bona fide country star. He won that competition series in 2006, but neither of the singles from his first RCA album cracked the Top 40. His luck changed in a big way when "Gettin' You Home (The Black Dress Song)" exploded in 2009, becoming the first of five consecutive No. 1 hits. A native of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Young has wanted to be a country singer since he was a freshman in high school. One of his musical heroes, Vince Gill, provides vocals on "Sober Saturday Night," Young's latest Top 10 hit. In 2016, a dream came true with *It Must Be Christmas*, the singer's long-awaited holiday album with guests like Alan Jackson, Brad Paisley and Boyz II Men. In addition to an opening spot on Jason Aldean's tour, Young will perform at festivals throughout the summer.



NOMINATED FOR

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
(artist and producer)

IMPROVING
LIVES
THROUGH THE
POWER OF
MUSIC



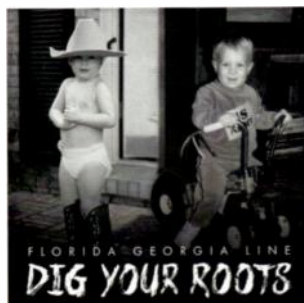
WWW.ACMLIFTINGLIVES.ORG

ALBUM OF THE YEAR



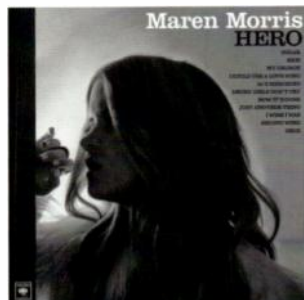
BLACK DIERKS BENTLEY

PRODUCERS ■ Ross Copperman, Arturo Buenahora, Jr.
RECORD LABEL ■ Capitol Records Nashville



DIG YOUR ROOTS FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

PRODUCER ■ Joey Moi
RECORD LABEL ■ Big Machine Label Group



HERO MAREN MORRIS

PRODUCERS ■ busbee, Brad Hill, Maren Morris
RECORD LABEL ■ Columbia Nashville



RIPCORD KEITH URBAN

PRODUCERS ■ Jeff Bhasker, busbee, Nathan Chapman, Nitzan Kaikov, Dann Huff, Tyler Johnson, Johnny Price, Nile Rodgers, Keith Urban, Greg Wells
RECORD LABELS ■ Hit Red Records, Capitol Records Nashville



THE WEIGHT OF THESE WINGS MIRANDA LAMBERT

PRODUCERS ■ Frank Liddell, Eric Masse, Glenn Worf
RECORD LABELS ■ RCA Nashville, Vanner Records

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SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR



"BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR"

KEITH URBAN

PRODUCERS ■ Dann Huff, Keith Urban

RECORD LABELS ■ Hit Red Records, Capitol Records Nashville



"H.O.L.Y."

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

PRODUCER ■ Joey Moi

RECORD LABEL ■ Big Machine Label Group

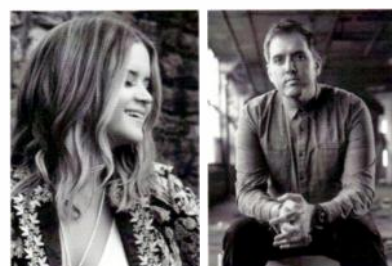


"HUMBLE AND KIND"

TIM MCGRAW

PRODUCERS ■ Byron Gallimore, Tim McGraw

RECORD LABELS ■ McGraw Music, Big Machine Records



"MY CHURCH"

MAREN MORRIS

PRODUCERS ■ busbee, Maren Morris

RECORD LABEL ■ Columbia Nashville



"VICE"

MIRANDA LAMBERT

PRODUCERS ■ Frank Liddell, Eric Masse, Glenn Worf

RECORD LABELS ■ RCA Nashville, Vanner Records

SONG OF THE YEAR



"BLUE AIN'T YOUR COLOR"

KEITH URBAN

SONGWRITERS ■ Clint Lagerberg, Hillary Lindsey, Steven Lee Olsen

PUBLISHERS ■ WB Music Corp (ASCAP), Music Of The Corn (ASCAP), HillarodyRathbone Music (ASCAP), BMG Gold Songs (ASCAP), House of Sea Gayle Music (ASCAP), Spirit Catalog Holdings (S.a.r.l.), Spirit Two Nashville (ASCAP)



"DIE A HAPPY MAN"

THOMAS RHETT

SONGWRITERS ■ Thomas Rhett, Sean Douglas, Joe Spargur

PUBLISHERS ■ EMI Blackwood Music Inc (BMI), Cricket On The Line (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp (BMI), Eastman Pond Publishing (BMI), Music of Big Deal (BMI), Nice Life (BMI), Frederic And Reid Music (BMI), BMG Platinum Songs (BMI), Brodsky Spensive Publishing (BMI)



"HUMBLE AND KIND"

TIM MCGRAW

SONGWRITER ■ Lori McKenna

PUBLISHERS ■ Songs of Universal Inc (BMI), Hoodie Songs (BMI)



"KILL A WORD"

ERIC CHURCH
FEATURING RHIANNON GIDDENS

SONGWRITERS ■ Eric Church, Luke Dick, Jeff Hyde

PUBLISHERS ■ Emileon Songs (BMI), Little Louder Songs (BMI), Longer And Louder Music (BMI), Mammaw's Fried Okra Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI)



"TENNESSEE WHISKEY"

CHRIS STAPLETON

SONGWRITERS ■ Dean Dillon, Linda Hargrove

PUBLISHERS ■ Universal-Songs Of PolyGram International (BMI), EMI Algee (BMI)



"VICE"

MIRANDA LAMBERT

SONGWRITERS ■ Miranda Lambert, Shane McAnally, Josh Osborne

PUBLISHERS ■ Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Smack Hits (GMR), Kobalt Music Group, Ltd. (GMR), Anderson Fork In The Road Music (ASCAP), Kobalt Music Publishing America, Inc. (ASCAP), Smackville Music (ASCAP)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR PRESENTED BY XFINITY



"FIRE AWAY" CHRIS STAPLETON

DIRECTOR ■ Tim Mattia
PRODUCER ■ Jennifer Ansell



"FOREVER COUNTRY" ARTISTS OF THEN, NOW & FOREVER

DIRECTOR ■ Joseph Kahn
PRODUCERS ■ Nathan de la Rionda, Jil Hardin, Charleen Manca, Joanna Carter, Chandra LaPlume, Sarah Trahern, Damon Whiteside



