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Shelia had a burning desire to sing for the Lord at the early age of 4 years old. On Sunday mornings as she would go with her dad to church, she hid this desire so deeply in her heart. While Shelia sat on the old front porch, her dad played the guitar and taught her songs she loved to sing. The first song Shelia ever sung in church was on a Sunday morning at the Lafayette Church Of God. It was such a big song for a little girl of five years. "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow" as Sugg Dobson played that beautiful piano, she was so talented!

Shelia is an award-winning gospel artist; her style of singing has become a fan favorite. Shelia has received numerous industry awards including, State & International recognition such as "Female Vocalist Of The Year" and "Female Entertainer Of The Year" performing in such prestigious venues as The Country Tonight Theater in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and the North American Country and with Gospel Music Association International.

Shelia Reed founded Harvest Outreach Center in 1986, which is a non-profit facility to help the homeless and needy of the North Georgia Communities. Thousands of men and women have been helped through her ministry over these years, and are still recipients of this work. Shelia also is the prestigious Jefferson Award Winner from Washington, DC. for her commitment to her communities without desiring a salary for her endeavors.

Shelia founded "Gospel Music Express" which promotes regional and local gospel concerts. GME promotes radio singles and ministries through her internet ministry called Cabin Road Radio.com. Shelia has devoted years to helping independent artists with their music career. She has promoted and taught them the best way to get a good start in the music ministry.

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IN THIS ISSUE...

ON THE COVER



- 94 Red Hot Chili Peppers**
Oh, That's Boom
By Deborah Baliles

Features

- 12 Cristy Lane**
Inspirational Treasure
By Robin Tanner
- 18 Ben James**
Dreams Do Come True
By Deborah Baliles
- 24 Bri Bagwell**
Corazón y Cabeza
By Cory Parker
- 26 The Music Lives On**
Nolan Neal, Glen Allred, Shonka Dukureh
Staff, Cashbox
- 36 Larry Wilson & God's Country Band**
Ambassadors of the Christian Faith
By Jackson McKee
- 44 Bill Abernathy: This is My Story**
By Bill Abernathy
- 50 John McDonough**
Answering the Call
By Michael Stover
- 78 Willie Nelson**
American Classic
By Jennifer Springs
- 88 Six Gun Sally**
Powerhouse Tribute Band
By Robin Tanner
- 102 Chubby Checker**
Still the King of Twist!
By Deborah Valiles
- 112 Shirley Caesar**
Reigning Queen of Gospel Music
By Robin Tanner
- 116 Andrew Farris**
Loving My Turn at Country
By Deborah Baliles
- 126 Mike Peace**
You Need a Really Good Guitar to Start With
By Deborah Baliles
- 130 Terry Scott**
A Lifetime of Music. A Lifetime of Service.
By LaToya Scott
- 132 Olivia Newton-John**
Grace & Beauty
Staff, Cashbox
- 140 Elton John**
Farewell Yellow Brick Road
By Robin Tanner
- 148 Lee Newton**
On a Beautiful Ride
By Robin Tanner
- 172 Lady J Huston**
That's How the Lady Does It!
By Deborah Baliles

Series

- 54 Where are They Now?**
Gretchen Wilson / MC Hammer
By Robin Tanner
- 62 Cashbox Music News**
- 156 Icon Series**
Brenda Lee
By Robin Tanner

Artist Spotlight

AIRPLAY DIRECT

- 16 Amy Scruggs
- 30 Tiffany Williams
- 48 Shemekia Copeland
- 60 John Batdorf
- 84 The Taproots
- 109 Randall Franks
- 142 Roger "Hurricane" Wilson
- 154 Chris Davis
- 167 David Starr

MTS MANAGEMENT

- 22 Tom Tikka
- 33 Cory M. Coons
- 42 Jay Elle
- 107 HEISHTARTIST (LeeMann Bassey)
- 162 Ed Roman

OPEN HIGHWAY RECORDS

- 38 LaDonna Capps
- 73 Lori Hardman



CASHBOX

OCTOBER 2022

CASHBOX Magazine was originally founded by Bill Gersh in 1942. However, in the late 1950s George Albert took over until his death in 1997. In 1941 the name was associated with pinball machines and jukeboxes as Cashbox Wurlitzer.

CASHBOX MAGAZINE

Administrative Office and Advertising
17911 Hwy 96 • Kennedy, AL 35574
Phone: 205-662-4826 / Fax: 205-596-4375
Email: randall@wildsandassociates.com
www.cashboxmagazine.org
www.usmusicchartsmagazine.com

SUBSCRIPTION

www.cashboxmagazine.org

OWNERS

BRUCE ELROD / CHRIS ELROD / RANDALL WILDS

BUSINESS OPERATIONS / C.O.O.

RANDALL WILDS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

RACHEL HODGES

MANAGING EDITOR

JOHN LANIER

ASSOCIATE MANAGING EDITOR

DEBORAH BALILES

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

ROBIN TANNER

ART DIRECTOR

CHRISTINE SCOTT

CASHBOX CANADA

SANDY GRAHAM

MARKETING CONSULTANT

TOMMY SMITH

CASHBOX ARCHIVES

RANDY PRICE

PUBLISHED AND DISTRIBUTED BY



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A portrait of Jonathan Ray Smith, a man with short brown hair, smiling slightly. He is wearing a dark suit jacket with a light-colored floral pattern on the lapels. The background is dark with warm, golden bokeh lights.

Jonathan
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A portrait of Jeanette Adams, a woman with dark curly hair, wearing a white sweater and large wooden hoop earrings. She is smiling and looking slightly to the right. The background is a dark teal color with a cracked rock texture and some glowing particles.

Jeanette ADAMS

JEANETTE ADAMS WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE DJS AND RADIO STATIONS FOR MAKING HER RADIO SINGLE "I BOW TO YOU" SUCCESSFUL! THIS SONG HAS CONTINUED TO MAKE THE TOP 100 CHARTS FOR THE PAST 7 MONTHS. JEANETTE ADAMS WILL BE RELEASING NEW MUSIC TO RADIO LATE SEPTEMBER. SO ONCE AGAIN JEANETTE WOULD LOVE TO THANK ALL OF THE RADIO STATIONS AND THE BEAUTIFUL FANS ACROSS THE COUNTRY FOR YOUR SUPPORT. GOD BLESS YOU.



Cristy LANE

Inspirational Treasure

By Robin Tanner



For over forty years, Cristy Lane's award-winning music and inspirational life story have brought joy to the hearts of people around the world. Her 1979 Country hit single, *One Day At A Time*, along with her biography by the same name were both #1 sellers. The pure and beautiful voice of Cristy Lane has taken her from a little town in Illinois to the jungles of Vietnam and all over the world. All through her life and career she has inspired and uplifted thousands, as she reminds us to live one day at a time.

Cristy Lane was born Eleanor Johnston to a Peoria, Illinois family of twelve. She grew up singing in church and in the school choir. Although singing was something she loved, a bad experience almost stopped her desire to sing forever. Cristy remembers, "I was in the school choir at the age of fourteen. I was made to stand behind the curtain and sing because my dress was not new, or as good as the other students. It would be the catapult to fear, anxiety, and shying away from singing."

"Ten years later, a marriage and three children, I would break my vow of silence and sing while doing housework. It just so happened that one day while doing the dishes and singing, my husband Lee came in and thought the singing was coming from the radio. Funny thing is, we didn't have a radio!"

"My career began because of my husband, Lee Stoller. His nudging led to an unwavering of sheer encouragement

and persistence. He would handle everything regarding the business aspect, and I would just sing. He then began recording me singing, taking the little tapes around to anyone and everyone who would listen." Unfortunately, Lane was painfully shy. After a few tentative attempts and several nightclub appearances, she finally landed a guest slot on Chicago's WGN Barn Dance radio program in 1968. Chicago proved to be inspirational, and it was from Chicago DJ, Chris Lane that she took her famous stage name.

In 1969, Stoller organized a 120-show-tour of Vietnam which resulted in a devastating helicopter crash, leaving Lane stranded in the midst of a battle. After her harrowing experiences in Vietnam, Lane lost all hope of a music career. She and her husband returned to Peoria, opening a pair of nightclubs featuring Lane as the marquee attraction.

By 1972, Lane and her family had moved to a Nashville suburb to attempt once more to get her career off the ground.

Lane was largely met with indifference from label executives, prompting her husband to form his own label, LS Records. In the mid-1970s, *Let Me Down Easy*, *Shake Me I Rattle*, *I Just Can't Stay Married To You*, *Penny Arcade*, *Simple Little Words*, and *I'm Gonna Love You Anyway* were all hits on LS records. Lane adds, "Our accomplishments, as a team, of my singing and my husband's persistence and promoting, would include the starting of our own independent record label, to the brilliant strategic move of my husband marketing our products through TV marketing."

"In 1979, after winning 'Top New Female Vocalist' from the Academy of Country Music, we would then secure a major record deal with Liberty/United Artists. We would top the charts with *Sweet Sexy Eyes*, and then we would convince the record label to let me record, *One Day At A Time*. This would inevitably become my signature and most favorite recording that I could offer to my fans. When I heard the song, *One Day At A Time*; I knew that I wanted to record that song. I wanted to give my fans something positive. When I was young, I enjoyed singing in the church choir; the hymns and positive messages always moved me."



The following years were very successful for Lane, as she experienced many firsts. Television marketing of her albums had made her one of the top selling artists of all time. Even though she did not advertise in India, Lane was spotlighted by EMI in 1984 as their top selling artist, surpassing David Bowie, Tina Turner, Sheena Easton, and the Rolling Stones.

In 1985, Lee Stoller, with Pete Chaney, penned her biography and attempted to get it published worldwide. Continually turned down with the same rationale, biographies just don't sell; Stoller took it upon himself to publish the biography independently. The book's reception among the public was loud and clear. They loved it! "One Day At A Time," the book, became a #1 best seller with over one million copies sold around the world.



By the late 80s and early 90s, Branson had emerged as a major entertainment destination and the Cristy Lane Theatre became a popular attraction. The theatre not only hosted Lane's own performances, but also those of Branson stars such as Ray Price, Ferlin Husky, and Peter Lemongello. Even after Lane's theatre was leased out in the mid-1990s, she remained a #1 selling artist. In 2000, she received an award for her television and print ad success, and went on to release another million-selling album called, "The Man from Galilee."

However, it was in 2003 that Lane received what she considered to be the greatest honor of her lifetime, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall of Fame Award. The award was given in special recognition of the joy and comfort her performances brought to military bases at home, and abroad, as well as her lifelong commitment to supporting our troops.

Cristy's drive to bring comfort to others through her music extended beyond the military. In 2005, Lane released an album following the devastating Sri Lanka tsunami, from which all proceeds were donated to the Tsunami Victims Fund. In a similar act of generosity, Lane's "Classic Hymns - 19 All Time Favorite Songs of Faith" album was released in China, from which a portion of the proceeds were donated to the 2008 Earthquake Victims Fund.

"I believe the challenges of entering a career in the music business is believing in oneself and getting over the sheer stage fright. The touring was always a challenge, the traveling from place to place, all the while wanting to be at home with our kids. The rewards from the sacrifices made in such a demanding career is, hands down, the fans. Their love and acceptance mean the world to me."

Cristy Lane and Lee Stoller reside in Nashville, where she enjoys sharing life with her family and grandchildren. "My testimony is simple. I believe in God. I have a lot of inner strength and faith that has gotten me through the trials and tribulations, good and bad days. My goal was always to just sing and never give up. And, if I can bring comfort and peace to my fans through the messages in my singing and songs, then my dream has come true."

www.cristylane.com

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Artist Spotlight

Amy Scruggs is a Country music artist, TV Host, public speaker, and media coach. Her story is one of endurance, faith, and success. Becoming a young mother at 18, The next 31 years went on to be filled with a passion for life and music that resonates in her story.

Raised in San Dimas, California, Amy has been singing and playing the piano since the age of three. Starting in 2001 Amy entered the business world as a wholesale mortgage lending professional and quickly achieved top sales leading to sales management positions.

In 2004, she began simultaneously growing her music career. While in Nashville, she caught the attention of industry professionals for her powerful vocals and passion for supporting our troops. Amy's patriotism shines through in her known traditional version of the National Anthem. In 2011, at the request of the United States Army, Los Angeles Recruiting Battalion, Amy was chosen to perform the National Anthem at Dodger Stadium for the 10-year anniversary of 9/11.

Since 2008, Amy has opened for many Country music greats including Trace Adkins, Clint Black, Charlie Daniels, Little Texas, and many others. Amy was officially endorsed by the American Veterans (AMVETS) Service Foundation for California from 2009 through 2011. Amy's oldest son, Ryan Scruggs is her lead guitarist and shared the stage and dream with her by performing alongside her. Ryan is also credited with writing much of their music.

In 2012, after years of touring full time, Amy decided to re-enter the business world specializing in business development, coaching, public speaking, and media training. She is a personal media coach to business professionals of all industries empowering them in communication, confidence, and self-awareness while still integrating her music performances into her public appearances.

She performed at the San Diego Padres Stadium for local Gold Star Families as well as the ceremony for the commissioning of the new U.S. Naval Warship "USS Rafael Peralta." She is also known for her Jazz vocals performing at private events including recent shows opening for Tony Orlando, Chubby Checker and Frankie Avalon. She is continually dedicated to her support of the military, veteran and non-profit community through her 501c3 organization "Voice For Heroes."

In 2021 Amy received "Bestseller" with her book "Lights Camera Action: Media Coaching for Professionals" which was a creation from her role the past five years as a TV Host



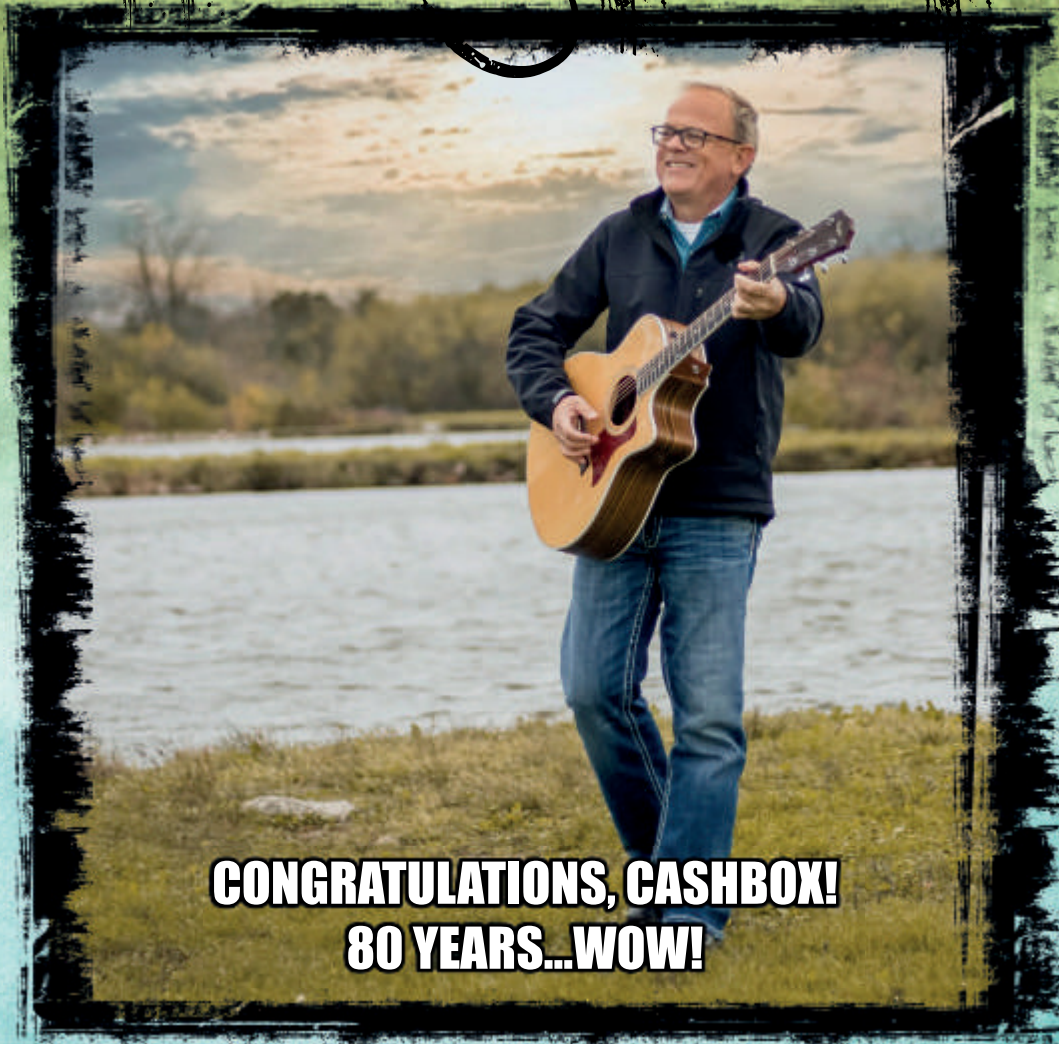
on the national shows "The American Dream TV," "Retiring Right TV," "Veterans One TV," and "Financing the American Dream," which airs on CNBC.

Mid 2020, she received the call from James Rea, her friend and A&R Representative, that the legendary producer Fred Mollin was willing to do an EP project with her in Nashville. After months of strategic song searching as a team, they finalized the project for the recording in May of 2021. Years of waiting to go back to Nashville, Amy's dream project came to life and her new music "Love Another Day" EP was released in 2022. Nurturing 18 years of relationships and connections brought this project to life and it was the perfect time for the message of the first single, *What if it All Goes Right* to be brought to the world. Its quick success was possible through her artist profile on the platform of AirPlay Direct, which brought its visibility to radio worldwide and reached the top of the charts in numerous countries. The success went on to include reaching #66 on the Music Row Charts in August 2022.

Amy says, "Love Another Day is the project I have dreamed of my entire life, and I wouldn't change any of the journey that it took to get here today. I am thankful for my husband Brad and my grown children that have allowed me to continue the daily pursuit of my purpose and passion."

Learn more about Amy at
www.AirPlayDirect.com/AmyScruggs

Jeff Arrandale



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Dreams Do Come True

BEN JAMES

By Deborah Baliles

A dream came true, sooner than later, for twenty-six-year-old Benjamin (Ben) James. Always dreaming of becoming a professional musician, in 2020 Ben joined Doyle Lawson & Quicksilver, playing guitar and singing tenor. The good dream would run for two years until Doyle retired. Ben would become part of the group, Dailey & Vincent, presently touring, playing guitar, and singing tenor.

The son of a Baptist minister, Ben was born and raised in Icard, North Carolina to Eric and Lori James. (Icard is pronounced IKE-erd, expect a swift correction from the good folks if saying I-card.) Moving on, Ben’s childhood was filled with Southern Gospel’s old-time, four-part harmonies. A young kid in church would fall in love with that music style, “I still try my best to echo those sounds of *home*.”

Ben’s parents have always been his source of support, his biggest fans. He says, “My home was like, my mom was the cheerleader who shared all my big dreams. Dad was the one

who spoke reality. It was the perfect mix of dream big, work hard. I grew up with one older sister, Erin. To this day, that girl is my best friend!” His dad sang in a quartet in his younger years. Ben remembers the car rides with dad, listening to The Cathedrals, Gold City, and the other Gospel quartets that rolled across the radio.

Ben would learn to sing tenor, his favorite part to sing. His favorite tenor singer - Jimmy Fortune of The Statler Brothers. “Jimmy’s powerful voice would cut right through, and I knew I wanted to sing just like that.” But first, Ben would graduate from Appalachian State University with a

degree in risk management. He went to work in the insurance field, and quickly realized, “Nope, this desk isn’t for me.”

Ben ventured to Nashville to try the break into the music world. Standing in the window of Hilltop Studio, looking out the window, there stood Jimmy Fortune. “I didn’t want to be starstruck, but I was! There stood my hero. I couldn’t help but to shake his hand and introduce myself. Learning that I was a tenor singer too, he took the time to get to know me and hear some of my songs.” A new friendship had begun.

Later that same evening, Fortune was playing the Station Inn, asking Ben if he wanted to tag along. “Why wouldn’t I go hang out with my biggest musical inspiration of all time? You bet I went. As the show ended, Jimmy asked me on stage to sing a song with him, The Statler Brothers’ esteemed, *Elizabeth*. Boy was I nervous, but it was all good.”

Ben had no idea that as he sang that night, notes were being taken and an important connection was about to be made. Doyle Lawson was looking for a high lead/tenor singer. Apparently, a few folks from that evening made the “good word” calls to Lawson. A day later Doyle called Ben. Within three days, Ben was off to Bristol, Tennessee to meet Lawson. Ben got the job. “If that isn’t a door opened from God, then I don’t know what is.” Already a fan of Lawson, an absolute legend in Bluegrass and Bluegrass Gospel, he gave Ben his first opportunity in the music world/industry. “Doyle molded me as a singer and musician, as well as being a role model for the entire band. I am incredibly proud to be a Quicksilver alumnus.” In the last months with Quicksilver, Doyle would accept an invitation to play the Grand Ole Opry. The Opry circle has welcomed so many legends over time, and tonight, here we stand, “There is no way this is happening right now! It was a night I will never forget.”

Although one tends to momentarily forget while standing on the stage, still, there are lows to bring a musician down. There are a lot of missed family things, because a scheduled show takes the precedence. Ben must continually remind himself, “God has given me a gift; if I can reach one person with what I am doing, it is worth it all.”

He adds, “The most important thing I want to share is salvation. A preacher’s kid can be a tough childhood, but looking back, I would not change it for anything. (Not all can boast of at least twenty sets of grandparents under one roof,

in my home church.) On a Sunday night, this eight-year-old kid realized that I needed a Savior. I remember looking around and seeing joy on the saints’ faces as they sang, *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus*. The joy on their faces was Jesus. Crying, approaching my parents, I decided that I wanted to follow Jesus too. We all knelt together and they led me to Christ. Through His sovereign grace, I was welcomed into the family of God. If you are living life without Jesus Christ as your Savior, you aren’t living at all, my friend.”

Ben was thrilled to join such an accomplished band, Dailey & Vincent. He considers Jamie and Darrin great bosses, who know the music industry through and through. Not to mention, both are renowned vocalists and musicians. “I am loving my time with them and the band.” Another unforgettable night for Ben was when Dailey & Vincent played the Ryman Auditorium, where it all started. “It was much the same feeling as when watching my favorite Gospel and Bluegrass groups on that stage.”

Ben has released his first solo single, *Teardrops In Tennessee*, after pairing up with RBR record label. The song hit radio in July, 2022, and he is so excited for folks to hear it. Ben and RBR are working on an entire album, hopeful release early 2023.

Another dream of Ben’s is scheduled for November, 2022; that’s when he will marry his lovely fiancé, Maggie. “I will forever be thankful to God for sending her my way. She is the glue that holds everything together. She has the most selfless and serving heart I have ever known. Her center is Christ, and she is an inspiration and joy to all who know her.”

Ben James has a mission and a few career goals. “First and foremost, I never want to stray away from sharing the love of Jesus through song. In every band, in every show, Gospel music has a huge part. I want to be remembered as a joyful soul. I want people to see that the happy on stage is the same happy off stage. We all mess up and have bad days, but there will always be forgiveness and an abundance of joy. I hope to be singing for Jesus for the rest of my days, my dreams all fulfilled.”

www.daileyandvincent.com

www.facebook.com/Ben-James-Official

Duncan and Heydary Law, PLLC

W. Michael Duncan

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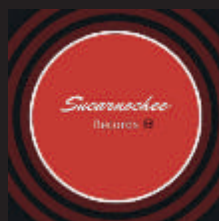
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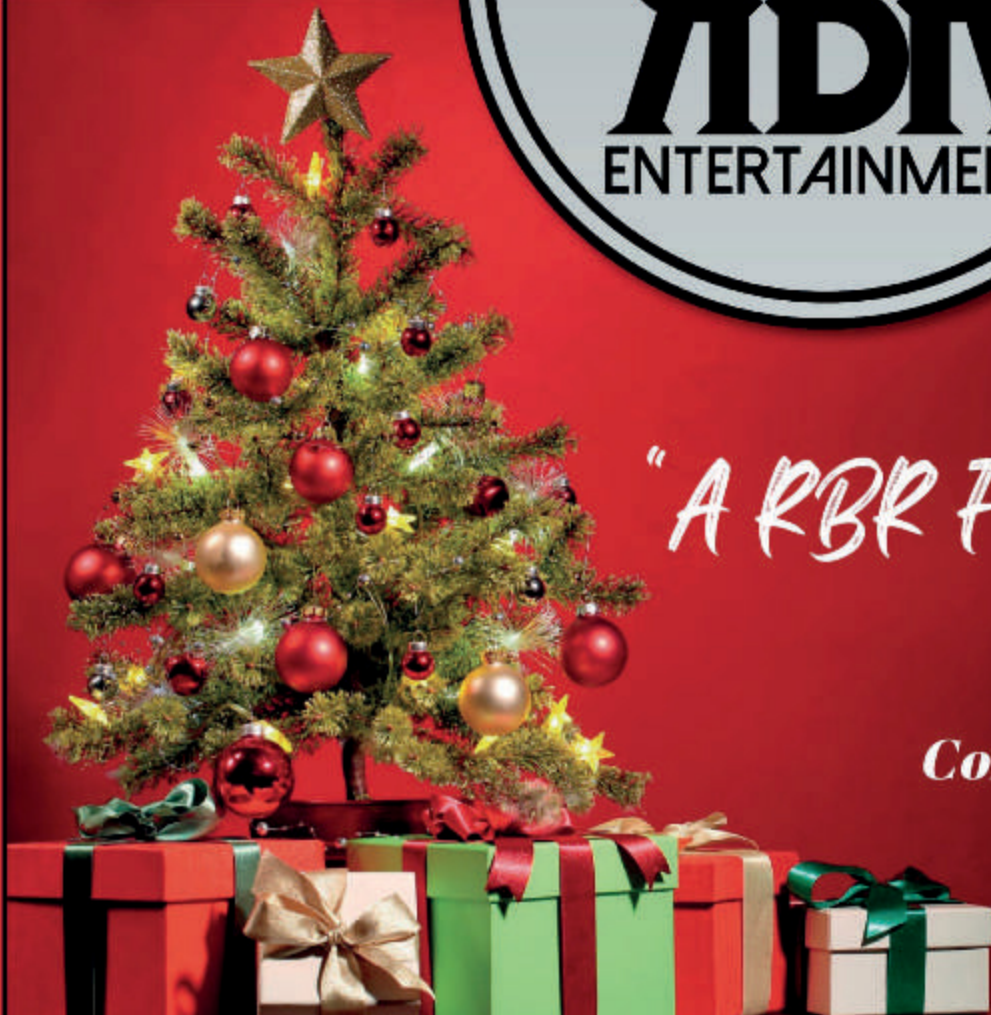
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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

TOM TIKKA

Tom Tikka picked up the guitar at the tender age of six after hearing Paul Anka's *Lonely Boy* in his father's old Chevrolet. Soon afterwards, he began writing songs. Tom's infatuation with music only deepened after his aunt's husband introduced him to the concept of lead guitar and even more importantly to the music of such legendary groups as The Beatles and The Doors.

Tikka formed almost as many groups as he disbanded in his late teens and early twenties. Yet, when he finally signed his first recording contract on his 21st birthday, it was a solo deal and not a band effort. He recorded a three-song EP for Olarin Musiikki, a small indie label in Espoo (Finland), under the alias of Tom Spark. Unfortunately, the EP disappeared as quickly as it was released. Consequently, Tikka found himself in square one, without a band or a record deal.

Disappointed, Tikka withdrew from music for a few years but began writing songs again once his brother Lappe Holopainen suggested that they form a songwriting team. Lappe had founded a group he was convinced would go far and he needed tunes for his new outfit. This group was Carmen Gray.



