

Friday & Saturday - June 12-13, 2015

WINSTOCK COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL



Spend the best days
of summer with . . .



Alabama



Jake Owen



Gary Allan



Jana Kramer



Dan + Shay



Sam Hunt



Eli Young Band



The Band Perry

ALSO APPEARING . . .

The Railers, RaeLynn, Michael Ray, Chris Hawkey,
Lost Highway, Drop Tailgate, Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band!

Winstock 2015 is brought to you by:



Purchase Tickets Online at www.WinstockFestival.com or call toll-free 1-888-946-7865



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Friday & Saturday - June 12-13, 2015

WINSTOCK

COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL

WELCOME to the 22nd annual WINSTOCK Country Music Festival. We look forward to seeing you with your family and friends as you enjoy our star-studded country lineup and our Emerging Artist Stage, featuring some of the industry's hottest up-and-coming talent!

Schedule

THURSDAY, JUNE 11

3 to 9 p.m. – Campgrounds open for admission
7 to 11 p.m. – Beer tent party with music by Drop Tailgate

FRIDAY, JUNE 12

9:30 a.m. – Campgrounds open for admission
2:00 p.m. – Gates open for admission
4:30 p.m. – Chris Hawkey
6:35 p.m. – Jana Kramer
8:40 p.m. – Gary Allan
10:45 p.m. – Jake Owen

Emerging Artist Stage

5:45 p.m. – Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band
7:50 & 9:55 p.m. – Michael Ray

SATURDAY, JUNE 13

9:30 a.m. – Gates open for admission
10:30 a.m. – Pre-show beer tent party, prizes included,
with Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band
12:30 p.m. – Lost Highway
2:35 p.m. – Dan + Shay
4:40 p.m. – Sam Hunt
6:45 p.m. – Eli Young Band
8:50 p.m. – The Band Perry
10:30 p.m. – Alabama

Emerging Artist Stage

1:45 & 5:55 p.m. – Raelynn
3:30 & 8 p.m. – The Railers

Artists and times subject to change without notice

WINSTOCK fans are encouraged to join us in honoring America each day before the concerts begin.

Aedyn Colville, a 12-year-old from Marty, MN, will sing the national anthem Friday at approximately 4:20 p.m.

Hayley Zappa, a May 2015 Maple Lake High School graduate, will sing the national anthem Saturday at approximately 12:20 p.m. The national anthem will be sung from the main stage while members of the Minnesota National Guard's Military Funeral Honors Program presents the colors.

Welcome

WINSTOCK is one of the Upper Midwest's premier outdoor country music and camping festivals organized entirely by volunteers, with all proceeds from this event used to help fund private education for students from Winsted and surrounding communities. More than 1,000 people volunteer more than 5,000 hours to bring you the opportunity to enjoy country music's finest entertainment, food, and fun. The Winstock committee and each student hopes you will have a great time at Winstock's 22nd annual event and thanks you for your continued support and patronage.

Facilities

WINSTOCK Festival grounds offer a large concession area, beverage tent, medical and handicapped facilities, 24-hour security, primitive camping, country music vendors, and more. There is an ATM on site.

Winstock '16

The dates for Winstock 2016 will be Friday-Saturday, June 10-11, 2016.

Location

WINSTOCK is located adjacent to the Winsted Airport in Winsted, Minnesota. Winsted is located approximately 35 miles west of Minneapolis. If you travel west on Highway 7, turn north on McLeod County Road 1 for three miles, then turn west on McLeod County Road 5 and follow the signs. If you travel west on Highway 12, turn south on Wright County Road 6 (east side of Howard Lake) for seven miles, then turn west on McLeod County Road 5 and follow the signs.

Camping

Camping at WINSTOCK has proven to be a great way to enjoy the festival atmosphere with family and friends. Winstock camping offers primitive sites (25' x 35') with no running water or electrical hookups. Fresh drinking water and ice will be available at the main campground.

All campsites are by reservation and will be held for you. Shuttle buses to and from downtown Winsted will be provided Saturday from 7 - 11:30 a.m., on the half hour, stopping at the SuperValu parking lot, downtown corner of 2nd and Main, and the Blue Note Bar & Restaurant. Camping

sites for Winstock 2016 will be available for sale at this year's event.

Unfortunately, Winstock no longer has access to the services that provided the bulk delivery of water for your camper in the campgrounds. Showers will be available at the entrance to Campground A.

VIP/Reserved Seating/

General Admission

Enjoy watching your favorite Winstock entertainers from our VIP Reserved Seating Section. Along with a great view of the stage and complimentary parking, VIP offers you a home-cooked, hot meal each evening, along with beverages all weekend. Please get your order in early to guarantee your seat! Next year's VIP seats will be available for sale at this year's event.

Also available at Winstock 2015 is reserved seating. Catch all the entertainment from a premium location with a guaranteed, numbered seat located immediately behind the VIP area.

A lawn chair that you bring yourself is standard Winstock seating for those with general admission tickets. Winstock will not be responsible for lost or stolen chairs. No chairs may be placed in the viewing area until the gates open Friday at 2 p.m. or Saturday at 9:30 a.m. The music area will be cleared of chairs nightly.

Please take time to visit Winstock's Emerging Artists

Stage, which is a second stage at Winstock 2015.

Gates

Gates will open Friday at 2 p.m. and Saturday at 9:30 a.m. In the event of inclement weather, the gate opening may be delayed. When entering through the main gates, you will exchange your ticket for a wristband. This wristband must be worn at all times. Just show your wristband each time you go through the gates.

Rain or shine

In the event of inclement weather, the show will be interrupted and will resume as soon as weather permits. **Tickets are sold on a "rain or shine" basis, and no refunds will be given for delays or cancellations due to bad weather.**

Parking

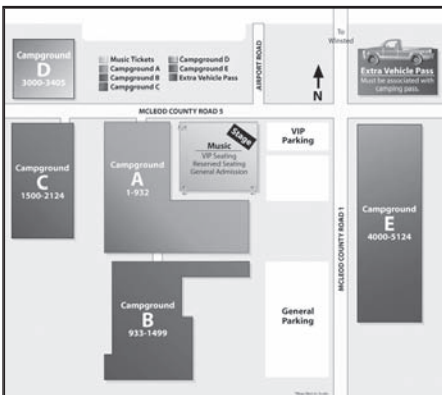
Parking will cost \$10 per vehicle, per day while attending Winstock. Please follow the signs to designated areas. Motorcycle parking will be available near VIP parking.

Buses

Bus service is available between the campgrounds and the festival site. There will also be shuttle bus service between Winstock and downtown Winsted Saturday only, from 7 to 11:30 a.m. Two buses will depart Winstock for downtown every half hour, stopping at SuperValu parking lot, downtown corner of 2nd and Main, the Blue Note, Casey's, and Subway.

All WINSTOCK 2015 promotional prizes donated by the following:

- Bernick Companies - Pepsi/Mtn Dew • Casey's General Stores • Carousel Motorsports • Cokato Licensing
- Crazi Coffee • Cowgirl Tuff • C.R. Electric • Eggert Law Office • Farm-Rite Equipment
- Harwood's Winsted Body Shop • Herald Journal • Holt Motors • K-Way Express, Inc.
- Larry's Wood and Laminate • Locher Brothers/Miller Lite • Matter Reuter CPAs
- Midwest Machinery • Mini-Biff of Hutchinson • Sam's Club • The Security & Sound Co.
- Subway/Hussong's Liquor • Waste Management



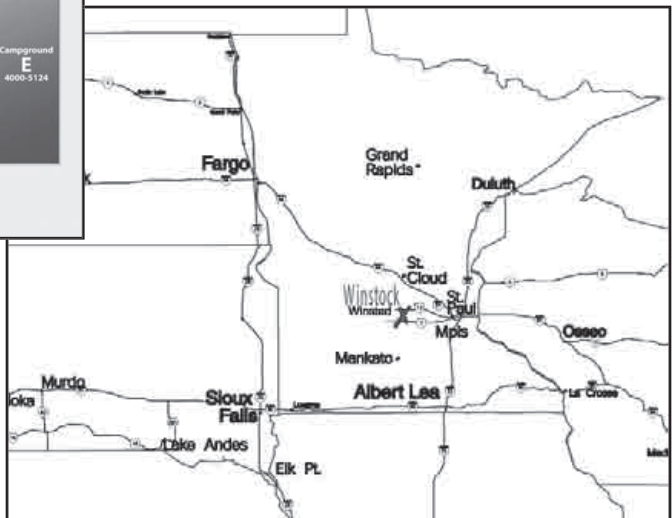
**WINSTOCK GPS Address:
3233 230th St.
Winsted, MN 55395**

Pulltabs
will be available for sale
at Winstock 2015 near
the Beer Tent!

WINSTOCK is located:

**1/2 mile south of
Winsted, Minn. on McLeod
Co. Rd. 5, just west of
McLeod Co. Rd. 1.**

**35 miles west of
Minneapolis between
State Hwy. 7 and
US Hwy. 12.**



Winstock Policies

In order for all of us to have a safe and enjoyable weekend, everyone must abide by the following rules:

- In consideration for others, no umbrellas, lounge chairs, golf carts, or ATVs.
- **No guns are permitted anywhere on the WINSTOCK grounds.**
- WINSTOCK is not responsible for lost or stolen tickets, personal injury or loss, theft, or damage to personal property.
- Please be aware of your surroundings, as WINSTOCK assumes no liability if you become injured.
- WINSTOCK has the right to inspect persons or parcels.
- All campfires must be in self-contained units, subject to Fire Marshal approval, when conditions are approved by the Fire Marshal.
- Food or beverages may not be brought into the music area.
- All chairs must be removed from the music area after the last performance. Please have your name on your chair.
- Must be 21 or older to purchase or consume alcoholic beverages in any WINSTOCK area. Violators will be ejected.
- No keg beer or large amounts of alcohol in any WINSTOCK area.
- Must be 18 or older to purchase a camping permit.
- People in the campgrounds must wear a concert wrist band at all times. No one is permitted on Winstock grounds without a valid wrist band.

