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## Ben Stillwater



Charlie Daniels

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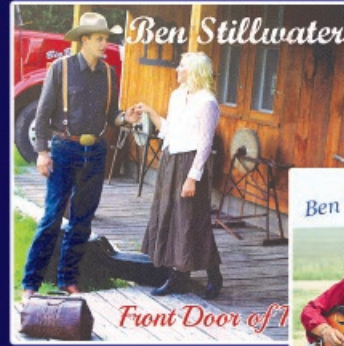


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## CONTENTS

**4... CD Reviews**  
By Brenda L. Madden

**6... Ben Stillwater**  
In Branson, Missouri

**9... Charlie Daniels**  
To Be Featured

**10... Stars Behind The Stars**  
Country Music Superstars Come Together

**11... Restaurants & Live Music**  
Writers Nights



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# CD REVIEWS

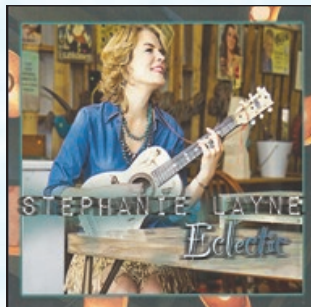
**7 Star**  
Rating System



BY *BRENDA L. MADDEN*



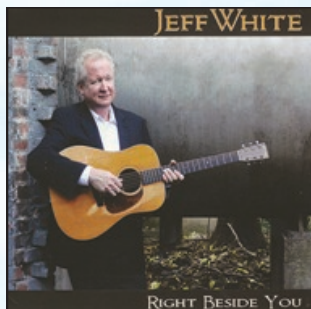
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Stephanie Layne • Eclectic  
[www.stephanielayne.com](http://www.stephanielayne.com)

**6**  
Stars

Stephanie Layne's album, Eclectic, pushes this singer/songwriter further down the road to her musical dreams. Her songwriting artistry and full-bodied vocals continue to mature. From the opening song, "Cowgirl Tough" to "One Nation Under God" and the final song, "Ride," Stephanie Layne displays a proficiency for country music and delivers a noteworthy performance.



Jeff White • Right Beside You  
[www.jeffwhitebluegrass.com](http://www.jeffwhitebluegrass.com)

**6**  
Stars

Jeff White's album Right Beside You is a collection of bluegrass material flavored with a little country and folk. Jeff, a bluegrass flatpicking guitarist, brings not only his pickin' style into the spotlight, but also shares his notable vocal and songwriting skills. From Bill Monroe's "Travelin' This Lonesome Road" to his self-penned songs, Jeff White hits the mark throughout the project.



The Cannondolls • Crumbs  
[www.cannondolls.com](http://www.cannondolls.com)

**5**  
Stars

The Cannondolls is comprised of Caitlin Cannon and Kate Willyard on vocals and Alissa Wolf on fiddle. These three talented ladies combine their creative forces to fashion a diverse Americana project. All songs on the EP were written by Caitlin and Kate and their harmonies blend well with each song interpretation. "Diamonds and Gold" and "Crumbs" stand out on the album.

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Chet O'Keefe • Because Of You  
www.chetokeefe.com

5  
Stars

Chet O'Keefe's CD, Because Of You is an Americana treasure. This singer/songwriter's smoky vocals are flavored with folk and blues influences. He is a clever storyteller and masterful interpreter of songs. Chet's skills glitter on this project, but shine especially bright on "Blue Martin" and "Because Of You." Chet O'Keefe is an artist who creates "outside the box," which allows him to construct authentic and impassioned music.



Auburn • Love & Promises  
www.auburn.org.uk

4  
Stars

The band, Auburn has captured lead singer, Liz Lenten's sultry blues style on their latest album, Love & Promises. All twelve songs on the project were written by Liz, except "If Everyone Was Listening" which she co-wrote with Mark "Gus" Gustavina. The depth of emotion Liz conveys with each single word is fascinating especially on "Miss You Blues" and the title cut, "Love & Promises."