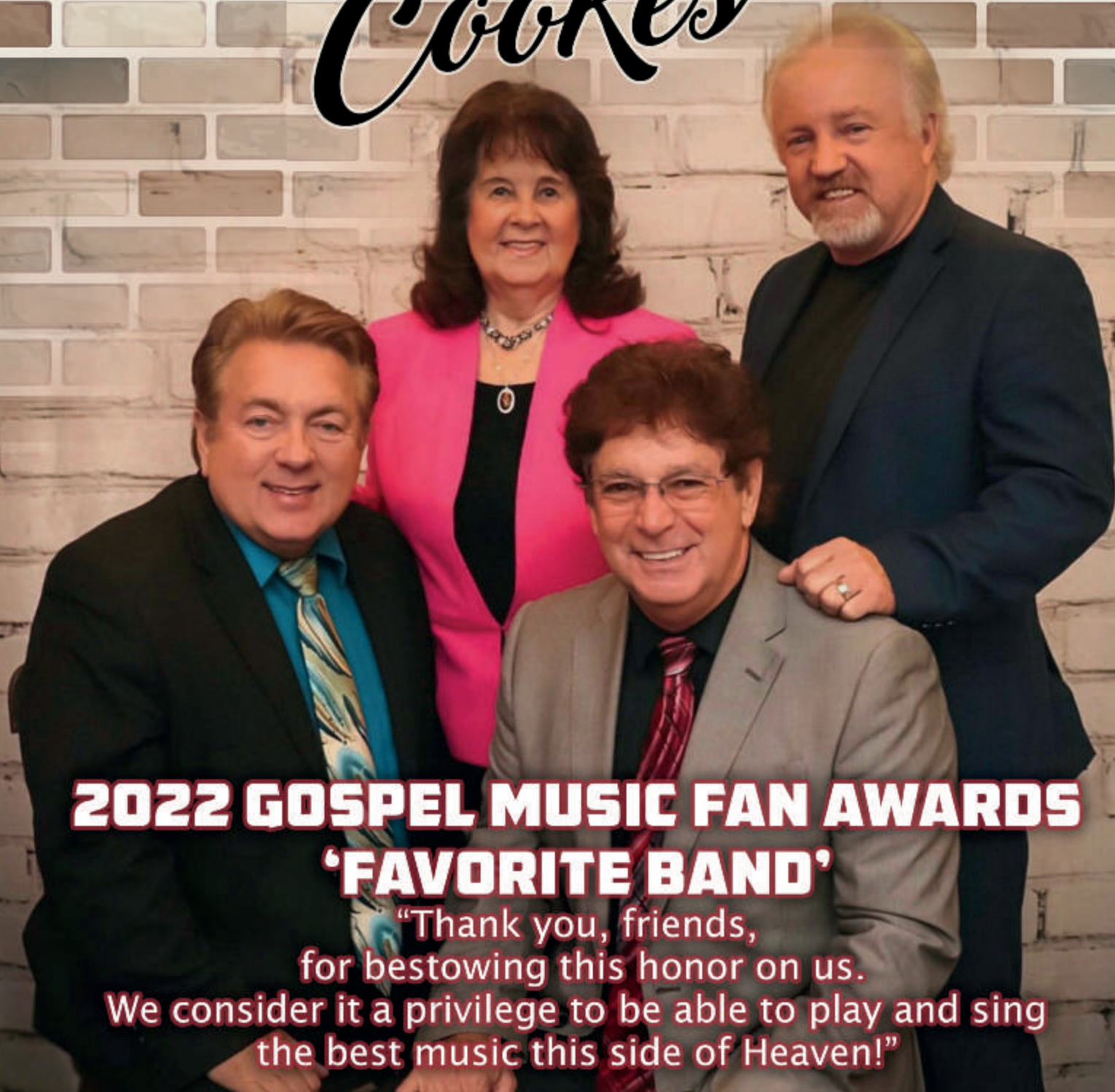
Carmen Gray was signed to Sony/BMG in 2005 and during the next nine years, they went on to record three albums and one EP. The group's entire catalog (including such radio hits as *Lost In My Mind Again*, *Gates Of Loneliness* and *Life Can Be Beautiful*) was penned by Tom Tikka and Lappe Holopainen.

After Carmen Gray disbanded in 2013, Tikka formed his current group The Impersonators with poet Antti Autio. In 2017, The Impersonators signed with FBP Music Group, a German label based out of Frankfurt. Together with their producer Janne Saksa, The Impersonators have released tunes to rave reviews and a considerable amount of radio attention.

In 2020, Tikka began working with MTS Records and released a solo EP titled "Working Class Voodoo" under the name Tom Tikka And The Missing Hubcaps. On this self-produced venture, Tikka plays and sings everything himself. It featured the UK iTunes chart hit title single. Following the global success of his Christmas classic, *Just Like Xmas (Love Is War)*, Tom released the "That's What Winston Churchill Said" EP, including multiple Top 5 iTunes worldwide hits, in January 2021. His latest album, "This Is My Happy Face" includes his #2 iTunes chart single, *Heart's On Fire*.

Michael Stover
MTS Management Group
michael@mtsmanagementgroup.com

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Texas based artist, Bri Bagwell, is making waves in the Country music world. With her recent wins at the 12th Annual Texas Regional Radio Music Awards, eight number one songs, and a brand new record on the way, Bagwell is simultaneously climbing the charts while expanding the genre itself. The debut single from “Corazón y Cabeza” (Heart and Head) *Free Man* is racing up the Texas Country Radio chart and is poised to become Bri’s latest #1 and crossover hit.

By Cory Parker

Bri Bagwell

Corazón y Cabeza

“Corazón y Cabeza” (Heart and Head) reflects Bri’s influences from growing up in Las Cruces, New Mexico and is her most intimate collection of recordings to date. The album truly showcases Bagwell’s dedication to the art of songwriting. “Over the last two years, I have challenged myself to write a new, full song, religiously, every two weeks. I give myself songwriting homework,” she confides. “I feel that I am a better writer at this point in my life because I continued to force myself to be creative throughout the last few crazy years!”

Not only was Bagwell able to center herself on the music, but the “time off” allowed her to find her voice on social media. Bagwell prioritizes making her online presence a fun experience, utilizing her social platforms as a way to connect with her fans on a more personal level. Bagwell has used her social media accounts as a resource for trying out, distributing, and debuting her latest releases, something her fans are thrilled by. “There is nothing like putting a clip of something I am working on up and getting instant feedback,” she says. “It’s invaluable really because they are the ones I am doing this for after all.”

It has been four years since Bagwell’s wildly popular record, “In My Defense” was released. It spawned four #1 one singles, including *As Soon As You*, seen on CMT and Heartland. *As Soon As You* crossed to mainstream Country radio and quickly climbed the charts. The music video spent nine weeks on CMT Music’s 12 Pack Countdown. Her 2021

single *Heroes* went #1 in Texas, and last August she was featured on *Can’t Take My Eyes Off You* with La Energia Norteña.

The wait for new music is finally over for Bri Bagwell fans! It is time for the anticipated release of her new record, “Corazón y Cabeza” (Heart and Head), which is destined to be a chart topper. This carefully crafted album, recorded in Nashville at The Sound Emporium, incorporates a Spanish influence blended with meaningful lyrics that come from the core of Bagwell’s heart. “My producer Rachel Loy and I very carefully evaluated each song and made sure they were all edited to our highest standards,” she reveals. “It is important to me that listeners know how much time and effort we invested in these songs.”

“Corazón y Cabeza” (Heart and Head) was meticulously loved and nurtured by Bagwell, her producer and the contributing musicians. This fact is evident upon first listen of the 11-track collection.

Known as one of the hardest workers in music, Bagwell is wasting no time jumping headfirst into the writing of her next project. “Writing is a big part of who I am. I never stop, so yes, I am already writing for the next project just as “Corazón y Cabeza” comes to life.”

Follow Bri Bagwell on all socials @bribagwell. There you will find info on her tour, snippets of new songs and of course lots of appearances from her rescue Chihuahua, Whiskey!



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Staff, Cashbox



Nolan Neal

October 4, 1980 – July 18, 2022

Born in Nashville, Tennessee October 4, 1980, and raised in East Tennessee, Nolan Neal was a singer who competed on NBC's "The Voice" and "America's Got Talent,"

Nolan appeared on the 15th season of "America's Got Talent," auditioning with a song called *Lost* that he said was an original he wrote after getting clean. Nolan made it to the quarterfinals of the NBC competition series and performed another original song, *Send Me a Butterfly*.

As a contestant on the 10th season of "The Voice," Nolan was chosen to join Adam Levine's team and made it to the knockout rounds before he was eliminated. All four judges turned their chairs for Neal during his audition, where he sang a cover of Elton John's *Tiny Dancer*.

Neal was open about his struggles with substance addiction, once telling a local NBC affiliate, "I remember I got clean in 2010; May 15, went to rehab. Stayed clean. I joined the rock band Hinder, they were all about drinking and partying. This is not their fault. I had decided I wanted to drink like a normal person. I remember trying to be normal and fitting in. I remember going to a bar and ordering a drink. I tried to hide it. I remember pretending to be normal. I was just lying to myself telling myself that I could control it."

During his time on "The Voice," Neal said he was still battling his addiction. "I kind of lost my way on 'The Voice' and continued drinking," Nolan said. "You can see it. I can see it."

Neal passed away July 18, 2022. He was 41 years old.

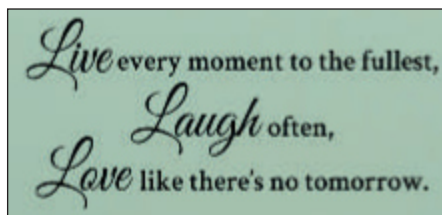
Glen Allred

June 19, 1934 – July 22, 2022

Glenan "Glen" H. Allred was born June 19, 1934, in Monroe, Tennessee, and lived in the Pensacola, Florida area for 69 years.

Glen contributed his talent and his life to making Southern Gospel a better industry. Hired at the tender age of 16 as a guitarist for Wally Fowler and the Oak Ridge Quartet, Glen also served early stints with the Happy Rhythm Quartet and the Spirit of Dixie Trio.

In late 1952, however, he was hired as the baritone singer for the Gospel Melody Quartet of Pensacola, Florida. For the next half century, as a singer and guitarist for the re-named Florida boys Quartet, Glen Allred became a household name throughout the world of Southern Gospel.



Allred received a Singing News Fan Award for 'Favorite Baritone' in 1971 and was inducted to the Southern Gospel Music Hall of Fame in 2001. He stayed with The Florida Boys until they retired in 2007.

Glen had cultivated the friendship of thousands, and he was the mentor and encourager of many who stand on today's stages. One of the most respected gentlemen ever to grace a Southern Gospel stage, he stands as one of the classic examples of the industry's quartet men.

Glen was a talented craftsman, building planes, boats, and restoring cars. He also formed a family singing group called Three Generations. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather.

A true legend and friend, Glen Allred - the last of the original Florida Boys Quartet - passed away unexpectedly on July 22, 2022. He was 88 years old.





Shonka Dukureh

September 4, 1977 – July 21, 2022

Shonka Lee White-Dukureh was born September 7, 1977 in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she spent the first five years of her life with her grandmother. She later moved to Tennessee with her mother, where she attended Maplewood Comp High School and graduated, Class of 1995. She studied theater at Fisk University on a full scholarship, Class of 1999, where she was a Fiskite and Fisk Alumni. Shonka furthered her studies at Trevecca Nazarene University and obtained a Master of Arts in Education, August 2010 to May 2013.

While at Fisk University, Shonka was involved in musicals and plays throughout her college years. After graduating, Shonka became a teacher, but never gave up on singing or acting. She would grace every church she walked in with her smile and most times with a song.

Shonka worked with the United States Army Corps of Engineers as an Office Automation Clerk in the Equal Employment Opportunity Office part time in 1998 while at Fisk University. She worked as a Student Aide until she completed her post-graduate studies at Trevecca Nazarene University in 2003. Work products developed by her are still being used by the EEO staff today.

Earlier this year she was propelled to international fame after playing Willie Mae “Big Mama” Thornton in Baz Luhrmann’s movie, “Elvis.” Thornton was the first to record Leiber and Stoller’s *Hound Dog* in 1952, which a young Elvis on screen hears and adopts. The movie is destined to receive many accolades during the Hollywood awards season.

Shonka performed with artists such as Nick Cave, Mike Farris, and Jamie Liddell and appeared this year at the music festival Coachella with singer and rapper Doja Cat.

At age 44, American blues singer and actress Shonka Dukureh died at her Tennessee home on July 21, 2022.

Shonka had been planning to release her first studio album, titled “The Lady Sings the Blues.” “The project is a tribute to the Blues music genre in celebration of those fierce unsung pioneering artists and musicians who paved the way for the Rock’ n Roll music revolution,” according to the website.



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A portrait of Bishop Joseph G. Snead, a Black man with a goatee and glasses, wearing a light-colored suit jacket, a white shirt, and a colorful patterned tie. He is standing in front of a glowing purple and blue circular light effect. The background is a dark purple with light streaks and a crowd of silhouetted hands raised at the bottom.

BISHOP

Joseph
G SNEAD



Artist Spotlight

TIFFANY WILLIAMS

“I remember sitting in the coal camp house I grew up in and thinking, ‘If I had another life, I’d give it to music,’” Tiffany Williams says. Not long after, Williams quit her job as a high school teacher in Eastern Kentucky, loaded up everything she owned, and headed for Nashville. She wanted to write songs for other artists but as she began to find her writing voice, she also found her vocals developing in ways she couldn’t have predicted. The result is her enchanting debut full-length album, “All Those Days of Drinking Dust,” a collection of ten tightly-written songs that is a solid addition to the work of artists who are tangling influences of the past with their own complex takes on Appalachia.

The daughter, granddaughter, and great-granddaughter of coal miners, when Williams introduced herself to audiences, she felt guilty. To purge that feeling she wrote the title track, a contemporary take on being the product of hard-working Appalachians. The production matches Williams’ millennial point of view with an understated yet powerful mix of piano, percussion, and electric guitar. “All Those Days of Drinking Dust,” the opener, proves a declaration of an artist capable of owning her heritage while creating her own story. Williams’ evocative voice can rise like the mountains or wander low and snaky as the creeks of Eastern Kentucky. Her vocals are so good, it’s hard to believe she didn’t set out to be a singer.

Encountering Appalachian literature in college, Williams says, “I felt swept up in being a creator, so I wrote my first short stories then.” She started to get published and win fiction awards, including the Jean Ritchie Fellowship for Appalachian Writing. At writing workshops, writers often jammed, so she started singing and playing more.

Five months before the world shut down, she left her state job to pursue music full time, following successful singles and an EP. While touring dried up, her creativity flourished, and she spent much of that time fine-tuning and eventually recording what would become her debut album.

Williams recruited Lexington, Kentucky producer Duane Lundy (Ringo Starr, Sturgill Simpson, and many others) to bring her sound together. Lundy, “beyond proud” of the album, says, “Tiffany’s depth of writing, voice, and performance are a producer’s dream. Her material, be it the most personal of emotions, to her unique perspective on her Appalachian experience, and beyond, is done with such nuance and beauty.”

The recording is a vocal tour de force with songs all written by Williams. They run the gamut from a timely track



about a woman who has nothing in her purse except “an EBT card and two full packs of Winston Lights” (*Don’t Give a Damn*) to a stunning ballad called *Harder Heart*, showcasing a narrator who wishes she weren’t so forgiving. *The Sea* is an image-driven articulation of longing. This theme shows up less hopefully on *Wanted It To Be* and more laidback on *When I Come Back Around*. *No Bottom* plays like a powerful short story as a monologue about someone who realizes she should have taken better care of herself instead of tending to everyone else. Williams’ truest power as a vocalist is the genuine ache she possesses, never better showcased than on the closing track, *The Waiting*.

With the arrival of “All These Days of Drinking Dust,” taking a chance has paid off in spades for Williams. “Nowadays I operate at the confluence of everything I love, words, story, and music. I finally found something that lets me do all the things that I love.”

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

CORY M. COONS



Melodic Rock is a bizarre yet fascinating genre, with plenty of untapped potential just waiting to be unearthed, and one of the most talented hats in this ring is Cory M. Coons, a singer-songwriter with as much to prove as he has already achieved. Who is he, and what is his story? What makes him the performer he is today?

Ask anyone familiar with the Cory's music, and they will tell you the thing that sets him apart from the pack is his very own blend of eclectic musical influences. This signature fusion of sound has been labeled as Melodic Roots-Rock, tinged with hints of classic Country-Rock and Americana. As a result, the Canadian artist had made a fairly sizable mark on the industry.

Growing up in Eastern Ontario, Canada just South of Ottawa, Cory had always shown a vested interest in the creative arts. Even in high school he had already begun performing as a vocalist, guitarist, and bassist, and this passion only grew. The budding artist eventually came to tour with many different cover bands all over Ontario and the United States, as well as acts like Shake The Tree and Heads Or Tails.

With time, Cory established his own band, the Tycoons, with Classic-Melodic Rock music as their primary sound, and from there the artist has continued on to greater things. Not only is he still a respected performer today, introducing his own style of music that's become more and more popular with time, but he's also a well-known guitar instructor in his home country.

Of course, that's not to say the performer has no accolades, he's received plenty of recognition, even from greater sources like the Los Angeles Music Awards (Producer's Choice Honors). Other higher musical bodies that have shown respect to the performer include The Josie Music Awards, International Singer-Songwriter Association, and the Radio Music Awards, among others.

Despite this, he stays humble in his career and music. According to the artist himself, he prefers keeping his songwriting grounded and honest in an effort to better connect with his audience. There are no pretenses of grandeur here, with Cory preferring to keep things simple. When the performer shares his nuggets of wisdom, it makes his music more intimate, an energy he preserves even when he's performing live.

He's living proof that you do not need to make a grand spectacle of your craft to be a well-respected performer, having opened for the likes of April Wine, Kim Mitchell, Glass Tiger, among others. As a songwriter and recording artist, he has even managed to amass more than 170,000 plays on Spotify, a sign of the artist's continued success.

As a person, Cory also prefers to live simple, valuing his freedom and loving the people around him. When asked, he happily exclaims that living away from his family is the hardest thing about being a performer, though it's a lifestyle that he still lives to its fullest.

At the end of the day, Cory M. Coons retains his values and morals as a person, not allowing the music industry to change or shape him. He writes and performs the music he wants to make, hoping it will connect with audiences everywhere. Even his latest single, *Freedom Road*, paints a picture of the current situation around the world that has built up much frustration, anger, and confusion.

He says, "I like to portray an honest, down to earth approach in my songwriting most times, sometimes just with good stories, and other times maybe trying to convey some of my own wisdom and truth in my own universal kind of way that hopefully touches home with people."

Michael Stover
MTS Management Group
michael@mtsmanagementgroup.com

TERRY SWILLEY

About 46 years ago, I bought a scratched Harmony guitar on clearance at the Sears outlet store. I could sound out melodies on a harmonica, but I knew nothing about a guitar. A few "Top Hits" books later that had lyrics and guitar chords and I was strumming out a few songs. I could play enough to use the guitar as a tool to write songs and did. It just so happened that my sister was living near Nashville at the time and was involved in the music industry. I was married and teaching and would visit her during the summers. After a couple of visits, I decided that I would take some of the songs that I had written to "Music Row" to see if I could ten to two or three songs. They were encouraging.

A few years passed, our children were born, I got a couple more degrees while I was working, became a school administrator and didn't have time for writing. My music didn't die but it did lie dormant. Then unexpectedly through luck, I started playing harmonica with Jed Clampit at The River in Monticello, Arkansas which led by chance happenings to my playing with Ben Coulter's band, The Delta Outlaws, for a couple of years. That was enough to get me writing again.

I built up my portfolio and started making rough demos of my songs. I wrote several different types of music, but I wanted to do a Christian CD with influences of Southern Gospel, Country music, the Blues, and Contemporary Christian music. In the meantime, my old friend and band mate Ben Coulter had given up the Nashville music scene and had become the pastor of a church in Magnolia, Arkansas. He was a perfect fit to sing my songs.

I released my first song by Ben Coulter "Take my Hand" at the end of May 2021 and Jamie Coulter released "I Never Said Goodbye" on a CD he released with him singing. We later released Ben's version of "He Will Give You Rest" from the album TESTIMONY. These songs charted for over a year. We just released Ben singing "One Day I'm Going To Rise" and will continue to release songs from this album. We recently finished the album EVERYTHING HAS A REASON sung by Ben Coulter. We also have released a single performed by John Dumas called "He's Everywhere", an early song from 1978. Others will follow.

**Feel free to contact Terry at:
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LARRY WILSON & God's Country Band

Ambassadors of the Christian Faith

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band got their start in the year 2000 and have been honing their skills through rehearsals and live concerts for the last 22 years. They are an all-original band that love doing the occasional cover of an old standard Country Gospel classic, or a good old hymn, often including them in their concert song sets. Based out of Columbus, Ohio, an independent group that travels from state to state and town to town, they share the Gospel message of hope, faith, and redemption.

By Jackson McKee

Having played thousands of concerts, including many church events, fairs, festivals, homecomings, TV spots, radio releases, interviews, many live stream performances, along with eight studio projects, including a DVD production of twelve songs with live footage; this group of men are seasoned musicians and ambassadors of the Christian faith.

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band has had the high honor of meeting Tommy Cash, after writing a tribute song for the late great, Johnny Cash. The song, *White Robe: A Tribute To Johnny Cash* can be viewed on YouTube. Tommy heard it, reaching out to Wilson, they made plans to travel to Hendersonville, Tennessee to meet Tommy Cash, the other man in black. At the SMS Studio, they recorded a duet with Tommy, re-recording the group's tribute song.

Larry Wilson and the band has recently wrapped up their newest studio project called, "A Million Reasons." They are enjoying some very good success on the charts with the title track, *A Million Reasons*, playing on Christian Country radio all around the world.

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band has developed a sound and style all their own. They are unique in the deliverance of the message of the Good News of the Gospel in a way that is both moving and uplifting, while entertaining the soul, in what can be described as a spiritual experience. "We love sharing the message of God's love and grace that He has for all mankind. We know of no better way to do so than through the ability that He has given us as musicians, singers, and songwriters."

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band has many doors opening for them and are looking forward to greater things in the very near future.

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band are:

Larry Wilson – Guitarist/Lead Vocalist

"I have been attending church all my life. I was always drawn to the Christian crowd, and I love being in that atmosphere. I wrote my first song when I was about seven years old. I sang my first song in a public setting, around the same age, in a little country church back home in the hills of West Virginia; the selection that God placed on my heart that day was, *House Of Gold* by Hank Williams Sr. Upon occasion we will still include this song during our concert performances, a song that still holds a special place in my heart to this day."

Larry Wilson & God's Country Band has developed a sound and style all their own. They are unique in the deliverance of the message of the Good News of the Gospel in a way that is both moving and uplifting.

"I started writing more seriously in my mid-twenties, and since have written hundreds of songs. I started a group just to have some fun, more so as a hobby, and it just kept growing and growing, as we received invitation after invitation to visit churches and other events. Now we have enjoyed traveling to many states, given the high privilege to share the message of Jesus Christ, and his hope and love of the sacrificial message of John 3:16 for the world. We firmly believe Jesus is still the answer for the world's problems today."

Cochise Smith – Drums

"I've been playing for fifty-plus years. What inspired me was watching my dad and his band practice or watching my dad practice by himself and me playing along with him on bongos. I was only seven or eight at the time. I have been traveling with GCB now for twenty years. This is where God was leading me the whole time. I'm right where I'm supposed to be."

Gary Preston – Steel Guitar

Gary Preston has been playing steel for 44 years. He was inspired by a lead guitarist that played steel licks on his electric guitar. Gary has been saved for 35 years and has been with GCB for almost five years. We are honored to have such a high caliber of a Godly man and musician to join up with GCB.

Rob Kirk – Steel/Rhythm Guitars

Rob started out playing at age fourteen with Bluegrass and Southern Gospel groups. He has enjoyed traveling the past 45 years. Rob has been a Christian for over 47 years. He is now playing Country Gospel music with his wonderful friends, Larry Wilson & God's Country Band. "Brother Larry

Wilson extended me an invitation to join up with them, and God knew it was just what I needed. I have enjoyed being a part of this band and have received many blessings in these past five years of traveling with the group."

Greg Vance – Bassist

Greg is the newest number of the group. He has been with GCB going on two years now. Greg started playing for God at the early age of eight, with his dad. He started on acoustic and moved to bass five years later. He has been playing in church and groups for 54 years, and says he still loves doing it for JESUS! He brings years of experience and outstanding skill to the table. He is a tremendous asset to the group.

Jay Robison – Keyboardist and Harmonies

Owner and Engineer of Power Play Studio in Grove City, Ohio, Jay has been recording Christian artists for over 25 years. Jay was saved when he was eight years old. He started learning how to play piano from the piano player in his dad's Country band. It wasn't much longer after that, his dad got saved and they started their own family band. "I have enjoyed playing with Larry Wilson & God's Country Band for several years now. I'm honored to play with such fantastic musicians and an amazing songwriter."



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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

LaDonna Capps

LaDonna - a prominent name known in Nashville by many for her musical ability. The daughter of a pastor, she has been singing in front of people since she was three years old. Her mother, father, and sisters were huge supporters and influencers from the beginning. She later learned to play piano and helped her father with weddings and funerals all over South Tennessee.

At the age of 14, LaDonna was asked to be a regular artist at the famous Natural Bridge shows in Waynesboro, Tennessee. She opened shows for George Jones, Bill Monroe and Jimmy Martin. Her voice and stage presence captured so much attention and she was encouraged to record an album.

Since moving to Nashville and recording her first album, her talent catapulted her notoriety in the music industry. She has been honored to be included on the "Farago's" list of most recorded background vocalists in Nashville. Her vocals can be heard on recordings by Garth Brooks, Alan Jackson, Daryl Singleary, Lorrie Morgan, Tanya Tucker, The Bama Band, The Jones Boys, Crystal Gayle, Pam Tillis, Steve Warriner, Charlie Louvin, Leona and Ron Williams, Jeannie Seely, Kree Harrison, Laney Hicks, and Jimmy Capps, who was LaDonna's first producer.

She is an accomplished songwriter, and has had songs recorded by Conway Twitty, Merle Haggard, The Statler Brothers, Joe Nichols, Jeannie C Riley, and Leona and Ron Williams. Many of her songs have been recorded by hundreds of independent artists as well.

LaDonna is also known as a dynamic lead vocalist who knows how to deliver a song and front shows of all kinds. She has recorded a great Country and Gospel project that netted a chart-topping song with *Jesus Loves Me*.



She is now involved with her own promotion company; producing records, doing shows, and helping emcee with her husband in ministry. LaDonna's goal is to help the less fortunate and downtrodden find their way through song and testimony. She knows Jesus really does Love her and she wants to share his love with everyone.

LaDonna has just released her latest Country single, *All I Can Do*. The song is now on radio everywhere and available on all major dig

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

JAY ELLE

Music is a passion, and having the drive to create is essential when it comes to making it. This quality is reflected in Jay Elle, a singer-songwriter based in New York City, writing guitar-driven melodic Pop songs with his own personalized flair thrown into the mix. The artist's craft has a unique inflection, one that comes from blending many different genres together, a reflection of Jay Elle's tastes and background as a musician.

Jay comes from Switzerland where, as a young lad, he discovered a love for music. Picking up the guitar at the tender young age of sixteen, he would eventually enroll in the Geneva Conservatory of Music to find his calling in the music world. He'd stumble through many gigs and champagne bands, eventually starting his own Rock band.

As an enthusiast of a wide variety of genres, Jay learned to listen and take inspiration from as many musical sources as possible, be it Blues, Jazz, Rock or Pop. This unique perspective is what led Jay to begin his experimentation with genre bending, incorporating many different forms of music into his songwriting in order to form a style he could proudly call his own.

After relocating himself to the United States of America, Jay quickly began networking, making ties with new people and performers, as well as catching up with friends who'd moved there before him. During this time, he'd learn to never take "no" for an answer, pushing forward and always doing his best regardless of what others would see in him. Despite facing rejection from many different places, he persevered and stayed strong, eventually becoming the creative artist we see today.

For Jay Elle, musical integrity is important. He does not create music to appeal to a niche or an audience, but instead makes the music he wants and hopes it finds an audience on its own. The reward for him is the fact he gets to make music he loves in the first place and making his own style that stands out from the glut of performers releasing music today.

Thankfully, Jay has definitely reached his audience. His album "Ride The Wave" has been received with adoration by critical reviewers and casual music enjoyers alike. It's been nominated for 'Album of the Year' on Indie Shark, and



continues to be a strong release that draws rave reviews for its unique sound and powerful songwriting, all hallmarks of Jay Elle's own style.

When it comes to songwriting, Jay prefers to take inspiration from what's happening in the world around him. "Ride The Wave" was heavily influenced by the pandemic, as well as how people around him are still handling it to this day. His hit single *Miss Mess* was heavily focused on how social media became an integral aspect of people's daily lives, especially with active outdoors socialization being something most couldn't achieve.

Jay Elle also finds Rock and Roll music to be strong protest music, believing that it's important to always question authority. Challenging governing powers to be more transparent and accountable are key themes in a lot of Jay Elle's music, though he's also not one for violent protest, preferring to keep things civil and peaceful. It's these beliefs that keep the artist moving forward.

On top of all else, Jay is a believer in letting one's imagination run wild. Music has rules, but they are meant to be broken. Extremely enthusiastic about following one's dreams, Jay understands that while there are no guarantees in his lifestyle, it's the one he's chosen, and he's happy to roll with the punches.

