CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CMA AWARDS WINNERS

CARLY PEARCE  GARTH BROOKS  CHRIS STAPLETON

LADY ANTEBELLUM  MADDIE & TAE  MIDLAND

GREG KURSTIN  JORDAN SCHMIDT  JORDAN REYNOLDS  PAUL FRANKLIN  ILYA TOSHINSKIY  F. REID SHIPPEN
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the Conners

Hangin' By A Thread.

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CONGRATS TO ALL THE NOMINEES
WE WELCOME YOU TO THE GRANDEST TRADITION IN ALL OF COUNTRY MUSIC – “THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS.”

Last year was a very special year for the Country Music Association as we celebrated our 60th year as an organization. We look forward to this year’s CMA Awards to create even more great memories during Country Music’s Biggest Night.

In 1967, the first CMA Awards known at the time as the “CMA Awards Banquet And Show” was held to recognize the most deserving in our industry. This tradition has continued and thrived over the last 50 plus years as the show’s longevity is cemented as the longest-running annual televised live awards show.

Even though the sounds and styles have evolved over the years with the changing times, the heart of this mission remains the same.

Tonight, we honor the best of the best in the heart of Music City and deliver the iconic crystal CMA Award, one of Country Music’s highest honors to our winners in each category.

We thank all the nominees for making 2019 a great year for Country! To the night’s winners, congratulations on your grand achievement!

Now, it’s time for history to be made. It’s time to witness powerful performances, to be surprised by special guest appearances—and to celebrate all CMA Awards nominees.

From all of us at CMA, we hope you enjoy the show!

FIND CMA ON  

CMA AWARD  

CMA Award Height: 15 inches  
Weight: 7 pounds  
Material: Fine Italian crystal from Florence, Italy  
Assembled By: Halo Branded Solutions in Nashville

THE CMA AWARDS IS PRODUCED BY

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APPEARING ARTISTS

THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS

KELSEA BALLERINI
DIERKS BENTLEY
GARTH BROOKS
BROOKS & DUNN
HANNAH BROWN

BROTHERS OSBORNE
DEANA CARTER
KRISTIN CHENOWETH
ERIC CHURCH
TERRI CLARK

LUKE COMBS
DAN + SHAY
FOR KING & COUNTRY
JIM GAFFIGAN
HALSEY

LADY ANTEBELLUM
MIRANDA LAMBERT
KATHY MATTEA
MARTINA McBRIEDE
REBA McENTIRE

MIDLAND
MAREN MORRIS
KACEY MUSGRAVES
WILLIE NELSON
OLD DOMINION

PINK
DOLLY PARTON
THOMAS RHETT
BLAKE SHELTON
CHRIS STAPLETON

TANYA TUCKER
CARRIE UNDERWOOD
KEITH URBAN
ZACH WILLIAMS

and more... List as of Oct. 30
Melania and I send greetings to those gathered in Nashville, Tennessee, for the 53rd Annual Country Music Association (CMA) Awards. Congratulations to this year’s nominees!

The melody of country music resonates with Americans from coast to coast. The lyrics often pay tribute to the values that mean the most to us—hard work, patriotism, faith, and family. From the sound of a steel guitar on Broadway Street to the harmonies heard over radios in the heartland, country music comforts us in hardship, inspires us in our greatest endeavors, and connects us with the ones we cherish the most.

Tonight’s awards ceremony is also an opportunity to recognize the outstanding philanthropic work of artists across the genre. Whether supporting our Nation’s service members and veterans, providing disaster relief, or launching literacy initiatives for America’s youth, the impact of country music artists is not limited to charts and record sales. These efforts have helped to improve thousands of lives and communities across the United States, and we commend you for your kindness and generosity.

We send our best wishes for a wonderful event. May God bless you, and may He bless the United States of America.
COUNTRY’S BIGGEST STARS.

From tackling tough jobs to cruising country roads, the Chevy Silverado and the All-New Silverado HD are the strongest, most advanced family of Silverados ever. With best-in-class camera technology and the largest, most functional bed in its class, Silverado is the truck they write songs about.

FIND NEW ROADS

*Excludes other GM vehicles.
On behalf of the State of Tennessee, we welcome you to the 53rd Annual CMA Awards in Nashville. It’s the Music City and humble home to the Grand Ole Opry, the Ryman Auditorium and the Country Music Hall of Fame.

From Mountain City to Memphis, our state’s rich musical heritage is unrivaled – which is why millions of visitors come straight to the Volunteer State to experience the power of music right down to the roots. Tonight, we share one of the industry’s grandest celebrations with country music fans across the world.

We thank the Country Music Association for their continued presence in our state and the work they do to give back to the community. We are especially proud of the CMA Foundation for their efforts to make music education accessible to young people across Tennessee.

We hope you sit back and enjoy the show on “Country Music’s Biggest Night” and best wishes to all the honorees.

Warmly,

Bill & Maria Lee
EVERY DREAM NEEDS A RUNWAY.

Every day we help travelers follow the sound of opportunity to wherever it takes them. Tonight we honor those who create their own sound, blaze new trails through the music industry, and follow their dreams.

Official airline partner of the 2019 CMA Awards®.
It is truly an honor, as CMA Board chairman, to welcome you to “The 53rd Annual CMA Awards.”

The path CMA has taken over the past half century has shined a bright light on the artists who have defined our genre. We have chronicled the evolution of this extremely valuable American art form through this television broadcast. The variety of the music represented provides the soundtrack to the lives of Country fans from all corners of the globe.

This year, in particular, we’ve had the ultimate Country Music history lesson... Ken Burns’ documentary series “Country Music.” The richness of this project is a testament to the impact of Country Music and makes CMA incredibly proud to carry the banner into this special night.

I’d be remiss if I didn’t call attention to the incredible staff that CMA Chief Executive Officer Sarah Trahern has assembled. Under her direction they carry out the will of our committed Board of Directors. And as Chairman of this Board, I can say that Sarah’s staff is second to none. And I can also tell you this...Sarah is one amazing executive who makes us all proud.

Thank you to Executive Producer Robert Deaton for pouring his heart into this event. We are fortunate to have such a wizard working to ensure that this is Country Music’s Biggest Night.

A huge thanks to all of tonight’s nominees and performers. You are the reason we are gathered here. Your artistry provides immense joy and we appreciate you so very much.

Whether you are sitting here in Bridgestone Arena, watching on TV at home or streaming on the internet, we are happy to be gathered together with you as one big Country Music family. So sit back, relax and enjoy TV’s longest-running music Awards show...The CMA Awards! Have a great time!

GOOD EVENING, COUNTRY MUSIC FANS!

On behalf of the CMA Board of Directors, welcome. You are about to enjoy Country Music’s Biggest Night. If you haven’t been before, this night will be one you’ll remember all your life, believe me.

Dozens of the world’s most talented artists, musicians, producers, and of course songwriters, are on the edge of their seats — right here with you — to see who will take home the hardware for “The 53rd Annual CMA Awards.” It’s truly one of the most special nights in entertainment, the culmination of many hours, weeks, years... even a lifetime of work. And it all happens here tonight.

The winners were selected by the over 7,400 members of the Country Music Association. We’ll also celebrate the legendary performers who are the newest members of the Country Music Hall of Fame, and of course we’ll get a look at the new artists who are forging the future of Country Music.

We could not be more excited about our hosts tonight. Carrie Underwood returns for her 12th year and she’s joined by guest hosts Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire. Thanks to all of them for proudly representing Country Music for all of us, to the many who will be watching live on ABC-TV and online. Tonight and all year, we are proud of them and very grateful for all they do.

None of us could enjoy the splendor of this evening without some amazing people who I want to thank. Our amazing CEO, Sarah Trahern, and her tireless leadership, energy and passion for Country Music, Music Row and this event. ABC Television for their partnership and dedication to Nashville and Country Music. And a special thanks to our Executive Producer Robert Deaton. He brings the hopes, dreams and the greatness of Country Music’s best together every year for this most beautiful of events.

We’re glad you’re here. It wouldn’t be Country Music without you.

Enjoy the show!
It’s Not What You Have, It’s What You Give
WELCOME TO COUNTRY MUSIC’S BIGGEST NIGHT!

I am so honored to welcome you to the 53rd edition of the CMA Awards. Looking back on this remarkable year, I can’t help but think how far we have come as an organization and genre. With a bright spotlight turned toward us thanks to the magnificent storytelling of Ken Burns’ “Country Music,” all generations are now discovering what makes Country unique. Through its many iterations, from the hills of the Appalachian Mountains to the neon-soaked lights of Broadway honky-tonks, the foundation of Country Music still remains strong – real stories told by real people. I am so proud that we get to have a night to honor these storytellers and celebrate their successes.

Seeing the Burns’ documentary made me a bit nostalgic hearing about the CMA Awards’ humble beginnings. The first Awards in 1967 was a sit-down dinner banquet at the Municipal Auditorium with no television cameras in sight. However, thanks to the confidence in Country Music’s appeal (and the tenacity of Executive Director Jo Walker Meador and a handful of CMA Board members), the very next year the show made its television debut from the Ryman Auditorium. Now it is consistently the top-rated Country Music awards show on television.

Tonight will be nothing short of historic. Our host Carrie Underwood, along with special guest hosts Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton, will kick off the evening with a salute to many of the trailblazing women artists in our genre. With those three powerhouses at the helm this year, you can be assured the music will be memorable and everything in between, well, unpredictable.

We congratulate all of tonight’s nominees on their achievements and also raise a glass to new Country Music Hall of Fame Inductees Jerry Bradley, Brooks & Dunn and Ray Stevens. Their work has had an indelible impact on our industry. We also salute our 2019 Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award winner Kris Kristofferson. While Kris is on the road and not able to join us here in Nashville, we toast his legacy as a prolific songwriter and artist.

I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize the hard work, dedication and passion of the CMA staff, production team, Board members, artists and their teams, musicians and hosts to put this incredible show together. Tonight would certainly not be possible without the vision of Executive Producer Robert Deaton, the support of our Board TV Chairman Joe Galante and Vice-Chair Clarence Spalding, and the steady hands of our Board Officers Jody Williams, Kurt Johnson and Mary Hilliard Harrington. Thank you!

And thank you for being here to witness what I am fortunate enough to see every day – Country Music touches ordinary people’s lives in extraordinary ways. And I can’t think of a better way to celebrate than showing that to the world.

Best,
Sarah
Hard work.
The hero of every success story.

You work hard toward your goals. Now get the tools and expertise you need to reach them. Whether it’s keeping your finances on track or making an action plan, we’re here to help every step of the way. usbank.com/hardwork

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On the morning of Wednesday, Aug. 28, Jimmie Allen and CMA New Artist of the Year nominee, Ashley McBryde joined the team of ABC’s “Good Morning America” to announce the nominees in four categories for this year’s CMA Awards. Another New Artist nominee, Morgan Wallen, then performed his hit “If I Know Me,” live on GMA.

It was a busy morning for Wallen, who, in addition to performing on GMA and getting a nomination, joined fellow CMA New Artist of the Year nominee Midland, in a livestream with Billboard, to announce the remaining nominees.
CELEBRATES THIS YEAR'S CMA AWARDS®
Winners & Nominees

53rd CMA AWARDS
LIST OF NOMINEES

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
Garth Brooks
Eric Church
Chris Stapleton
Carrie Underwood
Keith Urban

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
Dierks Bentley
Luke Combs
Thomas Rhett
Chris Stapleton
Keith Urban

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
Kelsea Ballerini
Miranda Lambert
Maren Morris
Kacey Musgraves
Carrie Underwood

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR
Lady Antebellum
Little Big Town
Midland
Old Dominion
Zac Brown Band

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
Brooks & Dunn
Brothers Osborne
Dan + Shay
Florida Georgia Line
Maddie & Tae

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR
Cody Johnson
Ashley McBryde
Midland
Carly Pearce
Morgan Wallen

MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

FIDDLE
Jenee Fleenor

STEEL GUITAR
Paul Franklin

GUITAR
Mac McAnally
Ilya Toshinsky
Derek Wells

ALBUM OF THE YEAR
AWARD GOES TO ARTIST AND PRODUCERS

Center Point Road
THOMAS RHETT
PRODUCERS: DANN HUFF, JESSE FRASURE, THOMAS RHETT, JULIAN BUNETTA, THE STEREOTYPES AND CLEVE WILSON

Cry Pretty
CARRIE UNDERWOOD
PRODUCERS: DAVID GARCIA, JIM JONSIN, CARRIE UNDERWOOD

Dan + Shay
DAN + SHAY
PRODUCERS: DAN SMYERS, SCOTT HENDRICKS

Desperate Man
ERIC CHURCH
PRODUCERS: JAY JOYCE, ARTURO BUENAHORA, JR.