"HUMBLE AND KIND" TIM MCGRAW

DIRECTOR ■ Wes Edwards
PRODUCER ■ Jennifer Ansell



"PETER PAN" KELSEA BALLERINI

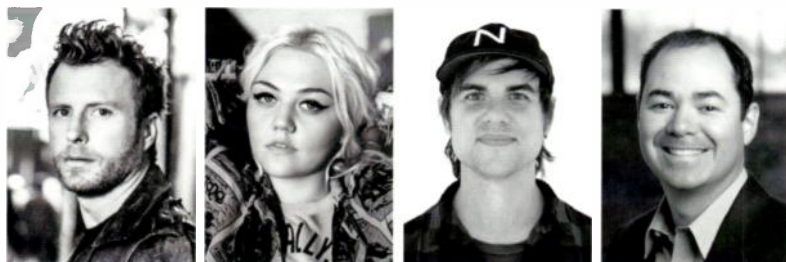
DIRECTOR ■ Kristin Barlowe
PRODUCER ■ Michelle Abnet



"VICE" MIRANDA LAMBERT

DIRECTOR ■ Trey Fanjoy
PRODUCER ■ Ashley Bergeron Ford

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

**"DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS"**

DIERKS BENTLEY
FEATURING ELLE KING

PRODUCERS ■ Ross Copperman,
Arturo Buenahora Jr.

RECORD LABEL ■ Capitol Records Nashville

**"FOREVER COUNTRY"**

ARTISTS OF THEN, NOW & FOREVER

PRODUCER ■ Shane McAnally

RECORD LABEL ■ MCA Nashville

**"MAY WE ALL"**

FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE
FEATURING TIM MCGRAW

PRODUCER ■ Joey Moi

RECORD LABEL ■ Big Machine Label Group

**"SETTING THE
WORLD ON FIRE"**

KENNY CHESNEY
FEATURING P!NK

PRODUCERS ■ Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney

RECORD LABELS ■ Blue Chair Records, Columbia Nashville

**"THINK OF YOU"**

CHRIS YOUNG
FEATURING CASSADEE POPE

PRODUCERS ■ Corey Crowder, Chris Young

RECORD LABELS ■ RCA Nashville, RCA Records

RADIO AWARDS

RADIO STATION OF THE YEAR

MAJOR MARKET

KKBQ-FM

Houston, TX



LARGE MARKET

WUBE-FM

Cincinnati, OH



MEDIUM MARKET

WIVK-FM

Knoxville, TN



SMALL MARKET

KKNU-FM

Eugene, OR



ON-AIR PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL



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MAJOR MARKET (TIE)



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& COWBOY DAVE**

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**ROB & LINDA
SHOW - ROB STONE
& LINDA LEE**

WYCD-FM ■ Southfield, MI

LARGE MARKET



**Q MORNING CREW -
MIKE, MARTY
AND JANIE**

WQDR-FM ■ Raleigh, NC

MEDIUM MARKET



**STEVE & GINA
IN THE MORNING
ON KAT 103.7**

KXKT-FM Omaha, NE

SMALL MARKET



**SCOTTY COX
& CARA DENIS**

KCLR-FM ■ Columbia, MO

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS ERIC CHURCH?

HOLDIN' MY OWN TOUR 2017

PAST DATES

Lincoln, NE • Pinnacle Bank Arena • 1/13
Sioux Falls, SD • Denny Sanford Premier Center • 1/14
Grand Forks, ND • Ralph Engelstad Arena • 1/15
Des Moines, IA • Wells Fargo Arena • 1/19
Minneapolis, MN • Target Center • 1/26
Green Bay, WI • Resch Center • 1/27
Philadelphia, PA • Wells Fargo Center • 2/5
Brooklyn, NY • Barclays Center • 2/7
Boston, MA • TD Garden • 2/8
Kansas City, MO • Sprint Center • 2/8
Tulsa, OK • BOK Center • 2/8
Dallas, TX • American Airlines Center • 2/8
Little Rock, AR • Verizon Arena • 2/8
Duluth, GA • Infinite Energy Arena • 2/8
Birmingham, AL • Legacy Arena • 2/8
Southaven, MS • Landers Center • 2/8
Indianapolis, IN • Bankers Life Fieldhouse • 2/23
Cleveland, OH • Quicken Loans Arena • 2/24
Auburn Hills, MI • The Palace of Auburn Hills • 2/25
London, UK • The O2 Arena • 2/28
Toronto, ON • Air Canada Centre • 3/2
Ottawa, ON • Canadian Tire Centre • 3/3
Winnipeg, MB • MTS Centre • 3/7
Saskatoon, SK • SaskTel Centre • 3/9
Edmonton, AB • Rexel Centre • 3/10
Calgary, AB • Scotiabank Saddledome • 3/11
Vancouver, BC • Rogers Arena • 3/14
Portland, OR • Moda Center • 3/16
Seattle, WA • Snohomish County Civic Center • 3/17
Tacoma, WA • Tacoma Dome • 3/18
Bozeman, MT • Brick Breiden Fieldhouse • 3/22
Albuquerque, NM • T-Mobile Arena • 3/24
Salt Lake City, UT • Vivint Smart Home Arena • 3/25
Phoenix, AZ • Talking Stick Resort Arena • 3/28
Sacramento, CA • Golden 1 Center • 3/30
Los Angeles, CA • STAPLES Center • 3/31

UPCOMING DATES

Casper, WY • Casper Events Center • 4/4
Denver, CO • Pepsi Center • 4/5
Wichita, KS • INTRUST Bank Arena • 4/7
Omaha, NE • CenturyLink Center Omaha • 4/8
Moline, IL • iWireless Center • 4/12
Rosemont, IL • Allstate Arena • 4/13
Milwaukee, WI • BMO Harris Bradley Center • 4/14
Buffalo, NY • KeyBank Center • 4/20
Pittsburgh, PA • PPG Paints Arena • 4/21
Cincinnati, OH • U.S. Bank Arena • 4/22
Uncasville, CT • Mohegan Sun Arena • 4/27
Uncasville, CT • Mohegan Sun Arena • 4/28
Manchester, NH • SNHU Arena • 4/29
Tampa, FL • Amalie Arena • 5/4
Jacksonville, FL • Veterans Memorial Arena • 5/5
Greenville, SC • Bon Secours Wellness Arena • 5/6
Grand Rapids, MI • Van Andel Arena • 5/11
Peoria, IL • Peoria Civic Center • 5/12
St. Louis, MO • Scottrade Center • 5/13
Reading, PA • Santander Arena • 5/18
Washington, DC • Verizon Center • 5/19
Greensboro, NC • Greensboro Coliseum Complex • 5/20
Louisville, KY • KFC Yum! Center • 5/25
Nashville, TN • Bridgestone Arena • 5/26
Nashville, TN • Bridgestone Arena • 5/27

TICKETS FOR REMAINING DATES AT
ERICCHURCH.COM/EVENTS



ACM LIFTING LIVES **GOLF CLASSIC**

On April 1st, Lady Antebellum's **Charles Kelley** spent the day on the links as **host of the ACM Lifting Lives Golf Classic**. The annual event brings artists and industry professionals together to play a round and **raise money for the Lifting Lives Diane Holcomb Emergency Relief fund**, which gives immediate financial help to members of the country music community in emergency need.

