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NASHVILLE'S MUSIC INDUSTRY PUBLICATION

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Vegas Goes Country

by Sarah Skates

Numerous events will surround the ACM Awards as part of "The Week Vegas Goes Country®." On

Fri., April 3 it's the

free ACM New Artists' Show on Fremont Street, with performers TBA. Sat., April 4 brings the ACM Chairman's Ride, an invitation-only half-day motorcycle outing for artists and industry VIPs, with **Toby Keith** and **Montgomery Gentry** set to participate and proceeds benefiting the ACM Charitable Fund. Also that day is the 6th Annual ACM Celebrity Golf Classic, hosted for the second consecutive year by **Rascal Flatts**, and benefitting the Diane Holcomb Emergency Fund for needy members of the country music community.

To participate, email Erin Spahn at

erin@acmcountry.com. That night (4/4),

Julianne Hough, **Kellie Pickler**, and

LeAnn Rimes rock the free Divas

Downtown on Fremont Street concert.

Sun., April 5 is the big day—the 44th Annual ACM Awards at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas. **Reba McEntire** hosts for a record eleventh time, and the show airs on CBS. The ACM All-Star Jam follows with impromptu artist performances.

On Mon., April 6, the ACM Artist of the Decade Special Honoring **George Strait**



tapes at the MGM Grand Garden Arena, and is set to air at a later date on CBS. For ticket details, and VIP trip packages go to <http://www.acmtrips.com> or email info@acmcountry.com.

Industry News

by Sarah Skates

Reigning ACM and CMA Male Vocalist of the Year **Brad Paisley** recently took his *Paisley Party Tour* to Canada, continuing his string of sell-outs. Over 225,000 tickets on 24 dates have been sold thus far in the first quarter for the outing with special guest **Dierks Bentley** and **Darius Rucker** in January, and **Crystal Shawanda** in February. The tour has sold-out thirteen of the first fourteen tour dates on the final leg, and stops March 14 at Nashville's Sommet Center.



Wheel of Fortune star **Vanna White** reveals the "landmark" answer to one of the show's Feb. 18 puzzles: *The Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum*. Photo: Carol Kaelson

Heart and Soul.



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Curb's **LeAnn Rimes** hit No. 1 this week on the *Billboard* Hot Dance Club Play Chart with her Grammy nominated single "What I Cannot Change." According to her label, this makes her the first artist who has had a No. 1 Country song to also have a No. 1 hit on the Dance chart. Rimes has sold nearly 40 million units worldwide since 1996, and will receive the ACM's Home Depot Humanitarian Award next month in Las Vegas.



Taylor Swift appears on the cover of the latest *Rolling Stone*, as the subject of a story called "The Picture-Perfect Life of Taylor Swift." Related articles include "The Story Behind Rolling Stone's Cover Story." Read it at <http://tinyurl.com/ctf8pj>

Also setting records is the new single from rapper **Eminem**, which just broke the SoundScan record for debut week downloads.

"Crack a Bottle," featuring **Dr. Dre** and **50 Cent**, was purchased 418,000 times, beating the prior benchmark of 335,000 set by **T.I.** and **Rihanna**.

Mercury Nashville's Grammy-winning duo **Sugarland** will embark on their first European tour throughout the month of March. Playing at theaters and a few military bases, the pair will visit seven countries and perform in 11 cities in the UK, Italy, France, Netherlands, Germany, Scotland, and Ireland. Labelmate **Holly Williams** will open on select dates.

Hillary Scott, **Charles Kelley** and **Dave Haywood** of **Lady Antebellum** will emcee and

perform at the Symphony Spring Fashion Show, taking place April 21 at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center. This year's event, co-chaired by **Lake Eakin** and **Lee Ann Ingram**, features the 2009 Fall Collection of internationally acclaimed fashion designer **Monique Lhuillier**, who will also be in attendance. Scott recently donned a Lhuillier gown at the GRAMMY® Awards. All proceeds from the Spring Fashion Show go to the Nashville Symphony and the Thor Johnson Scholarship Fund.