- No audio or video taping of any kind is permitted.
- Quiet time in the campgrounds will be enforced from 1 am – 7 am. This also includes electrical generators.
- No animals allowed.
- Persons violating policies will be ejected and may be subject to prosecution.
- No refunds to anyone ejected for rule violations.
- By attending WINSTOCK, you acknowledge and agree that your photo may be used in future promotional materials.
- Please carry a picture ID with you at all times.
- No couches or furniture allowed in camping area.
- No tailgating in WINSTOCK parking areas.
- No riding in backs of pickups.
- No drones allowed over the Winstock grounds.
- Due to safety and insurance concerns, no outside food or beverage will be allowed into the concert area during the Thursday night beer tent party.
- Camping/parking pass must be displayed on vehicles at all times.
- No live music stage shows or any activity in the campgrounds that promotes large gatherings, selling or distributing alcoholic beverages, and any other soliciting.

VEHICLE RULES: All vehicles must fit in your campsite and have appropriate vehicle permit. Only one sleeping unit and vehicle per site.

Winstock 15 Radio Network

- * KEEY (K102) - Minneapolis 102.1 FM
- * KZPK (Wild Country 99) - St. Cloud 98.9

- FM
- * KATO - Mankato 93.1 FM
 - * KBLB - Brainerd 93.3
 - * KIK-FM - Alexandria 100.7 FM
 - * KASM - Albany 1150 AM
 - * KRWC - Buffalo 1360 AM
 - * KQAD - Luverne 800 AM
 - * US104 - Worthington 104.3 FM
 - * KARP - Hutchinson 106.9 FM
 - * KGLB - Glencoe 1310 AM
 - * KCUE - Red Wing 1250 AM
 - * KSCR - Benson 93.5 FM
 - * KDOM - Windom 1580 AM
 - * KKQQ - Brookings, SD 102.3 FM
 - * KSMA - Mason City, IA 93.9 FM
 - * KBVB - Fargo, ND 95.1 FM
 - * KLQP - Madison, WI 92 FM
 - * KDJS - Willmar 95.3 FM
 - * KRVY - Willmar 97.3 FM
 - * KWWK - Rochester 96.5 FM

- * KQAK - Albert Lea 970 AM
- * KLQP - Madison 92.1 FM
- * KLOH - Pipestone 1050 AM
- * KLOV - Olivia 100.1 FM
- * KDUZ - Hutchinson 1260 AM
- * KBEW - Blue Earth 98.1 FM
- * WCMP - Pine City 100.9 FM
- * KRWC - Buffalo 1360 AM
- * KTWB - Sioux Falls, SD 101.9 FM
- * WNAX - Yankton, SD 104.1 FM
- * KICD - Spencer, IA 107.7 FM
- * KBMW - Wahpeton, SD 1450 AM
- * KORN - Owatonna 92.1 FM
- * KWND - Winona 1380 AM

The Winstock 2015 Radio Network is a group of radio stations from Minnesota and across the Midwest that assists in promoting Winstock. Winstock encourages you to listen to these stations for great country music!

Camping Note

After this year's event, Winstock is no longer able to lease the land that has been used as Campground E due to the City of Winsted purchasing the land for future industrial development.

Winstock has explored all options to not only replace the sites being lost in Campground E, but also expand camping offerings as the festival has sold out its camping availability the last three years.

Campground F will be new in 2016, and will be located west of the Winstock grounds, west of Cable Avenue. For additional updates, watch www.winstockfestival.com or call 888-946-7865.



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Winstock '15 Contests

Campsite Decorating

**2015 Theme: "If You're
Gonna Play In Texas
(You Gotta Have a
Fiddle in the Band)"**

Plan ahead and be prepared to decorate your campsite according to this year's criteria. The grand prize in this year's campsite decorating contest will be provided by Midwest Machinery, and will be awarded to the overall best-decorated campsite based on this year's theme:

Decorate your campsites according to the Alabama hit "If You're Gonna Play in Texas (You Gotta Have a Fiddle in the Band)"

In addition to the overall grand prize, two additional cash prizes will be awarded, according to the theme, with prizes provided by the Winstock 2015 promotional prize sponsors. The additional cash prizes will be based on campsites that are 1) the most originally-decorated; and 2) the site that has the most artistic value. An honorable mention will also be awarded at the judges' discretion.

All participants MUST register by 9 p.m. Friday, June 12 to be considered for judging. Registration will take place at the Winstock Information Tent from the time the gates open Friday until 9 p.m. Judging will take place Saturday morning and winners will be posted by 1 p.m. Saturday



afternoon at the Winstock Information Tent. In the event of inclement weather, WINSTOCK will conduct a random drawing of registered participants to award the campsite decorating contest prizes. The drawing will be held at noon.

Please present photo ID to claim prize.

No double winners.

Judges' decisions are FINAL!

Mini-Biff Promotion

Four radio stations across Minnesota are giving away a padlock to a portable restroom.

Each portable restroom will be used exclusively by each contest winner for the weekend, will have the radio station's call letters, and a surprise bag that can be picked up at the Winstock Information Tent. This is a contest taking place prior to Winstock 2015.

For your chance to win your own portable restroom at Winstock 2015, listen to:

• K102, Minneapolis, 102.1 FM • KATO, Mankato, 93 FM • WILD Country 99, St. Cloud 98.9 FM • KARP, Hutchinson, 106.9 FM

Portable restrooms for this contest donated by Mini-Biff of Hutchinson.

Pre-show Beer Tent Bash

The annual Pre-show Beer Tent Bash will take place Saturday at 10:30 a.m., prizes included, with music by Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band. This special promotion will consist of two-for-one beverage specials, prizes, and surprises. No double prizes will be awarded. Your name can and will be drawn only once.

Appearing at Winstock '15

When rising country singer Michael Ray made his first exploratory trip to Nashville, he got a life-changing piece of advice from an industry insider.

Go home.

"He said, 'Don't move. The way the music industry's going to become, you're not going to be able to get a record deal just doing a showcase anymore. You've got to bring something to the table,'" Ray said. "He said, 'I want you to go back to Florida, grab a band and become the biggest you can be in Florida on your own, and then I want you to come back.' So I put a band together of friends of mine and we started to play."

Turns out it was the best thing Ray ever did. He built a rowdy fan base tilling the same fertile Southeastern soil Jason Aldean and Luke Bryan used to start their careers and returned to Nashville three years later to claim a record deal, a publishing contract, and a few unexpected opportunities along the way.

Ray has completed the journey from tiny Eustis, Florida, to the big time with the release of his first single "Kiss You In The Morning" from his forthcoming Warner Bros. Records album.

Scott Hendricks, Warner Music Nashville's executive vice president of A&R and Ray's producer, calls Ray "country with an edge."

"Michael, he's got it all," said Hendricks. "He sings well. He's a really seasoned entertainer. Girls find him not hard to look at. He's got the drive, the motivation, the work ethic, the right attitude going into this thing. He's been great to work with in the studio, just getting better and better every time we're recording. He takes it seriously, and we do have really high hopes for him."



Michael Ray

EMERGING ARTIST STAGE

FRIDAY 7:50 & 9:55 PM • www.michaelraymusic.com

The child of a family full of musicians, Ray began his professional career before he was a teenager, graduated to the bar scene as soon as he could drive and hasn't let up on the pedal since.

Appearing at Winstock '15

Trading in her once-signature flouncy skirts from the national spotlight while on *The Voice* (season 2), 20-year-old Raelynn is showcasing sophistication in more than just her style.

The singer/songwriter, whose diverse talents are a perfect fit everywhere from dancehalls to DJ booths, has penned a diverse catalog of songs, including "God Made Girls," her empowering debut single on The Valory Music Co.

Taste of Country insists, "fans of every age will find a trio of lyrics to get behind [in 'God Made Girls']" while PopCrush calls her "cheerful, charming, ultra-talented and downright hilarious."

The spunky Texas native's whimsical music video has garnered more than 3 million views and she has most recently been tapped as an iHeart Radio On the Verge Artist. America's morning show raves, "she won us over by just being herself . . . fully uncensored, fully engaged [and] fully entertaining."

Just like her musical hero Dolly Parton, Raelynn embraces her country roots with a flash of pizzazz. Raelynn's plethora of fans have continued to grow out on a well-received radio tour and with continued support from Miranda Lambert, who will take Raelynn out on her Certified Platinum tour. She is also featured on Blake Shelton's "Buzzin'" from his new album.

See interview with Raelynn
at winstockfestival.com



Raelynn

EMERGING ARTIST STAGE
SATURDAY 1:45 & 5:55 PM • www.raelynnofficial.net



The Railers

EMERGING ARTIST STAGE
SATURDAY 3:30 & 8 PM • www.therailers.com

When brothers Jordan and Jonathan Lawson, raised in rural Missouri, met lively Arizona native Cassandra in the mountains of Flagstaff, Arizona, the foundation was laid for the adventure of a lifetime. All three classically trained students had plans of making the 2,600 mile journey to Music City to follow their dreams. But it wasn't until an impromptu concert in Phoenix that the trio realized there was an undeniable blend between their musical styles.