This year, Kelley — a longtime supporter of ACM Lifting Lives — was joined on the course by fellow artists **Scotty McCreery**, **Cole Swindell**, **Tracy Lawrence** and **Colt Ford**. The nearly 100 golfers who teed off for the tournament enjoyed a four-man scramble at the beautiful TPC Las Vegas.



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GOLF CLASSIC AND ABOUT THE CHARITABLE WORKS OF ACM LIFTING LIVES, VISIT ACMLIFTINGLIVES.ORG.

ACM

Lifting Lives[®]

GOLF CLASSIC

Saturday,
April 1, 2017



LAS VEGAS



HOSTED BY



Charles Kelley

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ACM PARTY FOR A CAUSE **TAKES OVER LAS VEGAS**



What do you get when you combine 13 Las Vegas venues, 18 events AND 80 artists in just 4 days? None other than ACM Party for a Cause®.

This year, the party was truly “**The Week Vegas Goes Country®**” in a dramatic fashion with events spanning from Thursday, March 30th to Sunday, April 2nd. The festivities featured everything from the **All-Star Guitar Pull** to the **Songwriter Showcase** to the **Tailgate Party** and more. And the best part is that all the proceeds are going towards a great cause! Each event benefited the Academy’s charitable arm, ACM Lifting Lives, which works to improve lives through the power of music by supporting a wide variety of deserving charities.

“It’s always fun to throw a party but it’s even better when it can be for a great cause and Lifting Lives is something that we’re excited about,” said Florida Georgia Line’s Tyler Hubbard, who, with partner Brian Kelley,

took the stage on Saturday at Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino for the **WME Bash at the Beach**, one of the many Party for a Cause events.

“Country music is all about the people, and that’s what Lifting Lives does — it connects us with everybody and with people’s stories, so it’s really special,” added FGL’s Brian Kelley.

But the party isn’t over yet! Following the 52nd ACM Awards at T-Mobile Arena, you can head over to **Park Theater** at Monte Carlo Resort and Casino or **The Joint** at Hard Rock Hotel & Casino for the **ACM Awards Official After Parties** presented by Security Benefit. Both events will feature performances from some of your favorite artists and you don’t want to miss out on the fun.

“I’ve been doing Party for a Cause for the last three or four years and it’s a great thing to be a part of,” said PFAC performer Kip Moore. “It is a great cause and not only that, it’s a wild time. Every time I get asked to do it, I’m always in.”

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Dustin Lynch



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Cole Swindell



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Red Light
Management



Enzo DeVincenzo
Red Light
Management/
377 Management



Chris Parr
MAVERICK

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Bob Kingsley's Country Top 40**RADIO****Tim Roberts**
CBS Radio**RECORD COMPANY****Byron Gallimore**
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Universal Music Group Nashville**David Macias**
Thirty Tigers**Peter Strickland**
Warner Music Nashville**TALENT AGENT****Curt Motley**
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Police Productions**Brian O'Connell**
Live Nation**TV/MOTION PICTURE****Tom Forrest**
taillight**DIRECTORS AT LARGE****Chuck Aly**
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The Bobby Bones Show**Bradley Collins**
BMI**Charlie Cook**
Cumulus**George Couri**
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ASCAP**Crystal Dishmon**
Shopkeeper Management**Kerri Edwards**
KPentertainment**Chris Farren**
Combustion Music**Leslie Fram**
CMT**Jay Frank**
Universal Music Group**Brandon Gill**
Morris Higham Management**Ali Harnell**
AEG Live**Jimmy Harnen**
Big Machine Label Group

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Gayle Holcomb
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T.K.O. Artist Management



Jon Loba
Broken Bow Music Group



Harry Lyons
G-Major Management



Greg McCarn



Doc McGhee
McGhee Entertainment



Shawn McSpadden
Red Light Management



Daniel Miller
*Red Light Management/
Fusion Music*



Rod Phillips
iHeart Media



Fran Romeo
Romeo Entertainment Group



Liz Rose
Liz Rose Music



Kimberly Schlapman



Lane Wilson
WME



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FROM YOUR FAVORITE
COUNTRY ARTISTS ON
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& Strategic
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Lisa Lee
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Vice President/
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Janet Edbrooke
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Taylor Payne
Coordinator/
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Nichelle Zolezzi
Executive Assistant



Bree Lutjens
Assistant/
Creative & Content
Production/
PR & Marketing



Maddy Stessman
Assistant/
Operations
& Events

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Danielle Bardier
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Arielle Beuzieron
PR & Marketing

