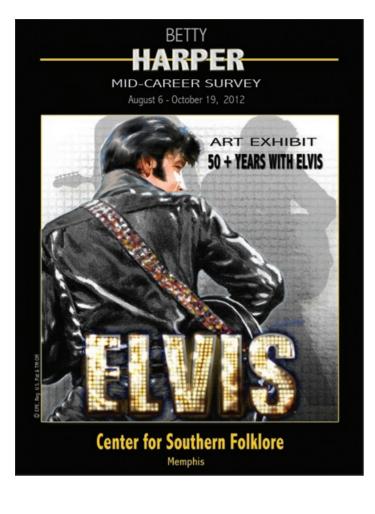
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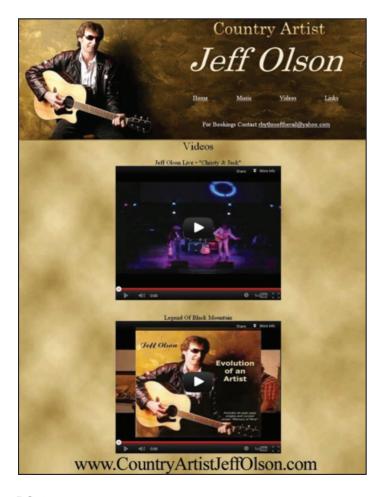


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# News Bits

# Legendary Entertainer, Kenny Rogers Inks Long-Term Exclusive Recording Contract with Warner Bros. Records

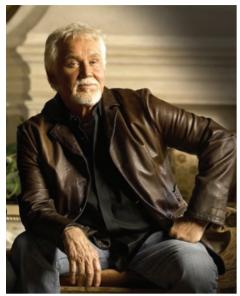


Photo by Jay Fletcher

Warner Bros. Records and Iconic Entertainer, Kenny Rogers, have announced they will join forces once again to create sweet music together. Rogers made the revelation Wednesday night during his first of two sold-out performances at the Ford Theater in Nashville as the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum's 2012 Artist-in-Residence.

Rogers, whose catalog on Warner Bros./Reprise Records includes a string of multi-platinum albums and career hits recorded over the span of several decades, returns to where it all began in 1967 when his career was ignited with his mega-hit with the First Edition, "Just Dropped In (To See What Condition My Condition Was In)." Rogers' new album is being produced by award-winning producer, Dann Huff, and is scheduled for release later this year.

"I'm looking forward to returning home to Warner Bros. Records after all these years," commented Rogers on his new deal. "Our history together, combined with the incredible team that's in place now, provides the catalyst for a great new relationship going forward."

"With his unique storytelling ability and soulful voice, Kenny Rogers' music has touched generations across all musical formats. He has not only had a remarkable career but is truly an American icon," said John Esposito, President & CEO of Warner Music Nashville. "Warner Music Nashville looks forward to continuing his musical legacy but more importantly, having him back home at Warner Bros. Records."

Recognized as one of the greatest entertainers and storytellers of all time, Rogers celebrated his 50th year in show business in 2008. In the incomparable span of his career, Rogers has sold more than 120 million records worldwide and recorded more than 65 albums. His long list of timeless classics includes an impressive 24 #1 hits - "The Gambler," "Lady," "Lucille," "She Believes in Me," "Islands in the Stream," and "We've Got Tonight" among them. Two of Rogers' albums, The Gambler and Kenny, are featured in the About.com poll of "The 200 Most Influential Country Albums Ever", and his Greatest Hits album has sold over 24 million copies worldwide to date. He is the RIAA's 8th best-selling male artist of all time with 1 Diamond album, 19 Platinum albums and 31 Gold albums.

"The Gambler," one of the biggest hits of Rogers' career, spawned five movies and became the longest running mini-series in the history of U.S. television seen by 100 million people. Rogers starred as Brady Hawkes. In addition, Rogers is an accomplished photographer, having studied under the assistant of photography great, Ansel Adams. He has published three photography books and authored four books, including one based on his hit tour and musical, "The Toy Shoppe."