GIRL
MAREN MORRIS
PRODUCERS: BUSBEE, MAREN MORRIS, GREG KURSTIN

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
AWARD GOES TO ARTIST(S), PRODUCER(S), AND MIX ENGINEER

“Burning Man”
DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. BROTHERS OSBORNE
PRODUCERS: ROSS COPPERMAN, JON RANDALL, ARTURO BUENAHORA, JR.
MIX ENGINEER: F. REID SHIPPEN

“GIRL”
MAREN MORRIS
PRODUCER: GREG KURSTIN
MIX ENGINEER: GREG KURSTIN

“God’s Country”
BLAKE SHELTON
PRODUCER: SCOTT HENDRICKS
MIX ENGINEER: JUSTIN NIEBANK

“Millionaire”
CHRIS STAPLETON
PRODUCERS: DAVE COBB, CHRIS STAPLETON
MIX ENGINEER: VANCE POELL

“Speechless”
DAN + SHAY
PRODUCERS: DAN SMYERS, SCOTT HENDRICKS
MIX ENGINEER: JEFF JULIANO

SONG OF THE YEAR
AWARD GOES TO SONGWRITERS

“Beautiful Crazy”
LUKE COMBS, WYATT B. DURRETTE III, ROBERT WILLIFORD

“GIRL”
MAREN MORRIS, SARAH AARONS, GREG KURSTIN

“God’s Country”
DEVIN DAWSON, JORDAN SCHMIDT, MICHAEL HARDY

“Rainbow”
NATALIE HEMBY, SHANE MCANALLY, KACEY MUSGRAVES

“Tequila”
DAN SMYERS, NICOLLE GALYON, JORDAN REYNOLDS

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
AWARD GOES TO ARTIST(S) AND PRODUCER(S)

“All My Favorite People”
MAREN MORRIS (FEAT. BROTHERS OSBORNE)
PRODUCERS: MAREN MORRIS, BUSBEE

“Brand New Man”
BROOKS & DUNN (WITH LUKE COMBS)
PRODUCER: DANN HUFF

“Dive Bar”
GARTH BROOKS & BLAKE SHELTON
PRODUCER: GARTH BROOKS

“Old Town Road (Remix)”
LIL NAS X FEAT. BILLY RAY CYRUS
PRODUCERS: YOUNGKIO, MICHAEL TRENT REZNOR, ATTICUS MATTHEW ROSS

“What Happens In A Small Town”
BRANTLEY GILBERT & LINDSAY ELL
PRODUCER: DANN HUFF

MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR
AWARD GOES TO ARTIST(S) AND DIRECTOR(S)

“Burning Man”
DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. BROTHERS OSBORNE
DIRECTOR: WES EDWARDS

“GIRL”
MAREN MORRIS/DIRECTOR: DAVE MEYERS

“God’s Country”
BLAKE SHELTON/DIRECTOR: SOPHIE MULLER

“Rainbow”
KACEY MUSGRAVES/DIRECTOR: HANNAH LUX DAVIS

“Some Of It”
ERIC CHURCH
DIRECTORS: REID LONG AND JOHN PEETS
CONGRATULATIONS ON AN INCREDIBLE YEAR REBA!

Families from 44 states and 4 countries found a home-away-from-home through the doors of Reba’s Ranch House this year due to your heart and love for others!

We are so very proud to be a part of your dream to improve lives during extraordinary challenges.

WITH LOVE FROM YOUR FRIENDS, FANS, AND FAMILY HERE IN BEAUTIFUL TEXOMA!

MARILYN BICE, Reba's Ranch House Director

LEARN MORE AND DONATE AT REBASRANCHHOUSE.ORG
This year seasoned CMA Awards host Carrie Underwood takes the CMA Awards stage with special guest hosts Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton. They will headline the CMAs leading a show that will include special salutes to the legendary women of Country Music.
“I love the fact that I get to stand up there with two of my idols and heroes,”

Underwood says with a smile. “I’ll use any excuse I can to get to work with Dolly and Reba. I’m super excited to see how it all plays out and just to get to spend time with them. I’ve gotten to be around both of them and sing with both of them in different venues and for different things, but not in this collaborative kind of way, so I feel I’m a very lucky lady.”

This isn’t Underwood’s first time at the podium, and she feels her previous experience provides a certain comfort level as she prepared for this year’s show. “I’ve been a host of the CMA Awards for 11 years and I feel like every year it gets more comfortable,” she admits. “I won’t say ‘easier’ because every year has its challenges, but I’m more comfortable in that role. Obviously, Reba and Dolly have both been in similar roles before so I feel the three of us can bring our experience to the table. It’s going to make for a really great night.”

Country Music Hall of Famers McEntire and Parton share Underwood’s enthusiasm for their joint venture. “I have been a huge Reba fan for years and who doesn’t love Carrie, so it was easy to get me to say ‘Yes’ to a fun girls night out,” Parton says. “I think we will have a blast, and together we have more than a little experience so I think we are up to the challenge.”

McEntire agrees. “I’m totally honored that Carrie and CMA asked me to co-host with Dolly. They are two women that I really respect and admire so it’s going to be really fun.”

This year’s hosts mark the first time in CMA history that three women will be taking the reins of the CMA Awards telecast. A move that seems particularly appropriate with celebration of women in Country Music being the theme. “I do feel it is very important for our format right now [to have] this night dedicated to women,” Underwood says. “I feel it’s going to be very sincere and heartfelt. There will be a lot of incredible performances and a lot of girl power, but Dolly is so funny and Reba is so witty and delivers great comedic timing, so I would imagine it will be a heartfelt night filled with the occasional quip or one liner or something that will be so very Dolly and Reba. My responsibility will be to kind of carry the host mode; maybe I’ll be the one that is a little more the anchor.”

McEntire admits she and Parton will likely be the night’s comic relief. “I’d say Dolly and I will be the jokesters and Carrie will be more serious,” she says. “We are three strong women who come from different generations, so I think that will bring a fun dynamic to the show because we will each have unique perspectives to contribute.”

“We each come to the table with a different style,” Parton adds, “but in the end, we just love great music. I’m kind of like their Aunt Dolly, so I’ll try to keep them in line, if that’s possible. I guess you’ll have to tune in to see if they can keep me in line as well.”

Collectively, McEntire, Parton and Underwood have earned 127 CMA Awards nominations and 22 total wins, 11 of which are for CMA Female Vocalist of the Year. The three also have a combined 15 nominations in the CMA Entertainer of the Year category, with Parton receiving the award in 1978 and McEntire winning in 1986. Underwood is nominated this year. She received her first CMA Entertainer of the Year nod in 2016 and is also nominated for CMA Female Vocalist of the Year and CMA Album of the Year for *Cry Pretty* this year.

This year’s CMA Awards isn’t the first time Underwood has had a chance to work with her heroes. Parton was a special guest on Underwood’s 2009 variety special where they performed “I Will Always Love You” together. The three entertainers had a chance to hang out when McEntire celebrated her Grand Ole Opry 40th anniversary.
Underwood joined McEntire to perform the hit duet “Does He Love You,” she and Parton were among McEntire’s many well-wishers on that special evening.

In addition to what viewers will see in front of the camera, each of the women will be collaborating on the script for the show, something Underwood has done each year with writer David Wild and executive producer Robert Deaton. “It needs to be in our own words, or it will just feel weird,” Underwood says. “It’s always been a collaborative process and this year it will continue to be a collaborative process.”

That is one of the things McEntire is most looking forward to about her CMA Awards gig. “I love being involved in the creative process and the jokes,” she says.

“The show has to have a set script to keep it on track and on time,” Parton adds. “I’m sure I’ll put my own spin on things. Shoot, I always think the screw-ups are the funniest part of a show and God knows I screw up plenty.”

During this year’s show, McEntire, Parton and Underwood will be paying tribute to the legendary women of Country Music. “It’s wonderful for the CMA to do something like this,” Underwood states. “It is important for the three of us to stand up because I feel like between the three of us, we’ve always been careful to carry ourselves in a certain way and want to represent Country Music well. Reba and Dolly have two of the most powerful voices in music—not just with their singing voices—but also with the words that they say and the things that they stand up for. Hopefully the three of us standing up there together will be impactful and promote change. Hopefully having a night like this will make people realize that this night is all about and what we women in Country Music do, just juggling it all and making it all work. It’s important to be able to stand up and say, ’This is what we do and this is what we do every day. We can juggle it all and can have it all.’”

This year’s show will have a lot of heart. “I feel like we learned a lot from our 50th anniversary show. People very much enjoyed the heart behind it,” she says. “We were all very careful and wanted to be respectful and showcase not just what was happening in Country Music, but also our backbone, our core values, and our history, and people loved it. I’m glad to see us taking a page out of our own book this year as far as that goes and again just wanting to be sincere and heartfelt.”

With Underwood, McEntire and Parton shepherding the show, it’s sure to be a night to remember and Parton wouldn’t have it any other way. “Hopefully it will be a great show that will make us all proud, make people laugh, cry a little and to feel that they have been completely entertained. I am so looking forward to it!”

“We are three strong women who come from different generations, so I think that will bring a fun dynamic to the show because we will each have unique perspectives to contribute.” – Reba McEntire
The Germantown Inn Congratulates all the CMA Awards Nominees and the First-Ever Female Nominated for Musician of the Year, Jenee Fleenor

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

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Now Meet Artificial Intelligence

LG Premium TVs with AI (Artificial Intelligence) ThinQ® have Google Assistant built in, so you can control compatible smart home devices using just your voice. Create a center for your smart home and beyond.

LG ThinQ AI  Google Assistant

LGUSA.com/ai-thinq

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ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

ERIC CHURCH
Celebrate THE Moment
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

CHRIS STAPLETON
THE SHOW MAY BE OVER. BUT SOCIAL MEDIA IS JUST TAKING OFF.

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KELSEA BALLERINI

FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

Kelsea Ballerini has already had a dream year in 2019. In March, Little Big Town invited her to join the Grand Ole Opry. And in April she was welcomed into the Opry family by Carrie Underwood. As if those weren’t enough highlights for the year, in April, she launched the sold-out “Miss Me More Tour” for Unapologetically. To cap her career year, she released the powerful single “homecoming queen?” as the lead track from her forthcoming third album. The song scored her highest debut yet on the Country Airplay chart.

DIERKS BENTLEY

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
SINGLE OF THE YEAR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Three-time CMA Awards winner Bentley is up for three awards this year following the chart-topping success of 2018’s The Mountain, which debuted at No. 1 on the Top Country Albums chart. The album has spawned three hit singles, including “Burning Man.” The track, featuring Brothers Osborne, is up for both CMA Single and Music Video of the Year.
kelsea ballerini
female vocalist of the year

congratulations on your nomination and your impactful new single, “homecoming queen?”
GARTH BROOKS

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Six-time CMA Entertainer of the Year Garth Brooks made a compelling case for his seventh trophy by doing what he has done best for decades, performing live. Whether it was on his hugely successful “The Garth Brooks Stadium Tour,” including the first-ever gig at the University of Notre Dame Football Stadium, or the “Dive Bar” tour, Brooks proved again he is one of the most consistent live performers in 2019. He’s had a slew of new hit singles, including “Dive Bar,” nominated for CMA Musical Event of the Year with Blake Shelton.

BROOKS & DUNN

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Brooks & Dunn are deservedly joining the Country Music Hall of Fame this year. But the duo are a long way from retirement as they showed in 2019 with the continuation of their successful Las Vegas residency and the chart-topping album Reboot. The album found them revisiting classic Brooks & Dunn songs with fellow nominees Luke Combs, Kacey Musgraves, Thomas Rhett and Midland, among others. The reworking of “Brand New Man” with Combs is up for CMA Musical Event of the Year.
Congratulations to Garth Brooks and Scott Hendricks on multiple CMA Awards® nominations!

Garth Brooks | Entertainer of the Year and Musical Event of the Year (“Dive Bar”)
Scott Hendricks | Single of the Year (“God’s Country”), Single of the Year (“Speechless”), and Album of the Year (Dan + Shay)

Deeply rooted in Cowboy country, Oklahoma State University is proud to be part of the stories of Garth Brooks and Scott Hendricks. As we say back in Stillwater, “Go Pokes!”
42

THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS

BROTHERS OSBORNE

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR
SINGLE OF THE YEAR
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

The three-time winners in CMA Vocal Duo of the Year are back to defend their crown thanks to a big touring year in support of 2018’s critical and commercial success, *Port Saint Joe* as well as some high profile collaborations with fellow nominees Maren Morris, on “All My Favorite People,” and Brooks & Dunn on their reworking of “Hard Workin’ Man.” Brothers T.J. and John Osborne are frequent guests on other artist collaborations, including nominated songs with Maren Morris and Dierks Bentley.

ERIC CHURCH

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Church’s 2019 kicked off in late 2018 with the release of his CMA Album of the Year nominated, *Desperate Man*. An immediate critical and commercial hit, it debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top Country Album Charts and No. 5 on the Billboard Top 200. CMA Music Video of the Year nominee “Some of It” hit No. 1 on the Country Airplay Chart and Church parlayed its success into a sold-out arena tour across the U.S.
Congratulations
to all the nominees!

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE TALENTED MUSICIANS
BEHIND THESE NOMINATED ARTISTS:

Garth Brooks
Eric Church
Carrie Underwood
Keith Urban
Luke Combs
Lady Antebellum
Zac Brown Band

Thomas Rhett
Brooks & Dunn
Florida Georgia Line
Dan & Shay
Morgan Wallen
Blake Shelton
Maren Morris
LUKE COMBS

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
SONG OF THE YEAR
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

Combs had a big 2019 thanks to a mix of the old and the new. His “Beautiful Crazy,” up for CMA Song of the Year, was a bonus cut from his 2017 debut album, This One’s For You. He followed that success with the release of Prequel, an EP setting the stage for the November release of his highly anticipated What You See Is What You Get. The album features not only the hit single, “Beer Never Broke My Heart,” but “1, 2 Many,” his second collaboration with 2019 Country Music Hall of Fame inductees Brooks & Dunn.

BILLY Ray Cyrus

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

The 1992 CMA Single of the Year winner for “Achy Breaky Heart” is once again a nominee for a full-fledged musical phenomenon. Twenty-seven years after taking home that prestigious award, Cyrus is nominated in the CMA Musical Event of the Year field for his role in the record-breaking “Old Town Road,” with Lil Nas X. “When I met this man I saw a light, he’s a light in the world and that’s ... I think what people see in him,” Cyrus told “Good Morning America” of Lil Nas X after their performance this year at CMA Fest.
Since “Tequila” launched Dan + Shay’s highly anticipated third album in 2018, the duo has been on a roll, garnering three nominations for this year’s CMA Awards. The self-titled album debuted at No. 1 upon release. The duo knew they had something special as Dan Smyers told Taste Of Country, “I feel like this is the first time we really nailed it telling our story, saying what we want to say and putting the songs out that sound like we want to sound and how we want to be perceived. It feels really special, the whole body of work.”