Alison Chilton
Creative & Content
Production

Grace Detwiler
Operations & Events

Haley Fairman
Administration

Willia Hahn
Lifting Lives

Mary Hart
Sponsorship

Brett Stephenson
Operations & Events

Alison Teadore
PR & Marketing

Mariah Terry
PR & Marketing

Carley Thomas
Creative & Content
Production

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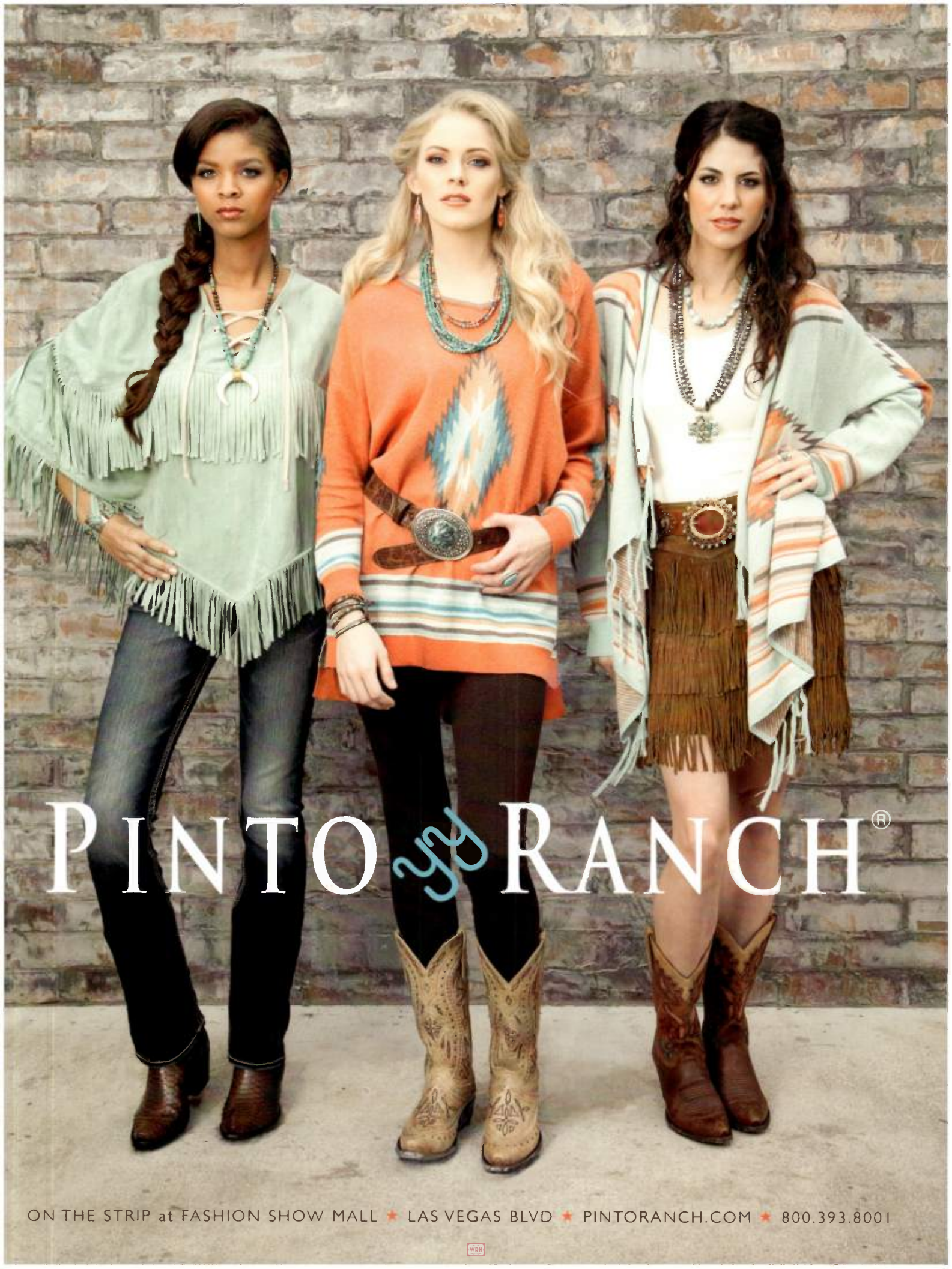
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PAST WINNERS

NOTE: Winners are honored for work done in the previous calendar year, thus a trophy awarded on the show in 2016 would be dated 2015.

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
2012 Luke Bryan
2013 George Strait
2014 Luke Bryan
2015 Jason Aldean

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
2012 Miranda Lambert
2013 Miranda Lambert
2014 Miranda Lambert
2015 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
2012 Jason Aldean
2013 Jason Aldean
2014 Jason Aldean
2015 Chris Stapleton

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

(formerly Top Vocal Duet from 1980-1996)

1960 Moe Bandy & Joe Stampley
1981 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1982 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1983 Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers
1984 The Judds
1985 The Judds
1986 The Judds
1987 The Judds
1988 The Judds
1989 The Judds
1990 The Judds
1991 Brooks & Dunn
1992 Brooks & Dunn
1993 Brooks & Dunn
1994 Brooks & Dunn
1995 Brooks & Dunn
1996 Brooks & Dunn
1997 Brooks & Dunn
2000 Brooks & Dunn
2001 Brooks & Dunn
2002 Brooks & Dunn
2003 Brooks & Dunn
2004 Brooks & Dunn
2005 Brooks & Dunn
2006 Brooks & Dunn
2007 Brooks & Dunn

2008 Sugarland
2009 Brooks & Dunn
2010 Sugarland
2011 Thompson Square
2012 Thompson Square
2013 Florida Georgia Line
2014 Florida Georgia Line
2015 Florida Georgia Line

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
1997 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
2012 Little Big Town
2013 The Band Perry
2014 Little Big Town
2015 Little Big Town

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

- 2003 Dierks Bentley
- 2004 Gretchen Wilson
- 2008 Julianne Hough
- 2009 Luke Bryan
- 2010 The Band Perry
- 2011 Scotty McCreery
- 2012 Florida Georgia Line
- 2013 Justin Moore
- 2014 Cole Swindell

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
- 2012 Florida Georgia Line
- 2015 Old Dominion

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
- 2012 Jana Kramer
- 2015 Kelsea Ballerini

NEW MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 1977 Eddie Rabbitt
- 1978 John Conlee
- 1979 R.C. Bannon
- 1980 Johnny Lee
- 1981 Ricky Skaggs
- 1982 Michael Murphey
- 1983 Jim Glaser
- 1984 Vince Gill
- 1985 Randy Travis
- 1986 Dwight Yoakam
- 1987 Ricky Van Shelton
- 1988 Rodney Crowell
- 1989 Clint Black
- 1990 Alan Jackson
- 1991 Billy Dean
- 1992 Tracy Lawrence
- 1993 John Michael Montgomery
- 1994 Tim McGraw
- 1995 Bryan White
- 1996 Trace Adkins
- 1997 Kenny Chesney
- 1998 Mark Wills
- 1999 Brad Paisley
- 2000 Keith Urban
- 2001 Phil Vassar
- 2002 Joe Nichols
- 2005 Jason Aldean
- 2006 Rodney Atkins
- 2007 Jack Ingram
- 2008 Jake Owen
- 2012 Brantley Gilbert
- 2015 Chris Stapleton

NEW SOLO VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

- 2009 Luke Bryan
- 2010 Eric Church

DICK CLARK 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

- 1965 Roger Miller
- 2011 Dallas Davidson
- 2012 Dallas Davidson
- 2013 Shane McAnally
- 2014 Luke Laird
- 2015 Ross Copperman

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

(currently awarded to Artist, Producer & Record Company)