He says, "Whether you're walking around or relaxing or exercising, a cool song can make the time go faster and uplift you. So, I try to pass that energy on in my songs and pass on good vibes in whatever I do, especially when performing. I prefer being hopeful and optimistic and share that approach to life with people around me."

Michael Stover
MTS Management Group
michael@mtsmanagementgroup.com

Michael Austin

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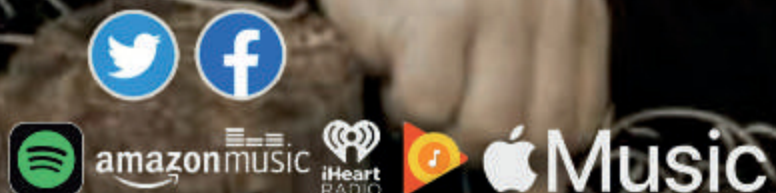
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Bill Abernathy

Imagine yourself in a small mining town on January 29th, 1958. You're in a condemned hospital where a mother is giving birth to her fourth child while her husband, covered in coal dust from the mines, paces the waiting room. This is the beginning of my story - an auspicious beginning to a twisting, turning life journey leading me to where I am today.



This is my story...

It's the first day of third grade, my teacher sent me home ill. My mom immediately took me to the hospital where I was diagnosed with rheumatic fever. Rheumatic fever affects joints, heart, skin, and nervous system. Three months later I was released from the hospital. I was home schooled the entire year. My homebound teacher instilled in me a fascination with reading and music. During this six-month period my physical activities were very restricted. I started to play around on the guitar and piano to entertain myself.

Junior High was the first time I remember performing in public. A friend and I performed a Beatles tune in a talent show and I was hooked. Playing in school continued until graduation with many performances in many environments. Opportunities to perform in local clubs came along as well. I was the young kid with the curly hair.

Playing music at night during high school years was different than a typical high school experience. I had to grow up fast in the adult environments. I could say the "opportunities" afforded to me in those clubs were declined but that would be a lie. There is a reason I tell folks that "the 70s were a little hard on me."

I soon started having issues with my voice. It would tire very easily, and it was quite painful. The doctor found I had had vocal nodes. He prescribed resting my voice and soon the issues would go away. To pay the bills, I got a job with a manufacturing company to hold me over until I got better. Six months came and went, then a year, then surgery, then another surgery and the next thing you know I find myself retiring from that company 43 years later.

What's a guy to do when his music dream has vanished in front of his eyes? I got married, had a couple kids, and developed a great family life. My kids were quite athletic, giving me the opportunity to coach them, and support their dreams playing all through college. This was a great time in my life that I would not trade for the world. I also worked hard on my business career, moved up through the organization, working my way into management and leadership positions. When the kids graduated and started their own lives, I reached into a drawer full of thoughts, songs, and ideas accumulated over years and started playing music again. I had no thoughts of doing anything more, until...

A friend heard me play at a party and asked if I had recorded any of my tunes. I told him I had no plans to do so,

“I am a pure lyrics first writer. I am a bit of a storyteller. I feel the story and lyrics tell me what the rest of the song is supposed to sound like. Due to the variety in the life events that eventually turn into my music, the final songs end up being quite diverse both lyrically and musically. I really enjoy the freedom to create this way, and many times I am quite surprised how the songs turn out.”

but it sounded like fun. We decided to record a couple tunes and see what happens. I sent songs to some radio stations and got a little airplay. I got to experience that special feeling of hearing my songs on the radio for the first time. I also won a few songwriting awards, which validated there may be an audience out there for my music.

We followed up with a far more produced album, “Find A Way.” This album included our biggest hit to date, titled *Goodbye Will Never Come Again*. Sometimes understanding our immaturity and the impact it had on others was challenging to write about. *Goodbye Will Never Come Again* hit #1 in the Folk category on the National Roots music charts.

The next project, “Crossing Willow Creek” is my way of examining how some tunes need more than purely acoustic treatment to effectively get their message across. “Crossing Willow Creek” had four singles classified as hits in today’s environment.

My latest work is an EP containing four new songs. Each song is a different genre from Rock to Country, Folk, and Americana. The current single is a cover song written by Gary Burr, drawing an analogy from our emotional baggage we carry with us, to *A Thousand Wild Horses* thundering behind us, hell bent on running us down. A great song I am honored to cover.

From a condemned hospital, through many changes and challenges, to having my songs played all over the world, this is my story. Change always teaches us to be everything we’re destined to be. We don’t always know what life will bring, what dreams will become reality, what dreams will crash and burn, but one thing is certain - change is either our friend or our enemy, we choose which.

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Artist Spotlight

SHEMEKIA COPELAND

Award-winning Blues, Soul and Americana vocalist Shemekia Copeland, who The Washington Post calls “the greatest Blues singer of her generation,” possesses one of the most instantly recognizable and deeply soulful roots music voices of our time. Copeland is beloved worldwide for the fearlessness, honesty, and humor of her revelatory music, as well as for delivering each song she performs with unmatched passion. On her just-released new album, “Done Come Too Far,” Copeland connects with her audience on an intensely personal level, taking them with her on what The Wall Street Journal calls “a consequential ride” of “bold and timely Blues.”

Copeland has performed thousands of gigs at clubs, festivals and concert halls all over the world since her Alligator Records debut, *Turn The Heat Up*, hit in 1998. She has appeared in films, on national television, NPR, and in magazines and newspapers. She’s sung with Bonnie Raitt, Keith Richards, Carlos Santana, Dr. John, and many others, and has shared a bill with The Rolling Stones. She entertained U.S. troops in Iraq and Kuwait in 2008, a trip she says, “opened my eyes to the larger world around me and my place in it.” In 2012, she performed with B.B. King, Mick Jagger, Buddy Guy, Trombone Shorty, Gary Clark, Jr. and others at the White House for President and Mrs. Obama. She has appeared on PBS’s *Austin City Limits* and was the subject of a six-minute feature on the PBS News Hour.

Copeland, a multiple Grammy Award nominee, recently won the Living Blues magazine Critics’ Poll Award for ‘Blues Artist Of The Year’ (Female), and *DownBeat* magazine’s Critics’ Poll named her as its ‘Blues Artist Of The Year’ for the second year in a row. She appeared on the cover of *DownBeat* in February 2022. She’s won a total of 15 Blues Music Awards and has been nominated for 31 more.

Copeland was the subject of an extended Washington Post Sunday magazine story and appeared on both NPR’s Weekend Edition and *Here And Now*. And NPR’s *Jazz Night In America* recently aired an hour-long program featuring Copeland. In April 2022, she performed at the United Nations General Assembly Hall to a worldwide audience of millions as part of International Jazz Day celebrations. Copeland



continues to host her own popular daily Blues radio show on SiriusXM’s Bluesville channel.

Talking about “Done Come Too Far,” Copeland says, “This album was made by all sides of me - happy, sad, silly, irate - they’re all a part who I am and who we all are. I’m not political. I’m just talking about what’s happening in this country.” And she doesn’t hold back. Recorded in Nashville and produced by multi-instrumentalist/songwriter Will Kimbrough (who also produced her previous two albums), “Done Come Too Far” is Copeland at her charismatic, passionate, confrontational best. *Forbes* says, “Copeland holds back nothing as she delivers hard-hitting musical truths.”

According to her friend Mavis Staples, “I am so happy Shemekia is delivering these songs that the world needs to hear. Her voice is strong and soulful, and her message comes from her heart.” NPR Music says, “Shemekia Copeland has established herself as one of the leading Blues artists of our time.” *Living Blues* declares, “Copeland provides a soundtrack for contemporary America...powerful, ferocious, clear-eyed and hopeful. Marc Lipkin states, “She’s in such control of her voice that she can scream at injustices before she soothes with loving hope. It sends shivers up your spine.”

Learn more about Shemekia at
www.AirPlayDirect.com/SC-DoneComeTooFar

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ANSWERING THE CALL

JOHN
McDonough

By Michael Stover

Hailing from Chicago, Illinois, John McDonough is a singer-songwriter with a mind boggling six decades of musical experience under his belt. He's learned every trick in the book, performing all over the United States, with the same burning passion for music he had from the start of his career. But what exactly keeps John motivated, what started him out on his endless pursuit for music?

Even as a young child, John McDonough loved to sing, cranking his bedroom stereo up and singing as if he were on stage. A natural interest in the art of writing came to John as he grew up, and by ten years old he was already writing his own short stories. Soon after, he would pick up the guitar, and from there his passion for crafting melodies paired with creative writing was born.

The artist's continued efforts have garnered him an incredible reputation as a prolific singer-songwriter. He's performed over 500 gigs, released multiple chart toppers over the last ten years, performed spots in eleven different music festivals, and embarked on multiple successful tours throughout the USA. As an artist, he's accomplished more than most.

Even as recently as 2021, John would release a new acoustic styled CD titled "Second Chances." The acoustic album would comprise mainly of fresh acoustic spins on

songs from his previous releases, polishing them and up giving them a new lease on life. The excellent record would garner massive reception, being nominated for 'Album Of The Year' by both the Josie Awards and Blues And Roots Magazine.

From then until now, however, one thing has stayed consistent, and that's John's love for singing. More than anything, he loves that he's able to sing his songs for people, sharing his creativity and passion with the world. To this end, he plans to put out two to three new albums within the next ten years, with each one having a bigger reach to new audiences.

Always working towards being a better musician and performer may be John McDonough's main prerogative, but outside of work, John loves to travel. COVID put a halt in his traveling plans, and he dearly misses going to new places to have fresh new experiences to share. Traveling to places in

his little RV and performing gigs in new towns and venues is all part of the fun, and thankfully it's making its way back now, to John's delight.

Outside of this, John also loves his family, especially his eleven-year-old niece whom he finds is growing up fast. He wants to spend as much time as he can with her for now, while he still can. John's family is a huge source of support for him, and in return he appreciates them as much as he can.

Still, despite all that, John's true love is making music, and even now he perseveres and continues to improve as a musician. John believes, as an artist, there's always room for improvement. That's the everlasting challenge of being a performer, with the elusive goal of writing a perfect song that withstands the tests of time looming just out of reach. It's a humbling goal, but one that any songwriter can relate to.

While some nights, the prospect of never being able to reach this lofty goal does keep John up, he finds his love for music and drive to push forward always outweighs his worries and anxiety. Effort is the true path to success after all, and John knows this all too well.

John's latest EP, "We'll Answer The Call," tells the true story of Joe Rantz, the Washington Husky Rowing Program, and their epic bid to win gold in the 1936 Berlin Olympic Games. It's a story that John loves very much, and with his new EP, he hopes to bring attention to it. It's a touching tale, and one that many are sure to find quite interesting.



On top of all this, John McDonough is also a believer in equal rights. He's been pushing for his country to live up to its creed of "all men are created equal," and this goes for everyone. Everyone needs support, and only once every marginalized group gets the help they deserve will the United States achieve true equality.

Despite all his efforts, thoughts and beliefs however, at the end of the day John's just a man who really loves music. He loves writing it, and he loves performing it. Nothing gives him more joy than being able to sit in front of an audience, sharing his art with others that are also passionate about music. As long as he gets to keep doing that, he'll always keep his head up and push forward.

www.johnmcdonoughlive.com

A photograph of a woman with short blonde hair, wearing a white lace top, sitting on a wooden swing. She is holding a blue book. The background is a lush green garden.

Jan Harbuck

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A photograph of five people (three men and two women) standing outdoors in front of greenery. They are dressed in semi-formal attire.

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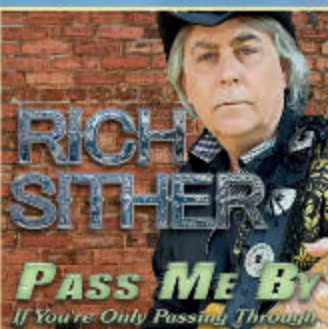
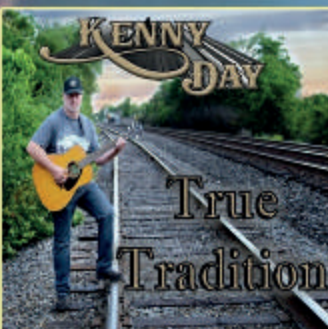
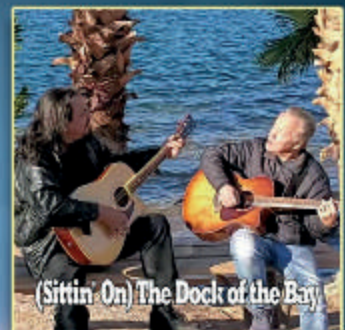
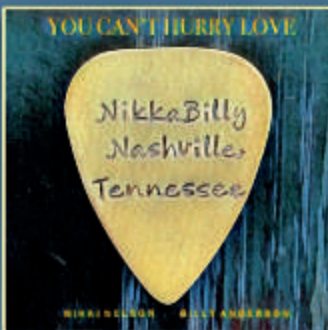
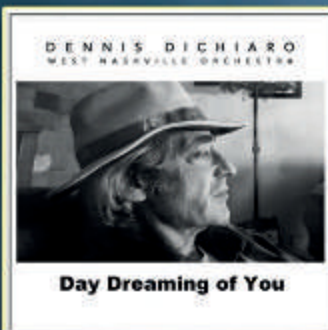
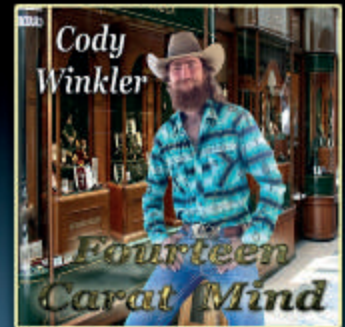
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Dr. Mary Fay Jackson is a country gospel artist with 50 years of music ministry. She has sang with the Jones/Perry Family singers, 1 A Chord, and as a solo artist. If you want to hear a pure, classic country voice, you will want to take a listen. Mary Fay has a heart as big as Texas that is all about Jesus. She has helped many people in the country gospel field, and has been a great ambassador for the genre.

Along with singing, she plays piano, organ, and accordion. She is based out of North Texas. Mary Fay has had 5 CD projects with 1 A Chord, 2 Duo/Duet CD's, and 4 Solo CD's. Her latest release is, "If I Fall."

For the last 27 years, she has been the host of Texas Country Gospel television program. She has also been in programming for 20 years with Family Friendly Entertainment. She has held the position of President for the last 3 years of the Texoma Gospel Music Association.

Her mission statement is from her (late) Dad, Jimmy Jones, "If One Soul Is Won, It's Worth It All."

She has been awarded:

- ICGMA & TIMA Voted "TV Show of the Year" over 12 times
- "Group of the Year" with 1 A Chord 15 times
- ICGMA "Songwriter of the Year" 1999
- Pioneer & Trailblazers 4 (Texoma awards & Agape Fest)
- Three awards for 2 Duos
- Media TV Personality 2 awards
- CGMA Female Gold Cross Award 2016 & 2019
- SGMA Female Vocalist 2017
- TIMA Song of Year 2011 "Roses"
- ICGMA 2012 Inductee "Hall of Fame"
- Honored with Doctorate of Music & Humanities 2018 from Emmanuel Baptist University
- Christian Voice Magazine 2020 "Living Legend"

For more information, visit www.maryfayjackson.com
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Where Are They Now?

A Retrospective Glimpse at Yesterday's Rising Music Stars
Who Became Icons and Where They Are Today

THIS EDITION: Gretchen Wilson • MC Hammer

By Robin Tanner



Gretchen Wilson

Gretchen Wilson went overnight from talented obscurity to phenomenon. Her meteoric rise, the kind experienced by only a handful of artists in the past few decades, was that rare instance where talent and moment meet to form a cultural tidal wave.

Gretchen's ability to tailor songs, as gorgeously rough-edged as she is, has given her the kind of "I am what I sing" originality few women in music history (Loretta, Janis, Dolly and Cher chief among them) have ever been able to achieve.

Her first single, *Redneck Woman* spent six weeks at #1. Her debut album, "Here For The Party" sold more than five million copies, spawning three more Top 5 hits including, *Homewrecker*, *When I Think About Cheatin'*, and the title track, *Here For The Party*.

Her second CD, "All Jacked Up," saw four more hit songs like *California Girls*, *I Don't Feel Like Loving You Today*, *Politically Uncorrect* (featuring Merle Haggard) and the title cut, *All Jacked Up* rode enthusiastic reviews to platinum status. Her third album, "One Of The Boys" solidified her position as one of music's contemporary, most original, and multi-faceted female artists.

Since her debut, she has been featured on 60 Minutes, Dateline NBC, 20/20 Primetime, CNN's People In The News, and she has appeared on virtually every morning, noon, and late-night television show on the air. She has won across-the-board awards, including ACMs, CMAs, AMAs, Billboards, and is a Grammy winner and nine-time nominee. Her first book, the autobiographical, "Redneck Woman: Stories from My Life" landed her on the prestigious New York Times Bestseller List.

Until recently, Gretchen was one of the millions of Americans who had not finished high school. A dedicated mother, it was important for her to earn her diploma, not only for herself, but to prove to her daughter just how important an education is. At the age of thirty-four, Gretchen received her GED. Her friend and mentor, fellow musician, Charlie Daniels was a guest speaker at her graduation ceremony.

She has since become an advocate to help spotlight the funding needs of adult education programs, for adults on waiting lists hoping to further their education. She has spoken to a congressional subcommittee about the need for continued funding, and has been awarded the National Coalition for Literacy Leadership Award, recognizing individuals and/or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to improving literacy and raising awareness of adult literacy in the United States.

After much soul-searching, prayer and consultation, Gretchen left her original record label home in July 2009, and two months later, launched her own label, Redneck Records. Gretchen produced her first album, "I Got Your Country Right Here" with John Rich and Blake Chancey. It hit stores in March 2010 and debuted at #6 on the album charts. The Top 15 single *Work Hard, Play Harder*, and the Grammy nominated *I'd Love To Be Your Last* were among the highlights.

When it comes to her career, Gretchen says, "I get involved on a personal level in everything that counts. I'm involved in the writing, recording, producing, mixing, merchandising, and promoting of the music, as well as the touring side, and I couldn't be happier about it."

In 2013, Redneck Records released three separate albums that covered everything from traditional Country and classic Rock, to holiday favorites. The first of the three albums was

entitled “Right On Time.” The debut single, an original from Gretchen called, *Still Rollin’* is a song she says is about her relationship with her fans and the road. “A Night Under The Covers” album included many of classic Rock’s most memorable hits from the 1970s. Faces, Journey, Van Morrison, and Cheap Trick are just a few of the artists covered on this record. Gretchen also released her first full Christmas album that featured traditional Christmas music, as well as fun sing-a-longs like *I Want A Hippopotamus For Christmas*. In 2014, Gretchen released the live album and DVD, “STILL Here For The Party.”



Gretchen’s latest album, “Ready To Get Rowdy” has spawned three singles, the titular *Rowdy*, *Summertime Town*, and the current single, *Stacy* (accompanied by a music video filmed in Gretchen’s hometown of Pocahontas, Illinois). The video features many of Gretchen’s closest friends, known to her as *Stacys*.

Beyond career and family, Gretchen has maintained an active charitable role, performing in clubs and small theaters to raise money for organizations like St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and Children’s Miracle Network. As the scope of her life continues to grow, the young woman from the tough background looks to find her ultimate place in the larger scheme of things with this, “I think sometimes this is a stepping-stone and there’s something greater still for me to do. I’m not sure what, yet, but a lot of it I think comes from this overwhelming sense that my grandma knew something I didn’t know. I know what her purpose was now. She never really found her ‘peace’ on this earth, but she is my saving grace!”

And, as the latest chapter in her life is still being written, this label head modern mom has come a long way in both her personal and artistic life. “It has been an adventure. I feel like I’ve grown so much spiritually, emotionally, and professionally in the last couple of years. Everything has evolved, and Gretchen Wilson is more in the moment now than I used to be.”

www.gretchenwilson.com

An advertisement for the band The Murphys. At the top, the name "MURPHYS" is written in large, bold, black letters. Below the name is a photograph of the three band members: a man in a suit and tie, a woman in a red top, and another man in a blue shirt. The background of the photo is a blue sky with a bright light source. Below the photo, the text reads: "Want to sincerely thank you DJs for spinning and charting 'CHOOSE LIFE' Distributed by Canyon Creek Records #19 Cashbox Top 100 (September)". There are two QR codes on either side of a central graphic that says "FACEBOOK VIDEO" with arrows pointing left and right. At the bottom, the website "www.themurphysmusicusa.com" is listed.

An advertisement for John Penney. At the top, the text reads: "To my fans, friends, and family... my love to all. Thanks to Christian Voice Magazine and to radio and DJs for all that you are doing for Inspirational Country music." Below this is the name "JOHN PENNEY" in large, bold, black letters with a white outline. Underneath the name is a portrait of John Penney, a man with blonde hair, smiling. Below the portrait, the text reads: "Thanks for playing WHAT HASN'T KILLED ME". At the bottom, there is a logo for "Millennium MUSIC GROUP" and the email address "john@johnpenneymusic.com".

Where Are They Now? (Continued from page 55)

Stanley Kirk Burrell - or you may know him as MC Hammer (or simply Hammer) - the rapper, dancer, record producer and entrepreneur had his greatest commercial success and popularity from the late 1980s until the early 1990s. Remembered for his rapid rise to fame, Hammer is known for songs such as *U Can't Touch This* and *2 Legit 2 Quit*, flashy dance movements, choreography, and eponymous Hammer pants.

A multi-award winner, M.C. Hammer is considered a “forefather/pioneer” and innovator of Pop-Rap which includes freestyle music and is the first Hip Hop artist to achieve diamond status for an album. BET ranked Hammer as the No. 7 ‘Best Dancer Of All Time.’ His popularity and success waned beginning in the mid-nineties when he was labeled a sellout by the changing landscape of Hip-Hop music.

Hammer became a preacher during the late 1990s with a Christian ministry program on TBN called M.C. Hammer and Friends. Additionally, he starred in a Saturday morning cartoon called Hammerman in 1991 and was executive producer of his own reality show called Hammertime, which aired on the A&E Network during the summer of 2009. Hammer was also a television show host and dance judge on *Dance Fever* in 2003, was co-creator of a dance website called *DanceJam.com* and is a record label CEO while still performing concerts at music venues and assisting with other social media, ministry and outreach functions. Prior to becoming ordained, Hammer signed with Suge Knight's Death Row Records in 1995.

Throughout his career, Hammer has managed his own recording business. As a result, he has created and produced his own acts including Ho Frat Hoo!, Oaktown's 3.5.7, Special Generation, Analise, DRS, B Angie B and Gentry KoZIA. A part of additional record labels, he has associated, collaborated and recorded with Psy, VMF, Tupac Shakur, Teddy Riley, Felton Pilate, Tha Dogg Pound, The Whole 9, The Hines Brother, Deion Sanders, Big Daddy Kane, BeBe & CeCe Winans and Jon Gibson.

Before Hammer's successful music career (with his mainstream popularity lasting approximately between 1988 and 1998) and his “rags-to-riches-to-rags-and-back saga,” Hammer formed a Christian rap music group with CCM's Jon Gibson (or “J.G.”) called Holy Ghost Boys. Some songs produced were called *Word* and



MC Hammer

B-Boy Chill. *The Wall* was later released on Gibson's album “Change of Heart” in 1988. This was Contemporary Christian music's first rap hit ever. Burrell/Hammer also produced *Son of the King* at that time, releasing it on his debut album, “Feel My Power” in 1987, as well as the re-released version “Let's Get It Started” in 1988.

In addition to appearing in many television commercials, M.C. Hammer produced and starred in his own movie in 1990, *Please Hammer, Don't Hurt 'Em: The Movie*. The film is about a rapper returning to his hometown who defeats a drug lord using kids to traffic his product. For this project, Hammer earned a Grammy Award for ‘Best Long Form Music Video’ at the 33rd Grammy Awards (having been nominated for two). He later produced *MC Hammer: 2 Legit*

(The Videos), which included many actors and athletes.

Hammer has made cameos and/or performed on many television shows through the years. They include *Saturday Night Live* (as host and musical guest), *Amen*, and *Martin*. He also made a cameo in the 1993 Arnold Schwarzenegger film *Last Action Hero*. Hammer would also go on to appear as himself on *The History of Rock 'N' Roll, Vol. 5*. Additionally, he has been involved in movies as an actor such as *One Tough Bastard*, *Reggie's Prayer*, the Showtime film, *The Right Connections*, *Deadly Rhapsody*, *Finishing the Game*, and *1040* as well as a television and movie producer.

Hammer appeared in two cable television movies. At the age of 39, he was one of the producers for the VH1 movie *Too Legit: The M.C. Hammer Story*, starring Romany Malco and Tangi Miller as his wife, which aired on December 19, 2001. The film is a biopic which chronicles the rise and fall of the artist. “2 Legit To Quit: The Life Story of M.C.

Hammer” became the second highest-rated original movie in the history of VH1 and broadcast simultaneously on BET. “The whole script came from me,” says Hammer, “I sat down with a writer and gave him all the information.”

Hammer continued releasing singles over the last decade. MC Hammer's *U Can't Touch This* is a song that you find yourself singing along even after all these years. Hammer set the bar high with his style of Hip-Hop, Rap and Free Styling. When you hear his iconic songs or see those dance moves you know right away, “It's Hammertime!!”



A photograph of Mike Wellman, a country music artist, performing on stage. He is wearing a dark cowboy hat and a white, long-sleeved shirt with intricate floral embroidery. He is holding a microphone in his right hand and looking slightly to the right. The background is a blurred stage setting with some text visible, including "ewell" and "ministries".

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Artist Spotlight JOHN BATDORF

John Batdorf is a singer-songwriter solo artist and one half of Las Vegas Rock and Roll Hall Of Famers Folk-Rock duo Batdorf & Rodney. He's also a successful film and TV composer, session vocalist, and inspirational musician in the substance recovery community.

In his five-decade career, he's worked with icons such as Ahmet Ertegun, David Geffen, Clive Davis, Roger Birnbaum, Adele, James Horner, Jimmie Haskell, Bill Conti, Bob Ezrin, Tom Werman, Bill Halverson, America, Rod Stewart, Dave Mason, Donna Summer, Dwight Yoakum, David Lee Roth, and Motley Crüe, plus many others.

In the realm of film and TV incidental music, he's lent his voice and compositional skills to beloved shows such as Tom and Jerry Kids, Garfield and Friends, Touched By An Angel, Promised Land, Doctor, Doctor, and Book of Days. Most recently Wham Bam, a hit by John's band Silver in 1976 is now part of the soundtrack to Guardians Of The Galaxy II. With legendary Utah-based singer, composer, and filmmaker, Michael McLean, under Batdorf & McLean, he's launched a unique substance abuse survival platform, and released the CD Soundtrax2Recovery.

Batdorf has also released new music collaboratively with his old partner Mark Rodney and James Lee Stanley. Since 2004, he's released ten solo albums on his own imprint, BATMAC MUSIC.

Since 2017, John has released three new CDs including, "Me and My Guitar", a seventeen-song rearranged and unplugged collection of songs John has recorded throughout his career, *Last Summer* and *An Extraordinary Ordinary Life*, which were both written, recorded and released during the great pandemic of 2020/2021 and his latest six song EP, "Side II", was released in the spring of 2022.



One can only imagine what went through a young John Batdorf's head in 1967 as he raced down the highway from Ohio to southern California with his buddies, chasing his dreams. He probably couldn't envision his many successful reinventions, and working with the industry's finest within each context. But when John surveys his legacy he says: "My whole life I've strove to do the best I possibly could and help people along the way with the talent I was blessed to be born with. That's all we can really ever ask of ourselves."

Learn more about John at
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Country music legend, the late Billy Joe Shaver

Miranda Lambert, George Strait and More Sign on for Billy Joe Shaver Tribute Album, 'Live Forever'

Willie Nelson, Miranda Lambert and George Strait are just a few of the Country and Americana artists who will submit tribute performances to a new compilation album dedicated to late outlaw Country legend Billy Joe Shaver. The project, called "Live Forever: A Tribute to Billy Joe Shaver," is due to arrive on November 11.

The title track of the album, a team-up between Nelson and singer-songwriter Lucinda Williams, is out now. Shaver recorded *Live Forever* as part of his 1993 studio album, "Tramp on Your Street." Nelson is also the only artist on the project to contribute two performances. In addition to *Live Forever*, he's offering a rendition of Shaver's *Georgia on a Fast Train*, Variety reports.