"The show was just supposed to be a farewell for our family and friends who had encouraged us individually to take a chance and move to Nashville to pursue country music. We had no idea that night would plant

the seed of becoming a band," said Cassandra.

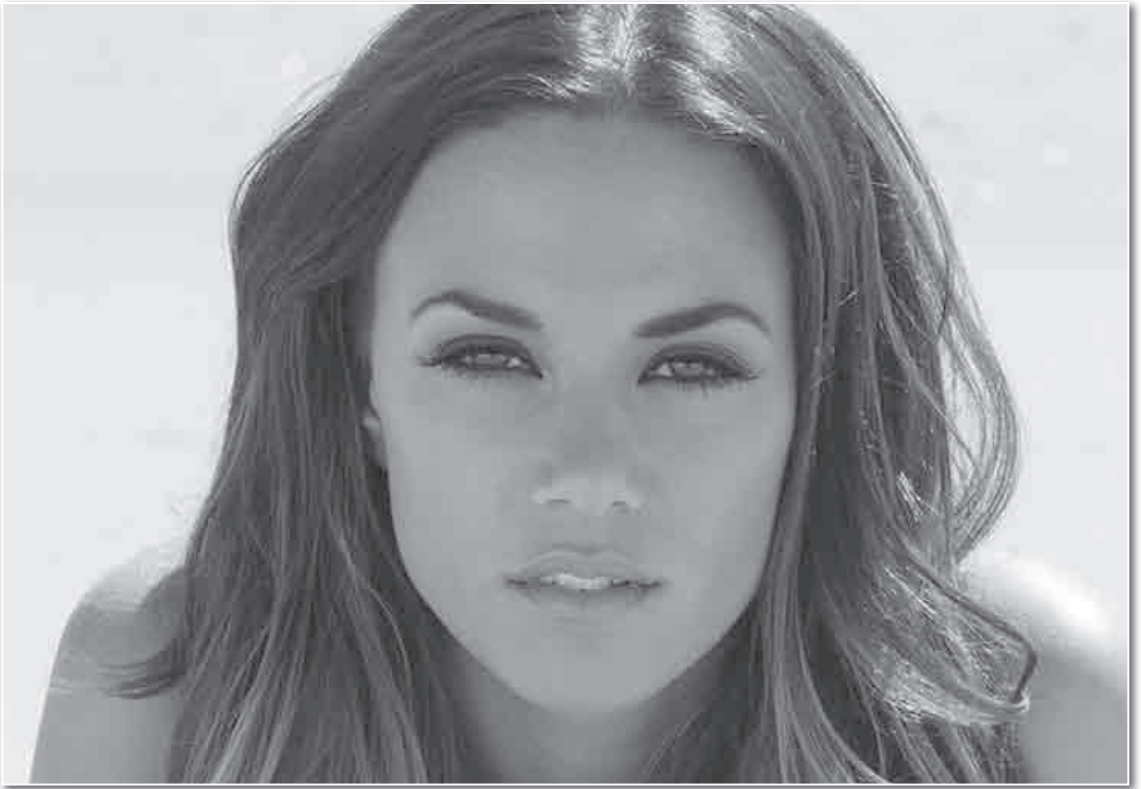
In January 2002, eldest brother Jonathan was the first to pack up his little truck and make the 28-hour drive. Cassandra followed suit 6 months later, with Jordan not far behind. For the next several years, they each paid bills by working various industry jobs, playing for several country artists including Sara Evans, Josh Turner, and Lorrie Morgan.

But it wasn't until May 2008 when they met the easy-going Indiana drummer, Tyler Oban that the story was set in motion. On April 11, 2010, they all took a deep breath and a leap of faith, signing their names on a crumpled cafe napkin that said "September 1, 2010 or Bust." Vowing to quit their jobs, and start their quest to becoming full-time artists, "It was probably the scariest time in our lives, walking away from a steady paycheck and into the great unknown," vocalist, mandolin and fiddle player Jordan Lawson said.

But, so far, it's paid off. Within the first month of freedom, they landed an opening slot on Sara Evans' Fall and Christmas tour. And shortly after that, another 60-show tour was booked with an Irish starlet.

More than 200 shows and 12 months later, they were sitting in the office of the President and CEO of Sony ATV Publishing. After two songs, he wouldn't let them leave his office until a contract was in the works. By the next year, they were offered a major label record deal with Warner Music Nashville/Atlantic and show no signs of slowing down.

By combining personal lyrics, airtight harmonies and earthy instrumentation using mandolin, violin, concertina, and acoustic guitar and percussion, the group melts their energetic songs with classic groundbreaking styles of the Eagles, Fleetwood Mac, Dixie Chicks, Nickel Creek and Bonnie Raitt, leaving audiences with an undeniable sound and unforgettable live show.



Jana Kramer

MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY 6:35 PM • www.janakramer.com

If you ask Jana Kramer to describe her life in this very moment she would say, "Dreams really do come true."

The singer/songwriter/actress had success with three songs that were featured on The CW's "One Tree Hill," where she played the firecracker actress, Alex Dupre.

Kramer is also one of the most successful new female artists to emerge in the last few years. The Michigan native and actress was named the Academy of Country Music's 2013 New Female Vocalist of the Year and earned the title of the most-played debut artist at country radio in 2012. She was one of the fastest-rising debut artists of 2012, and performed hundreds of shows across the nation. Her self-titled debut album received tremendous critical praise and hit the top five on the Billboard country albums chart, while "Why Ya Wanna" reached number three on the country radio chart.

She is no stranger to the bright lights, with her impressive string of movie and television roles, but she credits her break into the music industry as her most important accomplishment to date.

"I love acting, but my heart and soul is in singing. I've been terrified to pursue this dream because it's so personal to me. If someone tells me they don't like my voice, it's a lot harder of a hit to take," Kramer said. "This is what I've always wanted to do. I've wanted to do music my entire life."

Growing up in Michigan, Kramer is no stranger to the rich history of country music, crediting one of her favorite memories to baking cookies with her grandmother while listening to Patsy Cline. Those little

moments are one of the many reasons why Kramer hopes to share her music with others. And she's doing just that as the singer-songwriter is lighting up country music with her emotionally moving songs and sweet, country vocals, selling over 150,000 digital singles in the first six months.

"Country music is in my blood. I love country music because it tells a story and I have a lot of stories to tell," she said.

Through the process of touring and recording her second album, she has also learned to believe in herself and trust her instincts.

"I will always be changing, but where I am right now is 100 percent authentic of who I am and how I perform. I am serious and I am competitive," said Kramer, who wrote six of her sophomore album's 11 songs. "I am loving and I am fun. I am very sassy and I don't back down. I still have that edge, but I am going to write songs from the heart and you're going to know who I am through every song on the album. These 11 songs on this album are me to a 'T'."

Some of Jana Kramer's hit songs

- "Why Ya Wanna"
- "Whiskey"
- "I Hope It Rains"
- "Love"
- "I Got The Boy"

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call 320.485.2182 for more information





Gary Allan

MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY 8:40 PM • www.garyallan.com

Dictionary.com defines freedom as “the power to determine action without restraint.”

Thus, Gary Allan's *Set You Free* is a perfectly-named, well-conceived album that embodies his own evolution toward personal, creative freedom. The album, sequenced with a storyline in which a man breaks the restraints of a failed relationship and conquers the loneliness of its aftermath, is the result of Allan's own journey as a man and as an artist.

“It's all about healing,” Allan said. “It's all about the evolution of getting better.”

He has, to be sure, drawn heavily from that viewpoint, mixing honky-tonk bravado and grainy isolation across eight previous studio albums, all the while mining the emotional turf that fuels a life well-lived: the joys of parenting, the heartache of personal loss, the testosterone of disagreement and the unpredictability of love.

“There's no better thing than to have all your best friends come over and to talk about the emotions that you're having,” Allan said. “Songwriting is the best therapy in the world.”

Allan is also good as new in a literal, physical way. *Set You Free* is the first album he recorded since the removal of a polyp on his vocal cords that had doggedly restricted his range, his strength and his expression.

The Southern California-born Allan has been exploring the thorns since the beginning of his musical life, when he played the clubs during his high school years. After graduation, he developed a following in the area, regularly attracting an audience that featured a rare mix of rednecks in western boots and neo-Goths with piercings and spiked hair.

Allan was particularly inspired in a concert by the

Highwaymen – Waylon Jennings, Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash and Kris Kristofferson – to pursue music that mined the dangerous side of life.

“They were so powerful,” Allan reflects. “It was like punk rock to me. It was so hardcore. I really, really wanted to be a part of that lifestyle.”

His latest album's lyrical journey from darkness to light reflects much of what went on behind it – the progression of Allan's own life as an adult, the restoration of his voice, the renewed energy from working with new songwriting partners and the challenge of producing his own tracks and playing his own lead guitar. All of those changes have given him a new sense of freedom.

“I seem to gravitate musically toward wherever I'm at in my life at that time,” Allan said. “And I'm in a real good place.”