- 1967 **GENTLE ON MY MIND**; **Glen Campbell**; Al Delroy (A&R); Capitol Records
- 1968 **GLEN CAMPBELL & BOBBIE GENTRY**; **Bobbie Gentry**; Capitol Records
- 1969 **OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE**; **Merle Haggard**; Capitol Records
- 1970 **FOR THE GOOD TIMES**; **Ray Price**; Columbia Records
- 1971 **EASY LOVIN'**; **Freddie Hart**; Capitol Records
- 1972 **HAPPIEST GIRL/USA**; **Donna Fargo** (birth name: **Yvonne Vaughn Silver**); Dot
- 1973 **BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**; **Charlie Rich**; Epic Records
- 1974 **BACK HOME AGAIN**; **John Denver**; RCA Records
- 1975 **FEELINGS**; **Conway Twitty, Loretta Lynn**; MCA Records
- 1976 **GILLEY'S SMOKING**; **Mickey Gilley**; Playboy
- 1977 **KENNY ROGERS**; **Kenny Rogers**; United Artists Records
- 1978 **YA'LL COME BACK SALOON**; **Oak Ridge Boys**; ABC/Dot
- 1979 **STRAIGHT AHEAD**; **Larry Gatlin**; Columbia Records
- 1980 **URBAN COWBOY**; **Full Moon**; Asylum
- 1981 **FEEL'S SO RIGHT**; **Alabama**; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd & Larry McBride
- 1982 **ALWAYS ON MY MIND**; **Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1983 **THE CLOSER YOU GET**; **Alabama**; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1984 **ROLL ON**; **Alabama**; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1985 **DOES FT. WORTH EVER CROSS YOUR MIND**; **George Strait**; RCA Records; Produced by Jimmy Bowen
- 1986 **STORMS OF LIFE**; **Randy Travis**; Warner Bros. Records; Produced by Kyle Lehning
- 1987 **TRIO**; **Dolly Parton, Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt**; Warner Bros. Records; Produced by George Massenburg
- 1988 **THIS WOMAN**; **K.T. Oslin**; RCA Records; Produced by Harold Shedd
- 1989 **KILLIN' TIME**; **Clint Black**; RCA Records; Produced by James Stroud & Mark Wright
- 1990 **NO FENCES**; **Garth Brooks**; Capitol Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
- 1991 **DON'T ROCK THE JUKEBOX**; **Alan Jackson**; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall & Scott Hendricks
- 1992 **BRAND NEW MAN**; **Brooks & Dunn**; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Scott Hendricks & Don Cook
- 1993 **ALOT 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

PAST WINNERS

- 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** **BEHERE**; **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** **FOUR THE RECORD**; **Miranda Lambert**; RCA; Produced by Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell & Glenn Worf
- 2012** **CHIEF**; **Eric Church**; EMI-Nashville; Produced by Jay Joyce
- 2013** **SAME TRAILER DIFFERENT PARK**; **Kacey Musgraves**; Mercury Records; Produced by Kacey Musgraves, Luke Laird & Shane McAnally
- 2014** **PLATINUM**; **Miranda Lambert**; RCA Nashville; Produced by Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell & Glenn Worf
- 2015** **TRAVELLER**; **Chris Stapleton**; Mercury Records; Produced by Dave Cobb & Chris Stapleton

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** **"RHINESTONE COWBOY"** **Glen Campbell**; Capitol Records
- 1976** **"BRING IT ON HOME"** **Mickey Gilley**; Playboy Records
- 1977** **"LUCILLE"** **Kenny Rogers**; United Artists
- 1978** **"TULSA TIME"** **Don Williams**; ABC Records
- 1979** **"ALL THE GOLD IN CALIFORNIA"** **Larry Gatlin & Gatlin Bros.**; Columbia Records
- 1980** **"HE STOPPED LOVING HER TODAY"** **George Jones**; Epic Records; Produced by Billy Sherrill
- 1981** **"ELVIRA"** **Oak Ridge Boys**; MCA Records; Produced by Ron Chancey
- 1982** **"ALWAYS ON MY MIND"** **Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1983** **"ISLANDS IN THE STREAM"** **Dolly Parton & Kenny Rogers**; RCA Records; Produced by Barry Gibb & Karl Richardson
- 1984** **"TO ALL THE GIRLS I'VE LOVED BEFORE"** **Julio Iglesias & Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Richard Perry

- 1985** **"HIGHWAYMAN"** **Johnny Cash, Kris Kristofferson, Waylon Jennings, & Willie Nelson**; Columbia Records; Produced by Chips Moman
- 1986** **"ON THE OTHER HAND"** **Randy Travis**; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Keith Stegall & Kyle Lehning
- 1987** **"FOREVER AND EVER AMEN"** **Randy Travis**; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Kyle Lehning
- 1988** **"EIGHTEEN WHEELS AND A DOZEN ROSES"** **Kathy Mattea**; Mercury Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
- 1989** **"BETTER MAN"** **Clint Black**; RCA Records; Produced by James Stroud & Mark Wright
- 1990** **"FRIENDS IN LOW PLACES"** **Garth Brooks**; Capitol Records; Produced by Allen Reynolds
- 1991** **"DON'T ROCK THE JUKEBOX"** **Alan Jackson**; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall & Scott Hendricks
- 1992** **"BOOT SCOOTIN' BOOGIE"** **Brooks & Dunn**; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Don Cook & Scott Hendricks
- 1993** **"CHATTahoochee"** **Alan Jackson**; Arista Records Nashville; Produced by Keith Stegall
- 1994** **"I SWEAR"** **John Michael Montgomery**; Atlantic Records; Produced by Scott Hendricks
- 1995** **"CHECK YES OR NO"** **George Strait**; MCA Records; Produced by George Strait & Tony Brown
- 1996** **"BLUE"** **LeAnn Rimes**; Curb Records; Produced by Wilbur C. Rimes
- 1997** **"IT'S YOUR LOVE"** **Tim McGraw & Faith Hill**; Curb Records; Produced by Byron Gallimore, James Stroud, & Tim McGraw
- 1998** **"THIS KISS"** **Faith Hill**; Warner Brothers Records; Produced by Byrson 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 WANNA STAY"** **Jason Aldean & Kelly Clarkson**; Broken Bow Records; Produced by Michael Knox
- 2012** **"OVER YOU"** **Miranda Lambert**; RCA; Produced by Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell, Glenn Worf
- 2013** **"MAMA'S BROKEN HEART"** **Miranda Lambert**; RCA Nashville; Produced by Chuck Ainlay, Frank Liddell & Glenn Worf
- 2014** **"I DON'T DANCE"** **Lee Brice**; Curb Records; Produced by Lee Brice
- 2015** **"DIE A HAPPY MAN"** **Thomas Rhett**; The Valory Music Co.; Produced by Dann Huff & Jesse Frasure