The Calgary singer has her first-ever CMA Awards nomination for her pairing with Brantley Gilbert on “What Happens In A Small Town.” “When Scott [Borchetta] called, it took me 30 seconds to listen to the song and know that it’s such a hit,” she told CS Country after she and Gilbert performed the track to 60,000 fans at CMA Fest. “I’m just so thankful and grateful to be a part of it and to watch how fans have fallen in love with the song so fast has been so cool.”
FLORIDA GEORGIA LINE

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Since releasing their debut single in 2012, Florida Georgia Line have become fast CMA Awards favorites, with four previous wins and 12 nominations. With the release of their fourth album, Can’t Say I Ain’t Country, this past February, the team of Tyler Hubbard and Brian Kelly are once again in the running for CMA Vocal Duo of the Year. “A lot of the music is just kind of a throwback — an FGL take on kind of what we grew up on, ’90s Country. It’s a well-rounded album,” Hubbard told “Entertainment Tonight” of the album.

BRANTLEY GILBERT

MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR

When Gilbert set out to find someone to duet with him on “What Happens In A Small Town,” he knew exactly who he wanted. “We got so many talented women in this genre, but the thing about Lindsay is she sings extremely well, she writes, and she slays,” Gilbert told Taste Of Country. “So it was kind of an easy choice there because we knew she’d kill it.” The collaboration went so well the two toured together in 2019, proving Gilbert’s choice was spot on.
The 53rd Annual CMA Awards® 2019

Congratulations to our special clients:

Dolly Parton
as a wonderful guest host

Hosted by

Carrie Underwood
(co-host since 2008)

with nominations:

ENTERTAINER of the YEAR

ALBUM of the YEAR
Cry Pretty

FEMALE VOCALIST of the YEAR

Trent Reznor
with nomination:

MUSICAL EVENT of the YEAR
Old Town Road (Remix)

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1967 - 2019
CODY JOHNSON

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Cody Johnson is living proof that every great success story is years in the making. After recording and touring on his own for more than a decade while balancing a day job with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice until 2011, Johnson made his major label debut in January with Ain’t Nothing To It. The album, propelled by Johnson’s years of touring and the hit single “On My Way To You” entered the Billboard Country Album chart at No. 1, bringing Johnson a well-deserved nod for CMA New Artist of the Year.

LADY ANTEBELLUM

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

CMA Awards favorites with six previous wins, including becoming the first act to ever win CMA Single of the Year consecutively in 2009 and 2010, Lady Antebellum is back in the CMA Awards running thanks to the hit single, “What If I Never Get Over You,” leading up to the new album Ocean, and a Las Vegas residency, “Our Kind Of Vegas,” at the Palms Hotel.
SMASHVILLE IS PROUD TO BE HOME OF THE

53RD ANNUAL CMA AWARDS
What more can be said about the phenomenon that is “Old Town Road”? The remix, which united Lil Nas X and Billy Ray Cyrus, as one of the first big “Country Rap” tunes, set a record with an incredible 19 weeks atop the Billboard Hot 100, smashing the old record by a full three weeks. The genre-defying song has confounded experts, who have labeled it Country, rap, trap and more. The one thing everyone can agree upon is “Old Town Road” is a phenomenon and a musical event.

Lambert returning to the Female Vocalist of the Year category is no surprise. She’s collected 13 trophies, including an astonishing seven wins for CMA Female Vocalist of the Year. And now as one of the most honored female vocalists in CMA history she is helping pass the torch to a new generation of female artists with the “Roadside Bars & Pink Guitars” tour, which features fellow nominee Maren Morris as well as rocker Elle King and more.” They are the next generation of fearless female artists and I’m so thrilled to share a stage with them,” she said when the tour was announced.
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FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

CMA
COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION
LITTLE BIG TOWN

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

A six-time winner in this category and eight-time CMA Awards winners overall, Little Big Town enjoyed a strong 2019 leading into an even bigger 2020. As the band gets set to release their latest album, *Nightfall* this January, and tour for the album next year, they whet fans’ appetites with the singles, “The Daughters,” released in April, and “Over Drinking,” in September.

MADDIE & TAE

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Winning in 2015 for CMA Music Video of the Year for “Girl In A Country Song,” Maddie & Tae receive their fifth nomination for CMA Vocal Duo of the Year. For years after their debut album, the duo returned in 2019 with a bang. After releasing the EP, *One Heart To Another*, and the singles “Friends Don’t” and “Die From A Broken Heart,” they were selected to open for fellow nominee Carrie Underwood’s massive *Cry Pretty* arena tour.
LITTLE BIG TOWN

MADDIE & TAE

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We are music—and proud of it.
ASHLEY McBRYDE

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

After scoring a Grammy nomination earlier this year for Best Country Album for *Girl Going Nowhere*, McBryde caps a breakthrough 2019 with her well-earned CMA New Artist of the Year nod. The Mammoth Springs, Ark. native burst onto the scene at the end of 2017 with her hit single, “A Little Dive Bar In Dahlonega” being named one of the 54 best songs of that year by *The New York Times*. The rest of the critically acclaimed *Girl Going Nowhere* proved that McBryde was definitely not a one-hit wonder and earned her a prestigious CMA Awards nod.

MIDLAND

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Following their breakthrough three nominations in 2018, the Dripping Springs, Texas trio are back with their second consecutive nominations in both the CMA New Artist and Vocal Group of the Year categories. The band earned their return appearance in both categories by following up their chart-topping debut, *On The Rocks*, with “Let It Roll,” which debuted at number one upon its release this past August.
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MAREN MORRIS

**FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR**  
**ALBUM OF THE YEAR**  
**SINGLE OF THE YEAR**  
**SONG OF THE YEAR**  
**MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR**  
**MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR**

Morris has been one of 2019’s biggest stories since releasing the smash single “GIRL” in January. She has dominated the charts breaking the record for most streams per week ever for a female Country artist with almost 24 million streams. Morris leads the nominations this year with six total, including Female Vocalist and Album of the Year. “I’m honored. It makes me feel like my community in Nashville loves what I’m doing there,” she recently told the *Des Moines Register* about her six nominations.

KACEY MUSGRAVES

**FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR**  
**SONG OF THE YEAR**  
**MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR**

Musgraves looks to double up on award season gold after her deserved CMA Album of the Year win for *Golden Hour* in 2018. Musgraves has transcended all genres to become one of music’s biggest stars, with her twice-nominated single “Rainbow” and her Grammy victory bringing her to the attention of the entire world. And she has flown with that opportunity, with a hugely successful sold-out tour, including setting an attendance record for a female artist of any genre at Bridgestone Arena in Nashville.
CONGRATULATIONS

to all of the CMA Awards® nominees!

Special congratulations to Natalie Hemby, along with Shane McAnally & Kacey Musgraves, on their CMA® Song of the Year nomination for “Rainbow”
OLD DOMINION

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Reigning CMA Vocal Group of the Year, the six-time CMA Awards nominees are back in the running in 2019 in large part because of three hit singles, “Make It Sweet,” “One Man Band” and “Something I Do,” from their eagerly anticipated third album, just released this October. The Nashville quintet also had a successful touring year with the “Make It Sweet Tour.”

CARLY PEARCE

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Though Pearce is a relative newcomer to the mainstream Country world, those in the industry have been familiar with the Taylor Mill, Ky. native for some time. A performer five days a week at Dollywood at the age of 16, Pearce made her first appearance on the Country Airplay chart as a featured guest on the Josh Abbot Band’s “Wasn’t That Drunk.” A year later she was No. 1 on the chart on her own with the hit single “Every Little Thing.” And now she has earned her first CMA Award nomination for New Artist of the Year.
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THOMAS RHETT

MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR

A nominee for both CMA Male Vocalist and Album of the Year, Rhett has had a great 2019. He appeared on Saturday Night Live in March of this year, then set a record for largest streaming week ever, with more than 33 million streams for a Country album Center Point Road. Which also debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard Top 200 album charts after its May 31 release. “On this one, I just got back to why I wanted to make music in the first place — and that was writing great songs,” Rhett told CMT when the album was released.

BLAKE SHELTON

SINGLE OF THE YEAR
MUSICAL EVENT OF THE YEAR
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Shelton has garnered three nominations, including CMA Single and Music Video of the Year, for the hit song “God’s Country.” That surely doesn’t surprise the superstar, who knew the song was special the minute he heard it. As he told The Tennessean, he was so moved by the song he pulled his tractor over (he was working on his Oklahoma ranch). “It was the most shocking moment I’ve had in my 20 years of doing this,” he told the paper. “It’s pretty exciting for me. There’s not that many songs that hit me like that one hit me.”
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CHRIS STAPLETON

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
SINGLE OF THE YEAR
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

A three-time winner including wins in 2018 for CMA Male Vocalist, and Single and Song of the Year for “Broken Halos,” Stapleton is once again a multiple nominee in 2019. The superstar enjoyed a successful year with “Millionaire,” reaching the Top 5 on the Country Airplay Chart. Branching out musically, he appeared on songs with Justin Timberlake and the musical event, “BLOW,” with Ed Sheeran and Bruno Mars. He continues to sell out arenas around the U.S. on his “All-American Road Show” tour.

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Back for her 12th year as host, Underwood is also nominated for three major awards. Underwood told Billboard upon her CMA Album of the Year nominated release, “At this point in my career, I feel stronger and more creative than ever. I think you can hear that in this new album. It’s emotional, it’s soulful, it’s real, and we also have some fun on there too.”
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KEITH URBAN

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR
MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

The reigning CMA Entertainer of the Year, Urban is once again up for Entertainer and Male Vocalist of the Year for 2019. This year he headlined the NHL Stadium Series outdoor game between the Philadelphia Flyers and Pittsburgh Penguins, festival gigs at Hometown Rising and Pilgrimage while opening the renovated Colosseum at Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas. This diversity of those high-profile gigs reinforces Urban’s universal appeal and why he is a perennial CMA Awards contender.

MORGAN WALLEN

NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Baseball's loss is Country Music's gain. Offered a baseball scholarship to college, Wallen suffered an injury and decided music was his best move. He was proven right quickly when he was given the opportunity to tour with Florida Georgia Line in 2017. A year later he released his debut album, If I Know Me, which spawned the No. 1 single, “Whiskey Glasses.”
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ZAC BROWN BAND

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Historically nominated an impressive 18 times, the Country superstars continue to follow proudly in the tradition of great Country outlaws by following the music wherever it takes them. On their latest album, *The Owl*, which has been described as their “most personal to date,” they collaborate with Brandi Carlile on the track, “Finished What We Started,” and producers such as Skrillex, Ryan Tedder and pop guru Max Martin.

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MUSCIAN OF THE YEAR NOMINEES

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FIDDLE

PAUL FRANKLIN
STEEL GUITAR

MAC McANALLY
GUITAR

ILYA TOSHINSKIY
BANJO/GUITAR

DEREK WELLS
GUITAR
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
Award goes to Artist and Producers

CENTER POINT ROAD
Thomas Rhett
PRODUCERS: Dann Huff, Jesse Frasure, Thomas Rhett, Julian Bunetta, The Stereotypes, Cleve Wilson
THE VALORY MUSIC CO.

CRY PRETTY
Carrie Underwood
PRODUCERS: David Garcia, Jim Jonsin, Carrie Underwood
CAPITOL RECORDS NASHVILLE/UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE

GIRL
Maren Morris
PRODUCERS: busbee, Maren Morris, Greg Kurstin
COLUMBIA NASHVILLE

DESPERATE MAN
Eric Church
Producers: Jay Joyce, Arturo Buenahora, Jr.
EMI RECORDS NASHVILLE/UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP NASHVILLE

DAN + SHAY
Dan + Shay
PRODUCERS: Dan Smyers, Scott Hendricks
WARNER MUSIC NASHVILLE
SINGLE OF THE YEAR

Award goes to Artist(s), Producer(s), and Mix Engineer

“BURNING MAN”
Dierks Bentley
Feat. Brothers Osborne
PRODUCERS:
Ross Copperman, Jon Randall, Arturo Buenahora, Jr.
MIX ENGINEER: F. Reid Shippen

“GIRL”
Maren Morris
PRODUCER: Greg Kurstin
MIX ENGINEER: Greg Kurstin

“GOD’S COUNTRY”
Blake Shelton
PRODUCER: Scott Hendricks
MIX ENGINEER: Justin Niebank

“MILLIONAIRE”
Chris Stapleton
PRODUCERS: Dave Cobb, Chris Stapleton
MIX ENGINEER: Vance Powell

“SPEECHLESS”
Dan + Shay
PRODUCERS: Dan Smyers, Scott Hendricks
MIX ENGINEER: Jeff Juliano
Award goes to Artist(s) and Director(s)

“BURNING MAN”

 DIRECTOR: WES EDWARDS
 ARTIST: DIERKS BENTLEY FEAT. BROTHERS OSBORNE

Filmed at California’s Salton Sea, this powerful video reflects Dierks Bentley’s personal narrative. “This song is a personal reflection and it was important to me that you feel that with the video,” Bentley told Esquire when they premiered the clip in October 2018. “The Bros and I flew out to the desert in July to shoot this...several people on the crew had heat strokes, two cars got stuck in the sand and we had to have a rattlesnake wrangler with us at all times...but we got the shots!”

“GIRL”

 DIRECTOR: DAVE MEYERS
 ARTIST: MAREN MORRIS

“I think it just comes down to we don’t want more than anyone else, we want the same as everyone else,” Maren Morris says at the opening of this video. Her monologue leads into a moving and poignant clip that showcases a number of women dealing with everyday situations, from looking at a pregnancy test to arguing with parents. The video ends on an empowering note as the second half of the four-minute clip is a montage of strong, smiling women, and Morris leading a women’s march.