A selfless humanitarian, Rogers assumed his position at the forefront of the movement to aid the hungry after the death of his friend Harry Chapin - leading to the World Hunger Media Awards. He was also a participant in the "We Are the World" performance which raised millions for famine relief in Africa. Born in Houston, and raised in a housing project, Rogers was awarded the Horatio Alger Award in 1990, given to those who have distinguished themselves despite humble beginnings.

www.KennyRogers.com

## News Bits

# Country icon Glen Campbell will be the Grand Marshal For The Eighth Annual CMA Music Festival Kick-Off Parade



Photo by Robert Sebree

CMA kick starts 2012 CMA Music Festival on Wednesday, June 6 with The Eighth Annual CMA Music Festival Kick-Off Parade at 11:00 AM/CT, followed by The Seventh Annual CMA Music Festival Block Party at 12:30 PM/CT.

Country icon Glen Campbell will be the Grand Marshal for the Parade. Campbell last performed at CMA Music Festival in 2004. He has received two CMA Awards, including CMA Entertainer of the Year (1968) and Male Vocalist of the Year (1968), and was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2005. Last year, Campbell announced he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Since then, he released his final album, the critically-acclaimed Ghost on the Canvas, and is in the midst of his successful Goodbye Tour.

The Eighth Annual CMA Music Festival Kick-Off Parade will launch from Tenth Avenue on Broadway and end at Riverfront Park.

With Campbell as Grand Marshal, other artists are lining up to participate in the Parade including Bill Anderson, Lynn Anderson, Katie Armiger, Craig Wayne Boyd, Weston Burt, Craig Campbell, Bucky Covington, Cowboy Troy, Ira Dean, Jaida Dreyer, Due West, Tyler Farr, Florida Georgia Line,

Flynnville Train, Colt Ford, The Grascals, Greg Hanna, Amber Hayes, Angie Johnson, Little Big Town, LoCash Cowboys, Rachele Lynae, Manuel, The McClymonts, Randy Montana, Lorrie Morgan, Craig Morrison, The Oak Ridge Boys, Chase Rice, Marlee Scott, Matt Stillwell, Payton Rae, David St. Romain, The Roys, Jason Sturgeon, Trent Tomlinson, Trailer Choir, Rhonda Vincent, and Corey Wagar.

#### www.CMAfest.com



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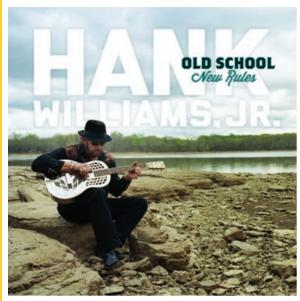
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# News Bits

# Hank Williams, Jr.'s New Album "Old School, New Rules" set for July 10th Release



Blaster Records, in association with Warner Music Nashville, announces the details of the upcoming Hank Williams, Jr. album set for release on July 10, 2012. The twelve-song package, available for presale now at www.hankjr.com, will include a duet with Brad Paisley on "I'm Gonna Get Drunk And Play Hank Williams" as well as a new duet with the legendary Merle Haggard on his classic "I Think I'll Just Sit Here and Drink." Williams' first single in several years, "That Ain't Good", has just been shipped to radio with a companion video being produced in coming weeks.

"I'm excited about this new album," Hank said. "I'm definitely 'Old School', and I am making music with 'New Rules'. People know I'm gonna say exactly what I think and this album is exactly that."

"Old School, New Rules" is the first album on Hank Williams, Jr.'s new label imprint, Bocephus Records, with a licensing deal with

Blaster Records under a Warner Music Nashville distribution deal.

With more than 70 albums to his credit, sales of 55 million records, countless awards including 5-time Entertainer of the Year awards (ACM & CMA), BMI Icon Award, a Grammy, and most recently in 2009 the Academy of Country Music "Pioneer Award," Williams is a living legend. His discography chronicles a bold profile of growth from adored offspring of a legendary father, to titan of the modern country rock movement in his own right. For two decades, America came to its collective feet each fall Monday night when this larger than life superman of a musician looked into the camera and unleashed the national anthem for viewers of Monday Night Football - 'Are You Ready for Some Football?' Those simple words have won Williams an entirely new generation of fans and given him the distinction of being the first country performer to ever win an Emmy.