SONG OF THE YEAR

(currently awarded to Artist, Songwriter, & Publisher)

- 1966** "APARTMENT #9" **Tammy Wynette**; Songwriters Bobby Austin, Fuzzy Owen, & Johnny Paycheck
- 1967** "IT'S SUCH A PRETTY WORLD TODAY" **Wynn Stewart**; Songwriters Dale Noe; Published by Freeway Music
- 1968** "WICHITA LINEMAN" **Glen Campbell**; Songwriter Jim Webb
- 1969** "OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE" **Merle Haggard**; Songwriters Roy Burris & Merle Haggard Published by Sony/ATV Tree
- 1970** "FOR THE GOOD TIMES" **Ray Price**
- 1971** "EASY LOVIN'" **Freddie Hart**; Songwriter 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**; Songwriter Kenny O'Dell
- 1974** "COUNTRY BUMPKIN" **Cal Smith**; Songwriter Don Choate; Published by Sony/ATV Tree
- 1975** "RHINESTONE COWBOY" **Glen Campbell**; Songwriter Larry Weiss; Published by WB Music Corp
- 1976** "DON'T THE GIRLS GET PRETTIER AT CLOSING TIME" **Mickey Gilley**; Songwriter Baker Knight; Published Sixteen Stars Music;
- 1977** "LUCILLE" **Kenny Rogers**; Songwriters Roger Dale Bowling & Hal Bynum; Published by Andite Invasion, Missed Memories Music, & Sony/ATV Songs LLC
- 1978** "YOU NEEDED ME" **Anne Murray**; Songwriter Charles R. Goodrum; Published by Chappell & Co, Inc. & Ironside Music;
- 1979** "IT'S A CHEATIN' SITUATION" **Moe Bandy**; Songwriters Curly Putnam & James Throckmorton
- 1980** "HE STOPPED LOVING HER TODAY" **George Jones**; Songwriters Bobby Braddock & Curly Putman; Published by Tree Publishing
- 1981** "YOU'RE THE REASON GOD MADE OKLAHOMA" **David Frizzell & Shelly West**; Songwriters Larry Collins & Sandy Pinkard; Published by Cibie Music Companies, Senor, Peso Music, & Wallet Music
- 1982** "ARE THE GOOD TIMES REALLY OVER" **Merle Haggard**; Songwriter Merle Haggard; Published by Shade Tree Music;
- 1983** "THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS" **Gary Morris**; Songwriters Jeff Silbar & Larry Henley; Published by Warner House of Music & WB Gold Music;
- 1984** "WHY NOT ME" **The Judds**; Songwriters Brent Maher, Harlan Howard, & Sonny Throckmorton; Published by Blue Quill Music, Cross Keys Music, Tree Publishing, & Welbeck Music
- 1985** "LOST IN THE FIFTIES (IN THE STILL OF THE NIGHT)" **Ronnie Milsap**; Songwriters Fred Parris, Mike Reid, & Troy Seals; Published by Llee Music, Lodge Hall, Two Sons Music, & WB Music Corp.
- 1986** "ON THE OTHER HAND" **Randy Travis**; Songwriters Don Schlitz & Paul Overstreet; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music
- 1987** "FOREVER AND EVER AMEN" **Randy Travis**; Songwriters Don Schlitz; Published by Don Schlitz Music, MCA Music Publishing, Scarlet Moon Music, & Writers Group Music
- 1988** "EIGHTEEN WHEELS AND A DOZEN ROSES" **Kathy Mattea**; Songwriters Gene Nelson & Paul Nelson; Published by Believus Or Not Music, Screen GEMS-EMI Music, & Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.
- 1989** "WHERE'VE YOU BEEN" **Kathy Mattea**; Songwriters Don Henry & Jon Vezner; Published by Cross Keys Music (ASCAP) & Wrensong (ASCAP)
- 1990** "THE DANCE;" **Garth Brooks**; Songwriter Tony Arata; Published by Morganactive Music & Pookie Bear Music
- 1991** "SOMEWHERE IN MY BROKEN HEART" **Billy Dean**; Songwriters Billy Dean & Richard Leigh; Published by EMI April Music Inc., EMI Blackwood Music Inc., & Lion-Hearted Music (ASCAP/BMI)