In related news, the *Tennessean* reports the Symphony, which is preparing for next week's release of 2-CD set *Abraham Lincoln Portraits*, has been hit by the slowing economy. About \$2.6 million has had to be cut from its \$30 million annual budget, and a few staffers have been let-go, but none of the full-time musicians have been affected. As the article goes on to say, a decline in donations, ticket sales, and endowment funds sinking



Artist **Garrett Steele**, who is being produced by **Teddy Gentry**, recently stopped by *SESAC* to meet with some *Music Row* pluggers. (L-R): **Jason Duke**, **Beth Schackne**, **Jeffrey Nelson**, **Garrett Steele**, **Loretta Martin** and **Garrett's Mgr. Tina Marie**.

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Mia Sable 9:00pm **The Belleville Outfit**

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via the stock market, has hurt all of Nashville's arts organizations, as it has done nationwide. In response, groups like the Tennessee Repertory Theater are using new technologies for fundraising, such as e-mail blasts and a YouTube video.

The publishing industry is also suffering in current economic conditions. Today it was announced that The New York Times Co.'s board will suspend the quarterly dividend. The company, citing falling print readership and advertising, also experienced a 74% dividend cut in November.

Cindy Wilt Colville is using her 23 years of music business experience to offer independent songplugging and writer development services, specializing in Christian music. She has 16 years of music publishing experience, most recently as Vice President of Word Music Publishing, and has worked with writers **Matthew West**, **Jason Ingram**, **Cindy Morgan**, and many others. She can be reached at cindy@cindywiltcolville.com or www.CindyWiltColville.com.

Nashville's LifeWay Worship recently unveiled a new web-based application that allows users to create custom arrangements of songs and produce corresponding audio files and sheet music. SongMap™ is the first technology that allows users to choose specific sections of songs: verses, choruses, transitions, and more—in the keys they prefer—and then download sheet music and audio files that correspond to the custom arrangement.

The Women's Music Business Association will present an open Songwriter Evening on Wed., Feb 25, 6-8 PM at Hotel Indigo for those who want to learn more about the organization. Performing will be WMBA members **Rachel Rodriguez**, **Sheree Spoltore**, **Liza Conner**, and others. www.wmbanashville.org

Montage Music underwent reorganization this week. The full story is on www.musicrow.com. Former CEO/Pres. **Allen Butler** can be reached at 615-476-2970 or allenbutlermusic@comcast.net.

Contact former Southeast Regional **Ted Wagner** at [tedwagner@comcast.net](mailto:tewagner@comcast.net) and 615-790-9007.

Artist News by Michelle Ross

Country group **Brokedown Cadillac** has a spot in the new Walt Disney Pictures film *Race To Witch Mountain*, out March 13. The band, fronted by **Corri English** and **Randy Dunham**, will be seen performing at a honky-tonk bar, and five of their songs will be heard throughout the movie starring **Dwayne Johnson**. Two of these songs, including "Southern Nights" and "Boogie Woogie Saturday Night," will be available on the digital soundtrack from Walt Disney Records set for release on March 10.

Miranda Lambert's Oklahoma-based charity event, TAILS (Texoma Animal Improved Living Society), took place on Feb. 12 and helped raise \$70,000 to build an animal shelter in the area.



Lambert and **Blake Shelton** packed the house for a concert at Murray State College and far surpassed their initial monetary goal. In related news, Lambert's second annual "Cause for the Paws" event, benefiting the Humane Society of East Texas, will be held May 17 in Tyler, Tex.



New Carolwood Records group **Love And Theft** visited WGTY in York, PA this week on their radio promo tour. The band's debut single "Runaway" goes for adds March 2. (L-R): **Eric Gunderson**; **Stephanie Keshe**, Carolwood Promotion; **Stephen Barker Liles**; WGTY PD **Scott Donato**; **Chris Palmer**, Carolwood Promotion and **Brian Bandas**.

JOHN RICH SHUTTIN' DETROIT DOWN

91 stations in just 2 weeks!!

“ I don't think it has anything to do with cars: down deep everybody's got their little issue with what's happening to us right now.” ”

-Charlie Cook-KKGO Sr. Mgr./Programming

The hottest song on the chart! Moves **45 - 26** with a **70%** spin increase!