Meanwhile, Strait offers his version of *Willy the Wandering Gypsy and Me*, Lambert sings *I'm Just an Old Chunk of Coal (But I'm Gonna Be a Diamond Some Day)* and Steve Earle performs *Ain't No God in Mexico*.

Americana star Margo Price is also featured with a cover of *Ragged Old Truck*, and Amanda Shires contributes *Honky Tonk Heroes*. Rodney Crowell, Nikki Lane, Ryan Bingham, Nathaniel Rateliff, Edie Brickell and Allison Russell are also featured on the album's twelve-song track list.

The project was produced by Texas artist Charlie Sexton alongside Freddie Fletcher, an Austin-based producer, player and studio owner, who knew Shaver for five decades. Pre-order for *I'm Gonna Live Forever* is available now via New West Records, complete with a variety of exclusive vinyl color options and a t-shirt available for purchase.

Shaver died of a stroke in October 2020 at the age of 81.

Jesus People Tour Featuring Danny Gokey, Jordan Feliz, and Tasha Layton

Three-time GRAMMY nominee and American Idol alum Danny Gokey will kick off the 27-city Jesus People Tour on September 22 in Vienna, Virginia and will wrap on November 6 in Tampa (Plant City), Florida. Special guests Jordan Feliz and Tasha Layton will join Danny Gokey for 24 dates. Gokey will also be doing three dates with special guests Unspoken and Dan Bremnes.

"I can't wait to get out on the road this Fall for the Jesus People Tour," Danny Gokey shares. "It's gonna be an amazing night with my incredibly talented tour mates, Jordan Feliz (*Jesus Is Coming Back*) and Tasha Layton (*Look What You've Done*) joining me! Their music and ministry is a true representation of Jesus People walking out who He's called us to be, salt and light in the world."

"Danny and I have always talked about doing a tour together, and I am so pumped it's happening this fall," shares Jordan Feliz. "We are so expectant to see how the Lord uses this tour to bring joy and hope to so many people. I am honored to be part of the tour."

Tasha Layton adds, "I'm so excited to be heading out on tour with my friends Danny Gokey and Jordan Feliz! I love their music, but I adore their heart for people even more. Times are difficult right now for so many and my prayer is that this tour offers us a chance to gather and turn our eyes toward the One who comforts, heals, and restores."

Gokey's live shows are full of non-stop energy and music that crosses both genres and cultures. "Jesus People," his last studio album, debuted at No. 1 with messages of love, gratitude, and truth that are reflected in the tour's title and mission.

Gokey goes on to say, "In the divisive times we are living in, we as a church have a huge opportunity to change the narrative and represent who Jesus is to a struggling world. Jesus was someone that brought people together. He was someone that healed broken hearts and welcomed the outcasts, the broken, the cowards. He was the one to give them value, purpose, and love. My hope with this tour is to inspire and encourage all the Jesus People out there to be the ones making a difference to those around us, as Jesus lives through us! You're not gonna want to miss it, so come out, be encouraged, and invite someone else who needs a message of hope."



Cashbox News continued on page 65 >>>



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Nathan & Becky Hudgins

Violet Maynard



To all who have supported us, we send a
HUGE THANK YOU!

We are so blessed to be doing what we are doing.

<<< *Cashbox News continued from page 62*

Country Group ALABAMA Donates \$25k for Kentucky Flood Relief

During a recent concert held on August 6, in Sharpsburg, Kentucky, Country Music Hall of Fame group ALABAMA donated \$25,000 to aid those affected by the recent flooding in the Bluegrass State.

Before a packed crowd at the Barnyard Venue, ALABAMA founding members Randy Owen and Teddy Gentry presented a check to The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky, a non-profit organization providing financial help to eastern Kentucky families, farms, and businesses that are suffering as result of the catastrophic weather event.



Randy Owen (L) and Teddy Gentry (R) present \$25,000 check to The Foundation for Appalachian Kentucky
Photo Credit: Nick Hammonds©

Owen and Gentry made the donation through the June Jam Foundation, ALABAMA's non-profit which distributes monies to other non-profit organizations and service groups.

"With all the devastation caused by the floods in eastern Kentucky, this is a very emotional time," says Owen. "ALABAMA wanted to offer help in a small way."

"We hurt for the loss of life and destruction caused by the floods in Kentucky," adds Gentry. "Hopefully these funds can help the families, farmers, and businesses that were affected. They are in our prayers."

Shania Twain, Martina McBride, Little Big Town, and Tanya Tucker to Appear in New FOX Drama 'Monarch'

As the publicity builds for FOX Entertainment's new, Country music-themed drama series "Monarch," the show revealed that guests on the first season will include real-life Country stars Shania Twain, Martina McBride, Little Big Town, and Tanya Tucker.

The cast includes Countrystar, Trace Adkins, who heads the ensemble alongside Susan Sarandon and Anna Friel.

The show follows the fictional Romans family, known as "the first family of Country music." It will debut as a two-night event on FOX beginning on Sunday, September 11th following the "FOX NFL" doubleheader. The next episode will air on Tuesday, September 20th in what will be the show's regular time period at 9p (ET/PT).



Based in Texas, the trailer opens with shots of the leading cast members as Sarandon's character, Dottie Cantrell Roman narrates, "We are the first family of Country music, now and forever."

"I never wanted to just be a star. I want to create a dynasty, and I have," she continues. "But the strength to do whatever it takes to protect the family, well, we have to work on that."

The teaser highlights more clips of the showbiz glitz and glam that the Romans live as the leading family in Country music, along with secrets that could unravel and jeopardize their dynastic plan.

CASHBOX

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Cashbox News continued on next page >>>

<<< *Cashbox News continued...*

Sandi Patty to Perform and Bring Greater Awareness to Mental Health at "Celebration of Hope"

One of the most admired and awarded Christian female vocalists of this century, Sandi Patty will be performing at "Celebration of Hope." Hosted by the faith-based nonprofit Fresh Hope for Mental Health, "Celebration of Hope" will be an evening filled with music and testimonies bringing to a greater awareness the issue of mental health. The event will take place at The Relevant Center in Elkhorn, Nebraska on Sept 22.



"I'm excited to be performing at Celebration of Hope," announced Patty. "This will be an evening that fosters hope through uplifting music and stories that are sure to encourage and bring joy to all who attend."

Additionally, the evening will consist of prayer, captivating testimonials, and messages of encouragement from Fresh Hope leaders. Celebration of Hope is open to all people - including those who are able to tune in online - and aims to spread a positive message to anyone who will listen. It's so important now more than ever for us to be able to come together and express our gratitude for the hope found in Christ Jesus," said Pastor Brad Hoefs, founder of Fresh Hope. "That's really the heartbeat behind our ministry."

"There's so much joy, belonging, and peace in collective worship," said Hoefs. "I'm so grateful for the support of all those who choose to celebrate with us, and of course, for the friendship of Christian music legend Sandi Patty."

Hoefs notes a serious need in mental health recovery and desires to "empower individuals to live a full and rich faith-filled life in spite of a mental health diagnosis." With a peer-to-peer Christ-centered wellness approach, Fresh Hope offers hopeless people a safe place to process their pain, they can thrive even amid challenges that present themselves. This event seeks to be that safe place.

Registration for the event will begin at 5 p.m. CT on Sept. 22, the reception will take place at 6 p.m. CT and the official program will commence at 7 p.m. CT. For those not able to attend in person but who would still like to participate, there will be an option to watch the event online.

To learn more about Fresh Hope for Mental Health and the "Celebration of Hope," visit www.freshhope.us.

Foo Fighters' Taylor Hawkins Tribute Show to Livestream on Paramount+



The London concert will include performances from members of Queen, Rush, Led Zeppelin, Queens of the Stone Age, Oasis, and more.

In June, Foo Fighters announced that they were working with the Hawkins family to organize tribute concerts for the late Taylor Hawkins. On August 17 Paramount+ has announced that it is partnering with Foo Fighters and the Hawkins family to bring the first of two tribute events to viewers.

The first concert will take place at London's Wembley Stadium on September 3. Paramount will broadcast the event live on Paramount+ in the United States, on Pluto TV internationally, and on MTV's YouTube channels. The concert will also be available on-demand via Paramount+ starting September 3, with streaming options available on Pluto TV and MTV on-demand beginning the week of September 5.

The first event will feature performances from Liam Gallagher, Joshua Homme, Travis Barker, Chrissie Hyde, Queen's Brian May and Roger Taylor, Rush's Geddy Lee and Alex Lifeson, Supergrass, Mark Ronson, Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones, and more. Metallica's Lars Ulrich, Blink-182's Travis Barker, AC/DC's Brian Johnson, Kesha, and Dave Grohl's daughter Violet have also been added to the lineup. Proceeds from the September 3 concert will go to two charities chosen by the Hawkins family: Music Support and MusiCares. The London concert will be followed by another tribute concert at Los Angeles' Kia Forum on September 27.

"Music is a powerful connector and we are honored to commemorate Taylor Hawkins' enduring legacy," Paramount CEO Bob Bakish shared in a statement. "From our broad mix of platforms to the universal strength of our brands, Paramount is uniquely positioned to maximize the reach and impact of content worldwide, and we look forward to sharing this meaningful music experience with audiences across every touchpoint."

Hawkins died in March while on tour with Foo Fighters in Bogotá, Colombia. His official cause of death is still pending. He was 50 years old.

Cashbox News continued on page 69 >>>

Cathy Guffey



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**Something Borrowed, Something New:
A Tribute to John Anderson**

"Something Borrowed, Something New: A Tribute to John Anderson," a new album produced by Dan Auerbach and David Ferguson celebrating the songs and career of legendary Country artist John Anderson, is out now via Easy Eye Sound / Concord. In celebration of the release, Anderson was featured on CBS Mornings speaking with correspondent Anthony Mason, alongside the album's producers Dan Auerbach and David Ferguson.

The record features new versions of some of Anderson's most beloved songs, performed by Brothers Osborne, Tyler Childers, Eric Church, Brent Cobb, Luke Combs, Sierra Ferrell, Sierra Hull, Jamey Johnson, Ashley McBryde, Del McCoury, John Prine, Nathaniel Rateliff, Sturgill Simpson, and Gillian Welch & David Rawlings.

In celebration of the release, several special guests - including Dan Auerbach, Gillian Welch & David Rawlings, Marcus King, Tyler Childers, Sierra Hull, and Elizabeth Cook - performed at a special Opry tribute to John Anderson.

Reflecting on the record, Anderson shares, "Listening to everybody do their own takes on the songs shows how the songs really come through. And I thought to myself, 'You might have been young and foolish back then, but you sure did pick some good songs.' It's very gratifying to know that some things really do not change, and a great Country song remains a great Country song. Any one person on the record would be a real tribute, but all of them together? It's a pretty big deal for me personally."

Additionally, Auerbach shares, "We weren't trying to piddle around and make the normal tribute record. It had to be the best singers with the best songs and the best arrangements, and they had to come into the studio. This wasn't like, 'Mail me the song, and we'll put it together.' I think it makes this record unique. I don't think most tribute records are done like this. I think that's why it sounds like a cohesive album. It feels like an amazing mix tape."



"Something Borrowed, Something New" further celebrates a triumphant career for Anderson, who is one of Country music's most respected and beloved figures. Most recently, Anderson released his 22nd studio album, "Years," in April of 2020. Also produced by Auerbach and Ferguson, the record was created in the midst of a serious health crisis and is the testimony of his remarkable recovery.

A Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee, Anderson has enjoyed sixty charting singles in four consecutive decades including five No. 1 songs: *Wild and Blue*, *Swingin'*, *Black Sheep*, *Straight Tequila Night* and *Money in the Bank*. Originally from Apopka, Florida, Anderson now lives outside of Nashville with his wife of over 25 years, with whom he shares two daughters.



Matthew West, Maverick City Music, Anne Wilson, FOR KING + COUNTRY, Phil Wickham Lead Artist Nominations for 53rd Annual GMA Dove Awards

The Gospel Music Association is pleased to announce nominees for the 53rd Annual GMA Dove Awards. Top nominations include songwriter and producer Jeff Pardo with nine (9) nominations, Matthew West and Maverick City Music with seven (7) nominations each, six (6) nominations for Anne Wilson, Ben Glover, FOR KING + COUNTRY, Jeff Sojka, Jonathan Smith and Phil Wickham and five (5) for Brandon Lake, CeCe Winans, Chandler Moore, Chris Brown, Jonathan Jay, and Steven Furtick. Voted on by the GMA Professional Membership, this year's nominees were chosen from over 2,087 submitted entries.

Nominees were announced in an artist-hosted livestream event featuring Jimmie Allen, Erica Campbell, Evan Craft, Sonya Isaacs, Brandon Lake, Trip Lee, Chris Tomlin, and Tye Tribbett. The announcement premiered live on the GMA Dove Awards YouTube and Facebook pages.

"Congratulations to this year's impressive list of Dove Awards nominees," says GMA President, Jackie Patillo. "For the past few years, we've chosen a theme for each show that represents our community and why we celebrate. Today we announced this year's theme, Sound of Heaven. Although our musical styles may be different, our mission is the same. Together we lift one voice - the sound of heaven."

The GMA Dove Awards are happening live and in person in Nashville, Tennessee, October 18th, 2022. This year's broadcast will air exclusively on TBN and the TBN app, Friday, October 21st, 2022 at 8:00p.m. ET and 10:00p.m. ET, with an encore presentation on October 28th, 2022 at 8:00p.m. ET and 10:00p.m. ET.

Cashbox News continued on next page >>>

Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck Get Married - Again!



Photo credit: BACKGRID

Just over a month since Jennifer Lopez and Ben Affleck eloped in Las Vegas, the two threw another spectacular wedding reception at Affleck's home in Riceboro, Georgia.

For her second trip down the aisle with her new husband, JLo chose a gorgeous white form-fitting Ralph Lauren gown, which featured short sleeves and a train. She paired the dress with a statement train, which, per Harper's Bazaar, the couple's five children helped carry after the ceremony. The bride also appeared to carry a bouquet of all cream-colored flowers. For his part, the groom opted for a white tuxedo jacket and black trousers.

The happy couple wedding was a star-studded occasion with celebrity guests including Matt Damon and his wife Luciana, Kevin Smith, and agent Patrick Whitesell with his wife model and actress Pia Miller, per People.

The ceremony was reportedly set to be officiated by Jay Shetty, a celebrity life coach, author, and podcaster. Shetty previously worked with Lopez on promotion for her film 'Marry Me,' when he married four couples on stage during a JLo concert in Los Angeles.

Lopez announced the news of their first wedding in her newsletter, On the JLo. She wrote, "We did it. Love is beautiful. Love is kind. And it turns out love is patient. Twenty years patient." In Vegas, she wore two wedding dresses: an Alexander McQueen dress thought to be from her romantic comedy Jersey Girl, and a dress from Zuhair Murad's 2023 bridal collection.

The Afflecks have already taken a honeymoon - they spent a week sightseeing in the City of Love with their family.



Gospel Music Returns to the Valley

Rich with a history of music ranging from Bluegrass, Country and Gospel, thanks to its founder John Lair, Gospel music will ring once again from the rafters of the OBT (Old Barn Theatre) in Renfro Valley, Kentucky.

Troy Richardson Music is extremely honored and excited to be working with the great folks at the OBT-Renfro Valley to present their first annual concert at this venue, Oct 22, 2022. Doors open at 5:00PM. Concert from 6:00PM to 8:00PM EST. Admission is free, however a love offering will be received.

Artists for the evening will be The King Family (Bryson City, NC) Tommie and Connie Still (Richmond, KY) Battle Cry (Upton, KY), Donna Frost (Hendersonville, TN), Roger Barkley and Redemption Band (Frankfort, KY), and Host Troy Richardson (Richmond, KY.) Emcee for the evening will be Don Frost (Hendersonville, TN). Don is well known for his promotion of Gospel music, hosting Music City Gospel Showcase for almost 20 years.

<p>Adding new artists today...Call for more information at (336) 593-2908 and more news coming soon! Stay tuned!</p>	<p>Susan Agee Hicks "Stand By The River"</p>	<p>The Waymasters "Just Believe"</p>	<p>Lizzy G "Something to Write Home About"</p>
	<p>Debbie Bennett (with Guest Rocky Smith) "Stuff" Debbie Bennett/FancyThis Publishing/BMI</p>	<p>Cathy Guffey "I'll Take You To Heaven" Cathy Guffey/FancyThis Publishing/BMI</p>	<p>Christine Scott Release Coming Soon</p>

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

Lori Hardman

Lori Hardman began her musical career at an early age and continued with a formal choir education throughout her school years, influenced by a strong musical family that supported her passion for music.

With producer, songwriter, publisher, and musician, Robert Hammerstrom, Lori has written fifteen original songs. Her music has consistently performed well on the charts in the UK, Italy, Germany, Belgium, Bulgaria, United States, Canada, Holland, Austria, Ireland, New Zealand, Australia and many other countries.

Her style? Publicist and music reviewer Steven F. Adams of Sound Wave One says, "I kept trying to find the verbiage to describe what style or musical category to place Lori in. I thought Jazz?? Blues?? Rock?? Pop?? Well, Lori Hardman has them all inter woven within her wonderfully beautiful musical approach. Lori and her music have a way of including all the genres together and make a sound that arrives in your ears in a contagious fashion. Lori really can't be locked into one music category."

He adds, "Hearing is believing. Hearing Lori's music made me realize how much true talent she has, and her vocals are ones you can always remember with her amazing style and true musical diversity that the music world needs more of."

Indeed, Lori's eclectic musical style and remarkable vocal diversity has garnered her numerous accolades and awards, including the 2019 Producer's Choice Award (Legends Series) for 'Outstanding Female Vocal Performer,' nomination for 'Best Rock and Roll Original Song' (*Dangerous*), nominated



for 'Best New Artist', and in Holland she took home the award for 'Best Female Bluegrass Original Song' (*I Found an Angel*) two years in a row. Most recently she won 2022 'Outstanding National Female Vocalist' for the Nashville Music Foundation.

Lori's music can be found on YouTube and is available on most major digital music outlets.

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AMERICAN CLASSIC



By Jennifer Springs

Willie Nelson is a musical icon with a six-decade career, and over two-hundred albums. The eighty-nine-year-old legend has earned countless awards and accolades as a musician, author, actor, and activist. Nelson shows no signs of slowing down in continuing his phenomenal career of writing, singing, and playing with the wit and wisdom that comes from a life on the road.

Willie Nelson was born in Abbot, Texas during the depression. After his mother abandoned the family and his father died, he and sister Bobbie Lee were raised by their Gospel-singing grandparents. Willie was handed his first guitar at age six, and within a short time was writing Country songs. During his teenage years, he played at high school dances and honky-tonks. He also worked for a local radio station. By graduation he had become a DJ with his own radio show. He once held jobs as a janitor and door-to-door Bible salesman.

In the early 1960s, Willie found success as a songwriter for Country artists such as Patsy Cline with *Crazy*, Faron Young with *Hello Walls*, and Ray Price with *Night Life*. In the early 1970s, with extensive touring with his band (which included sister Bobbie on the piano), he started performing and recording his own songs. Two of his albums, “Shotgun

Willie” and “Phases and Stages” helped him gain some stature. Then in 1975, it all came together with the album “Red-Headed Stranger,” which would become the top-selling Country music album in history.

That same year, he recorded another outlaw Country album, “Wanted! The Outlaws” with Waylon Jennings, Jessi Colter, and Tompall Glaser, selling a million copies. During the mid-1980s, he continued to record top selling albums and hit songs like *Blue Eyes Crying In The Rain*, *On the Road Again*, *To All The Girls I've Loved Before*, *Pancho and Lefty*, including a number of Non-Country standards that he made his own, Elvis Presley’s, *You Were Always On My Mind*, and Ray Charles’, *Georgia On My Mind*. Willie, Kris Kristofferson, Johnny Cash and Waylon Jennings went on to form The Highwaymen, successfully recording and touring as a group for a number of years.

Nelson started a movie acting career in 1978. His first, opposite Robert Redford and Jane Fonda, “The Electric Horseman.” He took to leading roles as a Country music star in “Honeysuckle Rose” which would include a number of his songs on the soundtrack. Nelson played a preacher in the movie, “Red Headed Stranger,” which was adapted from his 1975 hit album. He teamed up with pal Kris Kristofferson as a pair of Country singers in “Songwriter.” Along with Kristofferson, Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings and John Schneider, they teamed up to remake the classic Western “Stagecoach” for TV. In 2005, Nelson played Uncle Jessie in “The Dukes of Hazzard” (an updated screen version of the popular TV show). His acting career spanned many more movies and television appearances.



Early photo (1960s) of the man on his way to Country music superstardom

Named after Roy Rogers’ horse, Willie’s unique music sound is contributed to his notorious guitar, “Trigger.” Constant strumming over the decades, the guitar pick has worn a large hole into the guitar’s body, near the sound hole. Without a doubt you will recognize Trigger’s iconic sound on Willie’s classic hits. Nelson’s guitar has been signed by over a hundred of Nelson’s friends and associates.

The Red Headed Stranger hasn’t slowed down in the past decade from recording more music, authoring books, and touring. Following the U.S. COVID-19 pandemic lockdowns that began in March 2020, Nelson livestreamed a series of benefit concerts. Two concerts raised seven-hundred-thousand dollars for those suffering financial loss due to

effects on the U.S. economy, proceeds from the third concert went to support The Last Prisoner Project.

Along with sister and bandmate for over fifty years, Willie and Bobbie authored a children’s book “Sister, Brother, Family.” It’s a story of a boy with a guitar, a girl with a piano, raised by loving grandparents in rural-Texas during the Depression. Willie and Bobbie weaved together an inspiring story of a long-ago time with its triumphs and tragedies, hard work, determination, and a personal story of hope.

Nelson released the album, “That’s Life” in February 2021, another set of Sinatra classics. The album goes a little deeper than his previous Sinatra covers album, with hits like the title track, *That’s Life*, and *I’ve Got You Under My Skin*. Produced by Buddy Cannon and Matt Rollings, the album was largely recorded at Capitol Studios in Hollywood, where Sinatra recorded a string of classics from 1956 to 1961. Nelson wrote in his book, “I’m just glad to be able to do another tribute to him. Though he was a million miles from Western Swing, he had a sweet Swing of his own. There was a tenderness to his voice, a purity and ease of phrasing. When he sang the popular songs of the day, I marveled at the natural way he told the story.” Nelson’s book: “It’s a Long Story: My Life.” Sinatra helped Nelson find his own indelible style, and the two even went on to play shows together. In 2018, Nelson released, *My Way* which managed to make Sinatra’s best-known song sound new again.

Nelson has released a new book entitled, “Letters To America.” It is a collection of letters addressed from Nelson to his fellow Americans. From the publishing company, “Letters To America” will remind us of the endless promise and continuous obligations of all Americans to themselves, to one another, and to their nation.” An excerpt from the book, “Dear America, this is your old friend Willie, sending a note to see how you’re doing, and to say, ‘I’m doing fine.’ I’ve long believed in the positive idea of being fine, and being committed to a goal of always moving forward. If I’m backing up, it’s just to get a running start. Those are words you can live by.”

Willie Nelson and Barbra Streisand recently joined forces on the song, *I’d Want It To Be You*. Nelson’s rendition pays homage to his classic, *On The Road Again*. The song ends with a sweet banter between the two icons, with Streisand asking, “Can I ride on your bus sometime Willie?” To which Nelson responds, “C’mon, Barb, let’s get on this bus.”

Willie’s latest release marks his 72nd solo studio album. A full-fledged album of new studio material produced with long-time collaborator Buddy Cannon, it was released on Willie’s 89th birthday and shows off just how prolific he continues to be as the album includes some of his finest songwriting and performances in years! The 14 tracks include 5 amazing new Willie Nelson/Buddy Cannon compositions, new songs from Chris Stapleton & Rodney Crowell.

Although Willie has had an impressive year in 2022 it also brought hardships. His beloved sister Bobbie passed away in March at age 91. The Nelson Family shared, “Her elegance, grace, beauty and talent made this world a better



COVID-19 back in early May, less than a week after Nelson's 89th birthday. Willie's wife Annie told NYT, "There were a couple of times when I wasn't sure he was going to make it." It took six days before Nelson was on the road to recovery. Willie adds, "I had a pretty rough time with it COVID, ain't nothing to laugh at, that's for sure." Two weeks later, he was back to performing, playing two shows in New Braunfels, Texas.

The musician is currently on the road for his Outlaw Music Festival tour. On Sept. 24, Willie Nelson & Family once again took the stage in Raliegh, NC at Farm Aid, the nonprofit and benefit concert Nelson launched in 1985 alongside Neil Young and John Mellencamp to raise awareness of the loss of family farms, and to raise money to help keep the farmers and their families. The Country Music Hall of Famer has been involved as an activist for the use of biofuels and the legalization of marijuana.

place. She was the first member of Willie's band as his pianist and singer. Our hearts are broken and she will be deeply missed. But we are so lucky to have had her in our lives."

Willie and Bobbie also penned two books together: the memoir, "Me and Sister Bobbie: True Tales of The Family Band" in 2020 and the 2021 children's book "Sister, Brother, Family: An American Childhood in Music."

In a recent New York Times feature, the music legend says he was temporarily sidelined after testing positive for

Willie Nelson has his own blend of Country music, a hybrid of Jazz, Pop, Blues, Rock, and Folk. His unique sound which uses a behind-the-beat singing style, gut-string guitar, jazzy, and a little off-center phrasing has been responsible for his wide appeal, making him an icon in Country music, while influencing many artists of all genres.

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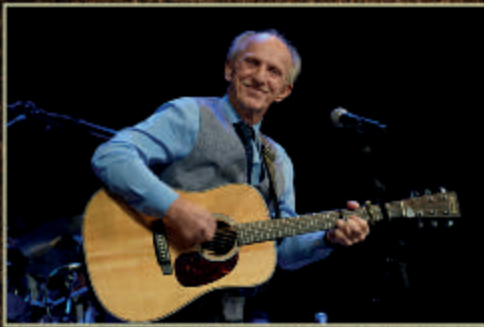



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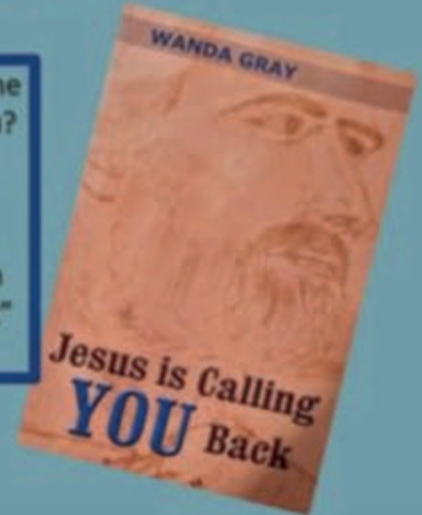
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Artist Spotlight

THE TAPROOTS

It has been an unconventional yet rewarding journey for the new Americana/Rock duo, The Taproots. Their debut album, “Tales Of Wonderland,” quickly became the number one downloaded Rock album for the month of July at AirPlay Direct, with several of their songs also charting in the top ten for Alt. Country and Americana categories.

Besides the diversity of their musical compositions, The Taproots are perhaps best known for their strong vocal harmonies and compelling storytelling, with themes ranging from love to social commentary to spiritual introspection. As Jay Ferguson, best known for his legendary work with the innovative bands Spirit and Jo Jo Gunne puts it, they’re “rocking yet literate. If John Steinbeck were in a band, this would be it.”

After meeting as professionals in the mental health field, Tom Walters and Nicole Cassingham decided to pursue working musically together as well. As fate would have it, Walters cut his first track on vinyl back in college with comedy music superstar Weird Al Yankovic, followed by an album for international release with the duo Iverson and Walters via Guthrie Thomas and Eagle Records in Nashville.

Tom went on to perform in an array of bands ranging from Acoustic Roots to Modern Jazz, sharing stages with such fine artists as Jerry Douglas, Edgar Meyer, Bryan White, Maria Muldaur, Country Joe McDonald, Sarah Darling, and many others.

Walters is also a filmmaker and after winning the New York Times Critic’s Pick for his last music documentary, he decided to work with the music producer of the soundtrack, Michael C. Mason, in recording some of his original vocal songs. This involved partnering with award-winning vocalist Nicole Cassingham, a singer and ukuleleist originally from the San Francisco Bay Area.

Nicole grew up performing in musical theater and at numerous fair venues and competitions on the West Coast. In college she joined a Jazz ensemble with George Lewis and other bands, going on to record the full length album, “Mood Swing,” in the alternative Rock group, Monkey Wagon. As a trained music therapist, Nicole still works with people who have mental illness, developing wellness and skills through music.



The production of “Tales Of Wonderland” started with producer Jay Ferguson, who also wrote the theme for the hit TV show, *The Office*, and is currently the composer for *NCIS-LA*.