- 1992** "I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU" **Vince Gill**; Songwriters John Jarvis & Vince Gil; Published by Benefit Music & Inspector Barlow Music (ASCAP/BMI)
- 1993** "I LOVE THE WAY YOU LOVE ME" **John Michael Montgomery**; Songwriters Chuck Cannon & Victoria Shaw; Published by BMG Songs Inc. & Taste Auction (ASCAP/BMI)
- 1994** "I SWEAR" **John Michael Montgomery**; Songwriters Frank J. Myers & Gary Baker; Published by Morganactive Music & Rick Hall Music (ASCAP)
- 1995** "THE KEEPER OF THE STARS" **Tracy Byrd**; Songwriters Danny Mayo, Dickey Lee, & Karen Staley; Published by Murrah Music Corp., New Haven Music, Pal Time Music Inc. (BMI), Sixteen Stars Music; & Songs of Poly Gram Int'l
- 1996** "BLUE" **LeAnn Rimes**; Songwriter Bill Mack; Published by Forx Knox Music (BMI) & Trio Music
- 1997** "IT'S YOUR LOVE" **Faith Hill & Tim McGraw**; Songwriter Stephony Smith; Published by EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI)
- 1998** "HOLES IN THE FLOOR OF HEAVEN" **Steve Wariner**; Songwriters Billy Kirsch & Steve Wariner; Published by Hamstein Cumberland, KidJulie (BMI), & Steve Wariner
- 1999** "AMAZED" **Lonestar**; Songwriters Aimee Mayo, Chris Lindsey, & Marv Green; Published by Careers-BMG Music Publishing Inc., Golden Wheat Music, Silverkiss Music, Songs of Nashville DreamWorks (BMI), & Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp.
- 2000** "I HOPE YOU DANCE" **Lee Ann Womack & Sons of the Desert**; Songwriters Mark D. Sanders & Tia Sillers; Published by Choice is Tragic Music, Ensign Music Corp. (BMI), MCA Music Publishing, & Soda Creek Songs (ASCAP)
- 2001** "WHERE WERE YOU (WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED TURNING)" **Alan Jackson**; Songwriter Alan Jackson; Published by EMI April Music Inc. & Tri-Angels Music (ASCAP)
- 2002** "I'M MOVIN' ON" **Rascal Flatts**; Songwriters D. Vincent Williams & Phillip White; Published by Las Wagas, Murrah Music Corp. (BMI), Songs of Megalex, & WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)
- 2003** "THREE WOODEN CROSSES" **Randy Travis**; Songwriters Douglas Johnson & Kim Williams; Published by Kim Williams Music (ASCAP), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tunes (ASCAP), & Sweet Radical Music (BMI)
- 2004** "LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING" **Tim McGraw**; Songwriters Craig Wiseman & Tim Nichols; Published by Big Loud Shirt (ASCAP) & ICG/Warner (BMI)
- 2005** "BELIEVE" **Brooks & Dunn**; Songwriters Craig Wiseman & Ronnie Dunn; Published by Big Loud Shirt Industries (ASCAP), Showbilly Music (BMI), & Sony / ATV Tree Publishing Co. (BMI)
- 2006** "GIVE IT AWAY" **George Strait**; Songwriters 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**; Songwriter Jennifer Nettles; Published by Jennifer Nettles Publishing (ASCAP)
- 2008** "IN COLOR" **Jamey Johnson**; Songwriters 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**; Songwriters Dave Haywood, Josh Kear, Charles Kelley, Hillary Scott; Published by EMI Foray Music (SESAC), Darth Buddha (ASCAP), Dwhaywood Music (BMI), Hillary Dawn Publishing (SESAC), Radiobullets Publishing (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (BMI), Year Of The Dog Music (ASCAP)
- 2010** "THE HOUSE THAT BUILT ME" **Miranda Lambert**; Songwriters Allen Shamblin, Tom Douglas; Published by Built On Rock (ASCAP), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Tomdouglassmusic (BMI)
- 2011** "CRAZY GIRL" **Eli Young Band**; Songwriters Lee Brice & Liz Rose; Published by Cake Taker Music (BMI), Mike Curb Music (BMI), Sony/ATV Tree Publishing (BMI), Sweet Hysteria Music (BMI)

PAST WINNERS

- 2012** **"OVER YOU"** **Miranda Lambert**; Songwriters Miranda Lambert & Blake Shelton; Published by Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI)
- 2013** **"I DRIVE YOUR TRUCK"** **Lee Brice**; Songwriters Connie Harrington, Jessi Alexander & Jimmy Yeary; Published by Beattyville Music (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. (BMI), Great Day At This Music (BMI), Happy Tears Music (ASCAP), Vistaville Music (ASCAP), Watch This Girl Publishing (BMI)
- 2014** **"AUTOMATIC"** **Miranda Lambert**; Songwriters Miranda Lambert, Natalie Hemby & Nicolle Galyon; Published by EMI Blackwood Music Inc. (BMI), Pink Dog Publishing (BMI), Sony ATV/Tree Publishing (BMI), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp (BMI), Wruckestrike (BMI)
- 2015** **"NOBODY TO BLAME"** **Chris Stapleton**; Songwriters Chris Stapleton, Barry Bales & Ronnie Bowman; Published by Quackhead Music (BMI), RayLynn Publishing (BMI), House of Sea Gayle Music (ASCAP) & WB Music Corp. (ASCAP)

VIDEO OF THE YEAR

(formerly ACM/Launch Video of the Year from 2003-2004)
(currently awarded to Artist, Director & Producer)