“GOD’S COUNTRY”

 DIRECTOR: SOPHIE MULLER
 ARTIST: BLAKE SHELTON

Shot over four days in Blake Shelton’s native Oklahoma, this, at times, dark and harrowing video shows what it is like, the good and the bad, of living in rural lands. From the indescribable beauty to the brutal tornadoes, this video captures it all. “We spent four days shooting there, in and around Tishomingo, getting connected to the land, the environment and the spirit of the music,” Shelton told CMT of filming the video. “As I’ve said before, I was born in Oklahoma and I’ll be buried there ... I can tell you one thing for damn sure, Oklahoma is God’s Country.”
“RAINBOW”

DIRECTOR: HANNAH LUX DAVIS
ARTIST: KACEY MUSGRAVES

Kacey Musgraves’ video for “Rainbow” finds its heart and soul by focusing on real people going through everyday struggles. A young mother overwhelmed by parenting to a seemingly lonely elderly woman. The recurring theme in the beautifully shot video is Musgraves, appearing as a guardian angel, watching over the different people to let them know things are finally looking up, just as they do in the lyrics.

“SOME OF IT”

DIRECTORS: REID LONG, JOHN PEETS
ARTIST: ERIC CHURCH

Church debuted his “Some of It” video in Nashville this past May before a sold-out crowd at Nissan Stadium. Fitting for a video that feels like a short film as opposed to a music video. Showing Church behind bars, filmed in the same Ohio prison as “The Shawshank Redemption,” the cinematic story of a man reflecting on mistakes with the help of a guitar smuggled in by friends and inmates is starkly and effectively shot.
Award goes to Songwriters

“BEAUTIFUL CRAZY”

LUKE COMBS

Wyatt B. Durrette III

Robert Willford

It was only a matter of time before this simple, understated and honest love song became a hit. Originally posted to Combs’ Facebook in 2016, the song garnered over three million views. Three years later, when finally released to the public, it became Combs’ fifth straight single to top the Country Airplay Chart. “She’s unpredictable, unforgettable/It’s unusual, unbelievable/How I’m such a fool, yeah I’m such a fool for her,” he sings at the end, putting into words feelings people since the beginning of time have experienced.

“GIRL”

Maren Morris

Sarah Aarons

Greg Kurstin

Maren Morris’ women’s empowerment anthem even took her by surprise, in a sense. “I was writing it as a letter to another girl who I felt had disrespected me and was constantly trying to be competitive with me when I just wanted to exist in my own space,” she told Rolling Stone. “But as we kept writing it, I realized I’m not talking to someone else I’m talking to myself.”

“GOD’S COUNTRY”

Devin Dawson

Jordan Schmidt

Michael Hardy

As Blake Shelton told PopCulture.com, “‘God’s Country’ is a song that has strong and deep meaningful lyrics, but at the same time it leaves it up to the listeners’ interpretation.” However, he is very aware of what the song means to him. “No matter where you are from or where you’re standing it is my belief that you’re standing in God’s Country. It’s really about a state of mind. Wherever you’re from and how you feel about that place. For me, it’s about being from Oklahoma where I was born, raised and still live today.”
“RAINFOREST”

Natalie Hemby, Shane McAnally, Kacey Musgraves

Kacey Musgraves’ “Rainbow” has a deeply personal back story. Musgraves co-wrote the song with Natalie Hemby and Shane McAnally six years ago and performed it at her grandmother’s funeral. She reportedly then recorded multiple versions before settling on this gorgeous piano-based rendition. “‘Rainbow’ is something that I can dedicate to that (LGBTQ) community, but also to anyone who has any kind of a weight on their shoulders. It was written as a message to my own self, but anyone who is feeling like they need that is welcome to run with it,” she told Taste of Country.

“TEQUILA”

Dan Smyers, Nicolle Galyon, Jordan Reynolds

The title “Tequila” conjures up the idea of partying and good times. But as Dan + Shay explained to iHeartRadio.com upon the song’s release, they wanted a song that is all about memories and emotions. “We were like, ‘What would be a cool, nostalgic way to talk about tequila?’ People have nostalgic attachments to senses like smells and tastes and sounds, and tequila is one of those things. Libations of any kind will take you back to a certain place [and] make you see certain things, and it’s kind of a story like that. It’s a kind of heartbreak song.”
CMA Foundation
Strikes A Chord for Music Education

If, as they say on Music Row, “It all starts with a song,” the CMA Foundation understands the future of music begins in school. To ensure it’s in good hands they are focused on leveraging the way “a brain on music” learns in more dynamic ways, reinforcing other subjects with something enjoyable that builds confidence, friendships and a passion that can sustain children and young adults throughout life.

BY HOLLY GLEASON
Carrie Underwood surprised students of Old Hickory, Tennessee’s Andrew Jackson Elementary School’s Eagle Honor Choir rehearsal, days before they were set to perform Underwood’s hit “The Champion” in front of 50,000 fans at Nashville’s Nissan Stadium during CMA Fest in June.
Established in 2006, the CMA Foundation has put well over $27 million toward enriching music education programs around the country. As importantly, the CMA Foundation also works to recognize and support those elementary, junior and senior high school teachers who are making an impact on their students daily.

Funded in large part through the annual CMA Fest, as well as corporate alliances and private donations, the CMA Foundation seeks to provide instruments, equipment, professional development, capacity building for music programs, and youth development. Whether fostering the conversation through their social media platform #itstartswithME, recognizing teachers through their annual Music Teachers of Excellence program or creating community, they seek to be a dynamic force integrated into and across the school communities.

“Sometimes, as teachers, we can feel isolated, like the outside world doesn’t know or appreciate what we do as music educators every day,” explains Music Teacher of Excellence Sherrie Grossman from Mt. Juliet High School in Mt. Juliet, Tenn., of the program’s recognition to her personally and for her students. “We are more than educators. To some students we are their only safe place, their family, and a place to express themselves in a safe environment. Being the only orchestra...
program in my district I feel alone often. CMA saw me, recognized me, and appreciated me! With the money from their generous donation I was able to repair instruments, purchase new bows for my program, and provide more supplies for my students to use.”

Working with an eclectic group of organizations across the country, the CMA Foundation seeks to do more than just provide instruments, equipment or grants. They have forged active alliances with a variety of nationally acclaimed organizations, including California’s Mr. Holland’s Opus Foundation, which supports underfunded schools’ music programs and provides instruments to schools struck by natural disasters, as well as aligning with their MEDSS (Music Education District Support Services) to maintain quality and connection through sequential learning across grades; New York City’s Education Through Music to provide quality for the poorest students by providing music teachers to underfunded schools with the hope of seeing the educator absorbed into the faculty and the national Notes for Notes, which creates free after school programs by providing 13 studios across 12 states since 2014.

“Thanks to the generosity and support from our Country Music community, the CMA Foundation is able to provide opportunity and access to high-quality music programs to kids across the country in an ongoing effort to shape our next generation to be leaders and positive forces within their communities.” – Tiffany Kerns, CMA Foundation, Executive Director
obvious benefits, several Country stars have gone into the schools – or provided opportunities for students, including performing in front of 60,000 fans at Nissan Stadium during CMA Fest. The Foundation also takes part in State of the Arts, in collaboration with the Tennessee Department of Education, investing in eight school districts across the state’s eight regions to impact the 1,000,000 public students with high quality music education. Whether modernizing equipment, fulfilling instrument needs, offering professional development and providing cultural experiences for students, the outreach is vast.

But the education doesn’t stop at the school level. The CMA Foundation is invested in supporting research, analysis and educating the rest of us, too. Knowing that an informed audience means ongoing support, they’ve sought to strengthen the general public’s understanding of the power and impact of music education.

Working with the music merchandising trade organization NAMM Foundation, they facilitated the Arts Education Partnership’s realization of a follow-up study to their 2011 Music Matters research. A rigorous national study of more than 100 programs across America, AEP measures the impact of music in school on a child’s performance across their studies, as well as their interpersonal interactions.

While arts education is often dismissed as a non-essential or “soft” fields of learning, something unnecessary for core curriculum, Music Matters found ongoing music classes increase fine motor movement skills, cultivates superior working vocabulary, memory and critical thinking skills, sharpens attentiveness, strengthens perseverance, stimulates creativity and supports self-esteem and a sense of identity. That’s before we talk about the processes of learning music increasing the ability to learn in other classes, especially math and language arts.

In a world where these things are often deemed immeasurable, the Music Matters
follow-up study mined and analyzed all the data, so we — the basic music lover — don’t have to. And through the CMA and NAMM Foundations, an easily downloadable PDF that can be used by anyone to heighten awareness was created.

Beyond educating the rest of us, they also recognize the power of recognition. At a time when many educators invest up to $5,000 of their own money for teaching supplies, the CMA Foundation’s Music Teachers of Excellence is an honors gala of a whole other nature. Beyond the actual red carpet arrivals, the evening and grant money are truly about “Championing Our Champions.”

Roosevelt High School’s Robyn Starks Holcomb values the honor as a teacher working far from the spotlights in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She offers that she is grateful, “for the validation and respect that accompanies an honor such as this. Music Education is offering the world more than music. It is about teaching culture, humanity, art,
The CMA Foundation provides the Country Music community a place to work as a force for good.

But it’s not just the awards. It is also the “Faces of M.E.,” which showcases teachers, students and community members making a difference through music. A collective voice for all, the idea is to create recognition and empowerment on the street level.

At a time when it’s easy to feel overwhelmed or too small to make a difference, the CMA Foundation provides the Country Music community a place to work as a force for good.

Music, which has made such a difference for the artists, managers, agents, label people and beyond, is sharing from our talents to inspire young people to be their very best possible selves. Together, we impact individuals, hundreds, thousands, and even millions and pass on something that changes all of our lives.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE TOP PICKS OF THIS YEAR’S CMA AWARDS!

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WOMEN OF COUNTRY

TAKING THE HIGH ROAD
WITH INCLUSION, STRENGTH AND GRACE

BY MONICA MOLINARO
Lily Tomlin presents Dolly Parton with the 2016 CMA Lifetime Achievement Award following a tribute performance by Kacey Musgraves, Reba McEntire, Jennifer Nettles, Martina McBride and Carrie Underwood at the 2016 CMA Awards.
At “The 53rd Annual CMA Awards,” the women of Country Music take the limelight as we pay homage to the accomplishments of legendary female artists today and throughout history.

Well before Loretta Lynn set the stage for female artists at the first-ever CMA Awards in 1967, (winning CMA Female Vocalist of the Year), women trailblazers have been paving the way for each other; step-by-step, brick-by-brick; as they have gracefully established a powerful and irreplaceable female influence on the Country Music stage.

This year’s special guest hosts and past CMA Entertainer of the Year winners, Dolly Parton and Reba McEntire have inspired countless artists with their lives and songs. Carrie Underwood’s illustrious CMA Awards presence speaks for itself. After celebrating 11 years as co-host, as she takes the stage as the host and nominee for CMA Entertainer, Female Vocalist and Album of the Year.

Miranda Lambert, Female Vocalist of the Year nominee with the most female CMA Awards wins at 13 (Dolly Parton and Taylor Swift each have nine), is a fighter for feminist ideals in Country Music, and has not shied away
from writing about the darker side of relationships and the pain of divorce. Lambert’s collaboration with Ashley Monroe and Angaleena Presley of the Pistol Annies, dives deep into the raw complexities of life, from a woman’s point of view.

Kacey Musgraves, nominee for CMA Female Vocalist and Song of the Year with “Rainbow,” is known for staying true to her own unique identity and juxtaposing down-to-earth, dreamy melodies with poignant lyrics, without backing down from oftentimes controversial topics. Her veracity and willingness to do so is not unlike music’s great, Loretta Lynn, whose songwriting themes pushed boundaries.

Musgraves shared in an interview with the Wall Street Journal, “The things I’m singing about are not controversial to me, I don’t push buttons to push buttons. I talk about things that have made an impression on me that a lot of people everywhere are going through.”
Maren Morris’ CMA Female Vocalist, Album, Music Video, Song and Single of the Year nominee, “GIRL” is another example. Morris bookends her official music video for the song by saying, with a smirk and cool, composed chagrin, “We don’t want more than anyone else, we want the same as everyone else,” and, “One of the hard things about being a girl is having to always answer questions about why it’s hard to be a girl.”

Morris is in good company, though, supported by many prominent female artists who have undoubtedly encountered many of the same questions. In addition to her solo career, Morris has recently joined a powerhouse group of musicians to form The Highwomen—eponymous for the 1985 supergroup, Highwaymen, a Country outlaw group made up of Johnny Cash, Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, and Kris Kristofferson. Together, Morris, Brandi Carlile, Amanda Shires, and Natalie Hemby are boldly sharing women’s stories in an inclusive way, rewriting old male-led Country Music narratives.

They, like other female creators of today, take on the mantle of Country Music legends before them, empowering others and challenging gender barriers through the powerful influence of storytelling. There’s more than enough room as they choose to share the stage, banding together with some of the industry’s most formidable forces and dynamic voices. Perhaps Highwomen are saying it best in their song, “Redesigning Women,” as they proclaim, “Ever since the beginning, we’ve been redesigning women… Raising our brows at a new generation, Rosie the Riveter with renovations.”

Throughout Country Music history, female artists have been known to support each other in collaboration.

More than 30 years ago in March 1987, in time for “The 22nd Annual CMA Awards,” a supergroup of friends
Throughout country music history, female artists have been known to support each other in collaboration.
and mutual admirers, each with very different backgrounds and remarkable careers of their own, combined forces to create what would become a groundbreaking CMA Album of the Year in 1987: Trio. Comprised of Emmylou Harris, Linda Ronstadt, and Parton, these female pioneers connected over their love of songs, harmony, and the storytelling nature of Country Music.

Women up to this point were typically second-rate singers to larger male groups, rarely heading their own shows. Maybelle and Sara Carter of The 1927 Carter Family became the first female performers to be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame years later in 1970. Patsy Cline, one of the most influential voices in Country Music, was also one of the first women to sell records and headline concerts. Lynn, once announced in the 1960s as, “Our little lady singer...an excellent songwriter, outstanding artist, a devoted mother, and wonderful cook,” is the most highly awarded female Country recording artist with 11 No. 1 albums and 24 No. 1 hit singles. Parton, taking up the charge of women before her, emerged from her mentor’s shadow in 1974 on the Porter Wagoner Show, and as she created her very own, successful Country Music television show, Dolly!