Felicia DiVine • No! I'm Not A Stripper

4  
Stars

Felicia DiVine's album, No! I'm Not A Stripper, is an unconventional project. This edgy, rock flavored CD, begins rockin' with "Domestic Engineer" and rolls into "Act Like A Man," both high spirited numbers and ends with the gritty "Sparta, I'm Coming Home To You." A fiery performance by Felicia DeVine gives this project originality and spunk.



Albums / CD Covers



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# Ben Stillwater in Branson, Missouri

By Brenda L. Madden



**Ben Stillwater, a name synonymous with “Country & Western” music,** continues to break new ground as he brings to the Ozark Mountains his brand of music steeped in tradition from the American West. The Ben Stillwater Chuckwagon Cowboy Breakfast Show at Branson’s Center Stage is quickly becoming the talk of the town.

On Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00 a.m., the table is set for a full chuckwagon menu from cowboy coffee and eggs to biscuits and gravy. After a hearty breakfast, the fun really begins at 9:00 a.m. with a steady stream of music for an hour and a half. Ben is joined on stage by his duet partner, Cyndee Jean and musicians Mark Abbott and Dan McMasters. Together they bring tradition to life, from the dawn of the American West to the silver screen cowboys like Roy Rogers, Tex Ritter and Gene Autry. Ben highlights songs from 1935 to 1965 amid a little bit of history. Ben shares some of his Western originals as well, and during the show, the audience will also have the opportunity to catch a glimpse of Ben’s four children ranging in age from 8 to 12. Excited about the

family-friendly show, Ben comments, “Original country & western music always seems to be well received.”

As an added attraction, Ben’s “Stillwater Eldorado,” a classic ’73 Cadillac El Dorado, is on display at Branson’s Center Stage. The beautiful white convertible Cadillac with red interior and custom painted western scenes is quite the conversation piece. Also on display is a piece of western history, Ben’s chuckwagon, a covered wagon used to transport food and cooking supplies in the American West.

Despite the rigors of hosting the breakfast show, Ben continues to produce his TV show, “Country Junction.” Now working on the show with the Hughes Brothers in Branson, the show has a faster pace and higher energy allowing Ben to utilize some of Branson’s top acts.



Clips from the show can be seen on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/thebenstillwatercountryjunction](http://www.facebook.com/thebenstillwatercountryjunction) or catch it on TV networks in Springfield, MO, Bowling Green, KY and Louisville, KY.



Rattlesnake Eddie



Breakfast



Ben Stillwater and Leah Kendall



1959 Gretsch Custom Guitar

Even with all that going on, Ben still finds time to write every day. He comments, "I'm surprised I don't run out of ideas for music. I'm thankful for all the music and the thoughts and emotion of new music and I continually write songs every day. That's just a part of me. I always have a notebook in my pocket." While he performs on stage with his 1940s Gibson, he uses other guitars from his extensive collection to inspire particular styles when writing helping to add to his impressive catalog of songs and instrumentals.

When working on his most recent project with Cyndee Jean, Eight Sides of Country, Ben had the opportunity to make another dream come true when some of Nashville's well-known "A" team musicians, Hargus "Pig" Robbins, Buddy Spicher and Gene Chrisman performed on the session - a nice touch to Ben's authentic style.



1948 Gibson Super 400 Guitar

Whether on stage, in the recording studio or writing, Ben Stillwater is a true Western original keeping tradition alive!

[www.BenStillwater.com](http://www.BenStillwater.com)

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# Charlie Daniels

## To be Featured in The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum



The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum will examine the life and career of 2016 Country Music Hall of Fame inductee Charlie Daniels in the exhibition Charlie Daniels: Million Mile Reflections, opening Sept. 23, 2016, and running through March 2017. Featuring musical instruments, stage wear, manuscripts, awards, childhood mementos and previously unpublished photographs from Daniels' personal collection, the exhibit will describe his significant impact on American entertainment and explore the new musical style and image he brought to country music.

"I can't even articulate how honored I am by this exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. I couldn't think of a better name myself unless it would be Five Million Mile Reflections," said Daniels.

"Charlie Daniels forged a bracing new musical style out of bluegrass, blues, country, jazz and rock & roll. His sound quickly became popular on country, pop and rock radio stations," said museum CEO Kyle Young. "His musical journey has led him to the Country Music Hall of Fame, where he will be inducted in October. It is only appropriate that we celebrate his remarkable career with our latest exhibition."