Jay’s music partner and drummer Michael C. Mason took the project even further, culminating in fourteen original songs. Thanks to Mason and Ferguson, The Taproots were backed by an impressive cast of L.A. musicians, including guitarist Jon Woodhead (Leon Russel) bassist, Mick Mahan (Pat Benatar), keyboard pros Craig Dobbin, and Jeff Alan Ross (Badfinger/Peter Asher) bassist Steve Nelson (Michael McDonald), Guitarist Clif Magness (Kelly Clarkson), and others.

The tracks on this album are full of life and diversity. *California Life*, an homage to Walter’s father and grandfather and the sometimes-humorous mythos of the Golden State, is followed by the lively *Big Fat Love*, an inspirational rocker about regaining one’s faith in love. The slow ballad *Compass* offers the wisdom of an elderly woman who lost her husband after fifty years, and the thoughtful *Invisible Friends* explores the stories of those working on the front lines in the shadows of our economy.

All in all, it was a rewarding album to make, and the duo is heartened by the enthusiastic response. “Tales of Wonderland” is available at all of the usual streaming sites and on compact disc as well.

Learn more about The Taproots at
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Powerhouse Tribute Band

By Robin Tanner

Six Gun Sally is the ultimate 70s Classic and Southern Rock Tribute Band. They are a powerhouse of accomplished musicians and extraordinary vocalists. Paying homage to the greatest Southern and Classic Rock bands of the 70s, the band of seven caters to audiences of all ages with performances of hit songs by Lynyrd Skynyrd, the Allman Brothers, Molly Hatchet, Janis Joplin, Led Zeppelin, Fleetwood Mac and smokin' hot original signature tunes. Attracting music enthusiasts with a hankering for good ole Southern and Classic Rock music, Six Gun Sally is the "must-see" band that won't disappoint.

The Pennsylvania based band consists of Allen Granus ('Solid Guitar Man') - vocals and lead, rhythm guitar, Lori Bernish ('Vibrant Voodoo') - Vocals, Jeff Yeckel ('GQ Style') - lead rhythm guitar, backing Vocals, Dan Rach ('Ivory Wizard') - Keyboards, Stan Brusoski ('The Congressman') - bass, backing vocals, Billy G ('Jack of all Trades') - Percussion, Drums, and Dave Barbe ('Hard Hitting Gatekeeper') - Drums/Percussion, Backing Vocals.

Six Gun Sally has recently released an original tune, *The Last Time*. The new single continues the momentum of the band's waterfall series, including *Redneck White & Badass Blue* and *Drunk Text*, and will be available via all digital retail outlets and streaming platforms. The band's new single was written by Jeff "Ford" Thurston and Six Gun Sally drummer, Dave Barbe. The tune was produced by Thurston and Barbe alongside Matt Muckle.

The seven-piece band of veteran musicians revives memorable instrumental moments made popular by 70s and 80s hit recordings in both the Country and Rock formats, recalling "the best of" Lynyrd Skynyrd, The Allman Brothers, Kid Rock and Kentucky Headhunters. The seasoned, mature lead vocals of Lori Bernish—as likened to Stevie Nicks, Joan Jett and Wynonna—are bolstered by dueling electric guitars licks (in the vein of Skynyrd, Eagles and Boston) that keep time with steady percussion, and spotlight the talents of band members

"*The Last Time* is an up-tempo, 'so-long,' 'see ya later,' 'I'm out,' matter-of-fact storyline," said coproducer/cowriter, Jeff Thurston. "...and a tune that showcases Lori's vocals and the talents of the veteran group of musicians as A-list entertainers. It's a fan favorite at the band's shows."

With a steady tour schedule the remainder of the year, Six Gun Sally has shared the stage with Lynyrd Skynyrd, Molly Hatchet, Marshall Tucker Band, Blackfoot and more performing at festivals, amphitheatres and biker rallies across the country. This rowdy, inde, Southern Rock band will have concert goers on their feet as they pay tribute to the 70s and 80s with familiar favorites and originals as they are fast becoming fan favorites!

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By Deborah Baliles • Photo by Clara Balzary ©2022

The Red Hot Chili Peppers are a Rock band formed in Los Angeles in 1983. Rolling up on forty years, the band is comprised of Anthony Kiedis (vocalist), Flea (bassist), Chad Smith (drummer), and John Frusciante (guitarist) – all former classmates at Fairfax High School.

Before they were the Red Hot Chili Peppers, they were briefly named, Tony Flow and the Miraculously Majestic Masters of Mayhem, with their first performance at the Rhythm Lounge club to a crowd of approximately thirty people. They opened for Gary and Neighbor's Voices. The band was asked to return the following week. Their improvised Punk Funk act, while Kiedis rapped, was inspired by similar acts like Contortions and Defunkt.

A name change to the Red Hot Chili Peppers would have the band playing shows throughout LA venues. Along with the new name would come a collective genre of music that incorporates elements of Alternative Rock, Funk, Punk Rock, Hard Rock, Hip Hop, and Psychedelic Rock.

With over three decades of successes (and some failures), Red Hot Chili Peppers managed to give the 80s, 90s, and 2000s twelve notable records, and innumerable performances and tours around the world.

Album one was a self-titled debut, “The Red Hot Chili Peppers” was released August 1984. Airplay on college radio and MTV helped to build the group’s fan base, launching the band on a grueling tour, sixty shows in sixty-four days. The album sold three-hundred-thousand copies.

The album, “Freaky Styley” followed in 1985 and was produced by Funk musician, George Clinton. Clinton would introduce Punk and Funk into the band’s repertoire and would feature Maceo Parker and Fred Wesley. The album achieved little success, failing to make an impression on any chart. The band considered the subsequent tour unproductive, but despite the lack of success, overall, the Chili Peppers were satisfied with the album. The album gave the band a new perspective, in the words of Kiedis, “It so surpassed anything we thought we could have done, that we were thinking we were on the road to enormity.” The band appeared in the 1986 film, *Thrashin’*, playing the song, *Blackeyed Blonde*, from the *Freaky* album.

A significant improvement would come with the next album. “The Uplift Mofo Party Plan” was released in September 1987. It peaked at #148 on the Billboard Top 200. Accompanied by Faith No More (also promoting their own album, “Introduce Yourself”), the Chili Peppers set out on a two and a half month North American tour to promote The Uplift album’s release.

The Chili Peppers were back on an upward rise with “Mother’s Milk” released in August 1989. The album peaked at #52 on the Billboard Top 200, was certified Gold in 1990, and was the first Chili Pepper album to ship over five-hundred-thousand units.

Following the success of “Mother’s Milk,” in 1990 the Chili Peppers left EMI and signed with Warner Brothers Records, hiring producer, Rick Rubin. Originally, in 1987, Rubin had turned down the band because of their drug abuse issues, however now he felt them to be healthier and more focused. Rubin would go on to produce five more albums for the band.

September 1991 would bring the release of, “Blood Sugar Sex Magik.” The first single, *Give It Away* became one of the band’s best known songs, performing at, and winning, a 1992 Grammy for ‘Best Hard Rock Performance with Vocal.’ It was also the band’s first #1 single on the Modern Rock chart. Additionally, they performed the single at the MTV Video Music Awards, pulling in seven award nominations, winning three, including ‘Viewer’s Choice.’ Another single from the

album, *Under The Bridge* reached #2 on the Billboard Hot 100, the band’s highest charting to date. “Blood Sugar Sex Magik” sold over twelve million copies, was listed at #310 on Rolling Stone’s 500 Greatest Albums of All Time, and rose to #3 on the US Album chart. The album was accompanied by a documentary, *Funky Monks*, preceding the opening-act album tour, featuring Nirvana, Pearl Jam, and Smashing Pumpkins, the era’s biggest upcoming bands in alternative music.

A non-album single, *Soul To Squeeze* was released in 1993 and featured on the soundtrack to the film, *Coneheads*. The single topped the Billboard US Modern Rock chart.

Deviating from the previous sounds, the Chili Peppers’ album released in September 1995 was described as a darker, sadder record, “One Hot Minute.” Kiedis’s lyrics addressed drugs with the lead single, *Warped*, as well as broken relationships, and deaths of loved ones, *Tearjerker* was written about Kurt Cobain. Although receiving mixed reviews, the album sold eight-million copies worldwide, producing the band’s third #1 single, *My Friends*. Subsequently, the album contributed soundtracks to *Working Class Hero: A Tribute to John Lennon*, and *Beavis and Butt-Head Do America*.

“Californication,” the band’s seventh studio album sold over sixteen-million copies and remains their most successful work. The album of integrating textured and melodic guitar riffs, vocals, and bass lines produced three #1 Modern Rock hits, *Scar Tissue*, *Otherside*, and *Californication*. The album



The band playing live in London in 2022. From left Flea, Anthony Kiedis, Chad Smith, John Frusciante

was supported with a two-year world tour, producing a first concert DVD (*Off The Map*) in 2001. While on tour, closing a show at Woodstock in 1999, a small fire escalated into violence and vandalism, resulting in the intervention of riot control squads as ATMs and several semi-tractor trailers were looted and destroyed. Blamed for inciting the riots after performing a cover of Jimi Hendrix song, *Fire*; Kiedis wrote in his memoir, “It was clear that this situation had nothing to



Red Hot Chili Peppers star on Hollywood Blvd near Amoeba record store. Photo by Steve Shelokhonov ©2022

do with Woodstock anymore. It wasn't symbolic of peace and love, but of greed and cashing in."

Hoping to leave an unfortunate event behind, the Chili Peppers began writing their next album. Frusciante and Kiedis would collaborate for days on end, discussing and sharing guitar progressions and lyrics. The result was the July 2002 release of "By The Way." The most subdued album, focusing on melodic ballads with layered textures, more keyboards, and string arrangements, produced four singles, *By The Way*, *The Zephyr Song*, *Can't Stop*, and *Universally Speaking*. This album afforded an eighteen-month world tour, a concert DVD (Live at Slane Castle), and the band's first live album, "Red Hot Chili Peppers Live in Hyde Park."

The Chili Peppers "Greatest Hits" album was released November 2003 and featured new songs, *Fortune Faded* and *Save The Population*.

The ninth album seemed to reach a pinnacle for the band, "Stadium Arcadium." This twenty-eight track double album would be their first album to debut at #1 on the US charts, staying for two weeks; then debuting at #1 in the UK and twenty-five other countries. The album won five Grammys: 'Best Rock Album,' 'Best Rock Song' (*Dani California*), 'Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group With Vocal', 'Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package,' and 'Best Producer' (Rick Rubin). Frusciante's friend and music collaborator, Josh Klinghoffer joined the touring band contributing guitar, backing vocals, and keyboards for the Stadium Arcadium World Tour 2006. The band appeared as the musical guests on Saturday Night Live (May 2006), with featured host, Tom Hanks.

Between the ninth and twelfth albums, Red Hot Chili Peppers took an extended break. Kiedis, now a father, took the time spending it with his son and developing a television series based on his autobiography, *Spider and Son*. Flea would begin music theory classes at the University of Southern California, revealing plans to release a mainly instrumental solo album, with guest musicians Patti Smith and a choir from the Silverlake Conservatory of Music. Flea would also join Thom Yorke in the supergroup, Atoms for Peace, while, Frusciante would release his own album, "The Empyrean."

A touring comeback would happen in 2010 with John Klinghoffer on guitar. Red Hot Chili Peppers paid tribute to Neil Young with a cover of *A Man Needs A Maid* at MusiCares. This comeback, after much speculation, would confirm the replacement of Frusciante with Klinghoffer. Their "I'm With You" album was nominated for a 2012 Grammy, 'Best Rock Album.'

In 2014, the Chili Peppers joined Bruno Mars as performers at the Super Bowl XLVIII half-time show, with a record one-hundred-fifteen point three million viewers. There were mixed reviews and a hint of controversy for its use of backing music; Flea responded, "It was an NFL rule for bands to pre-record music due to time and technical issues, and we agreed because it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Kiedis's vocals were completely live as the band had recorded *Give It Away* during rehearsals."

December 2014, an eleventh album was in the works, "The Getaway" was released the following May. It was re-issued on limited edition pink vinyl in September as part of 10 Bands 1 Cause. All proceeds from the re-issue sales went to Gilda's Club NYC, an organization providing community support for both those diagnosed with cancer and their caretakers. Gilda's Club is named after comedian, Gilda Radner. The Getaway Tour consisted of one-hundred-fifty-one shows that lasted a year and almost five months. The tour included the Band Together 2 Benefit Concert at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium in San Francisco. Proceeds from that concert went to the Tipping Point Emergency Relief Fund, which between 2005 and 2017 had raised one-hundred-fifty million to educate, employ, house, and support those in need, Bay Area.

The Woolsey Fire would delay the recording of the band's twelfth album. However, the band performed a benefit show for fire victims January 2019. A delayed album release did not pause the performing and touring. In February 2019, the performed *Dark Necessities* with rapper Post Malone at the 61st Annual Grammy Awards, also appearing on Malone's music video, "Wow." Continuing in 2019, the Chili Peppers began a new tour featuring their first headlining show in Australia in twelve years, a first show in Tasmania, performed in Egypt (one of the few acts allowed to perform at the Pyramids of Giza, a performance that live-streamed on YouTube, Twitter, and Facebook). Late 2019, photographer David Mushegain announced that a Red Hot Chili Pepper documentary was in the works.

2019 would also bring the announcement that, after ten years, Klinghoffer had split from the band and Frusciante had rejoined the Chili Peppers. Klinghoffer's final show was a charity event at Silverlake Conservatory of Music in LA; Klinghoffer released his debut solo album, "To Be One With You" featuring Flea and former Chili Pepper drummer, Jack Irons. A first performance with Frusciante and the Chili Peppers, reunited after thirteen years, was the memorial service held by the Tony Hawk Foundation for the late film producer, Andrew Burkle, son of billionaire, Ronald Burkle.

Time had finally come for the band's new and twelfth album, "Unlimited Love" produced by Rick Rubin, was released April 2022. It debuted at #1 in ten countries, becoming the first US #1 Chili Peppers album since Stadium Arcadium. Also in April, Sirius XM launched a dedicated Red Hot Chili Peppers channel, Whole Lotta Red Hot, featuring music videos, live performances, and the acts that influenced the band. Yet another level on the pinnacle reached, the Red Hot Chili Peppers began an international stadium tour.

Red Hot Chili Peppers are one of the best-selling bands of all time, with over one-hundred-million records sold, worldwide. The band has received some of the most prestigious and impressive accolades given in the music industry. They have won six Grammys, were inducted into

the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2012, and in 2022 received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Chili Peppers were nominated for two MTV Europe Music Awards, Best Rock Band and Best Live Artist, as well as Best Group at the 2012 People's Choice Awards. On August 28, 2022, Red Hot Chili Peppers received the Global Icon Award at the MTV Music Awards; the award was presented to them by Cheech & Chong.

Red Hot Chili Peppers latest album, "Return Of The Dream Canteen" is scheduled for release on October 14, 2022. The single, *Tippa My Tongue* was released in August.

Red Hot Chili Peppers' drummer, Chad Smith, "The cool thing about it is we can play any style of music, whether it's hard and fast, or loud or quiet, slow or medium, whatever it is; Rock or Funk, and it still sounds like us. I'm proud of that because sometimes bands don't have that strong personality where you go, right away, 'Oh, that's boom.'"

www.redhotchilipeppers.com



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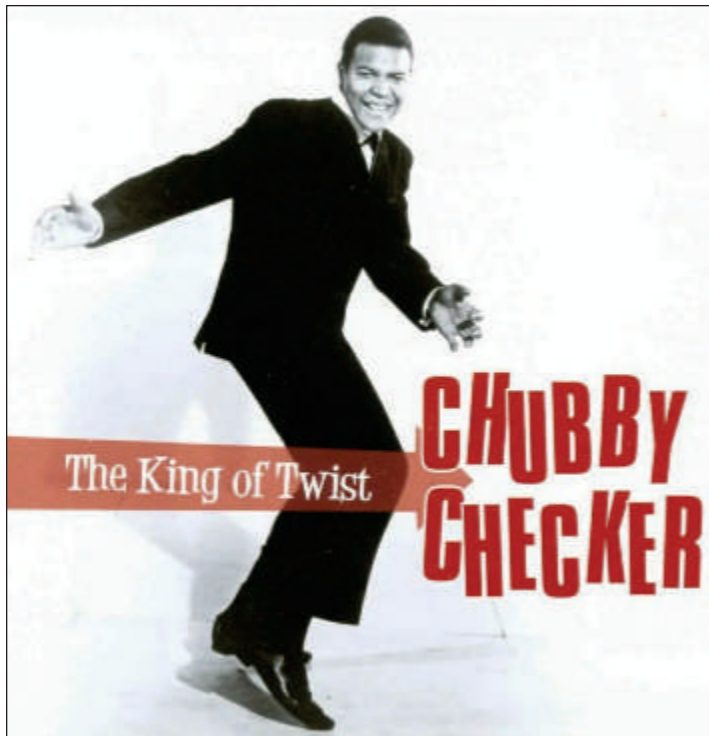
Still the
King of Twist!

CHUBBY CHECKER

By Deborah Baliles

Before the world knew him as Chubby Checker, he was born Ernest Evans in Spring Gulley, South Carolina. However, he grew up in South Philadelphia, where he lived with his parents and two brothers. When he was a small boy, his mother took the family to see Sugar Chile Robinson, the child piano prodigy, and also the famous Country singer, Ernest Tubb. Evans and his brothers were so impressed that little Ernest vowed to someday enter show business. He took his first step toward that goal by forming a street corner harmony group, when he was only eleven years old.

He went to South Philadelphia High School with his friend Fabian Forte, who would have show business success of his own. By the time he entered high school, Ernest had learned to play the piano (a little) at Settlement Music School, and could do a number of vocal impressions. He entertained classmates whenever he could. After school, Chubby would sing and crack jokes at his various jobs, including the Fresh Farm Poultry on 9th Street, and at the produce market. It was Ernest's boss at the produce market (Tony A.) who gave Ernest the nickname, "Chubby."



Henry Colt, the store owner of Fresh Farm Poultry, was so impressed that he began showing off his employee to his customers through a loud speaker. Henry, and his friend Kal-Mann, arranged for young Chubby to do a private recording for Dick Clark. A yuletide novelty tune was the cut, *Jingle Bells* on which Chubby did several impressions of top recording stars. Dick Clark sent it out as a Christmas greeting to all of his friends and associates in the music business. Cameo-Parkway Records liked it so much that they wrote a song called, *The Class*. It became Chubby's first hit in early 1959. Dick Clark's wife played an important role in his career by giving him a stage name. She said, "We have a Fats Domino, now you can be Chubby Checker!"

In June of 1959, Chubby recorded *The Twist*. Chubby felt *The Twist* was something special and worked hard promoting the record by undertaking non-stop rounds of TV dates, interviews, and live performances. Fourteen months later, in the summer of 1960, the song was a hit. Not only was it a #1 song, but it introduced the concept of "dancing apart to the beat." Over the next few years, endless songs incorporating *The Twist* into its name sprang up, such as *Peppermint Twist*, *Twist and Shout*, and *Twistin' the Night Away*. With each new

"twist" song, the new dance concept evolved as well and through such songs as *The Jerk*, *The Hully-Gully*, *The Boogaloo*, and *The Shake*. At the forefront was Chubby with *The Fly*, *Pony Time*, and *The Huckelbuck*. The next few years were prolific for Chubby as hit followed hit. In 1961, Chubby recorded, *Pony Time* written by Don Covay and John Berry. It went to #1 and stayed on the charts for sixteen weeks.

In between recording and touring, Chubby took time to add feature films to his portfolio with the releases of "Don't Knock the Twist" and "Twist Around the Clock." In the fall of 1961, record industry history was made when Checker's original hit record, *The Twist* re-entered the charts, and by January of 1962, it was back in the #1 position. No other record before or since has accomplished this feat. Combining its 1960 run with its 1961/1962 return, *The Twist* spent an amazing nine months total on the U. S. best selling charts.

Chubby Checker merchandise was everywhere - T-shirts, shoes, ties, dolls, raincoats, and chewing gum. His success continued for years with the release of one dance record after another, starting with *The Fly*, and then *Let's Twist Again* (winning a Grammy for the 'Best Rock Performance'). More hit records followed. *Slow Twistin'*, *Dancin' Party*, *Popeye The Hitchhiker*, and *Limbo Rock* all came along in 1962.

1963 saw Checker return to the hit parade with *Birdland* and *Twist It Up*, after which he followed with *Loddy Lo*, and a series of other novelty type tunes. Eventually, teens incorporated these movements to all songs that had a beat and called these movements The Boogie, a permanent fixture in Rock and Roll and popular music 24/7. While hits kept coming, the highlight of 1964 was Chubby's marriage to Catharina Lodders, Miss World 1962.



Chubby Checker featured on the October 15, 1960 cover of Cashbox

The 80s were dominated by almost nonstop touring with some unique twists. ABC aired their answer to NBC's "Saturday Night Live," a counter culture show called, "Fridays" which starred Michael Richards (Seinfeld's Kramer) and Larry David. A special appearance by Chubby as he sang his current hit, *Running*, was broadcast before a live national audience. However, by 1988, Chubby demonstrated extreme musical diversity by recording a very different *The Twist (Yo, Twist)* with the Fat Boys. This song went to #14 on the charts.



In 2000, Chubby branched out into the snack food business, commemorating forty years of *The Twist*, with Checker chocolate bars, beef jerky, hot dogs, and popcorn - all to be washed down with Girl of the World Water (dedicated to his wife).

The Limbo Rock remix and the original master of *The Dance Hall Beat* released in 2004 became Top 5 Disney Radio hits and a favorite of DJs with its ability to bring audiences out of their seats and on to the dance floor. With the single and the LP both on the charts, a new generation of Chubby Checker fans were born. In 2007, Chubby returned to the charts with the #1 dance track, *Knock Down The Walls*.

This song introduced Chubby to a whole new audience with its powerful straight ahead Rock tempo, capturing Chubby's continuous musical evolution.

In July of 2008, The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio rewarded Chubby with a special award presentation. An honored Chubby thrilled a fervent crowd by performing his hits, new and old, to the delight of everyone. A lengthy photo and autograph session followed, which highlighted Chubby's favorite part, getting to interact with people.

As Chubby's touring continued, 2009 took Chubby abroad including special shows in Germany (2010), as well as his annual appearances at Disneyworld. 2009 also marked the release of an updated version of *The Fly*. A younger generation now shook their hands as the dance reappeared in clubs.

Chubby Checker's career and *The Twist* have lasted over six decades. What keeps this artist going? According to Chubby, "It's the fans. The energy I get from singing and dancing with all these people over the years is unlike anything else I have experienced. I never want it to end."

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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

HEISTHEARTIST (LeeMann Bassey)

It's hard to craft your own musical niche in the modern music industry. With every musician throwing their hat in the ring and the barrier to entry being the lowest it's ever been, there are a ton of performers popping up that try to craft a niche for themselves and fail miserably. LeeMann Bassey, also known under his stage name, Heistheartist, is not one of those people.

Heistheartist is an American Experimental Christian singer-songwriter from Central Islip, NY, who got his start singing simple song covers on Instagram. He'd appeal to social media viewers visiting his profile, and soon gained a small following. This was enough to catch the attention of a producer from his hometown who would invite him over to record his debut single, *Honey*.

After his debut as a secular neo-soul singer signed to Bentley Records, he'd perform for a few years until one day discovered his true calling, to spread the Gospel of God. This came about after an inspiring sermon by TD Jakes, opening his eyes to enlightenment and a new form of expression. Since then, he's made it his mission to spread the Word of the Lord through his musical talents.

As a smaller indie artist, Heistheartist has always faced troubles competing with major labels when it comes to sheer marketing might. It's not an easy job to push your work and personality when faced with overwhelming odds, though Heistheartist finds a certain satisfaction in the challenge. It makes him get more creative working around his limitations, and by extension also lets him be more efficient when given a larger budget. It's something that could crush some artists, but Bassey takes it in stride.

Perhaps the most unique thing about Heistheartist is his delivery and production, setting him apart from his peers. When it comes to creating and marketing your own music, the most powerful tool you can have in your arsenal is the skill and talent to craft your own style. Standing out from the crowd makes you special and being different naturally creates demand which Heistheartist can attest to.



In such a short span of time, the performer has managed to obtain a significant number of accolades, including getting four number one singles on the iTunes South Africa Music charts. On top of that, he's also managed to score several number one singles in many different European iTunes and music charts despite his more niche appeal and style. Even now he's only heading higher, with his new single, *Sumthin' Sumthin'*, a cover of the iconic Maxwell song.

According to Heistheartist, he also believes that there's not enough talk about mental fitness, which he defines as the connection between one's mental state and the strength of their fate and spirituality. It comes as prayer and religion for some, while it could be something else for others. It's an interesting idea, one that he champions as the thing that allows him to believe in himself and his music.

At the end of the day, however, Heistheartist's goal is to reach as many people as possible through his music. He wants to spread his faith to everyone in hopes of helping them achieve what he's managed to achieve for himself.

"Being open to new things that God puts in front of you, that's the main thing that music has taught me. If I hadn't agreed to record my first single after a producer from my hometown discovered me on Instagram singing covers for fun, I wouldn't be the professional singer that I am today,"

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Artist Spotlight

RANDALL FRANKS

Appalachian entertainer, American actor, humorist, songwriter, columnist, youth mentor, public servant, and author are a few of the words that describe how differently people see Randall Franks. For him, his favorite descriptive word is encourager as he used in his book series, “Encouragers.” He says no matter through which focus someone finds him, his goal is to uplift, encourage and make a difference.

Randall Franks, known worldwide as “Officer Randy Goode” from TV’s “In the Heat of the Night,” was recently honored with induction into the Tri-State Gospel Music Hall of Fame (Georgia, Tennessee and Alabama). The multiple halls of fame inductee is recognized in Country, Bluegrass and now Gospel music for his creative contributions through his performances and recordings.

At his Hollywood Hillbilly Jamboree 77th anniversary performance, he performed selections from his Christian comedy CD “Keep ‘Em Smilin’.” Randall continues the legacy of the second-longest-running Country music show started by pioneer Country artist Ramblin’ “Doc” Tommy Scott in 1945.

He began his rise in Nashville's Country music scene as a youth when Rock, Country, Bluegrass and songwriter halls of fame member Bill Monroe recognized his talents and arranged the first of many guest star appearances for the Grand Ole Opry. Country music publications soon featured him alongside fellow 1980s Country stars such as Ricky Skaggs, Reba McEntire, Alabama, and Lee Greenwood.

He expanded to musical appearances in movies and then a five-year role in the TV drama, “In the Heat of the Night,” supporting the legendary actor Carroll O’Connor, Howard Rollins and Alan Autry. After leaving the series in 1993, he starred in movies and returned to Nashville appearing for the Grand Ole Opry, touring with his Hollywood Hillbilly Jamboree at fairs and concerts among the 1990s Country stars, and hosting concerts, including at the Ryman. His mentors, Grand Ole Opry stars Jim and Jesse McReynolds also welcomed him for special appearances.

While acting broadened Randall’s worldwide audience music remained his passion, yielding him appearances across the U.S. and Canada crossing genres from Country, Bluegrass, Folk, Christian and most recently Americana. His creativity produced chart topping sellers such as the 1990 *Handshakes and Smiles* and the 1991 *Christmas Time’s A Comin’* and critically acclaimed releases such as 1989 “Golden River Fiddlin’” and the 1995 “Tunes and Tales from Tunnel Hill,” 2000 “God’s Children” with David Davis, and 2008 “Appalachian Musical Revival.”



Randall scored a number one Global Americana CD in June 2019 with “Americana Youth of Southern Appalachia” which shared the talents of over 30 youth.

His awards span from ‘Male Vocalist of the Year’ to ‘Songwriter of the Year’ and the International Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame and Museum honored him as a Legend in 2011.

Randall is the mainstay celebrity host and entertainer at the Grand Master Fiddler Championship, started by the Grand Ole Opry and now held at Nashville’s Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. He shares a ‘Best Ensemble Cast’ Award for his portrayal of Dr. J.A. Anderson in his latest film “The Cricket’s Dance.” He is now completing the role of Revolutionary War Capt. Robert B. Shields for the film “The American’s Creed.”

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“I’m honest enough to say that I can’t understand why good people can’t be healed or have to go through hard times. But I know that God uses a few of those people for a purpose much bigger than the rest of us. And Jamie Coulter is one of those rare people.” - Ben Isaacs

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REIGNING QUEEN OF GOSPEL MUSIC

PASTOR Shirley CAESAR

By Robin Tanner

Since leaving The Caravans - the hottest Gospel singing group in the land - and striking out on her own over fifty years ago, Shirley Caesar has been sweeping across America and the world, delivering her Christian message in electrifying song and sermon. She has picked up twelve Grammy awards, eighteen Dove awards, fourteen Stellar awards, a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, and numerous other honors along her path. She has been a standard-bearer for traditional African-American Gospel music, yet at the same time has been unafraid to challenge convention, and take the genre in daring new directions.