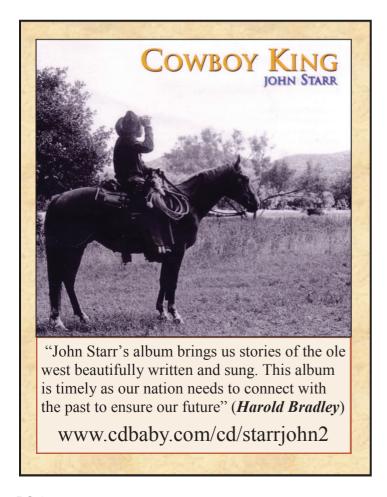
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# IndieWorld

As Reported By The IndieWorld Panel Network

Monthly Top 40 Chart - Ending May 2012 www.IndieWorldCountry.com

™ © 1999

#1 + THERE'S A WHOLE LOT ABOUT A WOMAN - Jack Greene & Nathan Osmond - Pretty World						
LW	TW		LW	TW	one a naman comena i rony mena	
2	2	SCREAM Katie Armiger - Cold River Records	24	22	LITTLE BIG SKY Susan Cattaneo - Jersey Girl Music	
4	3	QUIT THE DRINKING Chuck Thomas - MP3	25	23	OLD FREIGHT Andy Budd - Red Bush Records	
5	4	ORANGE BLOSSOMS IN PHOENIX Michelle Turley - Victorio Records	27	24	OLD DREAMS DK Davis - Route66 Records	
6	5	CALDO DE POLLO Brant Miller - Airplay Access/ MP3	29	25	THE FLAG Texas Bobby Dean-Pretty World Records	
8	6	ONE IN THE WORLD Jeff Cook - MP3	30	26	THE CHOICE Billy Gilman - MP3- James Wms. Promo.	
7	7	IN SLOW MOTION Erin Hay - WHP Records	28	27	LONELY LOVE Joey Canyon - Glo-Dot Records	
9	8	EVERYBODY HAS A PRICE Vern Stovall - Pretty World Records/MTM/CRD	32	28	YOU HAD TO PICK ON ME Matt Kennon - Road Dawg Records	
10	9	OUT THERE IS YOUR WORLD Leon Everette - Pretty World Records/ MTM	33	29	I'VE BEEN DOWN SO LONG Razzy Bailey / Ton! Otte -SOA-WHP	
12	10	IN MY MIND Steve Adkins - James Allen Promotion Team	34	30	GIMME A CHANCE John Damian - Reptile Records	
11	11	WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME Lori Smith - 615 Records	35	31	HE'S LEAVING ME Kristin Cady - Pretty World Records	
13	12	FINISHED WITH YOU Ashley Robertson - Ind. Records	36	32	TRAVELIN' BAND Sawyer Brown - Beach Street Music	
14	13	YOU DON'T KNOW JACK Rod Richmond-Red White & Blue Records	37	33	THE GTO Cheryl K. Warner - CKW/WHP Records	
15	14	YOU STILL GOT IT Darryl Worley - Stroudavarious	38	34	TRY - Jack Blanchard & Misty Morgan WHP Records	
16	15	HAPPY TOWN Christine Van Hoy - Big 7 Records	40	35	WHAT HEAVEN HAS SENT Billy Joe Burnette - Pretty World Records	
17	16	IT AIN'T EASY BEING EASY Julie Richardson - MP3/Marty Martel	39	36	ALL THE WASTED TIME - Maddy Rodriguez Alrplay Access-James Wms.Pro	
19	17	TOUCH MY HEART Michael B. Rowe - WHP Records	HI Debut	37	ME AND GEORGE STRAIT Bobby Dean - Lamon Records	
1	18	TRAVELIN' MAN Stephen A. Love - James Allen Promotions	Debut	38	BRIDGES Clinton Gregory - Melody Roundup Records	
20	19	IN YOUR ARMS Rachel Holder - Curb Records	Debut	39	COUNTRY COWBOY Marsha Jewell - Jewell Lane Records	
22	20	MOM'S OLD WOODEN CHAIR  J. D. Micals - Pretty World Records/MTM/CRD	Debut	40	POST CARD FROM PARIS Band Perry - Republic Records	
21	21	TENNESSEE WHISKEY Randolph Mchaud - WHP	HI NEWt	ENTRY	WHAT'S IT LIKE Dean Johnston - CMG Records	

Rankings are based on reports from Country Radio, Promoters, Labels, Artists, Managers, and PR Agencies. Promotional advertising is accepted in order to maintain this weekly review of Independent Country Artists. Advertising Rate Details: (615) 683-8308

#### IndieWorld

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#### "The Gentlemen of Country Music"

#### Jack Greene and Nathan Osmond

#### by Brenda L. Madden



**Over the years**, country music has produced many legends - all with struggles and triumphs just like a true country song, but none stands taller than "the Jolly Greene Giant," Jack Greene