Some of Gary Allan's hit songs

- “Her Man”
- “Right Where I Need To Be”
- “Man to Man”
- “Tough Little Boys”
- “Nothing On But the Radio”
- “Best I Ever Had”
- “Life Ain't Always Beautiful”
- “Watching Airplanes”
- “She's So California”
- “Get Off on the Pain”
- “Every Storm Runs Out of Rain”



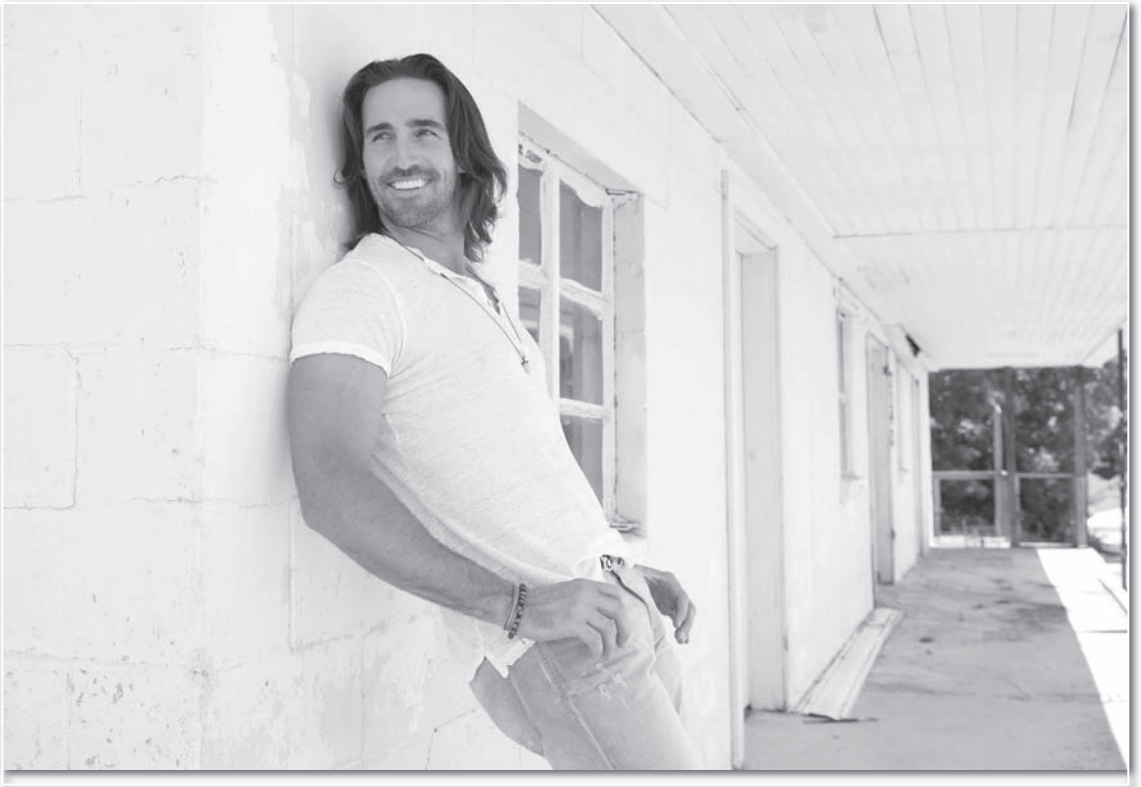
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For more information go to www.winsted.mn.us





See interview with Jake
Owen on page 32

Jake Owen

MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY 10:45 PM • www.jakeowen.net

These truly are golden times for Jake Owen.

And with the release of his fourth album, *Days of Gold*, they've gotten even brighter.

"I want people to feel more than they did with *Barefoot Blue Jean Night*," Jake said, referencing his watershed 2011 album, which netted him four consecutive number-one singles and garnered him the ACA award for Breakthrough Artist of the Year. "I want to be better, and I think this album for me is a great definition of who I am, but also a step forward."

A collection of 12 tracks that range from summery, salt-kissed songs to more introspective fare, *Days of Gold* captures Jake the artist.

"*Days of Gold* is definitive of all seasons, of the good times we all remember, the times with our friends," Jake said. "But it's more than that. There's so many instances that people can pinpoint in their own lives as days of gold."

Indeed, Jake's accessibility as country's every dude lends a heavy dose of charm to *Days of Gold*. He regularly solicits opinions from his more than 1 million Twitter followers and even enlisted them to help shape the new album. So when Jake sings, it's easy to believe he's experienced every word.

Jake emergence as one of country music's most entertaining live performers dovetails with the release of *Days of Gold*. His concerts – including an epic free summer block party he hosted for 20,000 fans in Nashville last summer – are thrilling affairs and he's won rave reviews from both fellow artists and industry insiders alike.

"The block party was a real turning point. People on Music Row were telling me how impressed they were when they came out of their offices and saw the streets

lined with fans waiting to get in," Jake said. "It made me feel great, because I moved here 10 years ago and didn't know anyone. And now, to stand on a stage and see that large of a crowd come to see me play? That's pretty cool."

And with *Days of Gold* poised to further the frenzy Jake created with *Barefoot Blue Jean Night*, those crowds are sure to grow even larger, including with his second performance at the Winstock Country Music Festival (his first as headliner).

"I can give people more than just music. I can give them an experience. And I want them to know that I'm passionate about what I do," the Vero Beach, FL native said. "I love this job and the people who allow me to do it are the fans. If I can help them recall past memories and feelings or make new ones, then I've done it well."

Some of Jake Owen's hit songs

- "Startin' With Me"
- "Don't Think I Can't Love You"
- "Eight Second Ride"
- "Barefoot Blue Jean Night"
- "Alone With You"
- "The One That Got Away"
- "Anywhere With You"
- "Beachin'"
- "What We Ain't Got"

Also appearing at Winstock '15



Drop Tailgate

BESS TENT

THURSDAY 7-11 PM • www.droptailgateband.com

Drop Tailgate blends together a good night out with the best high energy rockin' country music mixed in with a surprise or two.

The band is: April Daisy - lead vocals/acoustic guitar;

Travis Thamert - lead vocals/rhythm guitar; Chris Durow - bass guitar/vocals; Eric Grater - lead guitar/vocals; Danny Martdi - drums and percussion.

Chris Hawkey

MAIN STAGE

FRIDAY 4:30 PM • www.chrishawkey.com

In the jigsaw puzzle of life, there's never been any doubt about where Chris Hawkey fits.

Music has always been center stage for Chris, even before he auditioned for, and won, a job as lead singer for a rock band at the young age of 15.

Sharing his high school years with high energy nights on stages around Ohio and Indiana set a career path for the singer that continues today with the release of Chris Hawkey, his first Nashville solo album.

Although a six-year stint as lead vocalist for the hugely popular Minneapolis band Rocket Club (and three charted Billboard country singles) helped Chris develop a strong sense of musical identity, nothing prepared him for the sheer thrill of coming to Nashville in 2013 to record with an A-team group of studio musicians.

Following his dream has always been important to Chris. After high school, he went straight to broadcasting school with the hopes of finding a job in radio. He landed an internship with a station in Dayton, Ohio, and then did a morning show on the air in Virginia Beach until the station changed formats.

Following a short time in Los Angeles ("where I thought I'd try my luck at being a rock singer"), he moved back to Virginia, got married and took a radio job in Minneapolis.

When Chris isn't pursuing his music dream, he can be heard on a different microphone; he's the producer

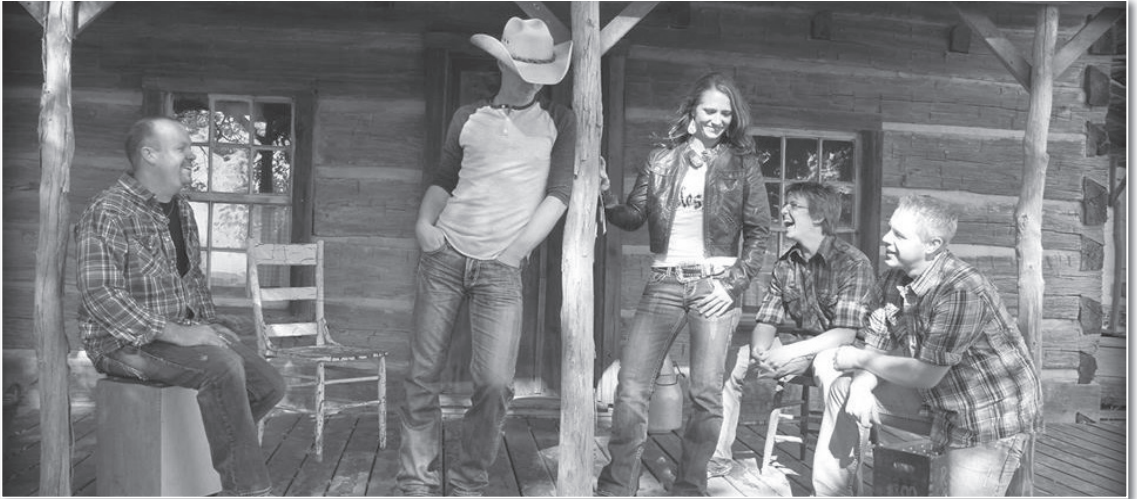


and co-host of the Power Trip Morning Show on KFAN in Minneapolis. It's the number-one sports talk show in the Twin Cities and syndicated across the Upper Midwest. He also produces all the Minnesota Vikings radio broadcasts.

"It's very different from what I do musically," he said, "except that in both cases, I spend my time trying to entertain folks."

As part of Rocket Club, the singer has shared the stage with artists like Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Sugarland, Dierks Bentley, Miranda Lambert and Eric Church, opening in front of thousands of country music fans. Now he's hoping it's his turn as a solo artist.

Also appearing at Winstock '15



Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band

EMERGING ARTIST STAGE & BEER TENT PARTY

FRIDAY 5:45 PM & SATURDAY 10:30 AM • www.theunleadedband.com

Mitch Gordon and the Unleaded Band are from the middle of Minnesota.