Born and raised in Durham, North Carolina, Caesar was greatly inspired by her father, Big Jim Caesar, a farmer who sang with an a cappella quartet called The Just Come Four. He died of a brain seizure when she was but ten. To help support her semi-invalid mother, Hallie Caesar, and a dozen brothers and sisters, she hit the road as a Gospel soloist with a one-legged evangelist named Leroy Johnson. Billed as Baby Shirley, she cut her first single, *I'd Rather Have Jesus* backed with, *I Know Jesus Will Save* for Federal Records. The label on the 78-RPM disc described her as a "twelve-year-old-lass," although she was actually thirteen at the time of the recording.

"I got my call to the ministry when I was in college in 1957," says Caesar. Majoring in business administration at North Carolina College, she put her studies, along with her plans of becoming an evangelist, on hold when The Caravans, a fast-rising Gospel group from Chicago, passed through Durham the following year. They were minus a member, and Caesar convinced leader Albertina Walker that she knew all the parts. Walker was so impressed with what she heard; she invited the teenager to join the group. Caesar moved to Chicago and sang with The Caravans for the next eight years.

During her tenure, the group boasted other dynamic lead singers, most notably Inez Andrews, Cassietta George, and Dorothy Norwood. However, it was Caesar's emotionally

galvanizing delivery, and highly animated stage demeanor, that were central in making The Caravans the most popular female Gospel group since the Ward Singers. Caesar's intense leads were featured on such Caravan hits as *Sweeping Through The City*, *No Coward Soldier*, *Holy Boldness*, and *Choose Ye This Day*.



Singer Shirley Caesar is honored with a Star on the Hollywood Walk Of Fame on June 28, 2016 in Hollywood, California.

Caesar preached her first sermon in Chicago while a member of The Caravans, but on record, and in concert, her spoken testimony was limited to sermonettes within the bodies of songs such as, *Hallelujah*, *Tis Done*. By the early 60s, during breaks in the group's schedule, she began getting offers to sing and preach apart from The Caravans. Sometimes last-minute engagements would come along for the group, and Walker would ask Caesar to cancel her own dates. "I did not like disappointing people, Caesar says. Tina would give me time off, and then dates would come in, but my first allegiance was to The Caravans. I knew that something would have to give."

Caesar finally left The Caravans in 1966, signing with Hobb Records, and began appearing as Evangelist Shirley Caesar. She recalls, "My first few months as a solo artist went so well that I called my mom and asked her to send Ann." Ann Caesar

became a charter member of her sister's new background group, the Caesar Singers.

Shirley Caesar's solo saga has been a series of one triumph after another. In 1975, her Gospel version of *No Charge* (originally a #1 Country hit) crossed over to both the R&B and Pop charts. Three years later, "First Lady" her debut album for the United Artists/Roadshow label sold so well that it reached #36 on Billboard's R&B album chart. Most notably her, "Live In Chicago" album featuring her classic, *Hold My Mule* remained #1 on the Gospel charts for fifty-two weeks. Years later her line from this song, *I Got Beans Greens Potatoes Tomatoes* went viral as an internet challenge, introducing her to a whole new audience.

Understandably, today Shirley Caesar is known as the Reigning Queen of Gospel. Over the decades, Caesar has become easily the most visible Gospel singer in the world. She has collaborated on discs with such artists as Aretha Franklin, Al Green, Whitney Houston, Michelle Williams, Patti LaBelle, Gladys Knight, Kirk Franklin, Dottie Peoples, Christian Rapper Tonex, and producer/singer J. Moss. She has also appeared on television in the series, "Good News," "Soul Food," "The Parkers," and "Family Time." She has been on Broadway in "This is My Song" and the "Born to Sing" trilogy. As well as, appearing in motion pictures, "Gospel," "The Preacher's Wife," "Why Do Fools Fall In Love," "The Fighting Temptations," and "The Unseen."

Caesar's plans of completing her education and becoming a minister, interrupted by her stint with The Caravans, eventually reached fruition. In 1984. She graduated Magna



Cum Laude from Shaw University with a BA in business administration. In 1990, she was ordained as a pastor by her husband, Bishop Harold Ivory Williams. She currently serves as the Senior Pastor of Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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Loving My Turn at Country

ANDREW FARRIS

By Deborah Baliles



If the name Andrew Farriss does not immediately resonate, here's guessing the band INXS will. You know, the band that toured fifty-two countries, sold fifty million records, produced ten Australian Top 10 singles, seven US Top ten singles, nominated for three Grammys, received the BRIT award for Best International Group, received five MTV Music Video awards, seven ARIA awards, landing in the ARIA Hall of Fame. Yes, that INXS.

But before all that, on March 27, 1959, Andrew Farriss was born on Cottesloe Beach, Perth, Western Australia in the American built hospital originally for American and Australian service men and women during WWII. Growing up in Perth, the most geographically remote city in the world, Andrew's family-life experience was that of good and blessed. Nowadays, Andrew and his family live in a remote area of NSW, Australia on a farm he has owned and worked for thirty years.

In his small corner of the world, all the kids in the 60s listened to AM radio stations playing Country, Rock, Pop, Classical, and Jazz. "Not knowing any differently, I was influenced right there," he recalls. "I thought all radio stations around the world played the same thing. Life later and travelling internationally, I realized there was so much more music. Then I realized just how huge Western Australia actually is, it is three times the size of Texas!" Five-year-old Andrew saw his first live band in London, 1964, The Beatles.

Andrew, along with Michael Hutchence would become founding members of the band, INXS. In his mind, INXS will always be a band, and these will always be his brothers. The way they were: Andrew (main songwriter, keyboardist, guitar, vocals), Tim Farriss (founding member, lead guitarist), Jon Farriss (founding member, drummer), Garry Beers (bass guitar), and Kirk Pengilly (saxophone, guitar, vocals).

At the age of nine, Andrew instinctively began playing the piano, self-teaching himself to play guitar, bass, and harmonica. As a teenager, he would take his hand to writing songs, and he has been doing so ever since. "I am going back to my roots as a writer. I use much less technology than I did during the eighties, nineties, and naughties (2000s). As a songwriter, I feel that I still have songs to write. The music, the songs never end."

"I didn't start out making an Andrew Farriss solo Country album. At first, I was recording older and newer song demos to pitch to other artists. That is how my album journey began." To his self-titled album, Andrew brings his INXS songwriting experience, a little Rock-Funk influence, and some outlaw

style Country music, combined with folk instruments. Somehow a fusion of Country Rock, Americana, Folk, and Blues turned into a Country & Western album, as well as a new career journey for Andrew. The playlist of songs all have a remarkable ring of Country: *Bounty Hunter-Hummingbird*, *Come Midnight*, *With The Kelly Gang*, *Where Do You Sleep Tonight*, *Run Baby Run*, *My Cajun Girl*, *Apache Pass*, *Starlight*, *Son Of A Gun*, *Good Momma Bad*, *Drifting*, and *You Are My Rock*.

Andrew is proud of all the songs on the album, but his personal favorite would be *Starlight*. “Starlight is about my wife, Marlina and her journey with stage-four metastatic breast cancer. It is about her incredible positive, kick-ass attitude to fight it. It is about how she/we have gotten through it. It is about how we continue to get through it, looking towards the positives in life.”

During a Nashville recording session, Andrew and Marlina took off work and headed down to Arizona and New Mexico, where it meets the Mexico border. They rode horses through the Chiricahua National Monument, mountains and wilderness areas. Riding six-hours-a-day took the couple on one long six-day history lesson of the Apache, Mexicans, The Mexican Army, The US Cavalry, the cowboys in Tombstone, the outlaws and settlers all trying to survive, making lives for themselves in the harsh environments. Andrew was inspired and deeply moved by the gritty, pre-electricity era, with its often-tragic history. He observed that parts of the US 19th Century history were very similar to parts of the Australian 19th Century history. Living for many years in a remote farm area of North West NSW in Australia, he would notice the music similarities as well. Andrew was especially intrigued with how European Folk music, with its violin/fiddle, banjo, piano, Spanish guitar, would blend with Blues to emerge and create the beginnings of Country music.

“When I got back to Nashville, I was heavily influenced and inspired. I wanted to write about it, how the music suited how I felt from the experience. Yes, I’ve gone Country and loving it!”

“I have been influenced musically by many prolific and incredibly talented musicians and writers past and present, and from many music genres, including Country music. Perhaps I just didn’t know how much I loved Country music. Country music is close to the heart with its gritty nature in the lyrics, especially earlier Country, Bluegrass, Gospel, and the reemergence of Americana. It’s exciting.”

Pausing a bit from a new-found Country career, Andrew has a five-song EP out, titled, “Love Makes The World.” Each song holds a deep message from the artist. “Life throws challenges at all of us, not just those in the music industry.” *Tears In The Rain* touches on nature and the environment. *My Brother* and *Love Makes The World*, together, they express the loss of a significant male figure in one’s life, and the cycle of life, itself. *All The Stars Are Mine* embraces and recognizes the prospective that we are all the same, but different – a beautiful part of our human journey. *First Man*

On Earth is about us, biological humans, and the increasing obsession we have with technology.

Andrew views how technology has changed music, in that it has helped music progress into the 21st Century, communicating it around the world and across innumerable music genres. Technology has helped many with little or no music theory education to access computer programs, making their own quality recordings. “Although I think the concept is amazing, unfortunately, most corporations exist to make money, not art. That makes it harder for musicians and songwriters to make a living from music. I believe live music, played by musicians, is still so very important and relevant. I hope and pray it always will be there for future generations.” Observing the music, Farriss has been involved with many changes within the music industry.

BMG Recording Artist, Andrew Farriss, “Yes, I have received many awards. Thank you.” Not a condescending response, just a jokey exhausted one, considering the time, space, and remembrance it would take to name them all. But we will give it a bit of a go. On top of the countless awards gifted to the INXS band, Andrew was named Producer of the Year, ARIA Music Awards, was awarded a Coombs Fellowship with The Australian National University in Canberra (2015), as well awarded Order of Australia (2021). Since his INXS days, Andrew has made appearances at Nashville’s Bluebird Café, The Hay Mate Drought Relief Concert, The Tamworth Country Music Festival, and the 2020 Golden Guitar Awards. He played atop the Sydney Harbour Bridge for the opening of the Australia Day Celebration, special guest appearing with Rob Thomas, Yothu Yindi, and Jon Stevens. “My greatest achievement is that I am fortunate to have people in my life who care about me. Awards and accolades are most meaningful when you have family and friends who care.”

“I am always working on new songs, lyrics, music, and recordings. I love performing as a solo artist, live and with the most amazing musicians. Performing Country music, Folk, Blues, and Rock & Roll, they are all like cousins. They are all related music genres historically, and intertwined culturally.” Andrew’s latest single, *You Are My Rock*.

Andrew Farriss music will play to audiences and fans whether it be an intimate show, a cook-out, or large festival. His shows are for all walks of life and cultures. A TBA show is coming to New York City. He will be doing an Americana performance in Nashville on Thursday, September 15, 2022. Future TV appearances are in the works.

Privileged to do what you love, in almost every room of God’s great big, beautiful house we call our world, how amazing is that? Andrew Farriss, “I consider myself extremely fortunate to be able to do that.”

www.andrewfarris.com

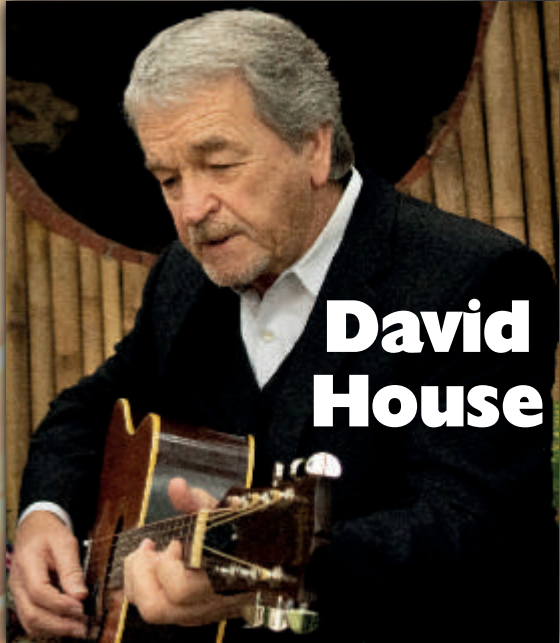
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MIKE PEACE

Band mate, Singer/Songwriter,
Musician, Cash Box Alumnus

*You need a really good
guitar to start with.*

By Deborah Baliles

Michael (Mike) Steven Peace started his own band while still in high school. Playing in dance halls, bars, school dances, and the standard band circuit, the band was known as Attila & The Huns. The year, 1964.

On learning to play guitar, he says, “It is very hard holding those little thin wires down when you are learning to play, unless you get a really good guitar to start with. If not, you will probably quit in the first week. I don’t know why I was so determined to learn, but I heard guitar music playing on the radio and I fell in love with the sound, even before I knew what a guitar was.”

Mike did not get that really good guitar to start with. “My mom was a single parent, raising two boys on a secretary’s salary. There just wasn’t enough money to buy a real guitar. So, I bought my own, using money that I made cleaning my Uncle Bob’s liquor bar on Sunday mornings. I was only thirteen when I heard an advertisement on the radio, ‘used guitar \$15.00’. It was the first guitar that I have ever seen that wasn’t a toy. It was love at first sight. It was beautiful.”

“I still have that guitar today,” he continues, “It is really a piece of junk, but it is mine and my memory of that thirteen-year-old kid. I remember that the strings were about 1/2 inch away from the frets, most guitars are 1/8 inch or less. Holding down those strings was really painful. I would learn to adjust the bridge lower, so it would be a little easier. I would start practicing the moment I got home from school, until suppertime, and then for a couple more hours after.”

The Huns band managed to make a steady and somewhat lucrative living. Putting up their own money, they produced their first single, *Cheryl* recorded on the Sara Record label. *Cheryl* was recorded memorializing a friend who had been killed in a car crash; the 45’s flipside was, *The Lonely Huns*. The recording sold about two-thousand copies locally in the Central Wisconsin area.

A win in a Battle of Bands contest would send The Huns on their way to a national tour. On the tour, The Huns would meet Chicago/Milwaukee Record Producer, Lenny LaCour. Lenny convinced The Huns to change their name as well sign a record contract for four 45s and an LP to be recorded at Chicago’s Chess Studios. The New Filet of Soul (as they would be called) would embark on a two-year national road tour, performing a mix of Soul and Psychedelic music. Many more adventures would cover a twenty-year slice of time for the band.

During those twenty years, they traveled to the country of Greenland for a USO show, performing for the US and Danish Air Forces and the Prince of Wales. They had the privilege of personally meeting the Prince. Back home in Wisconsin, the band would spend almost ten months performing in the Chicago Playboy Club, rubbing elbows with some of the biggest names in show biz - Sammy Davis, Jr., Mick Jagger, Sonny and Cher, Jimmy Durante, Shelley Berman, Jimmie Rodgers, Kenny Rogers, Bobby Hatfield of The Righteous Brothers, Buddy Ebsen, Gabe Kaplan, Myron Cohen, Jerry Van Dyke, and (in no way a complete list), The Shadows of Knight.

Mike and his band recorded two albums and eleven 45s, a few of which have become collector’s items. The band broke up in the 80s, with Mike Peace then billed as The One Peace Band. He continued to perform on his own for another eight years in Chicago’s resorts and night clubs. Using his own musical tracks, he performed as a singer/guitar player. Writing a lot of original songs, he wrote and recorded three cassette albums and twenty-seven CD albums, all of which he played all the instruments and sang all the lead and harmony vocals.

On doing it all, “Being accustomed to having a great musical background behind my vocals, I knew that I needed to have that same full background when I played on my own. This was before Karaoke was even thought about. I created

my musical backup by playing all the instruments into a four-track tape recorder, bouncing the tracks to get more than four tracks of instrumentation. I had my drummer set, guitars, bass, piano, harmonicas, and trumpet, all to add to the tape backup music.”

Once Mike completed a catalog of cover songs and original tunes, he hit the stage armed with a cassette player, PA system, microphone, guitar, and a sound that rivals any of today’s music. He continued to perform into the early 90s while more and more nightclubs were beginning to lose money due to the new drunk laws, forcing the elimination of live entertainment. Mike would find himself out of music work, trying to make a living with computers.

Peace received national exposure on the syndicated radio comedy show, *The Dr. Demento Show*, performing his original songs. Heard all over were, *All I Wanna Do Is Drink Beer*, *The Tape Song*, *Thank You Scary Movies*, *The Night Ole Santa Claus Got Drunk*, and *A Man Named Joyce*. Continually writing, recording, and collaborating with others, Mike always kept up to date in the music scene.

Most of Mike’s music continued in his expanded recording studio, keeping performances pretty much locked within the studio walls. There may have been the occasional rare concert or two. He found himself producing other singers/songwriters/bands, just enjoying the new talent that he came across. “I find it somewhat sad though, that most will probably never get to enjoy the thrills of performing live, as

in receiving the monetary and performing dues that my band commanded. The music world is ever changing.”

In 2006, Mike Peace joined with Bruce Elrod in the startup of Cash Box online. Mike did the layout and input of the charts as well as the graphics and maintenance. He did all of the covers for the website before suffering a stroke in August 2008. Although the effects of the stroke were extensive, Mike still tried to do the work until it became impossible to go on. His family would keep the Cash Box family updated. This update (in part) was posted in 2008, just a few weeks following the stroke, “Finding the humor in all things, Mike’s right hand taking the burden of the stroke with uncontrollable effects, he simply gave it a name, Boo. Mike’s light-hearted sense of humor makes coping through the recovery entertaining, and a little amazing that something so devastating can be turned into something that brings the family even closer together. It is nearing Christmas, and our family truly believes this is the season of angels and miracles.”

Fast forward the years, life may have slowed things down a bit for Mike, but here’s betting the music never will. Somewhere in Schaumburg, Illinois, Michael Steven Peace is undoubtedly reflecting back on his astounding career, effortlessly holding down those little thin wires on a “really good guitar.”

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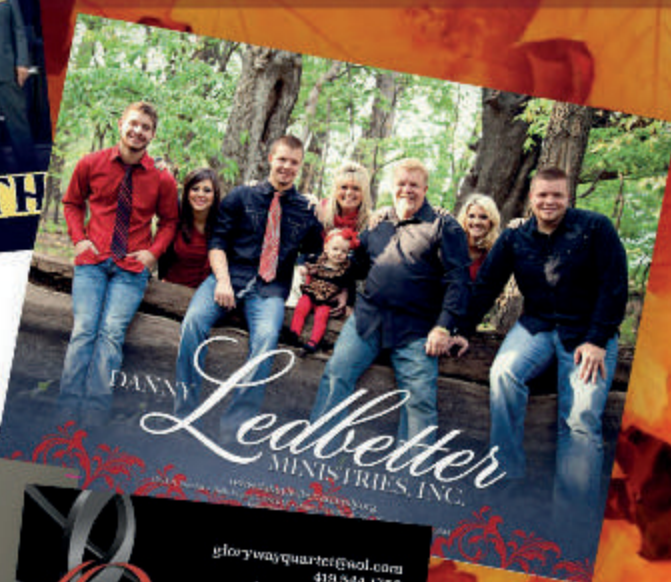
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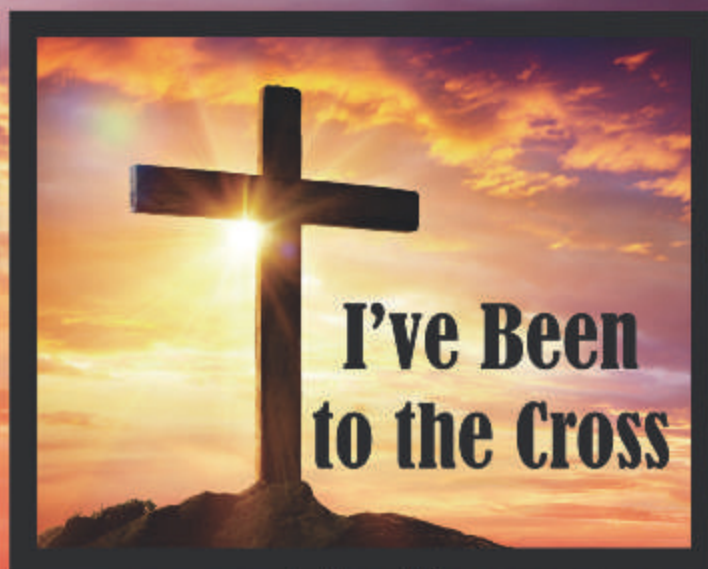


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TERRY SCOTT

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A Lifetime of Music A Lifetime of Service

By LaToya Scott

Terry Scott, an identical twin and the youngest of eleven, was born to Bishop Clinton L. and Bernice Scott in Franklin, Virginia. As a young child, he attended their family church, Scotts Revival Center, where his mother played the organ and was the Minister of Music. Growing up in a musical family he used to sit around the house in admiration, listening to his mother and older siblings sing and play music. Terry took quite an interest in his family's musical heritage.



At the age of eight, a preacher visited his church and gave him a set of bongos. From then on, he made sure to bring those bongos with him to play during every church service. By age eleven, he started playing the bongos for his family's group, The Scott Singers, presently known as The Scotts. At the time they were only singing at local and surrounding churches in the Southeastern Virginia area. Occasionally, they would travel beyond the Southeastern region to sing at other churches.

The group was in need of a drummer, so at the age of fourteen, Terry's sister, Evelyn, purchased him a used drum set. That is when Terry's legacy as a musician truly began. He then became the official drummer for his family - both for the church and for the group.

The Scotts would go on to become the first black family in Southern Gospel music and were signed to major record companies and talent agencies throughout Nashville, Tennessee. In 2017, Terry became the first drummer to be nominated for a fan award in the category of 'Favorite Musician.' He received his second nomination the very next year. The fan award nominates the likes of music icons Dirk

Johnson, Jimmy Swaggart and Gordon Mote, just to name a few.

Just when it looks as though life is taking us down one path, God has a different plan. In 2020, shortly after the pandemic started, Terry was having a phone conversation with Randall Wilds of Wilds and Associates - a conglomerate for media and music of all genres. During that conversation, Randall introduced the idea for Terry to start a radio promotion company specifically for new and existing Gospel artists.

After much prayer and consideration, he decided to take Randall's advice and start Scott Enterprises & Media, a company that promotes Southern Gospel artists, sending their music to over 1500 national radio stations. Scott Enterprises & Media has had the distinct pleasure of promoting such artists as Sam Butler, formerly of The Five Blind Boys of Alabama; Dwayne Watkins, formerly of The Canton Spirituals; Greg Kelly of the Supreme Angels and many others. His company has promoted several songs that reached top 100 status on major charts, while others have reached number one on national musical charts as well.



For more information on Terry Scott and Scott Enterprises & Media, please contact 757-613-0597, email drummertwin2@gmail.com, or visit www.scottenterprisesmedia.com.

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OLIVIA NEWTON-JOHN

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Staff, Cashbox

Olivia Newton-John's appeal seems to be timeless. With a career spanning more than five decades, she is adored by fans around the globe. Born in Cambridge, England in 1948, the youngest child of Professor Brinley "Bryn" Newton-John and Irene Born (daughter of Nobel Prize winning Physicist, Max Born). Olivia moved to Melbourne, Australia with her family when she was five.

Her first big break was winning a talent contest on the popular TV show, Sing, Sing, Sing, which earned Olivia a trip to London. By the age of fifteen she had formed an all-girl group called Sol 4, and in 1963 Olivia was appearing on local daytime TV shows and weekly Pop music programs in Australia. When she eventually took her prize-winning trip to London, she teamed up with her friend from Melbourne, Pat Carroll (now Pat Farrar) to create a double act, Pat & Olivia. The duo toured army bases and clubs throughout the UK and Europe.

Olivia cut her first single for Decca Records in 1966, a version of Jackie DeShannon's, Till You Say You'll Be Mine, and in 1971 she recorded a cover of Bob Dylan's, If Not For You co-produced by Bruce Welch and fellow Aussie friend, John Farrar whom she continued to collaborate with until her recent death.

Olivia's U.S. album debut, "Let Me Be There" produced her first Top 10 single of the same name, with Olivia being honored by the Academy Of Country Music's 'Most Promising Female Vocalist,' and a Grammy Award for 'Best Country Vocalist.' This proved to be only the beginning of a very exciting career. With more than one-hundred million albums sold, Olivia's successes include four Grammy awards, numerous Country Music, American Music, and Peoples Choice awards, ten #1 hits including Physical (which topped the charts for ten consecutive weeks making it the #1 single of the 80s), and over fifteen Top 10 singles.

In 1978, her co-starring role with John Travolta in “Grease” catapulted Olivia into super-stardom and earned her a Golden Globe nomination for ‘Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture’ Musical or Comedy. This film’s best-selling soundtrack featured the duets, You’re The One That I Want and Summer Nights with Travolta, as well as her mega-hit, Hopelessly Devoted To You. To date “Grease” remains the most successful movie musical in history. Her other feature film credits include, “Funny Things Happen Down Under,” “Toomorrow,” “Xanadu,” “Two Of A Kind,” “It’s My Party,” “Sordid Lives,” “Score: A Hockey Musical,” and “A Few Best Men.”



Olivia Newton-John (“Sandy”) starring alongside John Travolta (“Danny”) in the 1978 blockbuster hit, “Grease.”

Throughout her career, the much-loved star who danced with Gene Kelly in “Xanadu” hosted the popular internationally syndicated, Wild Life television show. She was bestowed an O.B.E. (Order Of The British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth in 1979, and has held many humanitarian causes close to her heart, particularly since the birth of her daughter Chloe in 1986. Olivia was named the first Goodwill Ambassador to the United Nations Environment Programme, and in 1991 she served as the national spokesperson for the Children’s Health Environmental Coalition (CHEC), which was founded after the tragic death of Chloe’s best friend who died from a rare childhood cancer. Her devotion and shared commitment to CHEC’s (now Healthy Child, Healthy World) mission and goals has enabled the organization to receive worldwide attention and support. (For more information visit www.HealthyChild.org).

Her charmed life has not been without its share of upsets. In the early 90s, Olivia successfully overcame her first journey with breast cancer, which inspired her self-penned and produced album, “Gaia: One Woman’s Journey,” her most personal album reflecting upon her experiences with cancer. As a breast cancer “thrivor” for more than twenty-five years, Olivia had become increasingly well-known and respected for talking openly about her personal journey with breast cancer, and for promoting public awareness of the importance of early detection. This led her to announce her partnership with Austin Health and the creation of the Olivia Newton-John Cancer and Wellness Centre (ONJCWC) on the Austin Campus in her hometown of Melbourne, Australia. In April 2008, Olivia led a team of fellow cancer

survivors, celebrities and Olympians on a trek along the Great Wall of China, raising more than two million dollars to find a new way to treat cancer and build the ONJCWC. After continuing the fundraising efforts and helping to raise the nearly two million, the ONJCWC opened in June 2012, providing a comprehensive range of services and facilities for cancer treatment, education, training, and research that includes a wellness center for the mind, body, and spirit (ONJCancerCentre.org). In 2014, Olivia was thrilled when the Olivia Newton-John Cancer Research Institute opened on the grounds of the ONJCWC. The strategic co-location of research laboratories and research training, within a clinical environment, enables clinicians and researchers to work together to integrate clinical medicine, with basic and translational cancer research, for the ultimate benefit of cancer patients.



Olivia Newton-John graced several Cashbox covers throughout her career. Picture here is the August 9, 1980 edition.

Olivia continued to give back to the community generously and has been acknowledged many times by charitable and environmental organizations for her ongoing efforts, among them, The American Red Cross, The Environmental Media Association, The Women’s Guild of Cedar Sinai Medical Center, The Rainforest Alliance, and Concept Cure. In 1996 she created National Tree Day, which is responsible for planting more than twenty million trees in Australia. Most recently she co-founded One Tree Per Child, an international school initiative with the goal of having every child under the age of ten plant at least one tree.

In the new millennium, Olivia’s international recognition continued to grow. She was invited by the Vatican, on behalf of Pope John Paul II, to perform at the Jubilee Celebration for the Sick and Healthcare Workers.