Jack's musical career began in his hometown of Maryville, Tennessee at WGAP Radio and from there he performed with bands like The Peach Tree Boys and The Tennessee Mountain Boys. In 1962, Jack's career took an amazing turn, when Ernest Tubb, recognizing Jack's talent, asked him to be a part of the Texas Troubadours. Eventually, Jack began opening shows for Ernest and soon his solo career blossomed - beginning a career that includes nine

#1 hits and two #1 albums. Jack's signature song, "There Goes My Everything" garnered him the "Single of the Year," "Album of the Year," "Male Vocalist of the Year," and "Song of the Year" from the CMA in 1967 (these awards are currently on display at the Country Music Association offices in Nashville). His resume also includes hit songs like "All The Time," "You Are My Treasure," "Until My Dreams Come True" and "Statue Of A Fool" as well as noted accomplishments like being the first country music artist in the Macy's Day Parade and the only drum-

mer in country music to achieve stardom as a solo artist.

Due to his incredible success, Jack was invited to become a member of the Grand Ole Opry in 1967. After more than 44 years as a member, Jack Greene has become a cornerstone of this musical institution and has helped build a legacy for the next generation of country music entertainers.

Because of his good-natured personality, Jack is also known as the "Gentleman of Country Music," and is respected and loved by not only the fans but his peers as well. In 2010, LeeAnn Lallone, Jack's manager, released an album of duets entitled <u>Precious Memories, Treasured Friends</u>. It was no surprise that Jack's friends and country music family lined up to be a part of this project including his long-time duet partner, Jeannie Seely.



George Jones and Jack Greene Photo by L&L Photographics



Jack Greene and his manager LeeAnn Lallone Photo by David Bailey

Others stepping behind the microphone for this project include George Jones, Lorrie Morgan, Vince Gill, Merle Haggard, Charley Pride, Larry Gatlin, Riders In The Sky, Little Jimmy Dickens and Helen Cornelius. This album has produced yet more IndieWorld #1s for this legend -- at the age of 80!

Jack's continued success is amazing not only because of his age, but because he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's almost twelve years ago. Yet his spirit is undaunted and he is determined to live each day in happiness and while some days are better than others, his heart still sings. He's taking life slower

and smelling the roses, which gives him the time to listen to some of today's brightest singer/songwriters on the horizon.

It was Ernest Tubb that encouraged Jack to pursue his own solo career, even "kicking" him out of the Texas Troubadours to "fly" on his own. Jack is now paying forward Ernest's guidance and respect to country music newcomer, Nathan Osmond.

Nathan Osmond, son of Alan Osmond, grew up surrounded by music, television studios, tour buses and bright lights. When asked why he chose a musical path, he explains, "I saw how much joy they (The Osmonds) were bringing to the lives of so many other people and I thought that's what I want to do when I grow up."

And he has done just that making his first national television appearance in 1986 when Bob Hope invited The Osmonds 2nd Generation to appear on his Christmas show. Nathan has performed around the world with his brothers as well as appearing in the national touring musicals of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" and "You're A Good Man Charlie Brown"



Nathan Osmond and Jack Greene Photo by L&L Photographics

With his diverse background, he could have chosen any direction, but as fate and his heart would have it - he chose country music. Nathan comments, "You can sing about real life stuff. You can sing about God and country and people accept it. If there's one genre that fits who I am the most, it's country music." So when this singer/songwriter was ready to begin his solo career, he came to Nashville and connected with Lonestar member, Dean Sams, who produced four of the songs on his first album, Feels Like Heaven. The remainder of the album was produced by Gary Baker in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. From that album, he has scored two #1 songs on the IndieWorld chart with "The Tailgate Song" and "Sweet."



Nathan Osmond and Jack Greene Photo by Jerry Overcast

While Nathan works to complete his next project, he is also touring and meeting the fans - which are a priority for Nathan. When talking about the fans, he notes, "How do you gage success in the music business? I think it basically comes down to the amount of lives you touch." And like his family, he is building a strong and dedicated fan base.

Nathan is currently topping the IndieWorld chart again with "There's A Whole Lot About A Woman," a duet with Jack Greene, which will be included on Nathan's upcoming album, <u>Climbing Fences</u>. When asked about this song, Nathan comments, "How cool for a new country artist to get the opportunity to record with an Opry legend such as Jack Greene." He continues, "I am just so honored to get to work with 'the Gentleman of Country Music." That song was originally a hit for Jack in 1971 and was also included on Jack's <u>Precious Memories</u>, <u>Treasured</u> Friends as a duet with Vince Gill.