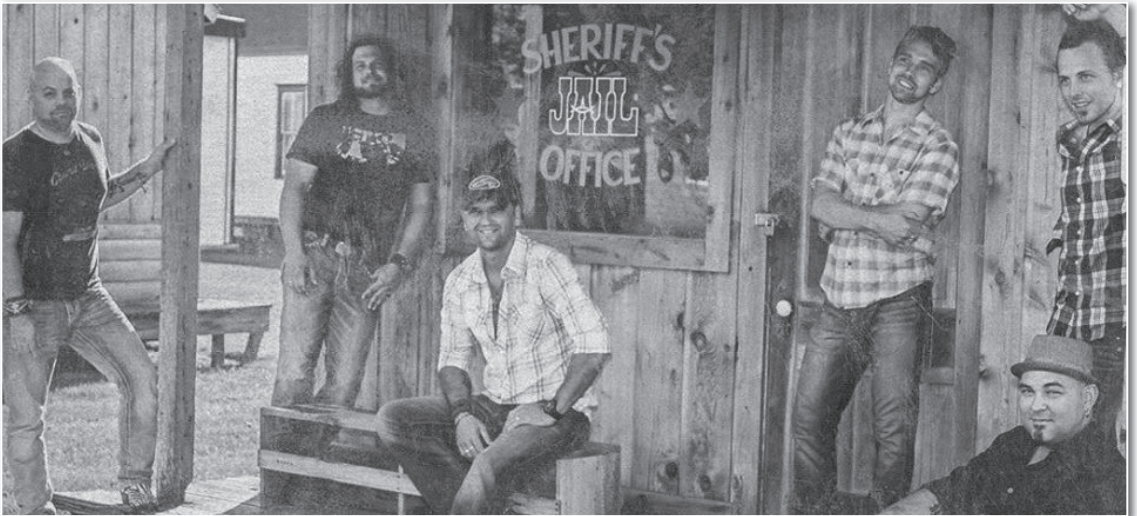
The band plays a tasteful country set list and brews it with their original tunes. Playing tunes from the great Country kickers such as Hank Williams Jr., Willie Nelson, Johnny Cash, and Winstock '15 headliner Alabama to today's powerful artists such as Jason Aldean, Dustin Lynch, Luke Bryan, and Blake Shelton.

With some great talent, maturity, and excitement on

stage, the band provides a solid country sound.

With the release of their first album, "Top Shelf," in June 2014, Mitch Gordon said, "The original material is based on a lot of different and real life activities that run through our small town minds."

The band is: Mitch Gordon - lead vocals/rhythm guitar; Neal Elder - lead guitar/vocals; Michael Paul - bass/vocals; Jeremy Schreifels - drums; Jaymi Struthers - keys/vocals.



Lost Highway

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 12:30 PM • www.losthighwaymn.com

Since its inception in 2009, Lost Highway has proven themselves to be one of the Upper Midwest region's top country bands.

From opening shows for national acts such as Hank Williams Jr. and Clay Walker, to playing outdoor festivals, or playing to capacity crowds in the hottest venues in the area, Lost Highway's commitment to country music

and electrifying crowds is evident every time they hit the stage.

The band is: Jesse Charles - lead vocals; Matthew Schwake - rhythm guitar and vocals; Nick Champeau - lead guitar; Tim Paulson - bass and vocals; Aaron SeEVERS - drums; Trent Baarspul - acoustic guitar, keys, banjo, fiddle.

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Dan + Shay

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 2:35 PM • www.danandshay.com

Since coming together a little over a year ago, Dan Smyers and Shay Mooney - known collectively as Dan + Shay - have established themselves as one of country music's most promising duos. With pristine vocals and a knack for writing clever yet relatable songs about looking for, finding, and losing love, Dan + Shay bring a youthful sense of energy to country music.

Their debut album, *Where It All Began*, harnesses that energy with 12 radio-ready tracks. The album's title comes from the last line of their debut hit single, "19 You + Me," which, upon its release, had the biggest first week by a new duo in trade publication *Country Aircheck's* history, was the most added debut of 2013 at country radio, and was certified Gold by the RIAA. The harmony-rich song reinvents the popular theme of nostalgia through a flurry of evocative imagery: you were California beautiful, I was playing everything but cool; it was everything we wanted it to be, the summer of 19 You + Me.

"19 You + Me" is where it all began, and those words are the last you hear in that song. It felt appropriate for our first album," said Shay, a native of Natural Dam, Ark. "These 12 songs really define us," added Dan, who grew up in suburban Pittsburgh. The pair first met during a late-night jam session at Dan's Nashville home. "They're honest, and this whole project started with Shay and I writing songs together. That's how we met. *Where It All Began* is the story of who we are, who we were, and who we're going to be."

Already Academy of Country Music Award nominees for Vocal Duo of the Year, Dan + Shay are following in the footsteps of their perennially lauded influences Rascal Flatts, Keith Urban and Tim McGraw. And the sing-along songs that make up *Where It All Began* evoke the sound of those artists, along with a healthy dose of '90s rock and

R&B.

Dan + Shay wrote or co-wrote all of the songs on the record and bring an educated yet hip slant to country lyrics.

"We wanted it to be a rollercoaster of emotions and a rollercoaster of sounds, something that takes listeners on a journey," said Dan.

From the introductory whistles of opening track "Show You Off," it's easy to go along for the ride. The duo's favorite to perform live, the album opener instantly identifies Shay as one of country's best young vocalists.

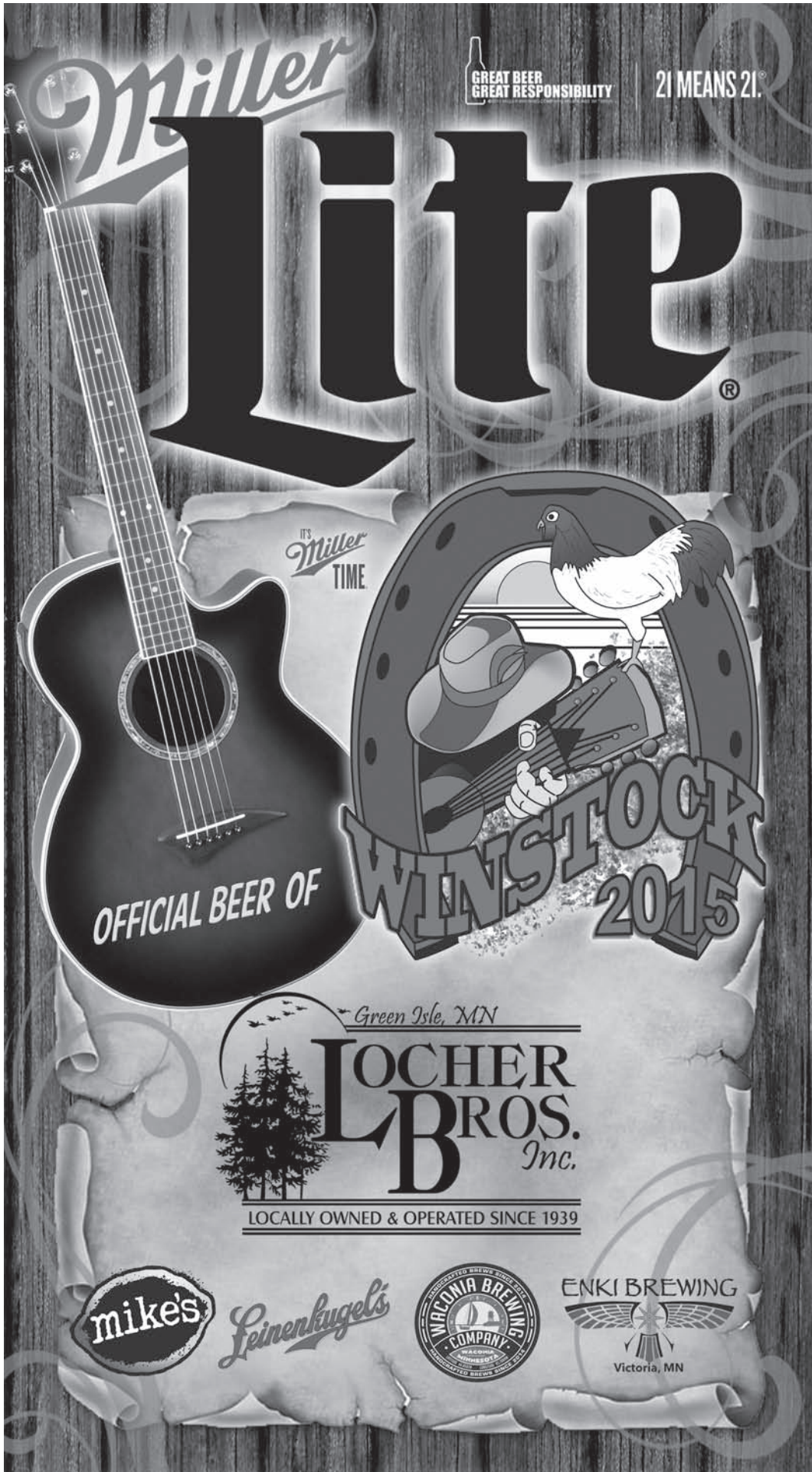
"Lyrics don't have to be cookie-cutter or straight down the middle," said Dan. But, it does help if they're conducive to group choruses, which the duo found out firsthand when touring with Hunter Hayes.

"We played 'Show You Off' for 10,000 people with Hunter Hayes and they all were singing the 'ay oh' chorus back to us," recalled Shay. "It was amazing."

Earning an RIAA Gold certification for a hit single, going on tour with Blake Shelton, being nominated for an ACM - they're all milestones that have become a part of the Dan + Shay story. And with the release of the hotly anticipated *Where It All Began*, along with a debut appearance at the Winstock Country Music Festival, the most exciting chapter is about to be written.