Continued on page 137 >>>



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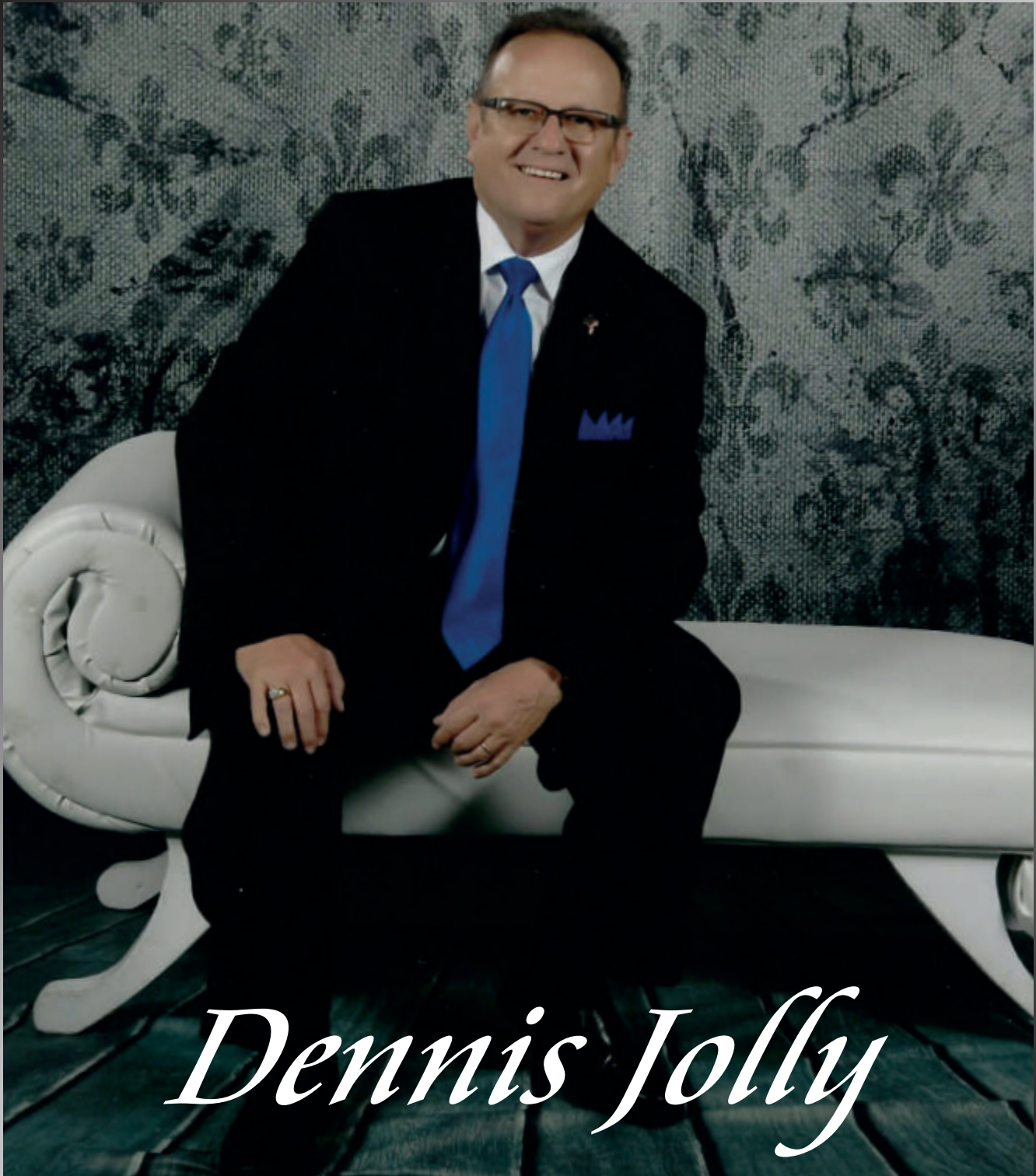
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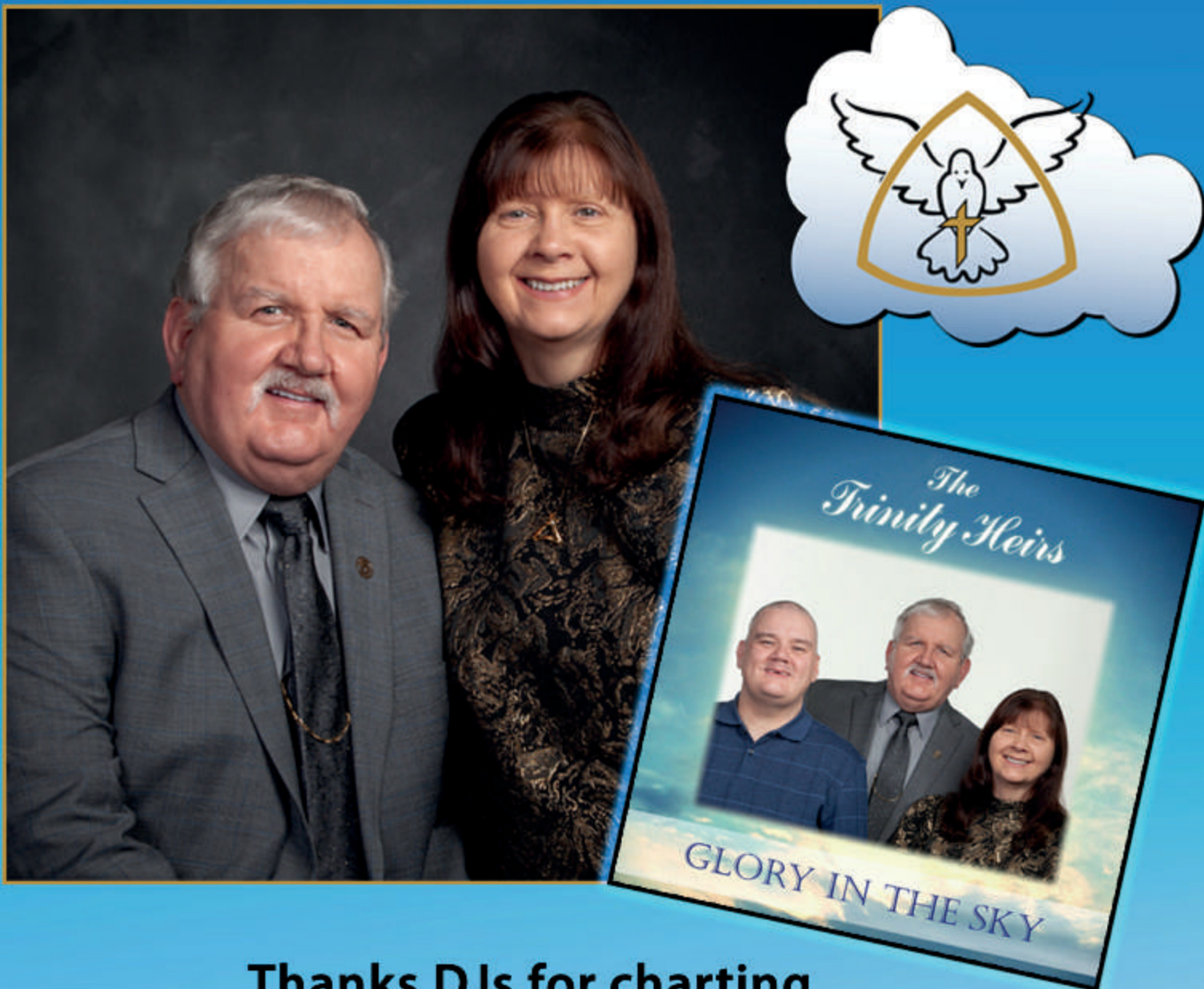


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She was thrilled to perform at the opening ceremony of the Sydney 2000 Olympics to an estimated global viewing audience of four billion people. Adding to this Olympic experience is what Olivia cherished as one of her most memorable moments, the honor of carrying the Olympic Torch during the Olympic Torch Relay.

November 2019, the Olivia Newton-John Julien's Auction took place in Beverly Hills where Olivia's famous black leather jacket and skin-tight pants featured in "Grease" with, You're The One That I Want sold for more than \$405,000, with one-hundred-percent of the proceeds benefiting her Centre. In a twist of pure kindness, the ultimate holiday "re-gift" happened when the buyer of her leather jacket surprised everyone by returning the jacket to Olivia, saying it belonged with her, "not in some billionaire's closet". Newton-John's plans were to display the jacket at her ONJ Cancer Wellness & Research Centre in Melbourne, Australia.

Olivia reunited with John Travolta for the "Meet N Grease Movie Sing-A-Long with Danny and Sandy" events in West Palm Beach, Tampa, and Jacksonville. The reunion also included the film's director, Randal Kleiser, and the original T-Birds (Kelly Ward, Michael Tucci and Barry Pearl). Audiences had the chance to meet the two film stars, sing along with the famous film music, and then participate in a special Q&A session with Newton-John and Travolta.

The 2019 year ended with a major announcement and honor for Olivia in December. Her Majesty, The Queen christened her, Olivia Dame, Commander of the Order of the British Empire for her services to music, cancer research, and charity.

In November 2020, Olivia established the Olivia Newton-John Foundation Fund, an independent charity sponsoring global research into plant medicine for cancer. These investments in new scientific research will educate patients and their caregivers about kinder options for treating cancer. The charity is committed to realizing a world beyond cancer. For more information visit ONJFoundationFund.org.

In February 2021, Olivia and her daughter Chloe reunited for a second single, Window In The Wall which debuted at #1 on the iTunes Music Video Chart and the Amazon A/C Chart. Just a few months later Olivia scored another #1 hit on the Amazon A/C chart with Put Your Head On My Shoulder, a duet with music legend, Paul Anka. 2021 would also mark the 40th Anniversary of her mega-hit, Physical.

Dame Olivia Newton-John passed away peacefully at her ranch in Southern California on August 8, 2022, surrounded by family and friends. She was seventy-three. Her husband, John Easterling passed the sad details in a press release. "Olivia has been a symbol of triumphs and hope for over thirty years sharing her journey with breast cancer. Her healing inspiration and pioneering experience with plant medicine continues with the Olivia Newton-John Foundation Fund, dedicated to researching plant medicine and cancer."

Olivia is survived by her husband John Easterling, daughter Chloe Lattanzi, sister Sarah Newton-John, brother Toby Newton-John, nieces and nephews: Tottie, Fiona and Brett Goldsmith, Emerson, Charlie, Zac, Jeremy, Randall, Pierz Newton-John, Jude Newton-Stock, Layla Lee, Kira and Tasha Edelstein, and Brin and Valerie Hall.

Grease co-star, John Travolta (who played Danny Zuko opposite Newton-John's Sandy) was one of the first to remember the actress by sharing a heartfelt tribute. "My dearest Olivia, you made all of our lives so much better. Your impact was incredible. I love you so much. We will see you down the road and we will all be together again."



Olivia and daughter, Chloe Lattanzi

Olivia Newton-John's daughter, Chloe Lattanzi shares a touching tribute to her mother. "You are my lighthouse, mama. My safe place. My heart space. It has been my honor, and continues to be my honor, to be your baby and best friend. You are an angel on earth and everyone touched by you has been blessed. I love you forever my life giver, my teacher, my mama."



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ELTON JOHN

FAREWELL

YELLOW BRICK ROAD

Elton John first announced his retirement in 2018, promising a farewell tour like no other. "I'm going to go out in the biggest possible way, performing at my very best, with the most spectacular production I've ever had, playing in places that have meant so much to me throughout my career." The tour was halted due to Covid-19 and, later, a hip injury. With new dates added, the tour resumes through 2023.

By Jennifer Springs

Sir Elton John is one of the most highly acclaimed and successful solo artists of all time. He is the multiple Grammy-winning legend and flamboyant superstar of his generation. Elton has achieved 40 platinum or multi-platinum, and 23 gold albums, over 50 Top 40 hits, and he has sold more than 300 million records worldwide. Since launching his first tour in 1970, Elton has performed in more than 80 countries to his credit. He holds the record for the biggest selling single of all time, *Candle In The Wind* in 1997, which sold over 33 million copies.

John has received five Grammy Awards, five Brit Awards; including for Outstanding Contribution to Music; two Academy Awards, two Golden Globes, a Tony Award, a Disney Legends Award, and the Kennedy Center Honor. In 2004, He was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1992 and the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1994, and is a fellow of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors. He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II for "services to music and charitable services" in 1998.

Elton John was born in 1947, near London England. At the age of three he astonished his family by sitting at the piano and playing *The Skater's Waltz* by ear. At the age of 11 he was awarded a scholarship as a Junior Exhibitor at the Royal



Academy of Music and he attended the Academy on Saturday mornings for the next four years.

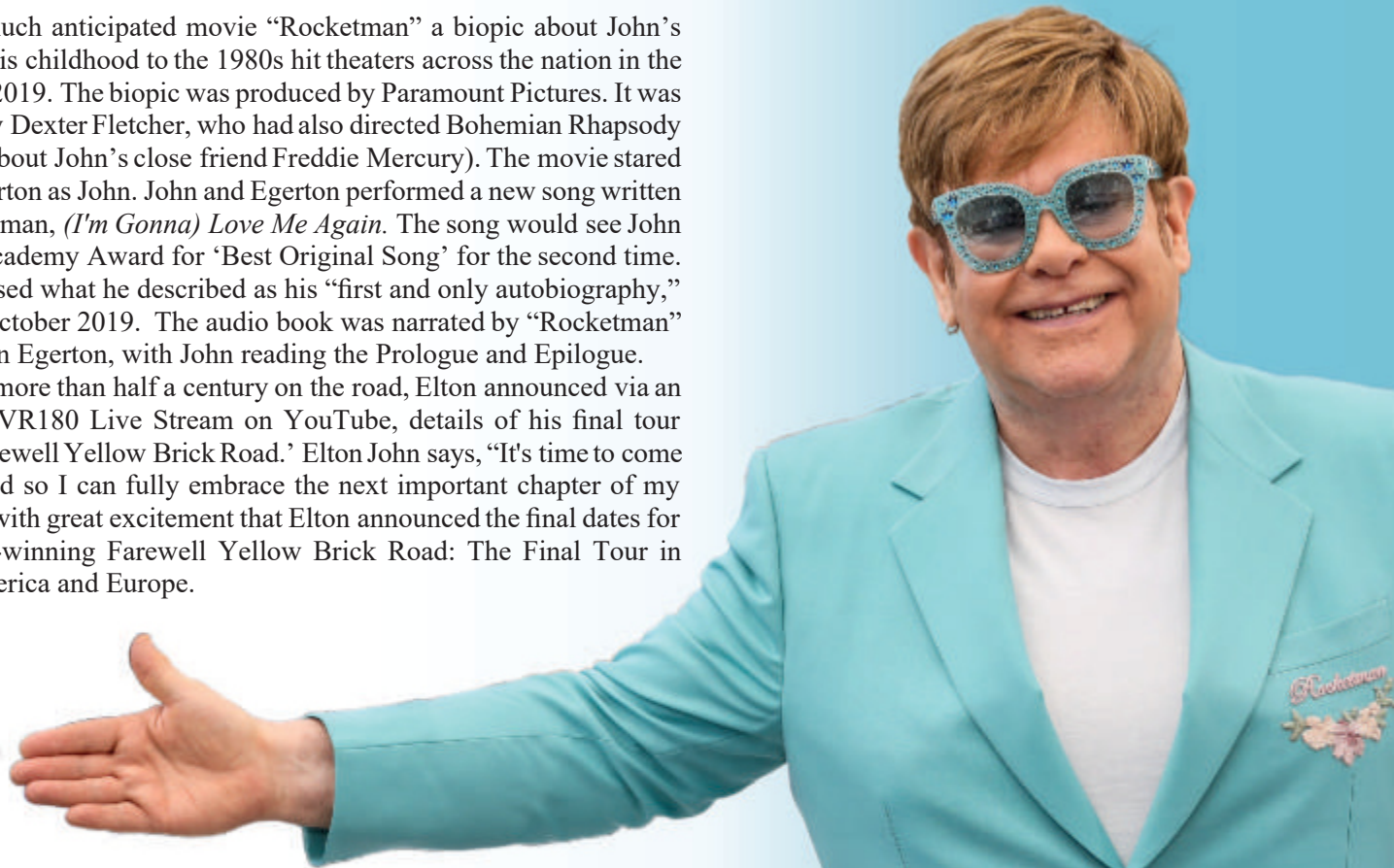
John had formed Bluesology, an R&B band from 1964 until 1967. Two years later, John's debut album, *Empty Sky*, was released. In 1970, his first hit single, *Your Song*, from his second album, "Elton John," reached the top ten in the UK and the US. The hit songs followed for decades including, *Rocket Man*, *Crocodile Rock*, *Goodbye Yellow Brick Road*, *Bennie And The Jets*, *Can You Feel The Love Tonight*, *Circle Of Life* and the list goes on.

Many of John's iconic songs was co-written with his longtime musical partner Bernie Taupin since 1967. During that time John and Taupin has collaborated on more than 30 albums.

Their method involves Taupin writing the lyrics on his own and sending them to John, who then writes music for them before recording the songs; the two are never in the same room during the process. In November 2017, John said of their 50-year partnership, "We've never ever had an argument professionally or personally, which is extraordinary because most songwriters sometimes split up because they get jealous of each other. And it's exciting because it's never changed from the first day we wrote songs. I still write the song when he's not there and then I go and play it to him. So the excitement is still the same as it was from day one and that's kept it fresh and it's kept it exciting." In 1992, along with Taupin, John was inducted into the Songwriter's Hall of Fame. He is a fellow of the British Academy of Songwriters, Composers and Authors.

The much anticipated movie “Rocketman” a biopic about John’s life from his childhood to the 1980s hit theaters across the nation in the Spring of 2019. The biopic was produced by Paramount Pictures. It was directed by Dexter Fletcher, who had also directed *Bohemian Rhapsody* (a biopic about John’s close friend Freddie Mercury). The movie starred Taron Egerton as John. John and Egerton performed a new song written for *Rocketman*, *(I’m Gonna) Love Me Again*. The song would see John win the Academy Award for ‘Best Original Song’ for the second time. John released what he described as his “first and only autobiography,” “Me” in October 2019. The audio book was narrated by “Rocketman” actor Taron Egerton, with John reading the Prologue and Epilogue.

After more than half a century on the road, Elton announced via an exclusive VR180 Live Stream on YouTube, details of his final tour called ‘Farewell Yellow Brick Road.’ Elton John says, “It’s time to come off the road so I can fully embrace the next important chapter of my life.” It is with great excitement that Elton announced the final dates for his award-winning Farewell Yellow Brick Road: The Final Tour in North America and Europe.



Elton pictured here with the late Olivia Newton-John

Elton John’s world-famous tour continues across major stadiums in Canada and across the United States. The tour stops in New York, Pennsylvania, The Carolinas, Georgia, Washington DC, California and many more through 2022. The ‘Farewell Yellow Brick Road Stadium Tour’ continues through 2023 with shows in Spain, Germany, France, Switzerland, United Kingdom along with more historic concerts for the international audiences. The five year tour that was postponed due to the pandemic and Sir Elton’s health concerns will wrap up on July 8, 2023 in Stockholm Sweden. The stage production takes his fans on a musical and highly visual journey spanning a 50-year career of hits like no one has ever seen before.

Sir Elton John shares, “After the tour finishes, I’m very much looking forward to closing off that chapter of my life by saying farewell to life on the road. I need to dedicate more time to raising my children. Ten years ago if you asked me if I would stop touring I would have said no. But we had children and that changed our lives. I have had an amazing life and career but my life has changed. My priorities are now my children and my husband, David Furnish and my family.”



Cashbox, January 1975

Artist Spotlight

ROGER “HURRICANE” WILSON

Guitarist and songwriter, Roger “Hurricane” Wilson, was born on July 27, 1953, in Newark, New Jersey. At a year old his parents moved to a little town on the Jersey Shore. For a typical young family in the early 50s, there are memories of Elvis’ *Love Me Tender*, and Tennessee Ernie Ford’s *Sixteen Tons* ringing from radios and turntables everywhere.

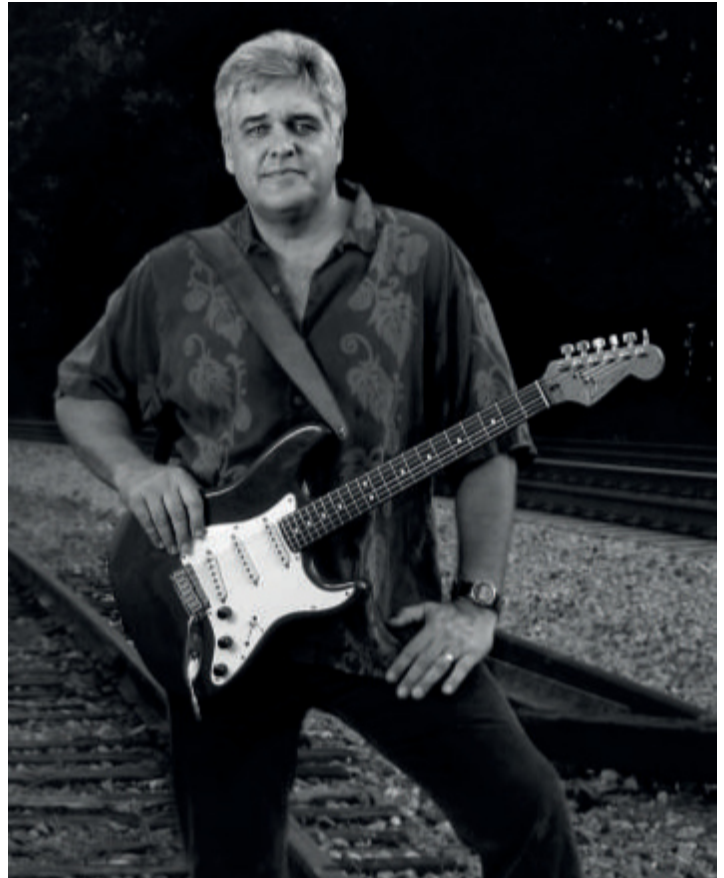
In February of 1964, at age 10, Roger was in front of the TV on Sunday night when the Beatles made their American debut on the Ed Sullivan Show. Roger had already been playing guitar and making his teacher mad for well over a year. After getting his first electric guitar, the next couple of years were spent attempting to play music, in various garage bands, by The Kinks, The Beatles, The Yardbirds, The Animals, Paul Revere & The Raiders, while of course trying to match the lead licks of *Louie, Louie* and *Hang On Sloopy*.

In 1967, upon graduating from grammar school, the little Jersey shore town didn’t have their own high school. Roger’s parents thought it best to send him to a private prep school in his mom’s hometown of Atlanta. While there, the fourteen-year-old became addicted and taken in by the music of Otis Redding, Wilson Pickett, Aretha Franklin, Eddie Floyd, and Booker T. & The MGs.

1970 had Roger making weekly pilgrimages to Atlanta’s Piedmont Park to hear bands, mainly The Allman Brothers Band. On the night of June 16, 1971, The Brothers played their first sold out show in Atlanta’s Municipal Auditorium. The seventeen-year-old stood six feet away from Duane Allman and was completely swept off his feet. With years of guitar lessons, a knee-high stack of guitar books and sheet music, the boy was never the same! He immediately began wearing out Allman Brothers Band albums, trying to capture that sound.

After a year back in New Jersey following high school, Roger headed back to Georgia in 1973, determined to play guitar. He got a job teaching in a private studio, and eventually took it over as his own business. Success came about by teaching people what THEY wanted to learn. He named his business “The Roger Wilson Guitar Studio,” and he soon had an extensive waiting list of students. Later, he started the Roger Wilson Band in 1978, and they went from the garage to opening shows for people like Albert Collins, 38 Special, and various Skynyrd spin-off bands.

After personal changes in 1983, he formed a three-piece unit called Roger Wilson & The Low Overhead Band. That band did shows with Dickey Betts, Little Feat, Three Dog Night, Leon Russell & Edgar Winter, Marshall Tucker Band,



and Roomful of Blues. After a disc jockey virtually butchered it during a North Carolina radio interview, his record producer said, “You need a moniker, something for people to remember you by.”

He also noted that Roger had a habit of going into a town, virtually making a mess with the music, and then leaving early in the morning to go back to work. It was determined that you could forget his name, but no one would forget “Hurricane.” Since then, there have been shows and festivals with B.B. King, Buddy Guy, Little Milton, John Mayall, and Savoy Brown, to name just a few.

The first CD, “Hurricane Blues,” was released in 1994. The second Hottrax project, “Live from The Eye of The Storm,” was released in 1996. The third CD, “The Business of The Blues,” was released on Roger’s own label, Bluestorm Records, in 1998. The fourth CD is “Live at The Stanhope House,” recorded at that legendary Blues club in New Jersey. Since that time, over twenty other CDs have been released.

Learn more about Roger at
www.AirPlayDirect.com/RogerHurricaneWilson-BluestormRecords

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Johnny Jones

A photograph of Johnny Jones, an older man with a grey beard and glasses, wearing a black cowboy hat, a black suit jacket, a red shirt, and a large silver bolo tie. He is sitting on a stone wall and playing an acoustic guitar. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with greenery and a wooden fence.

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By Robin Tanner

On a Beautiful Ride **LEE NEWTON**

Singer/songwriter, Lee Newton came from humble beginnings, having seen her share of hard times. Growing up in Canton, North Carolina, Lee's love for music started as a child. Her parents played Country classics around the house. She was named after Little Miss Dynamite, Brenda Lee. Through music she has persevered. Nowadays, she travels the highways across this country, performing to audiences everywhere. Lee Newton continues on a beautiful ride!

The daughter of a cab driver, dad and Lee would sing together while riding around town. She reminisces, "My fondest memories were sitting in the cab with my dad. That was my sanctuary. I grew up really hard. There were those months when we didn't know if we would be evicted, or if our power would be turned off. It was during those times that dad and I would simply "ride." Music was such a part of those rides. He would play Hank Williams Jr., Loretta Lynn, and all the greats. I always feel close to him anytime I listen to that good ole' Country music."

"Dad always said, 'One day you will be on the stage of the Grand Ole Opry. And, I will be in the front row.' From early on he planted that seed in me. My dad passed away when I was eleven, but I will never forget those cab stories and what

they would teach me about life. I had that short span with him, but he taught me so much, along with how to play guitar and appreciate the love of music. My mom was a recovering alcoholic and suffered through depression during my childhood, and even more after dad passed away. Still, she would still drive me around to sing at countless churches and/or tent revivals. During that point in my life, I knew I wanted to be a performer."

"I was influenced by Loretta Lynn, Patsy Cline, to be later turned on to The Judds. The Judds molded me into the artist that I am today. They sang songs that were pure and from the heart, about family values and love. That's what Country music is about. It is supposed to have heart. You are supposed to feel something."

In high school, Lee joined the chorus and was chosen to sing a solo. She sang, *Except For Monday* by her idol, Lorrie Morgan, “I wanted to be just like her. I felt so special up on that stage. When I would see The Judds or Lorrie Morgan on stage, I knew that I wanted to do that for my whole life!”

Also heavily influenced by legendary musicians, Bonnie Raitt and Lynyrd Skynyrd, Lee’s personal sound is a mix between traditional Country, raspy Blues, with a Southern Rock flare. When Lee was twenty years old, a self-taught drummer, she performed with a couple different bands. Traveling to New York City, she had the privilege of singing backup for three original members of Lynyrd Skynyrd. Lee has opened or performed with legendary performers like Ronnie McDowell, T. Graham Brown, Edwin McCain, Ronnie Milsap, Diamond Rio, etc. In the 2022 fall, she will be opening concerts for T. G. Shepard and William Lee Golden and The Golden.



Lee released her newest full-length LP in April, 2022, “Unleashed.” The album features many original songs. She also recorded Merle Haggard songs, *Workin’ Man Blues* as *Working Girl Blues*. She recruited Country legends, Leona Williams and Pam Tillis on vocals, with Lee Roy Parnell on slide guitar. The song reached #1 on NDexpress charting.

Lee received the 2020 Josie Music Awards ‘Vocalist of the Year.’ She was nominated for Best of 2021, ‘Album of the Year.’ She has six nominations this year to include 2022 Josie Music Awards, ‘Artist of the Year,’ ‘Album of the

Year,’ ‘Song of the Year,’ and ‘Collaboration of the Year’ with Mike Rodgers for *Red, White And Blue*.

She is currently working on a project that is near to her heart. She is releasing a Gospel album, this fall, of old hymns called, “Crossroads.” “I sought to sing the old hymns of the church like *Amazing Grace, How Great Thou Art, In The Garden, and Precious Lord Take My Hand*. There will be one original song called, *Change The Ending*. I wrote it after Naomi Judd passed away. It is a song about depression. I drew from the experiences of what my mom went through, as well as Naomi Judd. Because we all have those lonesome valleys, I drew from my own personal life too. Everybody looking in from the outside thinks you are on top of that mountain. Nevertheless, when the valleys come and nobody is around, you still have God. You can’t go and change the beginning, but with God, you can change the ending. This song means so much to me. It just had to be on this album. I had to do this Gospel album before I did anything else.”