These sisters in Country Music continue the tradition of support, power, mentorship and respect for those have gone before them. They remain unafraid of forging their own creative paths, leaving their indelible marks on Country Music and on our lives.

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A large part of what makes this year’s CMA Music Video of the Year nominees so special is their use of everyday people in relatable situations. Whether it is the woman fighting with her boyfriend in Maren Morris’ “GIRL” or the young boy struggling to reveal his true identity in Kacey Musgraves’ “Rainbow,” authenticity is the key.

Country fans are not that surprised by this kind of authenticity and honesty. Depicting people in real life situations is the biggest reason why people listen to Country Music.

Since 1968, when Bobby Russell penned “Honey” and won the CMA Song of the Year. A heartbreaking story beginning with the song’s narrator mourning his deceased wife, while looking at a tree in their garden, remembering how “it was just a twig” on the day she planted it. Country songwriters have continually excelled at expressing the authentic and raw feelings people experience every day when dealing with death, love, loss, happiness, family, work and more.

Here are 10 CMA Song of the Year winners over the last 52 years that showcase authentic storytelling in songwriting at its absolute finest.
What do you get when you combine the profound wisdom of Kris Kristofferson’s lyrics and the depth and character of Johnny Cash’s iconic voice? One of the greatest tales of loneliness in all of music. “Then I crossed the empty street/And caught Sunday smell of someone fryin’ chicken/And it took me back to somethin’ that I’d lost/Somehow, somewhere along the way.” Written 50 years ago, this timeless classic feature imagery and feelings of regret, isolation and disappointment at how one’s life turned out that ring as painfully and beautifully true as they did half a century ago.

Larry Weiss, 1976

Weiss’ parable on fame, which Glenn Campbell turned into not only his signature song, but one of the most beloved classics in all of Country, goes well beyond one man’s quest to see his name in lights. It is a tale for everyone who has ever had to make concessions on their way to success. “There’s been a load of compromisin’/On the road to my horizon/But I’m gonna be where the lights are shinin’ on me.” Doctor, lawyer, student, singer, accountant, architect, CEO, whatever you do or have done there’s been a load of compromising.
COUNTRY STORYTELLING AT ITS FINEST

“HE STOPPED LOVING HER TODAY”

Bobby Braddock, Curly Putman 1980, 1981

The absolute perfect marriage of song and singer, George Jones’ weary, lonesome vocals helped make this heartbreaking story of an eternal, unrequited love into a two-time winner for CMA Song of the Year, and what many people consider “The greatest Country song of all time.” The greatest writing is often stark and direct, and this song certainly qualifies. “He kept some letters by his bed/Dated 1962/He had underlined in red every single ‘I love you.’” It’s those little things that make the song feel so authentic you can picture the man by the bed reading the letters over and over.

“80s LADIES”

K.T. Oslin, 1988

In a year where three iconic women are hosting the CMA Awards and one of the main themes is the strength of women in Country Music, it’s a very appropriate time to revisit this proud feminist anthem. Oslin tells of three childhood friends “We were three little girls from school,” Oslin sings about them growing up together and all the changes they experience. “We’ve been educated, we’ve got liberated/And had complicating matters with men/Oh we’ve said ‘I do’ and we’ve signed ‘I don’t’/And we’ve sworn we’d never do that again.”
“WHERE WERE YOU (WHEN THE WORLD STOPPED TURNING)”

Alan Jackson, 2002

Jackson speaks for so many in this post September 11th anthem when he sings, “I’m just a singer of simple songs/I’m not a real political man/I watch CNN, but I’m not sure I can tell you you/The difference in Iraq and Iran/But I know Jesus and I talk to God/And I remember this from when I was young/Faith, hope and love are some good things he gave us/And the greatest is love.” Widely regarded as one of the most memorable CMA Awards performances ever when he performed this in 2001, the song spoke for so many looking for hope.

“LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING”

Craig Wiseman, Tim Nichols, 2004

The story of a man who finds out his father is dying and learns to take his advice, to make the most of life. “He said I was finally the husband/That most the time I wasn’t/And I became a friend a friend would like to have/And all the sudden goin’ fishing/Wasn’t such an imposition.” Resonates deeply with fans as a reminder of the importance of keeping perspective and what really matters in life.

“STAY”

Jennifer Nettles, 2008

The Sugarland hit, written by Nettles, is a classic Country song, with a twist. Inspired by Reba McEntire’s hit, “Whoever’s In New England.” “Stay” is a song about infidelity written from the point of view of the woman who is cheating with another woman’s husband. “Even though the person who is cheating might think he or she is getting away with something, they know they aren’t living their highest truth,” Nettles told CMT about the song. “And they wouldn’t be in the situation if they were just happy-go-lucky in the first place. Nobody is happy in this situation.”
“IN COLOR”

Jamey Johnson, Lee Thomas Miller, James Otto, 2009

The simplicity of the storytelling in this beautiful and poignant tale of a boy looking at photos with his grandfather, is what makes it so heartfelt. The history lesson, as told by the grandfather makes everyone feels the power of the song’s message. “Times were tough back in ’35/That’s me and uncle Joe just tryin’ to survive/A cotton farm, in a great depression.”

“IF I DIE YOUNG”

Kimberly Perry, 2011

The Band Perry’s smash describes the sadness of dying young and never really experiencing love and worrying about how her loved ones will deal with the loss. Will they pay more attention to her life; “And maybe then you’ll hear the words I been singin’/Funny when you’re dead how people start listenin. We really have gotten to live and love at our young ages. ‘If I Die Young, for us, is about, if it all ends at this moment, look at what we’ve gotten to do,” Perry told The Boot. “Whatever time we’re given will be absolutely enough, as long as we make the most of it.” As expressed in the line “Well, I’ve had just enough time.”

“BROKEN HALOS”

Chris Stapleton, Mike Henderson, 2018

“I recorded this on the day a friend of mine passed away from pancreatic cancer. He was the same age as me; we played Little League together, stuff like that,” Stapleton said of the song when he performed it at the Universal Music Group luncheon during the Country Radio Seminar. “He was 38 years old.” The pain and sad beauty of this masterfully written song, dealing with the death of a friend or loved one, is unfortunately something everyone has or will experience too many times in their lives.

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In March, the Country Music Association announced the 2019 inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame: Brooks & Dunn, Ray Stevens and Jerry Bradley.

Brooks & Dunn were inducted in the “Modern Era Artist” category, while Stevens was inducted in the “Veteran Era Artist” category. Bradley was inducted in the “Non-Performer Category,” which is awarded every third year in rotation with the “Songwriter” and “Recording and/or Touring Musician Category.”

The four new members bring the total number of honorees in the Hall of Fame to 140. The quartet of new arrivals into the Country Music Hall of Fame will be inducted in formal ceremonies to be held at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum in the CMA Theater.

Since 2007, the Museum’s Medallion Ceremony, an annual reunion of the Hall of Fame membership, has served as the official rite of induction for new members. CMA created the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1961 to recognize noteworthy individuals for their outstanding contributions to the format with Country Music’s highest honor.

For Brooks & Dunn, the road to the Country Music Hall of Fame has been paved with unparalleled accomplishments. The duo dominated the Country charts for two decades with 60 charted singles, more than 40 Top 10 hits, 20 No. 1 triumphs, and 12 Platinum-plus albums. Named CMA Entertainer of the Year in 1996, Brooks & Dunn are tied with Vince Gill for the most CMA Awards wins by an artist with 18.

Brooks & Dunn became overnight stars with the 1991 release of “Brand New Man” and “My Next Broken Heart.” Ronnie Dunn’s self-written “Neon Moon” cemented the new act’s stardom in 1992. The duo’s recording of “Boot Scootin’ Boogie” became a Country dance club sensation. The team won the CMA Vocal Duo of the Year, the first of 14 that year.

In 1993, Brooks & Dunn won their first Grammy with “Hard Workin’ Man.” “She Used to Be Mine” hit No. 1 in 1993. “Rock My World (Little Country Girl),” “That Ain’t No Way to Go” and “She’s Not the Cheatin’ Kind” continued the duo’s hits streak in 1994.

By the mid-1990s, Brooks & Dunn were renowned for high-energy, high-tech concert performances. Dunn’s electrifying singing and Kix Brooks’ exuberant showmanship, packed arenas. “Little Miss Honky Tonk” and “You’re Gonna Miss Me When I’m Gone” both hit No. 1 in 1995. The 1996 smash “My Maria” became the biggest country hit of the year and earned the team a second GRAMMY. Brooks & Dunn capped 1996 with the CMA Entertainer of the Year Award.

Brooks & Dunn leaped back to the top of the charts with “Red Dirt Road” and “You Can’t Take the Honky Tonk Out of the Girl!” in 2003. Dunn’s co-written “Play Something Country” and “Believe” became iconic singles of 2005, with the latter winning CMA Single and Music Video of the Year award.

Though the duo announced their retirement in 2010, they reunited in 2014, teaming with Reba McEntire for a hugely successful Las Vegas residency. In 2019 they released a collaboration album, Reboot, with some of the newest starts joining them on their classic hits.
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COUNTRY MUSIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

RAY STEVENS
VETERANS ERA ARTIST

Ray Stevens, one of the most diverse and accomplished artists in Country Music, led him to be an inductee in the Country Music Hall of Fame. During his six decades in the music business, he has been a session musician, a TV celebrity, a song publisher, a singer, a record producer, a real-estate magnate, a label owner, a nightclub entrepreneur, a music arranger, a video director, a studio builder, a pop-music hit maker, a comic, a gospel artist and a Country star.

Born Harold Ray Ragsdale in GA in 1939, Stevens was a piano player from the age of 7. He grew up in Albany, GA, where he formed his first band and became a teenage disc jockey. When he was 17 the family moved to Atlanta, where he met his music mentor, publisher Bill Lowery.

Stevens next signed with Mercury Records. He moved to Nashville in early 1962 and hit the ground running as a session musician on Leroy Van Dyke’s “Walk on By” and Joe Dowell’s “Wooden Heart.”. His own comedic smash “Ahab the Arab,” which exploded on the pop charts later that year. He continued to work as a Music Row session musician, backing Brook Benton, Ronnie Dove, Brenda Lee, Patti Page, Elvis Presley, Charlie Rich, B.J. Thomas and hundreds of others.

When pop superstar Andy Williams went on hiatus from his network television show in the summer of 1970, Stevens was tapped to host a temporary replacement variety series. For its theme song, Stevens wrote “Everything is Beautiful.” Released on Williams’ Barnaby label, “Everything is Beautiful” became a No. 1 pop smash. It also earned Stevens his first GRAMMY.

Stevens emphasized his funny forte in the 1980s with such Country hits as his self-composed “Shriner’s Convention” (1980) and the Kalb-penned “Mississippi Squirrel Revival” (1985). “I Need Your Help Barry Manilow” and “Would Jesus Wear a Rolex” earned him a comedy GRAMMY nomination in 1980 and 1988. Today, Stevens is regarded as the most successful comedic recording artist of all time.

JERRY BRADLEY
NON-PERFORMER CATEGORY

Jerry Bradley has left an indelible mark on the Country Music business. He was the head of RCA Records from 1973 to 1982. During his tenure, Ronnie Milsap, Dolly Parton and Jerry Reed achieved pop-crossover stardom, and Elvis Presley returned to the Country hit parade. Bradley signed Milsap and Alabama to RCA. He was at the helm of the label as the group achieved stardom with its first chart-topping successes. He oversaw the creation of Country Music’s first Platinum certified album, Wanted! The Outlaws, ushering in an entire era of Country Music with its stars Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Jessi Colter and Tompall Glaser leading an “outlaw” movement.

As a record producer, Bradley has worked with such Country Music Hall of Fame members as Eddy Arnold, Floyd Cramer, Charley Pride and Dottie West. He was a longtime board member of the Country Music Association and CMA Board President in 1975. He was a key figure in orchestrating CMA’s annual Fan Fair (now CMA Fest).

Born in 1940, Bradley was educated in Nashville and served in the Army from 1960 to 1962. In 1973, Bradley became the head of RCA’s Nashville operation. Under his leadership, the label became one of the first in Nashville to achieve autonomy from New York. This meant that he and his successors were free to sign artists, design album graphics and create marketing materials without oversight.

Jerry and Connie Bradley are now retired and remain beloved figures in the Nashville music community.
Annually, the Country Music Association elects a new class of Country Music Hall of Fame members, and bronze plaques honoring each new member are added to the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum’s Rotunda. Plaques are placed randomly inside the circular space, ensuring that every member has a place of equal importance, their legacy permanently enshrined within a structure that celebrates country music’s ever-unfolding story.
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Congratulations
to our friends, patients, and the entire Country Music Family on another incredible year!