Some of Dan + Shay's hit songs

- "19 You + Me"
- "Show You Off"
- "Nothin' Like You"





Sam Hunt

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 4:40 PM • www.samhunt.com

At first glance, Sam Hunt might seem like a fairly typical young country singer - he grew up in a small Southern town; spent his school days concentrating on sports, feeling his attachment to music grow deeper and deeper; and came to Nashville with little idea of how the music business worked, but with big dreams.

But a closer look instantly reveals that there is nothing typical about the music that Hunt makes, nor about the way he has introduced his work to the world. In a short time and on his own terms, he has become one of Nashville's most hotly anticipated new artists, and his debut album, *Montevallo*, delivers on the buzz and the promise - and then some.

The album follows Hunt's recent four-song album preview, *X2C*, led by the top-five, gold-selling track "Leave the Night On." Of course, even though he was a recording rookie, Hunt was no stranger to the country music charts, having already written hits for the likes of Kenny Chesney, Keith Urban, and Billy Currington.

Hunt grew up in rural Cedartown, Georgia. An athlete all his life, Hunt wound up playing football through college, ending his time there as starting quarterback at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Somewhere during his time at UAB, he picked up a guitar, and while learning the songs of such great singer-songwriters as Townes Van Zandt and John Prine, Hunt began putting rudimentary chords together and writing tunes of his own.

After college, the NFL had taken notice of his talents on the field and he was invited to training camp with the Kansas City Chiefs. "I knew this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and I needed to find out if I could take it all the way," he said. "But by then I knew that if football didn't work out, I was going to Nashville."

Arriving in Music City, USA without a real understanding of the different paths an aspiring musician might pursue, Hunt was able to play a few of his original songs around town and was soon offered a publishing deal, enabling him to write full-time. He fell in with the songwriting community and the conventional methods of collaborating, but he knew that he was developing a sound that was slightly out of sync with the standard Nashville formulas.

"I always loved country music - I used to take the car keys from my mom and sit in our driveway listening to the car radio," he said. "But I was also hearing a lot of other music - hip-hop and R&B. In some ways, that really gospel-based Southern R&B might be my favorite of all."

His songs started to experiment with ways to mix more modern beats and tones with the narrative and wordplay that define the best country music. Some of the other songwriters were skeptical, but when Kenny Chesney recorded "Come Over" (written by Hunt along with Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne, who remain his close associates) and it became a number-one hit, he sensed that he was on to something. When the even more sonically daring "Cop Car" became a hit for Keith Urban, Hunt was convinced that he had found an exciting new direction, and began to shift his focus from being a songwriter to stepping out front as a solo artist.

Some of Sam Hunt's hit songs

- "Leave the Night On"
- "Take Your Time"
- "House Party"

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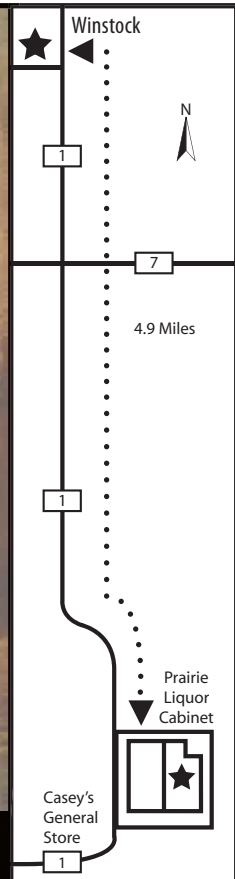
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Eli Young Band

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 6:45 PM • www.eliyoungband.com

Somewhere in the midst of 10,000 towns, along a lonely highway between packing clubs in their native Texas years ago and more recently performing stadiums on one of country music's hottest tours, the Eli Young Band became more than a band. They became a brotherhood. Camaraderie and creativity fused into an intoxicating cocktail that has propelled the talented foursome to the vanguard of contemporary country music.

With three number-one hits under their belts, as well as a Grammy nomination and an Academy of Country Music Award for Song of the Year for their hit "Crazy Girl," the Eli Young Band approached their second Republic Nashville album, *10,000 Towns*, with a sense of confidence and purpose. "We were genuinely excited about making this new record," said bassist Jon Jones. "People talk about the sophomore record being really tough to make and, in a lot of ways, this felt like our sophomore record – even though it's technically our fifth record as a band."

"We learned over the progression of those records our strong points in the studio, and we were confident," added drummer Chris Thompson, "We knew what we wanted and how to get what we wanted." It's been a long, steady rise for Jones, Thompson, lead vocalist Mike Eli and guitarist James Young, but the same four musicians have been together from the start and are now reaping the rewards. They began performing together in 2000 while attending North Texas State University, and honed their skills on the Lone Star state's competitive music circuit by building a rabid fan base who appreciated their potent live shows and the edgy, passionate indie albums that preceded their major label ascension.

With the 2011 release of their Republic Nashville debut, *Life at Best*, the Eli Young Band scored their first number-one hit with "Crazy Girl." The double-platinum single

became the number-one most played country song of the year on Billboard's 2011 year end chart, and earned them the ACM Award for Song of the Year. The band's next single, "Even If It Breaks Your Heart," became their second number-one and was certified platinum.

After years of paying dues and gaining experience, the Eli Young Band is at the top of their game. While they started playing in tiny clubs, they've graduated to packing out theatres and mid-size venues as a headliner. Their road dog reputation helped them to earn an opening slot playing stadiums on the Kenny Chesney tour. All those miles on the road and visits to 10,000 towns coalesce to make their new album the band's strongest effort yet.

There have been many miles over the years for the Eli Young Band, and that's why *10,000 Towns* felt like the right title for their new offering. "There's a general theme between small town America, where every town is different, but in some ways, they are the same," said Young.

The Eli Young Band has worked hard to get to this point and is enjoying their current success the same way they earned it – together.

Some of the Eli Young Band's hit songs

- "Always the Love Songs"
- "Crazy Girl"
- "Even if it Breaks Your Heart"
- "Drunk Last Night"
- "Dust"
- "Turn It On"



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The Band Perry

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 8:50 PM • www.thefansperry.com

Since releasing their self-titled debut album in 2010, The Band Perry has ascended to dizzying heights. Fronted by Kimberly Perry and rounded out by her younger brothers Neil and Reid, the band has notched a string of hit singles, and has enjoyed sold-out tours and a showering of honors, including multiple ACM, CMA, and CMT Music awards, as well as Grammy, Teen Choice, AMA, ACA, and Billboard Music award nominations — all of which has cemented the sibling trio as one of the hottest acts in recent history.

But despite the validation that comes with such success, Kimberly, Reid, and Neil felt as if they were walking into the unknown when it came time to write and record their second album, which they've called *Pioneer*.

"People hear the word 'pioneer' and they think of covered wagons or astronauts on the moon, but to us the idea of a pioneer is very modern," Reid said. "It reflects the idea of putting one foot in front of the other when you're unsure how to get where you're going. It's about marching forward and making noise."

"We had so many questions about our future, both personally and professionally," Kimberly added. "You can hear it in the lyrics to the song 'Pioneer,' which asks, 'Where are we going?' 'What will become of us?' After writing those lines, the song became our guiding light throughout the process of recording the album, which is why we chose it as the title track. It's truly about the last three years of our lives and trusting that the songs we wrote would lead us where we were supposed to go. We also had to let go of fear and trust the boldness that has always informed our creative decisions."

Taken as a whole, *Pioneer* enables The Band Perry to accomplish one of its primary goals: to bring the romantic mystique of bands back to music - something they've

dreamed of doing ever since forming the group in Mobile, Alabama, where the Perry kids moved with their parents after a childhood spent in Jackson, Mississippi. Kimberly started her first band at age 15, with ten-year-old Reid and eight-year-old Neil observing every rehearsal from the sidelines.

"When the drummer and bassist would take a water break, they would jump on their instruments," Kimberly recalled with a laugh. "They caught the fever immediately."

Kimberly, Reid, and Neil spent the next ten years traveling, performing, and honing their skills before signing with Universal Republic in 2009, and being catapulted into the spotlight with "If I Die Young." To this day, they are most comfortable onstage.

"Our show is very aggressive," Kimberly said. "There are a lot of electric guitars and hard-hitting drums, and the music on *Pioneer* captures that." "Playing the new songs has given our live show a new burst of energy, and the crowd feels it, too."

Soon enough, the crowd at Winstock '15 will feel it, too.

Some of The Band Perry's hit songs

- "If I Die Young"
- "You Lie"
- "All Your Life"
- "Postcard From Paris"
- "Better Dig Two"
- "Done"



See interview with Jeff Cook of Alabama at winstockfestival.com

Alabama

MAIN STAGE

SATURDAY 10:30 PM • www.thealabamaband.com

It's been 40 years since a trio of young cousins left Fort Payne, Alabama, to spend the summer playing in a Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, bar called The Bowery. It took Randy Owen, Teddy Gentry, and Jeff Cook six long years of tip jars and word-of-mouth to earn the major label deal they'd been dreaming of, but then seemingly no time at all to change the face of country music.

Alabama is the band that changed everything. They reeled off 21 straight number-one singles, a record that will probably never be equaled in any genre. They brought youthful energy, sex appeal, and a rocking edge that broadened country's audience and opened the door to self-contained bands from then on, and they undertook a journey that led, 73 million albums later, to the Country Music Hall of Fame and the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Alabama & Friends, a recent recording, commemorates that summer at The Bowery, and catalogues the lasting influence the group has had on generations of country stars who draw inspiration from the sparkling harmonies, irresistible stage presence and world-class songwriting and song selection that made them superstars. It brings together some of country's biggest stars, each bringing a unique musical approach to classic Alabama songs that have influenced them.