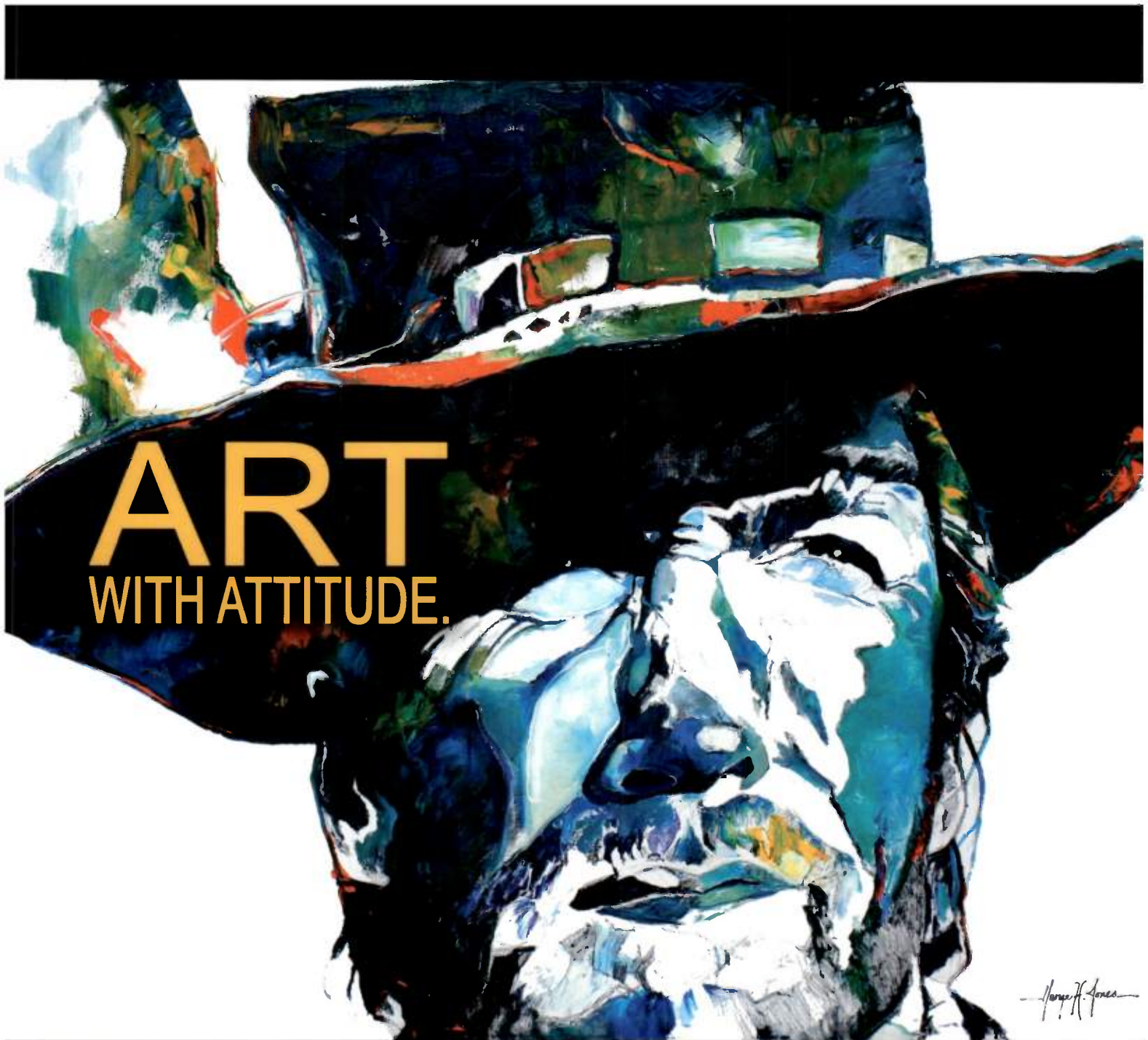
- 1984** **"ALL MY ROWDY FRIENDS ARE COMIN' OVER TONIGHT"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by John Goodhugh
- 1986** **"WHOEVER'S IN NEW ENGLAND"** **Reba McEntire**; Directed by Jeff Schock & Jon Small; Produced by Jon Small
- 1987** **"80'S LADIES"** **K.T. Oslin**; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1988** **"YOUNG COUNTRY"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by Bill Fishman & Preacher Ewing; Produced by Brent Bowman
- 1989** **"THERE'S A TEAR IN MY BEER"** **Hank Williams Jr.**; Directed by Ethan Russell; Produced by Joanne Gardner
- 1990** **"THE DANCE"** **Garth Brooks**; Directed by Garth Brooks & John Lloyd Miller; Produced by Marc Ball
- 1991** **"IS THERE LIFE OUT THERE?"** **Reba McEntire**; Directed by Jack Cole; Produced by Robin Beresford
- 1992** **"TWO SPARROWS IN A HURRICANE"** **Tanya Tucker**; Directed by Joanne Gardner; Produced by Brent Hedgcock
- 1993** **"WE SHALL BE FREE"** **Garth Brooks**; Directed by Garth Brooks & Tim Miller; Produced by Tim Miller
- 1994** **"THE RED STROKES"** **Garth Brooks**; Directed by Jon Small; Produced by Jon Small & Steven Carter
- 1995** **"THE CAR"** **Jeff Carson**; Directed by Michael Salomon; Produced by Maureen Ryan
- 1996** **"I THINK ABOUT YOU"** **Collin Raye**; Directed by Steven Goldmann; Produced by Susan Bowman
- 1997** **"IT'S YOUR LOVE"** **Faith Hill & Tim McGraw**; Directed by Sherman Halsey; Produced by Sherman Halsey
- 1998** **"THIS KISS"** **Faith Hill**; Directed by Steven Goldmann; Produced by Susan Bowman
- 1999** **"BREATHE"** **Faith Hill**; Directed by Lili Hill; Produced by Anastasia Simone
- 2000** **"GOODBYE EARL"** **Dixie Chicks**; Directed by Evan Bernard; Produced by Keeley Gould
- 2001** **"ONLY IN AMERICA"** **Brooks & Dunn**; Directed by Michael Merriman; Produced by Stephanie Reeves
- 2002** **"DRIVE (FOR DADDY GENE)"** **Alan Jackson**; Directed by Steven Goldman; Produced by Robin Rucker
- 2003** **"BEER FOR MY HORSES"** **Toby Keith & Willie Nelson**; Directed by Michael Salomon; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld
- 2004** **"WHISKEY LULLABY"** **Alison Krauss & Brad Paisley**; Directed by Rick Schroder; Produced by Don Lepore
- 2005** **"WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING"** **Brad Paisley & Dolly Parton**; Directed by Jim Shea; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Peter Tilden
- 2006** **"BEFORE HE CHEATS"** **Carrie Underwood**; Directed by Roman White; Produced by Randy Brewer

- 2007** **"ONLINE"** **Brad Paisley**; Directed by Jason Alexander; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Peter Tilden
- 2008** **"WAITIN' ON A WOMAN"** **Brad Paisley**; Directed by Jim Shea & Peter Tilden; Produced by Mark Kalbfeld & Jim Shea
- 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
- 2012** **"TORNADO"** **Little Big Town**; Directed by Shane Drake; Produced by Iris Baker
- 2013** **"HIGHWAY DON'T CARE"** **Keith Urban, Taylor Swift & Tim McGraw**; Produced by Chandra LaPlume & Tameron Hedge; Directed by Shane Drake
- 2014** **"DRUNK ON A PLANE"** **Dierks Bentley**; Produced by Clarke Gallivan; Directed by Wes Edwards
- 2015** **"MR. MISUNDERSTOOD"** **Eric Church**; Produced by Megan Smith; Directed by Reid Long & John Peets

VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

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

- 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 with Lisa Hartman Black**; Produced by Clint Black
- 2000** **"I HOPE YOU DANCE"** **Lee Ann Womack with 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"** **Willie Nelson with Lee Ann Womack**; 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"** **Brad Paisley featuring Alison Krauss**; 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 with Vince Gill & Sheryl Crow**; Arista Nashville; Produced by Kix Brooks, Ronnie Dunn, & Tony Brown
- 2007** **"FIND OUT WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE"** **Tracy Lawrence featuring Tim McGraw & Kenny Chesney**; Rocky Comfort/CO5; Produced by Tracy Lawrence & Julian King
- 2008** **"START A BAND"** **Brad Paisley Duet with 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"** **Zac Brown Band featuring Alan Jackson**; Atlantic/Bigger Picture/Southern Ground; Produced by Keith Stegall & Zac Brown
- 2011** **"DON'T YOU WANNA STAY"** **Jason Aldean with Kelly Clarkson**; Broken Bow Records; Produced by Michael Knox
- 2012** **"THE ONLY WAY I KNOW"** **Jason Aldean with Luke Bryan & Eric Church**; Broken Bow Records; Produced by Michael Knox
- 2013** **"WE WERE US"** **Keith Urban & Miranda Lambert**; Capitol Records Nashville, Hit Red Records & RCA Nashville; Produced by Keith Urban & Nathan Chapman
- 2014** **"THIS IS HOW WE ROLL"** **Florida Georgia Line & Luke Bryan**; Republic Nashville; Produced by Joey Moi
- 2015** **"SMOKIN' AND DRINKIN'"** **Miranda Lambert featuring Little Big Town**; RCA Nashville; Produced by Glenn Worf, Frank Liddell & Chuck Ainlay



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