6200 Highway 100, Suite 101
Nashville, TN 37205
@hatefaesthetics
danhatefmd.com
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Ord, NE
KNUC
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KORA
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KQUS
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KQVB
La Crosse, WI
KRMD
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KRTY
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Saint Joseph, MO
KSKS
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KVOX
Fargo, ND
KWHQ
Kenai, AK
KWJJ
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KWNR
Las Vegas, NV
KWOX
Woodward, OK
KWRK
Window Rock, AZ
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Mexico, MO
KXIA
Marshalltown, IA
KXXK
Omaha, NE
KYGO
Englewood, CO
KYSM
North Mankato, MN
KZKX
Lincoln, NE
KZSN
Wichita, KS
Lady Luck Songs
Nashville, TN
Land Run Records
Oklahoma City, OK
LBMC, PC
Brentwood, TN
Legend Communications
Cody, WY
Legends Bank
Nashville, TN
Little General Records
Beckley, WV
Long Island Country Music Association
Commack, NY
LongShot Records - Dallas
Dallas, TX
Loud & Proud Records
Raleigh, NC
Mallory Records
Archibald, LA
Mandolin Entertainment
Nashville, TN
CMA Country Christmas

Hosted by Trisha Yearwood

Performances by
Kristin Chenoweth
For King & Country
Chris Janson
Tori Kelly
Lady Antebellum
Rascal Flatts
Runaway June
Cece Winans
Brett Young
Chris Young

Tuesday Dec 3 9/8c
MAP Marketing & Incentives
Manhattan Beach, CA
Marbaloo Marketing
Nashville, TN
Martin, Allbee, Miller, Bryan, and Associates, LLC
Nashville, TN
Matt Davenport Productions, Inc.
Nashville, TN
Merrick Music Group, Inc./Cumberland Talent, Inc.
Nashville, TN
Mill Town Music Hall
Bremen, GA
Moo TV
Nashville, TN
Music For Good, LLC.
Salem, UT
Music Imprints
Nashville, TN
Music Mix Daily
Nashville, TN
Musicians Hall of Fame
Nashville, TN
MV2 Entertainment
Nashville, TN
Myriad Productions
Nashville, TN
Nashville Area Chamber Of Commerce
Nashville, TN
Nashville Express Tours
Sevierville, TN
Nashville Music Media
Nashville, TN
Nashville Public Education Foundation
Nashville, TN
Nashville TV
Steenwijk, The Netherlands
Nashville Universe
Nashville, TN
Neo Music
Bovensmilde, The Netherlands
North Music Trust / Sage Gateshead
Gateshead, United Kingdom
NSAI
Nashville, TN
Oak Ridge Boys, Inc.
Hendersonville, TN
On-Air Broadcasting, LLC
Nashville, TN
Palisades Hudson Financial Group LLC
Fort Lauderdale, FL
Pancoast Benefits
Nashville, TN
Paradigm
Nashville, TN
Parenting Today's Teen Radio
Hallsville, TX
Peermusic
Nashville, TN
Pinnacle Bank
Nashville, TN
Premier Global Production Company
Madison, TN
Premiere Networks
New York, NY
Radio Advertising Bureau
New York, NY
Radio BEO
Interlaken, Switzerland
Radio Disney Country
Burbank, CA
Rashford Kruse & Associates
Nashville, TN
Red Star Productions
Jonesboro, AR
Regions Bank
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Renfro Valley Entertainment Center
Mount Vernon, KY
Reviver Entertainment Group
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Rock Ridge Music
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Salem, VA
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Shure Incorporated
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Simply Grand Music, Inc.
Memphis, TN
Skaggs Family Records
Hendersonville, TN
SkyTone Entertainment, LLC
Nashville, TN
SNG Music, LLP
Nashville, TN
Sound Royalties
West Palm Beach, FL
Soundcheck
Nashville, TN
Southern Halo
Cleveland, MS
Space-Time, Inc.
Chicago, IL
Spirit Music Nashville
Nashville, TN
Spring Hill Music Group
Brentwood, TN
Starstruck Entertainment
Nashville, TN
Stillbrook Records
Fort Payne, AL
Stoney's Rockin' Country
Las Vegas, NV
Storytellers Museum & Hideaway Farm
Bon Aqua, TN
TaxSlayer Center
Moline, IL
Tennessee Association of Broadcasters
Nashville, TN
Tennessee Performing Arts Center
Nashville, TN
Texas Music Management LLC
Spring, TX
The Andrews Agency
Nashville, TN
The Bluestone LLC
Columbus, OH
The Chickasaw Nation
Ada, OK
The Heartland Network, LLC
Chattanooga, TN
The Ryan Center/University of Rhode Island
Kingston, RI
The Stage on Broadway
Nashville, TN
CMA Fest 2020
JUNE 4-7
NASHVILLE
CMAFEST.COM

TICKETS ON SALE NOW AT
ticketmaster®
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AND THE
AWARD
FOR MUSIC TEACHER OF THE YEAR
GOES TO...

The CMA Foundation is proud to support music teachers like these, who are changing the lives of students in the classroom.

Available at
www.shoppbs.org/country-music
## CMA Organizational Members

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### Patron Organizational Members

- Cahaba Wealth Management  
  Pegram, TN
- Crescent Grove Advisors  
  Lake Forest, IL
- Hello! Nashville  
  Brentwood, TN
- Jerseys Sports Cafe  
  N Fort Myers, FL
- Landman Educational Consultants  
  West Warwick, RI
IN MEMORIAM

REMEMBERING THOSE WE LOST THIS YEAR
IN THE COUNTRY MUSIC COMMUNITY

BILLY ADAMS
BILL AMONETTE
CLARENCE "CASEY" ANDERSON
GERALD Q. ARTHUR
JOHN T. BENSON III
ROBERTO BIANCO
FOLEY BOONE
PAUL BOTTOMS
HAROLD BRADLEY
CHARLIE BROCCO
MAXINE BROWN
BUSBEE
JERRY CARRIGAN
KEITH CASE
STEVE CASH
DAN CHEATHAM
JERRY CHESNUT
ROY CLARK
EARL THOMAS CONLEY
CHUCK DAUPHIN
MICHAEL DEFOSCHER
JIM DITENHAFER
DENNIS DIXON
KENNY DIXON
LARRY KEITH DOOLITTLE
JOHN LESTER DOUGHERTY
GENE EICHELBERGER
RICK ELIAS
ALTON "AL" EMBRY
STEVE FERGUSON
BRIAN FERRIMAN
MARK FORD
FRED FOSTER
JAY FRANK
DONNIE FRITTS
SARAH GAINES
PHRAN GALANTE
CHUCK GLASER
JIM GLASER
BONNIE GUITAR
STEVE HALL
DAVID EDWARD HARDIN
DALLAS HARMES
KYLIE RAE HARRIS
FREDDIE HART
KELSO HERSTON

BILL HICKS
TERRY JENNINGS
MARIAN JEWELL
PALEMA JOY JOHNSON
LARRY JUNSTROM
BOB KINGSLEY
BOOMER KINGSTON
ALLEN HENRI LESNICK
TOMMIE LEWIS
KENNY MARKS
GLENN MARTIN
VICTOR MECYSSNE
DAN MITCHELL
RALPH MURPHY
MARITA O’DONNELL
HISASHI OZAKI
FLOYD PARTON
BILLY POE
GILBERT POESE
FELTON PRUETT
GINA PUTMAN
LEON RAUSCH
DICK RAYMOND
BRUCE REESE
EDDIE REEVES
HERB REMINGTON
BURT REYNOLDS
STEVE RIPLEY
DAVE ROWLAND
SHERYTHA SCAIFE
WHITEY SHAFER
RUSSELL SMITH
MORTON PACKARD "PACKY" SMITH
WAYNE SMITH
JOE SUN
PHIL THOMAS
FAY JENNINGS THOMPSON
BILL WAGNER
LAWRENCE WALTMAN
MARGARET "MAGGIE" WARWICK
LINDA WESTBROOK
TONY JOE WHITE
MAC WISEMAN
AL WOODY
KYLE YORLETS
REGGIE YOUNG

AS OF OCT. 25, 2019
## PAST CMA AWARDS WINNERS

### ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

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### FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

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### MALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

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NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR (HORIZON AWARD INTRODUCED IN 1981. CHANGED TO NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR IN 2008.)

1981 Terri Gibbs
1982 Ricky Skaggs
1983 John Anderson
1984 The Judds
1985 Sawyer Brown
1986 Randy Travis
1987 Holly Dunn
1988 Ricky Van Shelton
1989 Clint Black
1990 Garth Brooks
1991 Travis Tritt
1992 Suzy Bogguss
1993 Mark Chesnutt
1994 John Michael Montgomery
1995 Alison Krauss
1996 Bryan White
1997 LeAnn Rimes
1998 Dixie Chicks
1999 Jo Dee Messina
2000 Brad Paisley
2001 Keith Urban
2002 Rascal Flatts
2003 Joe Nichols
2004 Gretchen Wilson
2005 Dierks Bentley
2006 Carrie Underwood
2007 Taylor Swift
2008 Lady Antebellum
2009 Darius Rucker
2010 Zac Brown Band
2011 The Band Perry
2012 Hunter Hayes
2013 Kacey Musgraves
2014 Brett Eldredge
2015 Chris Stapleton
2016 Maren Morris
2017 Jon Pardi
2018 Luke Combs

PAST CMA AWARDS WINNERS

VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

1967 The Stoneman Family
1968 Porter Wagoner & Dolly Parton
1969 Johnny Cash & June Carter
1970 The Gasser Brothers
1971 The Osborne Brothers
1972 The Statler Brothers
1973 The Statler Brothers
1974 The Statler Brothers
1975 The Statler Brothers
1976 The Statler Brothers
1977 The Statler Brothers
1978 The Oak Ridge Boys
1979 The Statler Brothers
1980 Alabama
1981 Alabama
1982 Alabama
1983 Alabama
1984 The Statler Brothers
1985 The Judds
1986 The Judds
1987 The Judds
1988 Highway 101
1989 Highway 101
1990 Kentucky HeadHunters
1991 Kentucky HeadHunters
1992 Diamond Rio
1993 Diamond Rio
1994 Diamond Rio
1995 The Mavericks
1996 The Mavericks
1997 Diamond Rio
1998 Dixie Chicks
1999 Dixie Chicks
2000 Dixie Chicks
2001 Lonestar
2002 Dixie Chicks
2003 Rascal Flatts
2004 Rascal Flatts
2005 Rascal Flatts
2006 Rascal Flatts
2007 Rascal Flatts
2008 Rascal Flatts
2009 Lady Antebellum
2010 Lady Antebellum
2011 Lady Antebellum
2012 Little Big Town
2013 Little Big Town
2014 Little Big Town
2015 Little Big Town
2016 Little Big Town
2017 Little Big Town
2018 Old Dominion

VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR (INTRODUCED IN 1970.)

1970 Porter Wagoner & Dolly Parton
1971 Porter Wagoner & Dolly Parton
1972 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1973 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1974 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1975 Conway Twitty & Loretta Lynn
1976 Waylon Jennings & Willie Nelson
1977 Jim Ed Brown & Helen Cornelius
1978 Kenny Rogers & Dottie West
1979 Kenny Rogers & Dottie West
1980 Moe Bandy & Joe Stampley
1981 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1982 David Frizzell & Shelly West
1983 Merle Haggard & Willie Nelson
1984 Willie Nelson & Julio Iglesias
1985 Anne Murray & Dave Loggins
1986 Dan Seals & Marie Osmond
1987 Ricky Skaggs & Sharon White
1988 The Judds
1989 The Judds
1990 The Judds
1991 The Judds
1992 Brooks & Dunn
1993 Brooks & Dunn
1994 Brooks & Dunn
1995 Brooks & Dunn
1996 Brooks & Dunn
1997 Brooks & Dunn
1998 Brooks & Dunn
1999 Brooks & Dunn
2000 Montgomery Gentry
2001 Brooks & Dunn
2002 Brooks & Dunn
2003 Brooks & Dunn
2004 Brooks & Dunn
2005 Brooks & Dunn
2006 Brooks & Dunn
2007 Sugarland
2008 Sugarland
2009 Sugarland
2010 Sugarland
2011 Sugarland
2012 Thompson Square
2013 Florida Georgia Line
2014 Florida Georgia Line
2015 Florida Georgia Line
2016 Brothers Osborne
2017 Brothers Osborne
2018 Brothers Osborne

THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS
### PAST CMA AWARDS WINNERS

#### MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR (CHANGED FROM INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR IN 1988.)

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#### MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR (AWARD GOES TO ARTIST AND DIRECTOR. INTRODUCED IN 1985. NOT AWARDED IN 1988.)

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<td>“Independence Day;” Martina McBride; directed by Robert Deaton and George J. Flanigen IV</td>
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<td>“The Dance;” Garth Brooks; directed by John Lloyd Miller</td>
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<td>1991</td>
<td>“Midnight In Montgomery;” Alan Jackson; directed by Jim Shea</td>
<td>1999</td>
<td>“Wide Open Spaces;” Dixie Chicks; directed by Thom Oliphant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>“Chattahoochee;” Alan Jackson; directed by Martin Kahan</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>“Goodbye Earl;” Dixie Chicks; directed by Evan Bernand</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>“I’m A Man;” Hank Williams Jr.; directed by John Goodhue</td>
<td>2001</td>
<td>“Born To Fly;” Sara Evans; directed by Peter Zavadil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1994</td>
<td>“I’ll Be Your Baby Tonight;” Garth Brooks; directed by Steve Binder</td>
<td>2002</td>
<td>“I’m Gonna Miss Her (The Fishin’ Song);” Brad Paisley; directed by Peter Zavadil</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>“Hurt;” Johnny Cash; directed by Mark Romanek</td>
<td>2003</td>
<td>“Whiskey Lullaby;” Brad Paisley featuring Alison Krauss; directed by Rick Schroeder</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1996</td>
<td>“As Good As I Once Was;” Toby Keith; directed by Michael Salomon</td>
<td>2004</td>
<td>“Time Marches On;” Jake Owen; directed by Michael Schaeffer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>“Believe;” Brooks &amp; Dunn; directed by Robert Deaton and George J. Flanigen IV</td>
<td>2005</td>
<td>“Save It For A Rainy Day;” Mark Chesnutt; directed by Marc Weiss</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>“What’s Your Favorite Love Song;” Jason Aldean; directed by Kirk Mathis</td>
<td>2007</td>
<td>“Online;” Brad Paisley; directed by Jason Alexander</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>“Love Story;” Taylor Swift; directed by Trey Fanjoy</td>
<td>2009</td>
<td>“She Don’t Love You;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>“The House That Built Me;” Miranda Lambert; directed by Trey Fanjoy</td>
<td>2010</td>
<td>“She Don’t Love You;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>“You and Tequila;” Kenny Chesney featuring Grace Potter; directed by Shaun Silva</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>“I Love You This Much;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>“Red Solo Cup;” Toby Keith; directed by Michael Salomon</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>“The Time Of My Life;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>“Highway Don’t Care;” Tim McGraw with Taylor Swift and Keith Urban; directed by Shane Drake</td>
<td>2013</td>
<td>“Drinkin’ My Bourbon;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>“Drunk On A Plane;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>“All I Need;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>“Waitin’ On A Woman;” Brad Paisley featuring Andy Griffith; directed by Jim Shea and Peter Tilden</td>
<td>2015</td>
<td>“Drinkin’ My Bourbon;” Dierks Bentley; directed by Shane Drake</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>“It Ain’t My Fault;” Brothers Osborne; directed by Wes Edwards and Ryan Silver</td>
<td>2016</td>
<td>“It Ain’t My Fault;” Brothers Osborne; directed by Wes Edwards and Ryan Silver</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>“Marry Me;” Thomas Rhett; directed by TK McKamy</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>“Marry Me;” Thomas Rhett; directed by TK McKamy</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>“Marry Me;” Thomas Rhett; directed by TK McKamy</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>“Marry Me;” Thomas Rhett; directed by TK McKamy</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