The diversity and star power of the artists speaks volumes about the breadth and depth of Alabama's legacy. Contributing their own versions of Alabama classics are Jason Aldean, Luke Bryan, Kenny Chesney, Eli Young Band, Florida Georgia Line, Jamey Johnson, Toby Keith, Rascal Flatts, and Trisha Yearwood.

"I thank God I'm here to see these great artists see fit to sing some of the songs we did," said Owen, with the Everyman sincerity that has helped so many identify with the humbly born superstars.

"It's very much an honor," added Cook, "that they'd take part in an Alabama tribute. We had a lot of fun working with them, and I think the finished product testifies to both the fun and the quality that went into it."

The songs chosen for the project represent just the tip of the iceberg that is the band's catalog, but they speak, to hear Gentry tell it, to the key to the band's legacy.

"More than anything," he said, "our longevity is a tribute to the hard work we did in selecting songs, because it's the

Some of Alabama's hit songs

- "Tennessee River"
- "Feels So Right"
- "Love in the First Degree"
- "Mountain Music"
- "Take Me Down"
- "Dixieland Delight"
- "The Closer You Get"
- "Roll On (Eighteen Wheeler)"
- "If You're Gonna Play in Texas (You Gotta Have a Fiddle in the Band)"
- "Can't Keep a Good Man Down"
- "Song of the South"
- "High Cotton"
- "Down Home"
- "Born Country"
- "I'm in a Hurry (And Don't Know Why)"
- "The Cheap Seats"
- "Give Me One More Shot"
- "She Ain't Your Ordinary Girl"

songs that people remember."

Capping the project are two new tracks by Alabama, songs that find the band making music that sounds both classic and relevant. They worked with legendary producer Harold Shedd, who worked with them in those golden early days and went on to discover Shania Twain, Toby Keith, and many others.

"I suggested to Jeff and Teddy that Harold work with us on the new stuff," Owen said, "and they agreed. It was spine-tingling when he said yes. It's a story-book episode in my life and in the career of Alabama to have Harold being on board and to see him as excited as we were after all these years."

"We hadn't worked together in years," added Shedd, "but within a couple of hours, we had some things that sounded like Alabama did in 1980. It was like Alabama reborn."

"I always worry about putting out anything new at this point," Gentry said with a laugh, "knowing it has to stand up to a pretty strong track record," but agreed the new material does just that. He calls "That's How I Was Raised" right down the heart of the plate simple country song that showcases our harmonies," and "All American" "a song that says a lot of things that need to be said about our country."

The project came about as the trio realized their 40th anniversary was at hand.

"We got to talking and said, 'Let's do some shows and play some of the places we haven't played before, like the Ryman and the Fox Theatre in Atlanta,'" said Gentry.

"We kicked off the tour in Myrtle Beach and took our music back to our fans," Cook added. "We've all done enjoyable projects separately in the years since our last tour, but we all realize we're stronger as a unit."

The band was revolutionary in more than one sense. "We were renegades in sneakers and T-shirts," said Gentry. "We had long hair and played loud, and some of the country folks resisted us for a while. But then, of course, they did accept us and then after that, our success made it lots easier for other bands to try it in country music."

The fact that some of the heirs of that legacy - Eli Young

Band, Rascal Flatts and Florida Georgia Line - are among the stars paying tribute on Alabama & Friends is part of their legacy as surely as the awards and plaudits they've earned through the years. And those, of course, have been legion. They include more than 150 major industry nods, including two Grammys, the Minnie Pearl Humanitarian award, Entertainer of the Year awards three times from the CMA and five times from the ACM, as well as the latter's Artist of the Decade award. They were named the RIAA's Country Group of the Century.

But awards are only a part of a legacy that finds its most important home in the hearts of listeners everywhere. Some of those are superstars in other genres, as Owen found out not long ago.

"I was part of a benefit concert at the Ryman," he said, "and I look over, there's Jon Bon Jovi. He walked over and said hello and it turns out he likes our music."

Many more, of course, are everyday country fans.

"A lot of fans will start a conversation with, 'I don't want to bother you,'" said Cook, "but what they don't understand is that everything that's happened to us, every one of those awards, happened because we've been accepted and supported by our fans."

Not long ago, Gentry was witness to a scene that shows that their legacy of song remains as fresh as it was when that streak in the '80s kicked it all off.

"I was in Nashville," he said, "walking by this club full of young people - I'm talking 18 or 20. The band started playing 'Dixieland Delight' and everybody in the place started singing and sang all the way through. I had to smile at the longevity of the songs. I think that's a tribute to the fact that we spent a career putting out good songs that stand the test of time."

With Alabama & Friends, all of us who agree get to celebrate that accomplishment and its legacy one more time. Winstock Country Music Festival organizers are honored to bring the time-tested country band to the stage to hear all the hits performed live by the men who lived them.

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Winstock through the years

2014

Toby Keith
Rascal Flatts
Justin Moore
Billy Currington
Jerrod Niemann
Ashley Monroe
Mel Tillis
Danielle Bradbery
Chase Rice
Krystal Keith
Katie Armiger
Maiden Dixie
Tim Sigler Band
Shane Martin Band
Roadhouse 6

2013

Luke Bryan
Dierks Bentley
Miranda Lambert
Kip Moore
38 Special
Sawyer Brown
Neal McCoy
The Farm
Charlie Worsham
Joel Crouse
Drake White
Maiden Dixie
Mitch Gordon & the
Unleaded Band
DiamondBack
Greg Michaels Band

2012

Blake Shelton
Martina McBride
Willie Nelson
Gary Allan
Uncle Kracker
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
Frankie Ballard
Sunny Sweeney
Dustin Lynch



Brooks and Dunn brought their "Cowboy Town" tour to Winstock in 2009.

Brett Eldredge
Wade Bowen
Rocket Club
Tim Sigler
The Unleaded Band
Wylee

2011

Jason Aldean
Darius Rucker
Montgomery Gentry
Rodney Atkins
The Oak Ridge Boys
Josh Thompson
James Otto
Gloriana
Troy Olsen
Joanna Smith
Carter's Chord
DiamondBack
RIZE
Blurred Vision
Hitchville

2010

Alan Jackson
Dierks Bentley
Sara Evans
Josh Turner
Ronnie Milsap
Phil Vassar
Jake Owen
BlackHawk
Trailer Choir
David Nail
Randy Montana
Her and Kings County
Rocket Club
The Wayne Renn Band
White Creek
Blurred Vision

2009

Brooks & Dunn
Big & Rich w/Cowboy
Troy
LeAnn Rimes
Billy Currington
Heidi Newfield
Neal McCoy
Bucky Covington
The Lost Trailers
Randy Houser
Trailer Choir
Casey Carlson
Always ... Patsy Cline
The Daisy Dillman Band
The Dixie Hicks
The Smok'n Guns
Roy Dawson and the
Bootleggers



Toby Keith didn't let a little rain prevent him from delivering a stellar performance in 2014, saving the night for Winstock fans.

2008

Reba McEntire
Montgomery Gentry
Craig Morgan
Kellie Pickler
Sawyer Brown
Keith Anderson
Emerson Drive
Bomshel
Lady Antebellum
Emily West
The Lost Trailers
DiamondBack
Ten Cent Biscuit
featuring Lisa Bailey
The Dixie Hicks
RIZE

2007

Trace Adkins
Gretchen Wilson
The Bellamy Brothers
Diamond Rio
Rodney Atkins
Miranda Lambert
Eric Church
Sarah Buxton
Flynnville Train
Halfway to Hazard
White Creek
Marshall Star Band
KeyStone featuring
Brittany Lee
The Wayne Renn Band
Chopper - The World's
Nuttiest DJ

Winstock through the years

2006

Lynyrd Skynyrd
Lonestar
Charlie Daniels
Roy Clark
Phil Vassar
Terri Clark
Blake Shelton
Jamie O'Neal
Little Big Town
Shannon Brown
The Lost Trailers
DiamondBack
White Creek
The Law
The Beer Daddys

2005

Lee Ann Womack
Neal McCoy
Glen Campbell
Charley Pride
SHeDAISY
Darryl Worley
Joe Nichols
Dierks Bentley
Craig Morgan
Sugarland
Keith Anderson
Hanna-McEuen
Rockie
Chace Roberts
Connie Kappel-Sather
and
The About Time Band

2004

Keith Urban
Montgomery Gentry

Tracy Byrd
Trace Adkins
Sawyer Brown
The Oak Ridge Boys
Phil Vassar
Carolyn Dawn Johnson
Jimmy Wayne
Prairie Rose
White Creek

2003

John Michael
Montgomery
Martina McBride
Loretta Lynn
Ronnie Milsap
Sara Evans
Darryl Worley
Trick Pony
Gary Allan
Rebecca Lynn
Howard
Prairie Rose

2002

Jo Dee Messina
Lonestar
George Jones
Trace Adkins
Chad Brock
BlackHawk
The Kentucky
HeadHunters
Blake Shelton
The Wilkinsons
Junior Brown
The Clark Family
Experience



Having performed at Winstock '01, '04, and '11, The Oak Ridge Boys are Winstock fan favorites.