More than just a one-time duet partner, a friendship has been forged between the two. Jack is enjoying watching Nathan's career grow while Nathan is learning from a true legend. Nathan Osmond, much like Jack Greene, has an honesty, gentleness and sincerity that touch the lives of not only the fans but all those around them. A recent quote from Jack says it all, "Having received the title of 'The Gentleman of Country Music' over 43 years ago, I am excited at the thought of Nathan Osmond carrying that title into the next generation."

www.JackGreeneopry.com • www.NathanOsmond.com

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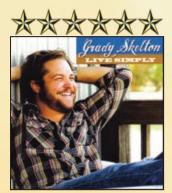
#### by Brenda L. Madden

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Country Entertainment USA P.O. Box 100985 Nashville, TN. 37224 We Review Movies Too So Send Us Your DVD's

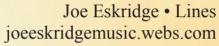
7 Star Rating System





Grady Skelton • Live Simply www.gradyskelton.com

Texan, Grady Skelton, delivers a Texas-rockin' style CD with plenty of toe-tappers like "We Like Drinkin" and "Cruel Intentions." His single, "Girl I Love" is an attention-getter and should garner some radio airplay. His vocals are strong and the production compliments the songs.



Lines showcases Joe Eskridge's writing skills as much as his vocal talent. His lyrics are relatable and strong. He delivers the songs with a smooth easy vocal style, and the production while simple at times is appropriate. The title-cut, "Lines," is a heart-wrenching and emotional songit will bring tears!





Various Artists • "Help for Today....Hope for Tomorrow"

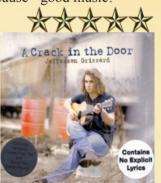
John Penney Music / Double E Promotions

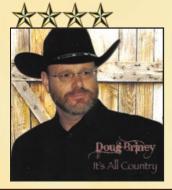
www.johnpenneymusic.com / www.doubleepromotions.com

John Penney spearheaded this project to raise money for the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Inc., by pulling together artists like Marty Raybon, Buddy Jewell, Johnny Lee Cook, T. Graham Brown and more. John's song, "I Will Be Saved" opens the CD and is an honest, from the heart, grass roots gospel song. Each song delivers a message of hope - good cause - good music!

### Jefferson Grizzard • A Crack In The Door www.jeffersongrizzard.com

Jefferson Grizzard wrote all the songs on this 11-song disc entitled, A Crack In The Door. His edgy rock style, while familiar is uniquely his own, even incorporating the steel guitar and harmonica, which is particularly nice on "Since You Come Around." His vocals are emotional and bluesy.





Doug Briney • It's All Country www.dougbriney.com

Doug Briney recorded this CD in Alaska - and while it offers up some traditional country music, there is some northwestern influences that can be heard. "Voices" is one of the best songs on the CD which was written by Chris Tompkins, Craig Wiseman and Chris Young. Doug is passionate in his vocal delivery and the production is adequate.





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# On the Fast Track with Ross Coppley

by Holly Marie Tong



"I eat, sleep and breathe what I do. Every day is a new experience and a new chapter in the book to write," smiled North Carolina native Ross Coppley as he humbly told his story, recalled memories, and spoke of plans for the future.

It is certain that his strong music focus of performing 100 shows a year is paying off as he is one of those aspiring artists that stands out in a competitive town, and produces consistent results. Within the first minute of talking to Ross, anyone can see how passionate he is about his busy career:

"It's been crazy, but I don't have any other joy I can see myself doing. I get to go home, see my family and work non-stop. It's been eye-opening and it's been a learning experience. There have been good writings that have come from it."

How can one describe his music? "I come from a rock background, but my voice is country. I have the high energy, but I'm country through and through. I like to write songs with positive life experience. My writing may not always be a story of my life, but I have at least been through something like it, and I want to make it something that anyone can relate to at anytime."



Photo by Newell Clark

Just like his personality, his songs come through as genuine and real. He writes songs that are known to have a great story, and cause fans to sing along. As an artist that has been inspired by the energy that Garth Brooks always has been known to bring to his live performances, Ross strives to have that level of connection and interaction with his fans. Excitingly, he is meeting his goals as the constant bookings and sold out shows continue. Speaking of which, you can catch Ross playing shows in different states throughout this year. The good news for Nashville fans is that you can catch him at this year's CMA fest. He will be there meeting and greeting his fans, and is sure to draw a large crowd as always.