SHENANDOAH WITH ALISON KRAUSS 1995
TIM McGRAW WITH FAITH HILL 1997
BRAD PAISLEY WITH BILL ANDERSON, BUCK OWENS AND GEORGE JONES 2001

KACEY MUSGRAVES 2014

SONG OF THE YEAR (AWARD GOES TO SONGWRITER(S))

1967 “There Goes My Everything;” Dallas Frazier
“Honey;” Bobby Russell
1969 “Carroll County Accident;” Bob Ferguson
“Sunday Morning Coming Down;” Kris Kristofferson
1970 “Easy Loving;” Freddie Hart
“Easy Loving;” Freddie Hart
1971 “Behind Closed Doors;” Kenny O’Dell
“Country Bumpkin;” Don Wayne
1972 “Back Home Again;” John Denver
“Rhinestone Cowboy;” Larry Weiss
1977 “Lucille;” Roger Bowling and Hal Byrum
“Don’t It Make My Brown Eyes Blue;” Richard Leigh
1979 “The Gambler;” Don Schlitz
“He Stopped Loving Her Today;” Bobby Braddock and Carl Cotman
1980 “He Stopped Loving Her Today;” Bobby Braddock and Carl Cotman
1981 “Always On My Mind;” Johnny Christopher, Wayne Carson and Mark James
1982 “Always On My Mind;” Johnny Christopher, Wayne Carson and Mark James
1983 “Wind Beneath My Wings;” Larry Herley and Jeff Silbar
1985 “God Bless the USA;” Lee Greenwood
“On The Other Hand;” Paul Overstreet and Don Schlitz
1987 “Forever And Ever, Amen;” Paul Overstreet and Don Schlitz
1988 “BB’s Ladies;” K.T. Oslin
1989 “Chiseled In Stone;” Max D. Barnes and Vern Gosdin
1990 “Where’ve You Been;” Jon Vezner and Don Henry
1991 “When I Call Your Name;” Vince Gill and Tim DuBois
1992 “Look At Us;” Vince Gill and Max D. Barnes
1993 “I Still Believe In You;” Vince Gill and John Barlow Jarvis
1994 “Chattahoochee;” Alan Jackson and Jim McBride
1995 “Independence Day;” Gretchen Peters
1996 “Go Rest High On That Mountain;” Vince Gill
1997 “Strawberry Wine;” Matraca Berg and Gary Hanson
1998 “Heads In The Floor Of Heaven;” Billy Kirsch and Steve Wariner
1999 “This Kiss;” Annie Roboff, Robin Lerner and Beth Nielsen Chapman
2000 “I Hope You Dance;” Mark D. Sanders and Tia Silles
2001 “Mudon On Music Row;” Larry Cordle and Larry Shell
2002 “Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning);” Alan Jackson
2003 “Three Wooden Crosses;” Doug Johnson and Kim Williams
2004 “Live Like You Were Dying;” Tim Nichols and Craig Wiseman
2005 “Whiskey Lullaby;” Bill Anderson and Jon Randall
2006 “Believe;” Craig Wiseman and Ronnie Dunn
2007 “Give It Away;” Bill Anderson, Buddy Cannon and Jamey Johnson
2008 “Stay;” Jennifer Nettles
2009 “In Color;” Jamey Johnson, Lee Thomas Miller and Janes Otto
2010 “The House That Built Me;” Tom Douglas and Allen Shamblin
2011 “If I Die Young;” Kimberly Perry
2012 “Over You;” Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton
2013 “I Drive Your Truck;” Jessie Alexander, Connie Harrington and Jimmy Yeary
2014 “Follow Your Arrow;” Kacey Musgraves
2015 “Girl Crush;” Liz Rose, Lori McKenna and Hillary Lindsey
2016 “Humble and Kind;” Lori McKenna
2017 “Better Man;” Taylor Swift
2018 “Broken Halos;” Mike Henderson, Chris Stapleton
PAST CMA AWARDS WINNERS

SINGLE OF THE YEAR (AWARD GOES TO ARTIST AND PRODUCER. INTRODUCED AWARD TO PRODUCER IN 1989. INTRODUCED AWARD TO MIX ENGINEER IN 2016.)

1967 “There Goes My Everything;” Jack Greene; Decca Records
1969 “A Boy Named Sue;” Johnny Cash; Columbia Records
1970 “Dixie From Muskogee;” Merle Haggard; Capitol Nashville
1971 “Help Me Make It Through The Night;” Sammi Smith; Mega Records
1972 “The Happiest Girl In The Whole U.S.A.;” Donna Fargo; Dot Records
1973 “Behind Closed Doors;” Charlie Rich; Epic Records
1974 “Country Bumpkin;” Cal Smith; MCA Nashville
1975 “Before The Next Teardrop Falls;” Freddy Fender; ABC Dot Records
1976 “Good-Hearted Woman;” Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson; RCA Records
1977 “Lucille;” Kenny Rogers; United Artists Records
1978 “Heaven’s Just A Sin Away;” The Kendalls; Ovation Records
1979 “The Devil Went Down To Georgia;” Charlie Daniels Band; Epic Records
1980 “He Stopped Loving Her Today;” George Jones; Epic Records
1981 “Elvira;” The Oak Ridge Boys; MCA Nashville
1982 “Always On My Mind;” Willie Nelson; Columbia Records
1983 “Swingin’;” John Anderson; Warner Bros. Records
1984 “A Little Good News;” Anne Murray; Capitol Nashville
1985 “Why Not Me;” The Judds; RCA Records/Curb Records
1986 “Bop;” Dan Seals; EMI America Records
1987 “Forever And Ever, Amen;” Randy Travis; Warner Bros. Records
1988 “Eighteen Wheels And A Dozen Roses;” Kathy Mattea; PolyGram Records
1989 “I’m No Stranger To The Rain;” Keith Whitley; RCA Records; produced by Garth Funds and Keith Whitley
1990 “When I Call Your Name;” Vince Gill; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown
1991 “Friends In Low Places;” Garth Brooks; Capitol Nashville; produced by Allen Reynolds
1992 “Achy Breaky Heart;” Billy Ray Cyrus; Mercury Nashville; produced by John Cotton and Joe Scalle
1993 “Chattahoochee;” Alan Jackson; Arista Nashville; produced by Keith Stegall
1994 “I Swear;” John Michael Montgomery; Atlantic Records; produced by Scott Hendricks
1995 “When You Say Nothing At All;” Alison Krauss & Union Station; BNA Records; produced by Randy Scruggs
1996 “Check Yes Or No;” George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
1997 “Strawberry Wine;” Deana Carter; Capitol Nashville; produced by Chris Farren
1998 “Holes In The Floor Of Heaven;” Steve Wariner; Capitol Nashville; produced by Steve Wariner
1999 “Wide Open Spaces;” Dixie Chicks; Monument Records; produced by Blake Chancey and Paul Worley
2000 “I Hope You Dance;” Lee Ann Womack (with special guest appearance by Sons of the Desert); MCA Nashville; produced by Mark Wright
2001 “I Am A Man Of Constant Sorrow;” The Soggy Bottom Boys; Lost Highway Records; produced by T Bone Burnett
2002 “Where Were You (When The World Stopped Turning);” Alan Jackson; Arista Nashville; produced by Keith Stegall
2003 “Hurt;” Johnny Cash; Lost Highway Records; produced by Rick Rubin
2005 “I May Hate Myself In The Morning;” Lee Ann Womack; MCA Nashville; produced by Byron Gallimore
2006 “Believe;” Brooks & Dunn; Arista Nashville; produced by Tony Brown, Ronnie Dunn and Kix Brooks
2007 “Before He Cheats;” Carrie Underwood; 19 Recordings Limited/Arista/Arista Nashville; produced by Mark Bright
2008 “I Saw God Today;” George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
2009 “I Run To You;” Lady Antebellum; Capitol Records Nashville; produced by Victoria Shaw and Paul Worley
2010 “Need You Now;” Lady Antebellum; Capitol Records Nashville; produced by Paul Worley and Lady Antebellum
2011 “If I Die Young;” The Band Perry; Republic Nashville; produced by Paul Worley
2012 “Pontoon;” Little Big Town; Capitol Records Nashville; produced by Jay Joyce
2013 “Craving You;” Florida Georgia Line; produced by Joey Moi
2014 “Automatic;” Miranda Lambert; RCA Nashville; produced by Frank Liddell, Chuck Ainlay and Glenn Worf
2015 “Girl Crush;” Little Big Town; Capitol Records Nashville; produced by Jay Joyce
2016 “Die A Happy Man;” Thomas Rhett; The Valory Music Co.; produced by Dann Huff and Jesse Frasure; Mix Engineered by Justin Niebank
2018 “Broken Halos;” Chris Stapleton; Mercury Records/Universal Music Group Nashville; produced by Dave Cobb and Chris Stapleton; Mix Engineered by Vance Powell
ALBUM OF THE YEAR
(AWARD GOES TO ARTIST AND PRODUCER. INTRODUCED AWARD TO PRODUCER IN 1989.)

1967 | THERE GOES MY EVERYTHING; Jack Greene; Decca Records
1968 | JOHNNY CASH AT FOLSOM PRISON; Johnny Cash; Columbia Records
1969 | JOHNNY CASH AT SAN QUENTIN PRISON; Johnny Cash; Columbia Records
1970 | ORIE FROM MUSKOGEE; Merle Haggard; Capitol Nashville
1971 | I WON'T MENTION IT AGAIN; Ray Price; Columbia Records
1972 | LET ME TELL YOU ABOUT A SONG; Merle Haggard; Capitol Nashville
1973 | BEHIND CLOSED DOORS; Charlie Rich; Epic Records
1974 | A VERY SPECIAL LOVE SONG; Charlie Rich; Epic Records
1975 | A LEGEND IN MY TIME; Ronnie Milsap; RCA Records
1976 | WANTED: THE OUTLAWS; Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Tompall Glaser and Jessi Colter; RCA Records
1977 | RONNIE MILSAP LIVE; Ronnie Milsap; RCA Records
1978 | IT WAS ALMOST LIKE A SONG; Ronnie Milsap; RCA Records
1979 | THE GAMBLER; Kenny Rogers; United Artists Records
1980 | COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER; Original Motion Picture Soundtrack; MCA Nashville
1981 | I BELIEVE IN YOU; Don Williams; MCA Nashville
1982 | ALWAYS ON MY MIND; Willie Nelson; Columbia Records
1983 | THE CLOSER YOU GET; Alabama; RCA Records
1984 | A LITTLE GOOD NEWS; Anne Murray; Capitol Nashville
1985 | DOES FORT WORTH EVER CROSS YOUR MIND; George Strait; MCA Nashville
1986 | LOST IN THE FIFTHS TONIGHT; Ronnie Milsap; RCA Records
1987 | ALWAYS AND FOREVER; Randy Travis; Warner Bros. Records
1988 | BORN TO BOOGIE; Hank Williams Jr.; Warner Bros. Records/Curb Records
1989 | WILL THE CIRCLE BE UNBROKEN VOL. 1; Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; Universal Records; produced by Randy Scruggs
1990 | PICKIN' ON NASHVILLE; Kentucky HeadHunters; Mercury Nashville; produced by Kentucky HeadHunters
1991 | NO FENCES; Garth Brooks; Capitol Nashville; produced by Allen Reynolds
1992 | ROPIN' THE WIND; Garth Brooks; Liberty Records; produced by Allen Reynolds
1993 | I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU; Vince Gill; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown
1995 | WHEN FALLEN ANGELS FLY; Patty Loveless; Epic Records; produced by Emory Gordy, Jr.
1996 | BLUE CLEAR SKY; George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
1997 | CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME; George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
1998 | EVERYWHERE; Tim McGraw; Curb Records; produced by Byron Gallimore, Tim McGraw and James Stroud
1999 | A PLACE IN THE SUN; Tim McGraw; Curb Records; produced by Byron Gallimore, Tim McGraw and James Stroud
2000 | FLY; Dixie Chicks; Monument Records; produced by Blake Chancey
2001 | O BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU?; various artists; Lost Highway Records; produced by T Bone Burnett
2002 | DRIVE; Alan Jackson; Arista Nashville; produced by Keith Stegall
2003 | AMERICAN IV: THE MAN COMES AROUND; Johnny Cash; Lost Highway Records; produced by Rick Rubin
2004 | WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN; Kenny Chesney; RCA Records; produced by Buddy Cannon and Kenny Chesney
2005 | THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM; Lee Ann Womack; MCA Nashville; produced by Byron Gallimore and Greg Droman
2006 | TIME WASTED; Brad Paisley; Arista Nashville; produced by Frank Rogers and Chris DuBois
2007 | IT JUST COMES NATURAL; George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
2008 | TROUBADOUR; George Strait; MCA Nashville; produced by Tony Brown and George Strait
2009 | FEARLESS; Taylor Swift; Big Machine Records; produced by Nathan Chapman and Taylor Swift
2010 | REVOLUTION; Miranda Lambert; Columbia Nashville; produced by Frank Liddell and Mike Wrucke
2011 | MY KINDA PARTY; Jason Aldean; Broken Bow Records; produced by Michael Knox
2012 | CHEF; Eric Church; EMI Records Nashville; produced by Jay Joyce
2013 | BASED ON A TRUE STORY; Blake Shelton; Warner Bros. Records; produced by Scott Hendricks
2014 | PLATINUM; Miranda Lambert; RCA Nashville; produced by Frank Liddell, Chuck Ainlay and Glenn Worf
2015 | TRAVELLER; Chris Stapleton; Mercury Nashville; produced by Dave Cobb and Chris Stapleton
2016 | MR. MISUNDERSTOOD; Eric Church; EMI Records Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville; produced by Arturo Buenahora, Jr. and Jay Joyce
2017 | FROM A ROOM VOLUME I; Chris Stapleton; Mercury Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville; produced by Dave Cobb and Chris Stapleton
2018 | GOLDEN HOUR; Kacey Musgraves; Mercury Nashville/Universal Music Group Nashville; produced by Ian Fitchuk, Daniel Tashian and Kacey Musgraves
## NATIONAL

- **The Blair Garner Show**  
  Blair Garner and “Off Eric” Garner  
  Westwood One

- **The Bobby Bones Show**  
  Bobby Bones, Amy Brown, “Lunchbox” Dan Chappell, and Eddie Garcia  
  SiriusXM Satellite Radio

- **The Mayor of Music Row**  
  Charlie Monk  
  Premiere Networks

- **Nash Nights Live**  
  Shawn Parr and Elaina Smith  
  Westwood One

- **The Storme Warren Show**  
  Storme Warren  
  SiriusXM Satellite Radio

## MAJOR MARKET

- **Chris Carr & Company**  
  Chris Carr, Kia Becht, McKaila Granning, and “Maverick” Jeffrey Bolen  
  KEET, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Min

- **Mason & Remy**  
  Mason Schreeder and “Remy” Zachary Hoesly  
  WIL, St. Louis, Mo.

