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Crystal Gayle

Hometown Super Stars



Brenda was always loved to sing. Her family moved to Wabash when she was four years old. She graduated from Wabash High School in 1954. The same year she hit the United States country charts with "The Circle (The Blue Right Out Of My Eye)". Her already famous sister—Loretta Lynn—was named for Brenda as they drove past her home. Loretta said, "Crystal is bright. Crystal Gayle was born."

In 1976, Crystal Gayle was voted the Year by the Academy of Country Music. Her singular sound crossed over into pop. She explores her talent through a variety of projects. When the Ford Theater was the first performer—she even sang

"I miss the days at Wabash High School and being with friends, like Pam Kessler. I had a lot of good friends. I remember going to the Eagle's Theater, walking everywhere we went, and leaving your doors up. I look forward to being back."



Hank Williams Jr



Travis Tritt



Tim McGraw

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Tim McGraw's ~ NYC CD Release Party

by CEU Editor Cindy Gordon



I recently had the pleasure of attending Pandora's Tim McGraw's CD Release Party for his latest CD, "Damn Country Music" on November 11, 2015 in NYC. I had no idea what to expect. When I arrived, there were long lines on both sides of the venue. Five hundred lucky fans from all over the United States traveled to attend this special event.

The tension mounted as fans waited eagerly for Tim and his band to start the show. With a strong, edgy, new drum-driven intro, Tim McGraw and band appeared on stage to a

thrilled audience and broke into his recent hit and one of my favorite songs, "Truck Yeah."

McGraw included a good mix of both older and newer hit songs and three new songs from his latest CD, included "California," title track "Damn Country Music" and "Here Tonight" which he sings with his daughter Gracie on the CD. I really liked these three new songs. He sang a few of his recent hits including "Southern Girl," and "Shotgun Rider." Then he dug deep and performed some of his greatest hits and some of my personal favorites including "Down on the Farm", "Just to See You Smile," "Where the Green Grass Grows," and "Real Good Man." It was pure heaven hearing him sing; his warm vocals, so comforting. His new band was really tight and did an excellent job. McGraw and band closed the show with an encore performance of a song close to his heart, "Live Like You Were Dying."



Being it was a close knit concert, so many special moment happened aside from the concert itself. The guy in front of me, told me that Tim usually taps him in the face at each concert he attends. He had two drinks from the bar in his hand, so I figured maybe he's an obnoxious drunk or something! But he said, no, just for fun. So sure enough, Tim McGraw came out, saw the guy and tapped him. McGraw then saw that his friend was wearing a bathrobe and slippers to the concert! He grabbed the guy's hand and pulled him onto the stage. Tim was laughing! It was too funny.

Then later, one lady told him she was thirsty, so he grabbed a bottle of water in the back near the drumset and handed it to her. I couldn't believe it! So devoted to his fans, he took the time to sign a whole bunch of autographs, and came around a few times shaking and holding people's hands; it was all pretty amazing. A very special concert for his truly devoted fans.

All in all, a very special concert for a lot of happy and lucky Tim McGraw fans. It doesn't get much better than that!

www.TimMcGraw.com

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Wabash County Historical Museum Names Theater Unveils New Exhibit in Honor of Country Music Superstar *Crystal Gayle*



Crystal Gayle's legacy continues to have a lasting impact in her childhood hometown with the unveiling of a theater named in her honor and an exhibit profiling her iconic career.

The Wabash County Historical Museum in Wabash, Indiana named its theater the "Crystal Gayle Theater" to honor her influence and connection to the small town in Northern Indiana.

"It's so humbling to return to Wabash and feel the love from the community. They always welcome me home with open arms. I'm so proud to be here and be part of this incredible museum," Gayle said.

The youngest of eight children, including Loretta Lynn, Gayle was born Brenda Gail Webb in Paintsville, Kentucky. As the coal mines closed, her family left the area to find work and moved to Wabash, Indiana.

The updated exhibit features a replica of Gayle's star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, 1986 American Music Award for Favorite Female Country Vocalist, "When I Dream" gold album, tour gown and tour book, 2005 Indiana Living Legend Award along with various pictures and memorabilia.

"Our community has a strong affection for Crystal Gayle and her connection to many local families and this will be a great event for them to reconnect with her and enjoy the museum," said Mitch Figert, Executive Director.

The expanded exhibit will allow the museum to further highlight Crystal Gayle's accomplishments which will also include memorabilia to be added inside the theater.