Although the road Lee has traveled has seen its share of curves and detours, it seems the path is straightening and becoming clearer. She says, “I got the right circle of people who believes in me, protects me, and has my best interests at heart. You have to have that support system around you. It’s been wonderful.”

Among her greatest blessings are her three children. The youngest is Cash, following in the family tradition, just like mama (named after Brenda Lee). He is named after Johnny Cash.

Lee says she’s a big dreamer. “I dream big! If you stop dreaming you will fail. You have to speak it and believe God for what you want. I know I will be doing this for a long time. I will be on the Opry! I want my songs to make an impact. I don’t want to have one big wham song, and then be gone.”

“I desire an audience to listen, connect with me, and leave a better person. I want my audiences to sing with me and feel all of my emotions. I am about inspiring people. I am about hope. God gave me the songs that touches hearts, and I am on a mission. I’ve got the testimony and the music! Never let anything bring you down. You might get knocked down, but get right back up and dust yourself off. Keep going, because after the rain, the sun will shine again!”

“The last couple of years has been a traveling miracle, and a gift from God. I know my mom and dad are smiling down from heaven. I have done this my whole life; this is my passion. These past years, God has guided me on one amazing journey. I pray - and plan - to continue this beautiful ride!”

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Artist Spotlight CHRIS DAVIS

Chris Davis is originally from Fairborn, Ohio and now makes his home in Russell, Kentucky. He has been playing Bluegrass music, professionally, for over 25 years with many artists such as Larry Sparks, Alecia Nugent, Junior Sisk, Larry Cordle and currently with The Grascals. He has also played the Grand Ole Opry with Country music's Diamond Rio while member Gene Johnson had recovered from health issues.

His love for Bluegrass music started with a family band called The Davis Brothers. This band featured his grandpa, Elzie, his dad, Danny, and his brother, Wes. This is when the seeds of Bluegrass were sown and the love for Bluegrass music is now flourishing.

Chris's wife, Julie Reeves Davis, is no stranger to the music industry. She had signed a recording deal with Virgin records in the late 90s and released an album called "It's About Time." She then spent a few years as the midday host on Big Buck Country, WXBW, 101.5 FM, in Huntington, West Virginia. Currently, she has returned to college, pursuing studies in the medical field.

Chris has two sons and a daughter. His son, Gibson, is quite the banjo player and has filled in for Grascals banjo player Kristin Scott Benson. Chris's youngest son, Rylan, 10, is showing interest in the guitar and currently sings with the youth praise team at Christ Temple in Huntington, West Virginia. His daughter, Caitlyn, has lent her voice in the studio to local artists in the Russell/Huntington area.

Suffice it to say, music runs deep in this family.



*Learn more about Chris at
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ICON SERIES

Celebrating the Legends

This Edition

BRENDA LEE

By Robin Tanner

When you refer to icons in the music industry there are several details to merit that prestigious title. An artist must have a history-making career for over five decades, received many accolades and awards and have crossed through many genres with their music. This icon status would definitely apply to Brenda Lee. She is only 4 ft 9 in tall but has a giant personality and the versatility in her voice has led her from a childhood Rockabilly to Pop crooner to Country legend, and who can forget her historic performance of *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*? It's no wonder she earned the nickname, 'Little Miss Dynamite' early in her career and has been inducted into the Rock & Roll, Rockabilly, and Country Music Halls of Fame.

Brenda, who graced the cover of *Cashbox* in May 1966, congratulates the publication on its 80th anniversary and adds, "Cashbox was wonderful! If you got in *Cashbox*, you pretty much made it and that still goes today."

It all began on December 11, 1944 in Atlanta, Georgia. Brenda Tarpley was singing at two years old. She could hear a song once and then sing the lyrics perfectly. She attended grade schools wherever her father found work, primarily between Atlanta and Augusta. Life centered on her parents finding work, her siblings, and the Baptist church, where she began singing solos every Sunday. They had a battery-powered table radio that fascinated Brenda as a baby. Both her mother and sister remembered taking her repeatedly to a local candy store before she turned three and she would earn candy or coins for singing. Lee's voice and stage presence won her much attention and she won a local singing contest at six years old. The reward was a live appearance on an Atlanta radio show, *Starmakers Revue*, where she performed for the next year.

Her father died in 1953 in a construction accident, and by the time she turned ten she was the primary breadwinner of her family, through singing at events and on local radio and television shows. During that time, she had her first serious paying gig, earning \$35 – more than a weeks' wages in rural Georgia at the time. Lee belted out Hank Williams songs in a voice that belied her age and tiny stature, working so many late nights

Brenda was blessed to have many people looking out for her during those years. Her mother was her biggest strength



and supporter, and longtime manager Dub Allbritten became a father figure. Then she met Red Foley in 1956, when she appeared on national television on ABC's *Ozark Jubilee*, hosted by Red Foley. Brenda states, "Red Foley was my mentor, not only professionally but personally as well. He heard me sing down in Augusta, Georgia, and he liked what he heard. That catapulted me into the homes of millions of people. Because of that show, I was on the Perry Como Show, the Steve Allen Show, the Ed Sullivan Show - I can go on and on - all because Mr. Red believed in a child and gave her a break."

That same year, Brenda signed with Decca Records and came to Nashville, where Owen Bradley became her producer. Her first single was Hank Williams's *Jambalaya*, followed in 1957 by the explosive Pop hit, *Dynamite*, earning her a massive international audience and the infamous nickname, 'Little Miss Dynamite.' A string of Top 10 Pop

hits throughout the mid-1960s followed, including her signature song, *I'm Sorry* and the holiday classic, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*. Through the 50s and 60s Brenda continued to have chart topping hits including, *Sweet Nothin's*, *I Want to Be Wanted*, *All Alone Am I*, *Fool #1*, *That's All You Gotta Do*, *Emotions*, *Break It to Me Gently*, and many more during those decades. She had 47 US chart hits during the 1960s and is ranked fourth in that decade, surpassed only by Elvis Presley, the Beatles, and Ray Charles.

In the 1970s, Lee returned to her childhood roots with the Country music she'd loved. She scored several Top 10 songs like, *Big Four Poster Bed* and the Kris Kristofferson-penned *Nobody Wins*. By the late 1980s, she'd had 32 Country hits and had sold millions of records worldwide, more than any other woman singer in history. She was nominated for a GRAMMY with 1979's *Tell Me What It's Like* and again in 1980 for *Broken Trust*. Duets with George Jones and Willie Nelson and a collaboration with K.D. Lang, Kitty Wells, and Loretta Lynn led to more album sales. She is also a Grammy Lifetime



Brenda Lee, aka 'Little Miss Dynamite' featured on the May 28, 1966 cover of Cash Box

Achievement Award recipient. Lee is the first woman to be inducted into both the Rock and Roll and Country Music Halls of Fame.

Brenda Lee's worldwide record sales are in excess of 100 million. She has performed in 52 foreign countries and recorded hits in five different languages - English, Spanish, French, German, and Japanese. Her early career started with international success prior to her US fame with many hits appearing in the international charts.

Her autobiography, "Little Miss Dynamite: The Life and Times of Brenda Lee," was published by Hyperion in 2002. Brenda continues to be very involved with the Country Music Hall of Fame, announcing the inductees and officially presenting them with their membership medallions at a special ceremony every year. The most recent inductees announced by Lee are Randy Travis, Charlie Daniels, Hank Williams Jr. and many others. She

has been a major part of Sunday Mornin' Country® held at the Grand Ole Opry House every June and has graciously hosted for several years.

Brenda has been happily married to Ronnie Shacklett for almost sixty years. They have two daughters and enjoy time with their family and grandchildren in Nashville, Tennessee.

Brenda shares, "I have been so lucky because of my age to have worked with almost everybody in the industry in all musical fields. She met Hank Williams, Patsy Cline Judy Garland, she danced with Elvis and was there the night he debuted at the Ryman Auditorium. The Beatles were her opening act in Germany. She was a huge fan and very close to John Lennon. She tried to get the label heads to notice them and was told "Their look and act will never work!" A few years later The Beatles took the US by storm, changing music history forever. Brenda has been a cheerleader to many music acts and an inspiration.

Through her six decades in this industry Brenda Lee has handled her life and career with grace and dignity. Unlike many child stars she was able to go to school and enjoy her childhood years with friends. That speaks volumes on Brenda's character. She credits her faith in God that has kept her grounded through her life. She says, "My faith is why I am here! I shiver to think what my life would be like without Him. The Lord has blessed me in every endeavor in my life. He has been right beside me, along with my mama all the way! It has been wonderful."



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ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

ED ROMAN

When it comes to modern day music on Pop radio, most artists tend to stick to a singular sound. After all, if a formula works, why change it? Ed Roman's answer to this question stems from several different places. From his childhood struggle with dyslexia, to the kaleidoscope of musical influence he experienced growing up, to his early exposure to playing music, one would be hard pressed to narrow his musical influence down to one singular thing. His style is a culmination of circumstances that created a very balanced and well-rounded artist.

As a child, Ed struggled with dyslexia. His mother recognized this and stuck a guitar in his hand at a young age as a way to express himself in an unconventional way that was not restricted. He took to it immediately and has grown and nurtured his talent ever since. Perhaps, one of the most full circle moments of his career is that he is now an ambassador for the Dyslexic Society. His album "Red Omen" produced a song with the same title that was turned into a short film that is now acknowledged by the Dyslexic Society. It is beyond inspiring to see someone not only conquer their struggle, but see their victory turned into an art form that can and does help people all over the world. It is awe inspiring to see someone's deep struggle turned into a conduit for musical excellence. It is one of the many things that make Ed Roman such a layered and interesting artist.

The impact that dyslexia has had on his life cannot be understated, but it is not the only contributing factor in his musical journey. The artists that influenced his sound vary from genre to genre and play a major role in his distinct and satisfying sound - from the Pop/Rock infused sound of The Beatles to the smooth and complex Jazz of Duke Ellington. Add a dash of Chuck Berry and Rush and you have a truly unique sound. His influences are too many to name, but they are readily audible in his music. He grew up in a time where Disco, Funk, Rock, Country, and Folk were all in their prime and equally successful. All these sounds play a major role in his own musical intuition. It is also the spirit of allowing himself to be inspired by any kind of music that ignites his own creative spark and causes his music to come across as both inspired and sincere. His sincerity no doubt translates to people across the world as his singles and albums have no



trouble receiving airplay. His ever-growing fanbase of loyal admirers only grows with time and with every musical release. His sincerity also translates with critics as they are long time admirers of his. His trophy case also grows more and more with each passing award season. The International Music and Entertainment Association, the Akademia Awards, and the Indie Music Channel Awards are just a few of the many associations that have acknowledged Ed's talent.

Strangely enough, it is not just the music that makes Ed such a marvel, but his spirit as well. He views life through the lenses of positivity and creativity. So elegantly said, "Pay no attention to the happy people on social media platforms behind the curtains of sadness." Every day we pump our emotional limbic system into the digital ether in hopes for acceptance and approval. Everything all at once shown and hidden. Experience."

Clearly, Ed takes his own words to heart. Amongst the "things" that he has created in his living environment are his music and activism. It is a beautiful picture for us as people to look at and aspire to in our own unique ways.

His music is highly recommended to anyone with varied taste. You needn't know any of this information to enjoy his incredible music, but it certainly adds depth to an already enjoyable artist.

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Artist Spotlight

DAVID STARR

David Starr possesses “a compelling voice, something truly special, both accessible and passionate” (Elmore), that has been honed releasing nine albums, touring internationally, and opening shows for esteemed artists such as John Oates (Hall & Oates), America, Karla Bonoff, The Steel Wheels, Survivor, and more.

“Touchstones,” the latest project from Starr, featured a new digital single release every month for one year culminating into a full album featuring favorites such as *Drive* (The Cars), *Angel From Montgomery* (John Prine), *I’ve Got To Use My Imagination* (Gladys Knight), and more, along with one original from Starr, *Cabo San Lucas*.

During a year where COVID-19 stopped the world in its tracks, Starr took time to reflect on and experience anew the music that shaped his own. Many of the songs he chose to record he describes as “musical comfort food.”

“Some of the songs I cover were lyrically inspiring,” explains Starr. “Some were songs I’d played in bands over the years. Some just felt good to sing and play. Others brought back fond memories or a kind of familiar melancholy.”

The project was produced by David Starr and Mark Prentice, with co-production by David Kalmusky. All of the songs were recorded, mixed, and mastered at Addiction Sound Studios in Nashville by David Kalmusky along with Ethan Barrette and Alberto Sewald.

“Touchstones” follows Starr’s acclaimed February 2020 record, “Beauty and Ruin.” Produced and arranged by John Oates, the collection of songs was inspired by “Of What Was, Nothing Is Left,” a novel written by Starr’s grandfather in 1972. “It is like watching a movie,” says Oates. “The cinematic aural landscape visually evokes a classic tale of tragedy, love gone wrong, and an exploration of human nature and all its flaws.” “Beauty and Ruin” and an updated edition of “Of What Was, Nothing Is Left” are available now at davidstarrmusic.com and across digital platforms.

“A collection of beautiful, poetic and somewhat sad songs with a warm and organic production that draws you in and wraps around your heart,” writes Americana Highways of Starr’s 2018 record, “South and West.” The record follows an acclaimed EP, “The Head and Heart,” also produced by



John Oates, and the full-length “Love and Sabotage” with special guests like John Oates, Richie Furay, Dana Cooper, and Steve Cropper.

Starr’s prestige extends beyond the stage as well, having launched Starr’s Guitars in Little Rock in 1998, then relocating to Cedaredge in 2001. Today, the store is such an institution that Cedaredge proclaimed the musician’s birthday as David Starr Day in 2016. Starr was also instrumental in the 2018 opening of the Grand Mesa Arts & Events Center, an intimate event space brought to fruition through strong community support in Cedaredge, CO. He helped design the space in order to attract musicians and visual artists to Southwestern Colorado.

Starr’s latest EP, “Better Me,” includes the title track as the first single, with a new collection of originals to follow. In the fall of 2022 Starr will showcase at the prestigious Americana Fest in Nashville, TN along with the Southwest Regional Folk Alliance in Austin, TX, affirming he is mainstay in the Americana/Folk genre.

Learn more about David at
www.AirPlayDirect.com/DavidStarrMusicPage

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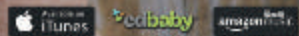
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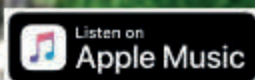


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Lady J Huston

SOUL

By Deborah Baliles

That's How the Lady Does It!

Beginning life as a child prodigy, by weaving together a music virtuoso with a well-read scholar, takes a determination worthy of respect and recognition. It takes an extraordinary kind of lady, a lady known as Lady J Huston.

Lady J was born into the music of St. Louis, Missouri. Her mother, Loyce Pickens Huston had a fabulous contralto voice, compared only to Sarah Vaughan. Mother was popular on the St. Louis music scene, a song stylist covering Jazz, Blues, Pop, and Gospel music. Being the only girl of five children, Lady J would cling to mother, accompanying her to rehearsals and shows. Loyce hit the record charts in the mid-1960s. Both Loyce and Lady J have a preserved catalog of music, videos, memorabilia, family records, and other archival collections in the Washington University Library Archives, St. Louis, as well as in the Missouri History Museum.

The weaving had already begun with a young Lady J playing her first instrument in kindergarten, the triangle. She was dead-serious about hitting all the right dings in the school

concert. Excelling had already begun as well. Fast forward the years to fourth grade, classroom teacher, Ms. Helen Jones-Imes would introduce Lady J to the flutophone. Ms. Jones-Imes, a pianist, taught Lady J to read notes.

Kindergarten would embrace other moments in the sun. One, the role of Mary in the school Christmas play. "I will never forget," she says. "My seamstress mother took a blue, silky head scarf and made it into a robe. Me and my beautiful robe stood staring down on a white Baby Jesus. That was an interesting concept to this little kid." Two, Lady J made the occasional TV appearance on a dance show called The Black Circle Hour (the local version of Soul Train). With cousin David Williams producing, many days would be playing hooky from school, catching a bus, and hoping to get picked to join in the dancing, "I was always selected." This in no

way hindered Lady J in school. She was a good student academically and saw nothing wrong with being called the “teacher’s pet.”

She would go on to read and play drum music, playing single snare, tenor drum, and marching in parades. A very good dancer, Lady J would perform with her mother and her mother’s twin sister, Joyce Pickens Coffey, a comedian. Performing in grade and high school, competing in talent shows; winning and placing provided another source of income for the family.

Seems her aunt was not the only family comedian. Lady J played a role in a high school play, something about a Gospel singer. Hitting the stage with a big hair wig, overdone makeup, and enhanced breasts brought on quite the laughter. That laughter would turn into a standing ovation when Lady J opened her mouth to sing.

Joining the high school concert choir, the director, Walter Young placed Lady J in the alto section, then she was moved to the tenor section. Hearing Lady J goofing off singing high notes, “He switched me to 2nd soprano. I thought he was nuts. My youngest brother and I would compete squealing high notes, but I never sang to it. My voice was cracking, but the director insisted that I continue, even providing personal training after school. Low and behold, my high vocal range manifested into a powerful and beautiful sound.”

Inspired by a Louis Armstrong movie, Lady J picked up the trumpet. Further inspired by Miles Davis, Chuck Mangione, Herb Alpert, and Hugh Masekela, all the while relentlessly practicing, no less would be expected than Lady J surpassing all other students. By the next year, she was the lead trumpeter and choreographer in the high school band and performing in Drum and Bugle Corps. What a thrill marching alongside Tony Randall, as the lead trumpeter in *The Music Man*, St. Louis Municipal Opera House. Singing in church, she attempted to include the trumpet, but that took a bit of transitioning from Classical to Gospel music.

As undeniably talented on the trumpet as she was, there were still uncomfortable confrontations from men who felt threatened, intimidated, or whatever playing alongside her. Being the youngest and only female musician (especially on the trumpet) left the insecurities of others, well, hanging out. We all know that the trumpet is predominantly a male instrument, right? It took Lady J to prove otherwise.

Lady J graduated valedictorian at seventeen, voted the most talented female student, receiving academic and music scholarships to the University of Kansas (Lawrence), and Howard University (Washington D.C.). She majored in music theory/composition, with minors in trumpet, voice, and piano. A young Joyce had grown up, and was coming into her own, soon to become, Lady J.

Now eighteen-years-old, following her sophomore year in college, Lady took a hiatus to perform in St. Louis with

Johnnie Johnson (Father of Rock ‘n Roll pianist for Chuck Berry). She would accept a trumpeter and opening act tour with Blues legend, Albert King. “Mr. King fired a lot of musicians. So, I started charting the music to save time, while new members would play the show. I became the horn section leader, and eventually, music director.”

Lady J experienced wonderful opportunities during the King touring – playing the Apollo Theater, filming a Dick Clark special, filming a PBS TV show, and performing on platforms with Blues stars, B.B. King, Robert Cray, Millie Jackson, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters, Albert Collins, Etta James, Bobby Blue Bland, and KoKo Taylor. Many of her career influences are, familiar greats the likes of Mavis Staples, James Brown, Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, Gladys Knight, and cousin, soul-sensation, Ms. Jody.



After the final touring with King, Lady J would find herself at Howard University receiving honors and on the Dean’s List. She recorded an album with the university’s Jazz ensemble, doing shows with Lionel Hampton and Blues pioneer, Alberta Hunter. While in D.C., she performed a show with trumpet superstar, Donald Byrd as well as sit in with two music idols, Dizzy Gillespie and Freddie Hubbard. Too, she was a member of the GoGo music band, D’Shiya, opening for Run-DMC and Pieces of a Dream.

Relocating to Los Angeles, California, partnering with Johnny Stewart, he and Lady J formed the band, Johnny & Joyce & The Choice Band. (Johnny’s brother, Billy Stewart was an R&B star, whose career tragically ended in a car crash,

Continued on page 176 >>>

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<<< *Lady J...continued from page 173*

along with members of his band. Johnny and Lady J would include a tribute around his music.) The Choice Band opened for national acts in the LA area.

Additionally, Lady J would manage to weave in a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Redlands, California.



The Lady J Huston Show

Even so, seeking a faster music career path, Las Vegas, Nevada seemed to be an ideal location. There, Lady J fell in love with the lights of the entertainment mecca, calling it home for the next twenty-five years. Sidelineing, Johnny began touring with Bill Pinkney's Original Drifters. When in Vegas, Lady J also joined Johnny performing with the Drifters. Johnny and Lady J would ultimately part ways.

Lady J continued playing in bands, landing a one-woman show at the Fitzgerald's Casino, using the billing and her new stage name, "Lady J Huston." It wasn't long before she was asked to form a Blues band to perform at the #1 Blues club in Las Vegas, The Sand Dollar, Blues Room. Now performing as Lady J Huston & The Fireballs! A most successful band would win many Blues awards.

More from Las Vegas, Lady J closed shows for Gary Lewis and Fabian and performed on the finale show of America's Got Talent with the Audition All-Stars cast. Performing in major hotels and casinos, headlining music festivals, in night clubs, on TV, appearing in magazines and newspapers, little wonder Lady J reigned as the Las Vegas Queen of Blues for many years, and until her departure.

Parallel with a flourishing Vegas music career, for twenty years, Lady J's days were spent working for the Department of Energy (Bechtel) Nuclear Waste Repository. Days had a database and website administrator, systems analyst, and project control engineer. Working on multiple projects and

diversity programs earned her a collection of over thirty employee awards and recognitions. Nights had an amazing performing artist.

Returning to St. Louis, Lady J fell right back into the excellent music niche. Her first show debuted at the National Blues Museum, where she continues to perform. In 1982, she wrote an eighteen-piece big band composition, Hide-Away. The piece finally came into fruition (2018) with the Jazz Edge Orchestra on the St. Louis Blues Society's compilation album of local Blues artists, performed with Grammy winner, Bobby Rush, and Ikette, Robbie Montgomery of Sweetie Pie's.

In 2021, Lady J performed the National Anthem for the opening of a Wynonna Judd show. "She complimented me on my glittery eyelashes, then surprised me with an autographed container of her new eyelashes!"

"Rewards in my career come from people expressing joy in my music. Hearing that they have found inspiration, have stress relieved, seeing great big smiles, and even sometimes tears; it uplifts my heart so. Here I find the motivation, the strength that I need to continue the calling God

has blessed me with." This lady's roll of rewards is staggering. Blessed indeed, in just the few mentioned below.

Lady J was featured in the book, Distinguished Women & Men of Southern NV (2002), published in Marquis Biographies for Who's Who in Finance & Business in America, American Women, and World. She was the recipient of The Barbara O'Rourke Award, Fibromyalgia/Chronic Fatigue Support Group Celebrity Spokesperson (2006). The years 2009-2012 would harvest BMA (Black Music Association) awards, times over – Best Blues Performer and Best Blues Band. The ECE (Entertainment Consumer's Exchange, Inc.) years of 2011-2013 would produce, times over – Excellence in Entertainment, Blues Artist of the Year, Blues Band of the Year; Lady J Huston & The Fireballs were enshrined into The Fan's Entertainment Hall of Fame. Other accolades take in Body and Soul Urban Oasis President's Award (2011), St. Louis (O'Fallon) National Society Daughters of the American Revolution Women in the Arts (2018), winner (2021) National Blues Museum's songwriting competition, Corona You Make Me Sick!, and currently (2022) featured in their exhibit for COVID-19 awareness, in support of the African American community, Pandemic Blues. Lastly, Hide-Away came in semi-finalist in the International Songwriting Competition (2021).

Continued on page 179 >>>



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Things have not always been graceful roses and beautiful music. Rather, Lady J has lived a life, often unraveling to the point of breaking. It takes a lady to pretend that all is well, performing her heart out, all the while gathering up handfuls of her own life threads.

A little girl was raised by a single mother of five in the low-income housing called, the Pruitt Igoe Projects, also referred to as the second worst government housing in the country. Lady J remembers it as home, beautiful with a fresh smell when they were new, when they first moved in. At its decline, the family moved to Heaven, a huge three-story home with a full basement. The white residents were retreating to the suburbs, leaving behind massive inner-city homes.

Medical traumas and illnesses have plagued Lady J for a lot of her life. She was diagnosed with Fibromyalgia, a crippling disease of sorts, with constant pain and fatigue. Along with much prayer, aqua-aerobics, and holistic medicines, she was able to resume her career. Only to be told later that she had Lupus, that was followed up with a slew of highly dangerous, and debilitating drugs. Once more she would return to her music. While singing a solo in a Vegas church, forgetting the words, and seeing auras of white, would be the greatest scare and the precursor to tonic-clonic seizures. God-loving Christians in the band, and mother, would take turns caring for Lady J and her home. The doctors had already relinquished hope, suggesting that she get her “papers in order,” find a facility or hospital that could offer extended treatment. Back in St. Louis, the seizures receded. Doctors there found that she had been misdiagnosed; she did not have Lupus. Lady’s health began to improve – from singing in church to the day she was able to return to the stage with a brand-new band.

Lady J is a spokesperson in telling her story of the “journey back from the dungeons of medical anguish.” Her story led to being featured on ABC World News Tonight with Diane Sawyer. “At the end of the segment, I may have sung a few Hallelujahs!” (Various videos are currently on YouTube – simply search Lady J Huston.)

In the midst of her health struggles, Lady J learned a lot about herself, and her heritage as well. Studying religions, she learned the core of being kind and loving, forgiving, not judging, grateful, humble, and being of service. “My spirituality includes the law of attraction and karma, irrefutably, we reap what we sow. Positive thoughts will produce positive results. Negativity takes so much of our energy.”

As the family’s historian and genealogist, she found their namesake, O’Kelley. Her grandmother and most of her siblings could pass for white. With the help of genealogy records kept by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day

Saints, the name The Black O’Kelleys was established for her body of work. Her work has been featured on TV, radio, blogs, podcasts, and in print. She has connected with descendants of slave masters, the O’Kelley brothers, who fathered children with her enslaved great-great-grandmother, Ellen Fisher. DNA testing confirms the blood relationships.

Audiences of black, white, and all other ethnicities are all the same to Lady J, who feels that music is a gift from God to the whole-wide world. “There should be unity in all of God’s children. Until the labor of research, my family had no evidence how our bloodlines were so colorfully intertwined. I so want to see America become a united state. Perhaps, through music, I can be that vessel to help build those bridges.”

Lady J’s new single, *Groove Me Baby* was released on July 22, 2022. An album release party was held at St. Louis’ premier Blues and Jazz establishment, BB’s Jazz, Blues & Soups. The full album release will be in the spring of 2023. On the official release date, the song began rising on the charts of AirPlay Direct, on radio stations worldwide with many great accolades from DJs.

An “in love” Lady J wrote the song in 1992. It has all that gooey stuff about self-indulgence and forever longing for that one who makes you feel so good inside. It’s a combination of reality and imagination about romance. Lady J’s amazing talents as trumpeter and vocalist (four-octave range), and a fantastic producer are fully displayed here. A musician remarked, “Oh, you’re doing that Bruno Mars, Silk Sonic groove.” Lady J chuckles, “*Groove Me Baby* was written before that group was established” – fans are looking at a R&B, Retro-Soul, and Blues song that lovers everywhere will enjoy cuddling to!

Eyeing a global introduction, Lady J is elated to get back out there. “I’ve been sitting idle on the recording side for far too long. My show is high-energy, foot-tapping, dancing on the floor, or with a chair. It doesn’t matter. My trumpet and I will do dance moves with you, flaring a wild, sequined and feathered boa! The name of my group is The Lady J Huston Show – that is because it is just that, we put on a show! All of the band members are featured on stage. We leave nothing out in giving our fans the time of their lives. We can’t wait to see you and meet you!”

A simple Google of Lady J Huston comes up, “Respected as one of the most spectacular entertainers on the music scene!” That’s how a lady does it!

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Gregg Walker

First of all I give thanks to my Lord and Savior;
to the radio stations and DJs for charting my
song *'Toe to Toe With The Devil'*;
to SonSound Records, Holly and
Matt Robinson; to Wilds and
Associates and staff; to my family
for their support; and most of all
to the fans for requesting and
supporting my music;
To God Be The Glory!

*Then saith Jesus unto him,
Get thee hence, Satan: for it is
written, Thou shalt worship
the Lord thy God, and him
only shalt thou serve.*

Matthew 4:10



Gregg Walker Ministries @ 843-624-2664

email greggwalker1966@gmail.com

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