- **The Morning Wolfpack with Matt McAllister**  
  Matt McAllister, Emily Raines, and “Slow Joe” Wallace  
  KKWF, Seattle-Tacoma, Wash.

- **The Rob + Holly Show**  
  Rob Stone and Holly Hutton  
  WYCD, Detroit, Mich.

- **Tanner in the Morning**  
  Rob Tanner, Catherine Lane, Chris Allen, and “Captain Jim” Horna  
  WSOC, Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, N.C.-S.C.

- **Tony, Jake & Jenn**  
  Tony Russell, Jake Byron, and Jenn Hays  
  KUPL, Portland, Ore.

## LARGE MARKET

- **Amanda and Jesse**  
  Amanda Valentine and Jesse Tack  
  WUBE, Cincinnati, Ohio

- **J.R. and Beth in the Morning**  
  “J.R.” Jon Jaus, Beth Boehm, and Chris Cardenas  
  KKY, San Antonio, Texas

- **Q Morning Crew**  
  Mike Wheless and Janie Carothers  
  WQDR, Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

- **The Randy, Jamie, and Jojo Show**  
  Randy Carroll, Jamie Martin, and Jojo Meza  
  KAJA, San Antonio, Texas

- **Ridder, Scott and Shannen**  
  “Ridder” Shaun Ridderbush, Scott Dolphin, and Shannen Oesterreich  
  WMIL, Milwaukee-Racine, WI

## MEDIUM MARKET

- **Clay & Company**  
  Rob Banks, Clay Moden and Val Townsend  
  WYRK, Buffalo-Niagara Falls, N.Y.

- **The Doc Show with Jessie**  
  Ken “Doc” Medek and Jessie Roberts  
  WGGY, Wilkes Barre-Scranton, Pa.

- **Mo & StyckMan**  
  “Mo” Melissa Wagner and “Styckman” Greg Owens  
  WUSY, Chattanooga, Tenn.

- **Scott and Sarah in the Morning**  
  Scott Wynn and Sarah Kay  
  WQMX, Akron, Ohio

- **Tony and Kris**  
  Tony Randall and Kris Rochester  
  WIVK, Knoxville, Tenn.

## SMALL MARKET

- **Barrett, Fox & Berry**  
  Bill Barrett, Tim Fox, and Tracy Berry  
  KKNJ, Eugene-Springfield, Ore.

- **Ben & Arnie**  
  Ben Butler and Arnie Andrews  
  WCOW, La Crosse, Wis.

- **Dr. Shane and Tess in the Morning**  
  Shane Collins and Tess Connell  
  WPAP, Panama City, Fla.

- **Mackey and Miles in the Morning**  
  Jim Mackey and Deb Miles  
  WBRY, South Bend, Ind.

- **Officer Don & DeAnn**  
  “Officer Don” Evans and DeAnn Stephens  
  WBUU, Lexington-Fayette, Ky.
Hello Music City

We’re glad to be here!

1217 16th Avenue South, Music Row, TN 37212
## 2019 CMA Station of the Year Finalists

### Major Market

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>City/Region</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KILT</td>
<td>Houston-Galveston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KPLX</td>
<td>Dallas-Ft. Worth, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIL</td>
<td>St. Louis, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WKLB</td>
<td>Boston, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WYCD</td>
<td>Detroit, Mich.</td>
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### Large Market

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<th>Station</th>
<th>City/Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KNCY</td>
<td>San Antonio, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KUBL</td>
<td>Salt Lake City-Ogden-Provo, Utah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WFMS</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WLHK</td>
<td>Indianapolis, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WQDR</td>
<td>Raleigh-Durham, N.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WSIX</td>
<td>Nashville, Tenn.</td>
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### Medium Market

<table>
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<th>Station</th>
<th>City/Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CKRY</td>
<td>Calgary, Alta.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KXXT</td>
<td>Omaha-Council Bluffs, Neb.-Iowa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBBS</td>
<td>Syracuse, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIVK</td>
<td>Knoxville, Tenn.</td>
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<tr>
<td>WXCY</td>
<td>Wilmington, Del.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Small Market

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Station</th>
<th>City/Region</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KCLR</td>
<td>Columbia, Mo.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KFDI</td>
<td>Wichita, Kan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KKNU</td>
<td>Eugene-Springfield, Ore.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBYT</td>
<td>South Bend, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WYCT</td>
<td>Pensacola, Fla.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Congratulations to the 53rd Annual CMA Awards® Nominees

Merrill Private Wealth Management is committed to supporting individuals and organizations that inspire and enrich our lives through their dedication to the world of arts and culture.

Klindt, Cole & Associates
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Nashville, TN 37201
615.747.5625
CMA BROADCAST PERSONALITY OF THE YEAR

NATIONAL
“The Bobby Bones Show”
Bobby Bones, Amy Brown, “Lunchbox” Dan Chappell and Eddie Garcia
Premiere Networks

MAJOR MARKET
“The Morning Wolfpack with Matt McAllister”
Matt McAllister, Emily Raines and “Slow Joe” Wallace
KKWF — Seattle-Tacoma, Wash.

LARGE MARKET
“Q Morning Crew”
Mike Wheless and Janie Carothers
WQDR — Raleigh-Durham, N.C.

MEDIUM MARKET
“Mo & Styckman”
Melissa “Mo” Wagner and Greg “Styckman” Owens
WUSY — Chattanooga, Tenn.

SMALL MARKET
“Dr. Shane and Tess in the Morning”
Shane Collins and Tess Connell
WPAP — Panama City, Fla.

CMA STATION OF THE YEAR

MAJOR MARKET
WIL – St. Louis, Mo.

LARGE MARKET
WSIX – Nashville, Tenn.

MEDIUM MARKET
WIVK – Knoxville, Tenn.

SMALL MARKET
WYCT – Pensacola, Fla.
Congratulations

The Bobby Bones Show, iHeartCountry, and all of the CMA Awards® Winners
OFFICERS

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CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD
BMI

KURT JOHNSON
PRESIDENT
TOWNSQUARE MEDIA

MARY HILLIARD HARRINGTON
PRESIDENT ELECT
RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT

DIRECTORS

ADVERTISING/PUBLIC RELATIONS/MEDIA
EBIE McFARLAND
ESSENTIAL BROADCAST MEDIA

TYNE PARRISH
THE GREENROOM

JOE GALANTE
GALANTE ENTERTAINMENT ORGANIZATION

BEVERLY KEELE
PETU

KIX BROOKS
BROOKS & DUNN

MARY HILLIARD HARRINGTON
PRESIDENT ELECT
RED LIGHT MANAGEMENT

ARTIST
KURT JOHNSON
PRESIDENT
TOWNSQUARE MEDIA

DARIUS RUCKER
ARTIST

LORI MCKENNA
CREATIVE NATION MUSIC

COMPOSER
LORI MCKENNA
CREATIVE NATION MUSIC

LIZ ROSE
LIZ ROSE MUSIC

STACEY SCHLITZ
SCHLITZ.JW

MARIA MOLIN
LIJNGREN
FREEDOM ENTERTAINMENT AV

BOB SHENNAN
BBC

JAY LIEPS
APPLE MUSIC

JENNIE SMYTHE
GRILLIA MARKETING

MUSICIAN
KENNY GREENBERG
GREENBERG MUSIC

DEREK WELLS
SPOT MUSIC NASHVILLE

PERSONAL MANAGER
KERRI EDWARDS
RT ENTERTAINMENT

CLARENCE SPALDING
MIKEDICK

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126
THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS
Danielle Bradbery

Mackenzie Foy and Noah Schnapp

Brittany Kelley, Brian Kelley, Tyler Hubbard, Hayley Hubbard

Bebe Rexha

Lionel Richie

Bobby Bones and Sharna Burgess present Vocal Duo of the Year

Dennis Quaid and Trisha Yearwood present Female Vocalist of the Year

Lindsay Ell

Cassidy Black and Dierks Bentley

Walker Hayes

Rita Wilson
Kane Brown and Olivia Culpo
Brothers Osborne
Jason and Brittany Aldean
Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood
Dan and Shay
Lauren Alaina
Sugarland
Brett Young
Martina McBride and Lara Spencer
Kimberly Williams-Paisley
Little Big Town present Album of the Year
Dustin Lynch
Tonight we salute Carrie, Reba, Dolly and the Wonderful Women of Country Music.

In the four minutes it takes one of these women to sing a song, another person dies from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and many more struggle to breathe. Women are particularly vulnerable to COPD. Twice as many women die from COPD as breast cancer every year.

Women are not the only vulnerable group. COPD affects an estimated 30 million Americans.

Please join us in the movement to prevent and cure COPD. Throughout November, use #COPDTogether on social media and donate to the COPD Foundation at www.copdfoundation.org/donate for COPD Awareness Month.

Together, we can find innovative ways to improve the lives of all people affected by COPD. Together, we can provide support and encouragement to all members of the COPD community. Together, we can continue working towards a cure for this disease. Together, there is nothing we cannot accomplish.

“If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far – go together.”
—PROVERB
Dan + Shay perform “Tequila”

Jason Aldean and Miranda Lambert perform “Drowns The Whiskey”

Florida Georgia Line and Bebe Rexha perform “Meant to Be”

Ricky Skaggs and Brad Paisley perform a medley

Thomas Rhett performs “Life Changes”

Carrie Underwood performs “Love Wins”

Luke Combs performs “She Got the Best of Me”

Brett Young performs “Mercy”

Keith Urban performs “Never Coming Down”

Ricky Skaggs and Brad Paisley perform a medley

Brett Young performs “Mercy”

Florida Georgia Line and Bebe Rexha perform “Meant to Be”

Dan + Shay perform “Tequila”

Jason Aldean and Miranda Lambert perform “Drowns The Whiskey”
Chris Stapleton, Maren Morris and Mavis Staples perform “I’ll Take You There”

Dierks Bentley and Brothers Osborne perform “Burning Man”

Chris Church performs “Desperate Man”

Kelsea Ballerini performs “Miss Me More”

Brad Paisley performs “Bucked Off”

Kacey Musgraves performs “Slow Burn”

Midland performs “East Bound and Down”

Lauren Alaina performs “A Lesson in Leavin”

Old Dominion performs “Hotel Key”

Chris Stapleton, Maren Morris and Mavis Staples perform “I’ll Take You There”

Dierks Bentley and Brothers Osborne perform “Burning Man”
THE 53rd ANNUAL CMA AWARDS

Brothers Osborne
VOCAL DUO OF THE YEAR

Luke Combs
NEW ARTIST OF THE YEAR

Kacey Musgraves
ALBUM OF THE YEAR

TK McKamy
MUSIC VIDEO OF THE YEAR

Mac McAnally
MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR

Keith Urban
ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR

Chris Stapleton
MALE VOCALIST, SINGLE AND SONG (WITH MIKE HENDERSON) OF THE YEAR

Old Dominion
VOCAL GROUP OF THE YEAR

Carrie Underwood
FEMALE VOCALIST OF THE YEAR

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Congratulations to tonight’s CMA Awards® Nominees

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CMC Rocks QLD 2020 is the largest country and roots festival in Australia and the ultimate country music experience!

This year’s festival welcomes 31 sensational international and local artists, performing live across 5-days of non-stop action.

With two Main Stages, on site camping, bespoke bars, unique Songwriters Shows and over 40 food and beverage outlets, you need to tick this off your bucket list.

“...the fans are crazy, they camp out for days, they just make the most of this experience. You look out over a crowd and you realise ‘I have fans over here!’ and there is nothing more special than that.”

— LUKE BRYAN

“...it’s amazing... how much energy this crowd has!”

— KELSEA BALLERINI

“...no matter how many beers (they) drink, they’re always super nice... They get happy, then they get rowdy, then they go to bed and they do it all over again.”

— THOMAS RHETT

“The fans are here, they do their homework, they’re ready to have a good time.”

— DARIUS RUCKER

“It’s insane, they say you show up for Australian fans, they show up for you, and I feel that on a deep level... even if it’s raining they’ll stand out there and scream to you.”

— CAM

“If CMC Fest was to call you at 3am, you answer cause God knows what it’s into. Do not say no, just ride along with it.”

— MICHAEL RAY
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