About Crystal Gayle:

Crystal Gayle is an award-winning country music living legend whose reign in the music business includes 20 number one country hits, six albums certified Gold by the RIAA and the first female artist in country music history to reach Platinum sales with her 1977 album, *We Must Believe in Magic*. Her 1977 country-pop crossover hit song, "Don't It Make My Brown Eyes Blue," became an iconic staple and solidified her as one of the top female vocalists during the 1970s and 1980s. Her list of platinum and gold was to be matched only by her awards and accolades. CMA's "Female Vocalist of the Year," for two consecutive years, she became a Grammy Award Winner for "Best Female Vocal Performance," thanks to her beloved "Brown Eyes" - a song that she today admits she has never grown tired of singing. Crystal swept the Academy of Country Music Awards for three of their "Top Female Vocalist" statuettes. She is the recipient of three "American Music Awards," voted by the nation as America's "Favorite Female Artist." Perhaps nothing sums up Crystal's career achievements as well as being awarded with a star on the fabled Hollywood Walk of Fame in October 2009. Also famous for her nearly floor-length hair, she was voted one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world by *People Magazine* in 1983. She is the younger sister (by 19 years) of singer Loretta Lynn, and a distant cousin of singer Patty Loveless. Gayle also has a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame near Lynn's star.

www.CrystalGayle.com

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Hank Williams Jr. and Eric Church



Hank Williams Jr. blends rowdiness and twang with Eric Church on his new single "Are You Ready for the Country," during the 49th Annual CMA Awards.

Hank Jr's stellar performance of "Are You Ready for the Country," written by Neil Young but made famous by mentor Waylon Jennings in 1976, set the tone for the country music awards show that included a throwback to outlaw and traditional country. George Jones received rousing applause when Nancy Jones accepted the Joe Talbot Award, which honors outstanding leadership and contributions to the preservation of country music, on his behalf. Jones was also revered during Chris Staple-

ton's performance of Jones' 1983 hit "Tennessee Whiskey." The audience also paid tribute to Johnny Cash when his son, John Carter Cash, accepted the Willie Nelson Lifetime Achievement Award.

IT'S ABOUT TIME is Hank's 37th album in his five-decade career. He continues to add accolades to an extremely impressive resume, which has spawned 70 million albums sold worldwide, 20 gold albums, six platinum albums and 13 chart-topping albums. Hank has been named ACM Entertainer of the Year, CMA Entertainer of the Year and BMI Icon in addition to winning a GRAMMY and being inducted into the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

www.HankJr.com

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Travis Tritt

Tops Nielsen SoundScan



Multi-award winning artist, Travis Tritt, has topped the SoundScan Top 200 Catalog Country Albums chart for 50 consecutive weeks with 15 weeks spent at No. 1 and 33 weeks notched in a Top 5 position. Tritt's compilation album, *Very Best of Travis Tritt*, which was released in 2007, saw a resurgence of sales that started in November 2014. The 20-track album features some of Tritt's biggest hits, including "It's A Great Day To Be Alive," "Here's A Quarter," and "Anymore."

More than 25 years after Travis Tritt launched his music career, the Southern-rock influenced artist continues to display strong sales activity, sell-out shows, and stay true and relevant to Country music fans across the globe. This year, Tritt has sold out shows and withheld a heavy tour schedule that took him and his band across the country to play for packed out crowds. His heavy tour schedule continues into 2016.

Among Tritt's 11 studio albums and numerous charted singles are 19 Top 10 hits, including "Modern Day Bonnie and Clyde," "Love Of A Woman" and "T-R-O-U-B-L-E." His 25 year career has produced millions in album sales, two Grammy award wins and multiple No. 1 singles on the Country radio charts. A Marietta, Ga. native, Travis Tritt is dubbed one of "The Class of '89," which included Country music superstars Garth Brooks, Clint Black and Alan Jackson; all whom dominated the charts in the early 90s.

Tritt formed his own label, Post Oak Recordings in 2012 and shortly after released his album *The Calm After...* Included on the album is a duet with Tritt's 17-year-old daughter, Tyler Reese. The song, "Sometimes Love Just Ain't Enough," is a cover of the 1980s pop hit. Four of the songs on the album, co-produced by Randy Jackson, were either written or co-written by Tritt. *The Calm After...* is currently available on iTunes and other major digital retailers.

www.TravisTritt.com

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