2001

Neal McCoy
Sammy Kershaw &
Lorrie Morgan
The Oak Ridge Boys
Travis Tritt
Aaron Tippin
Terri Clark
Chely Wright
Rascal Flatts
Eric Heatherly
Tim Rushlow
Keystone

2000

Sawyer Brown
Diamond Rio
Bryan White
Merle Haggard
The Wilkinsons
Mark Wills
Montgomery Gentry
Sherrie Austin
Sons of the Desert
Chace Roberts Band
Janie Miller

1999

John Michael
Montgomery
Deana Carter
Tracy Byrd
BlackHawk
Jo Dee Messina
Ty Herndon
The Kinleys
John Conlee
Chace Roberts Band
Wayne Renn Band
High Noon

1998

Pam Tillis
Martina McBride
Neal McCoy
The Mavericks
Joe Diffie
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band

Ricochet
Michael Peterson
Chely Wright
The Killer Hayseeds
Mary Sue Englund

1997

Tracy Lawrence
Toby Keith
Jo Dee Messina
Little Texas
BlackHawk
Paul Brandt
James Bonamy
Stephanie Bentley
High Horse
Wayne Renn Band
Doolin Dalton Band

1996

Tanya Tucker
Collin Raye
Doug Supernaw
Ricochet
Charlie Daniels Band
Shenandoah
Daryle Singletary
High Horse

1995

Sammy Kershaw
Ricky Skaggs
Michelle Wright
Lee Roy Parnell
Nitty Gritty Dirt Band
Boy Howdy
Molly & the
Heymakers
Trailer Trash
Naked Cowboys
Pop Wagner

1994

Waylon Jennings
Crystal Gayle
Paulette Carlson
Fox River
Midnight Rider
Doc Holliday



Miranda Lambert, the Academy of Country Music's record holder for most consecutive female vocalist wins, performed at Winstock in 2013 and 2007.

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An interview with Jake Owen

By Ryan Gueningsman

Minnesota will always hold a special place in Jake Owen's heart – and not just because it has treated him well in his music career.

"I come to Minnesota a couple times a year," Owen said in a recent interview. "I enjoy it every time. It's beautiful up there."

However, a couple years ago, the trips to Minnesota were less than beautiful.

Owen's father, Steve, was at Mayo Clinic battling cancer. Now, the elder Owen is cancer free, "thanks to the fine people at Mayo."

"I'm very thankful to Minnesota for taking care of my dad," Owen said.

Jake said his father had a two-year cancer checkup several weeks ago, and that he remains cancer free.

"Two years in to it, and still going strong," Owen said. "We're very thankful and blessed."

Owen's string of hits on country radio has also given him much to be thankful for. The hit "Beachin'" was his fifth number-one hit, while his most recent single, "What We Ain't Got" shows a different side of the typically fun-loving, laid-back Owen.

"I got a lot of great feedback on that song," Owen said. "It meant a lot to a lot of people, and it was a really strong song, lyrically."

The Florida native said he thinks a lot of songs take people away from real life and make them feel a fantasy listening to songs.

"That one is a pretty sobering song that brings you back to real life, and I like that," he said. "It did really well for me and I'm proud we were able to put it out."

Fans anticipating new music from Owen will have to wait – but not long. He expects to have a single from his next album out right around the time of his Winstock appearance.

"I'm excited for people to hear it," Owen said of his new music. "Hopefully, it'll be a fun, summer song – the first one we put out."

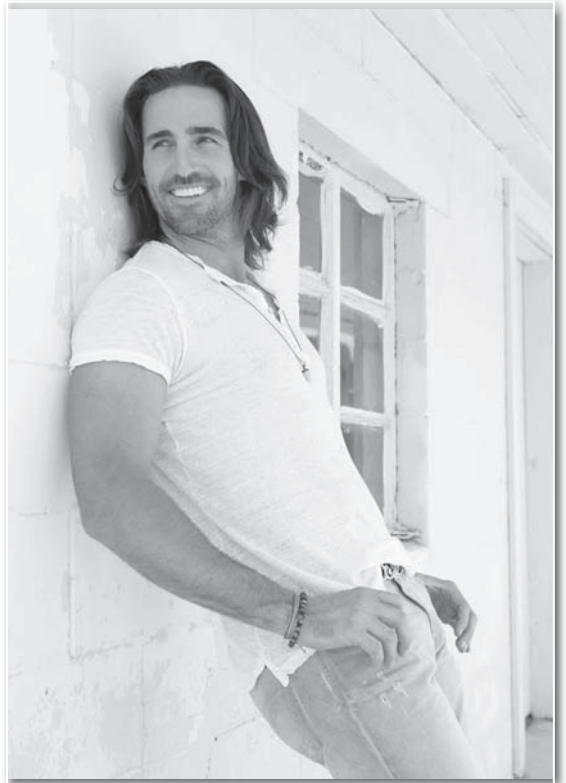
He said his new music will be a lot of the good time, fun, feel good kind of tunes that have grown from what Owen has released before.

"Something that will maintain my own brand and vibe of what I do, yet have a little different flair to it," he shared.

Developing that vibe is something that has come naturally to Owen in the past nine years, since "Startin' With Me" introduced him to country radio in 2006.

He admits it's taken a lot of hard work, traveling, and "sweat, blood, and tears," and said, "I'm still working at it, and it's still a grind and I'm still trying to get to where I want to be with not only my career, but my life, and I guess that's part of life and everyone, no matter what you do for a living, I think get up each morning, put one foot in front of the other and keep it going."

Just keeping it going led to that impressive string of number-one hits, including "Barefoot



Jake Owen headlines Winstock 2015 Friday night.

Blue Jean Night," "Alone With You," "Anywhere With You," and "The One That Got Away."

Engagement with his fans has reaffirmed the direction his career is going and what they expect from him as a musician – and he embraces the technology that allows him to have that connection with his fans.

"I do the best I can through the social media platforms I have," Owen said. "I just think people love that. I think it's a different time in our world these days, where the first thing they do is revert to Twitter or Facebook or Instagram or something in order to connect the folks like us that people are fans of."

And vice versa. Social media not only helps Owen's fans stay connected to him – it helps him stay connected with his fans and know what they're saying about him.

"It's important for artists to use that to their best ability because it shows the fans that you care," Owen said. "I work hard and I've always wanted to do anything I could to get everything I do closer to the people who enjoy it – and I think that's a good way to do it."

Two of those people who enjoy what Owen does are his wife, Lacey, and daughter, Pearl.

"They come out as much as possible as they can," Owen said about bringing his family on the road. "My little girl started preschool here the last few months, so she stays home a little more than she used to, but it's part of her growing up and that's that cool thing. She's learning and has little friends, but I love when they come out on

the road.

"It really makes me very happy when they're out here, and I miss them when they're not," Owen said.

In addition to Winstock, Owen plans to spend most of his summer with Kenny Chesney and crew on the Big Revival Tour. Then, Owen said he will kick off his own headline tour in January 2016.

"We just put a lot of pride into our show and the excitement of it. A lot of energy," Owen said. "It's all about entertaining, combined with songs I've been lucky enough to have on the radio."

At his first appearance at Winstock in 2010, he showed the crowd he means business when it comes to entertaining – even in the rain.

"A lot of the guys that were with me when we came and played in the rain there (in 2010) will be there with me this time around," Owen said. "Other than one or two people, everyone that's played

with me has been with me for a very long time."

Making the jump from opening act to headliner for Owen is, well, like most other things for him, something that's come naturally – and is appreciated.

"It's fulfilling to all of us to go back to a place we've played before, and this time be headlining," Owen said.

And to be co-headlining Winstock '15 with icons Alabama?


"I've always looked up to them as artists, and my tour manager was with them for 25 years, so it will be cool to co-headline with Alabama," Owen said. "That'll be pretty great."

Jake Owen takes the Winstock '15 stage Friday, June 12 at 10:45 p.m.

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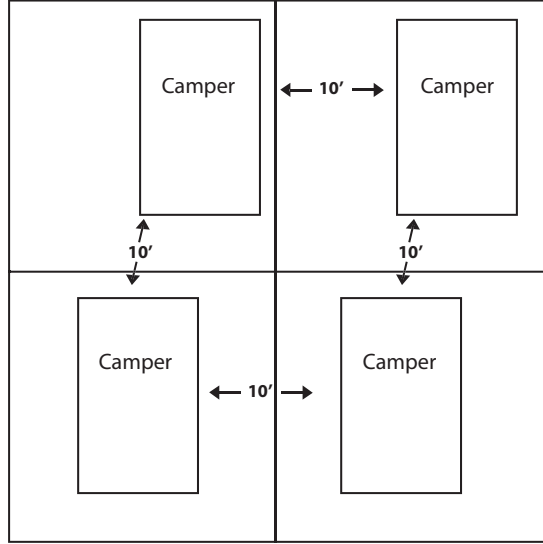


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Winstock Beanbag Tournament

The fifth-annual Winstock beanbag tournament will take place Thursday, June 11 at the Winstock festival grounds, beginning at 6:30 p.m. This is a double-elimination tournament. There will be three brackets:

A professional bracket, which will be \$30 fee per two-person-team entry. FIRST place will be two RESERVED seating tickets for Winstock 2016 and other great prizes.

An amateur bracket and co-ed bracket (NEW in 2015) will be \$20 fee per two-person-team entry (\$10 per person), with prizes.

All decisions of the tournament organizers are final.



The fifth-annual Winstock beanbag tournament is set to take place Thursday, June 11 at 6:30 p.m.

Registration

Register onsite Thursday, June 11 beginning at 5 p.m. inside festival grounds. No pre-registration accepted.

Craft beer at Winstock

Several craft beer offerings will be available at Winstock '15, including from the Waconia Brewing Company and Enki Brewing of Victoria.

Winstock organizers are excited to offer their selections at this year's event. For more information, visit www.winstockfestival.com, follow the festival on Twitter at @WinstockMN, and "like" it on Facebook.



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