Daniels began writing and playing music professionally in the 1950s. His first significant musical success, as co-writer of Elvis Presley's hit "It Hurts Me," came in 1964. Daniels moved to Nashville in 1967 at the urging of Columbia Records producer Bob Johnston, who hired him to play on albums by Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen and Marty Robbins. Daniels also worked as a studio musician on Ringo Starr's Nashville-recorded *Beaucoups of Blues* in 1970.

That same year, Daniels released his first solo album, on Capitol Records. In 1972, fronting the newly formed Charlie Daniels Band (CDB), he signed to Kama Sutra Records and released the album *Te John, Grease, & Wolfman*. Daniels began the Volunteer Jam in 1974 as a Southern rock festival. Over the years—he hosted sixteen through 1996—the Volunteer Jam became known for its large, diverse musical lineup. The Volunteer Jam brand later was revived as short U.S. tours (1999–2004) and as a one-time concert (2015), both headlined by the CDB. The Volunteer Jam will return on Nov. 30, 2016, to celebrate Daniels 80th birthday.

[www.CharlieDaniels.com](http://www.CharlieDaniels.com)

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# Stars Behind The Stars

Support the families of slain Dallas police officers

Country music superstars didn't hesitate to come together for STARS BEHIND THE STARS to support the families of slain Dallas police officers. In light of the tragedy, more than fourteen artists, including Tanya Tucker, The Oak Ridge Boys, Mark Wills, Collin Raye, Janie Fricke, T.G. Sheppard, Kelly Lang, The Bellamy Brothers, T. Graham Brown, Johnny Lee, Gene Watson, John Conlee, Ronnie McDowell, Mickey Gilley, Moe Bandy and Randy Travis performed during a benefit concert at the world-famous Billy Bob's Texas Wednesday, July 27.



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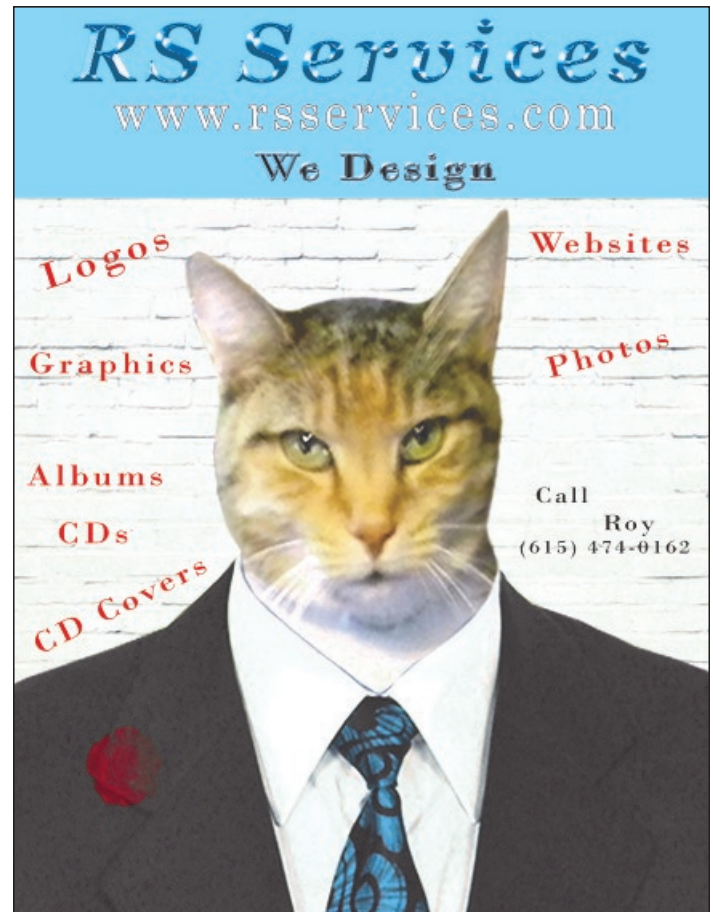
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