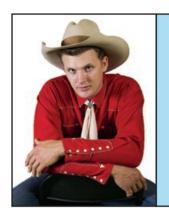
His successes make it clear that he has a positive disposition that has brought him to where he is today. "Never change who you are," advised Ross when I asked him the most important advice he had ever received. "I'm just a good southern guy that likes to have fun, and has a sense of humor. I never take life too serious....yet, I am very serious about what I do, and try to keep a good attitude along the way."

It is very obvious that he has refused to compromise who he is, as his authenticity shines through in everything he sings, says and does. Both his talent and his character, have earned him a large, supportive fan base across the US that will definitely continue to prosper. While he is currently in the midst of exciting developments, great endorsements, working on new music, and always taking that next great step, he never ceases to appreciate the moment and those around him. He is 100% about his fans and always acknowledging them, all the way back to his first supporter.

It safe to say upon listening to Ross, you will find him to be mostly country, with a little rock and roll, and something a little extra. He comes packed with powerful vocals, commercial songs, contagious endurance, and one of the most down to earth personalities that I have ever had the pleasure of witnessing in Music City. It is entertainers like him that maintain and respect the integrity that country music was built upon....and that is precisely what will take him to the top.

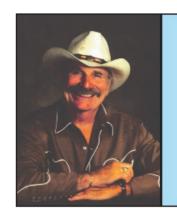
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#### 5 Star Rating System



# "Riley's Reviews"

Want your production video reviewed Then e-mail your video link to: videoreviews@countryentertainmentusa.com

We do not review pocket / cell phone camera videos or videos where you just sing or play an instrument in front of a camera.



The Roys ◆ Trailblazer http://youtu.be/iUjEfQReY0c

FRESH, Nice Bluegrass feel, Modern day Lee Ann Womack/Allison Kraus, Great Harmonies, Look forward to hearing and seeing more from The Roys...





Mike Short ♦ Drive Bye http://youtu.be/4Pm02TeP3J4



Drive Bye ~ Great Country Voice, well written lyrics, Great Video Storyline, more inflection on the word DRIVE in the chorus would've been perfect. Sounds like he's saying BYE BYE



Dean Johnston ♦ Sugar Dad http://youtu.be/awi8Egx82cU

Dean Johnston's video Sugar Dad is what I would consider one of those fun videos that you'll want to watch more than just once. It held my attention well and the video followed the story line quite nicely. I would give it thumbs up as something you will want to see and I believe this young fellow from Australia has a very promising future ahead.

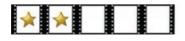




Lisa Nemzo ♦ Arlington http://youtu.be/Bokytj\_PaiI



Arlington is an awesome and inspiring story song. The biggest issue is the video is 7 minutes long. GAC, CMT as well as RFD TV will not air a seven minute video.



Neil Smith ◆ Paindrops http://youtu.be/xcvmvXdZknI

After viewing Neil Smith's video of Paindrops my first impression was great song and sung well. It is just a simple video featuring Neil and his guitar, so not a whole lot of content to critique. However I would like to have seen a shorter intro as I was wondering when we were getting to the words but once he got to them it was an awesome story song.



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Bobby's Idle Bar 1028 16th Ave S., Nashville, TN. 37212 Thursday's Nights, 7pm to? (615) 726-0446

The Commodore Grille
2613 West End Ave., Nashville, TN. 37203
Tue, Wed, Thur & Sun Nights, 7-11:30 pm
Hosted by Debi Champion
www.debichampion.com

Douglas Corner Cafe
2106 8th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37204
Open Mic / Writers Nite, Tues, 8pm to?
Hosted by Donnie Winters
www.douglascorner.com

#### **Festivals**

Bonnaroo

June 7-10, 2012 - Manchester, TN www.bonnaroo.com

CMA - Music Festival Fan Fair June 7-10, 2012 - Nashville, TN www.cmafest.com

BamaJam 2012 June 14-16, 2012 - Enterprise, AL www.bamajam2012.com

Country Fest June 21-24, 2012 - Cadott, WI www.countryfest.com

#### Karaoke Showtime



#### **VFW**

(615) 889-9755

1907 Lebanon Pike, Nashville, TN 37210 Karaoke - Wed: 7-11 ◆ Fri: 8-12

#### **Museums**

#### The Hank Williams Museum

(334) 262-3600

118 Commerce Street, Montgomery, AL 36104 www.TheHankWilliamsMuseum.com

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