RCA Nashville's Jake Owen was live, in-studio with the WOKQ "Morning Waking Crew" when they all learned they'd been nominated for ACM Awards. Mark Ericson and Dantelle Carrier are nominated as On-Air Personality of the Year-Small Market, and Owen is up for Vocal Event of the Year and Top New Male Vocalist. (L-R): Owen, Carrier and Ericson.



Black River Music's Sarah Darling recently performed in Las Vegas at the Sunset Station Casino. While in town she visited with Jon Anthony of Sirius XM Satellite Radio.



Robbins Nashville artist Shane O'Dazier (L) recently paid a visit to WGTY York, Pa., where he met PD Scott Donato (R) and introduced his debut single, "I Hate This Town."

Jason Aldean's latest single, "She's Country," passed the 10 million streams mark on MySpace recently, making it the most streamed country song of any solo artist on the current Top 40 Chart.

Josh Turner and his wife are expecting a baby this summer. The new addition will be the Turner's second child, they also have a two-year-old son, **Hampton**. Turner is also featured on the "Blessings" page of *People Magazine's Country Special* issue, which is on stands now.

Lee Greenwood heads to New York City this weekend for a Sat., Feb. 21 appearance on Fox News Channel's *Huckabee* show. Greenwood, a Presidential appointee, is the national spokesperson for Products for Good—a company focusing on raising money for the military families impacted by the Iraqi war.

Trace Adkins will appear on Fox New Channel's *Glenn Beck Show* on Feb. 23 and on the show's weekend edition on Feb. 28 to perform "Marry For Money" and "Muddy Water."

Community News by Sarah Skates

Jimmy Wayne, Kip Winger, Buddy Jewell, Eric Lee Beddingfield, Rachel Williams, Six Wire, Chasing Dixie and **Liz Davis** are performing at the Champions for Children Benefit Concert and Auction on Wed., Feb. 25 at the Wildhorse Saloon. Proceeds of the 7 PM show benefit the Nashville Children's Alliance, which helps victims of child abuse. Tickets start at \$15 and are available through Ticketmaster and wildhorsesaloon.com.

The **Billy Block Show** will celebrate its 13th anniversary on Feb. 24. Performing on that night's 7 PM showcase at 12th & Porter will be **Kingbilly, Katie Armiger, Timothy Craig, LynnMarie & Charlie Kelly**, and others.

Also having a birthday next week is music venue/skatepark Rockettown, which will host its sixth annual Birthday Bash on Sat., Feb. 28 with games, skateboarding competitions, a fashion show and over 30 bands. About 50,000 teens visit the club annually. Admission is \$10 for the entire day.

Rockettown will also provide the backdrop for the Muzak Heart and Soul Foundation's "Battle of the Bands" on Feb. 21. Industry professionals judging the event include **Curt Casassa** (Television Director), **Craig Campbell** (Campbell Entertainment Group), **Mark Mason** (BMI), **Shawn Moseley** (Muzak) and **Suzanne Wyatt** (Singer/PMC Hearing Health Division).

Learning Opportunities: Voice coach **Renee Grant-Williams** will hold a spring MiniClinic on Friday and Saturday, March 6-7 at her Nashville studio. She is known for working with **Miley Cyrus, Tim McGraw, Martina McBride, Christina Aguilera**, and countless others. The daytime portion of the MiniClinic will be followed by an evening performance for attendees' friends and family. The class is limited to six singers. Registration is \$550 at www.MyVoiceCoach.com.

Tennessee Volunteer Lawyers for the Arts will present a Copyright Basics class on Thurs., March 5, 5-6:30 PM at the Watkins College of Art. It is free to the public but there is a fee for lawyers seeking CLE credit. The seminar will introduce basic elements of copyright law including notice, registration, term, works for hire and fair use. RSVP to info@tnvla.org by Wed., Mar. 4th. www.tnvla.org

The eight-week Art and Craft of Screenwriting course begins the week of March 16 on a night TBD, and will meet from 6:30-9:30 PM at Borders on West End. Instructor **Dyann S. Rivkin** is an award winning writer-producer who has also taught this course at Belmont University. For details, email screenwriting@mindspring.com.

DISCLAIMER *by Robert K. Oermann*

All I have to say is, "wow." I can't remember the last time so many records deserved a **Disc of the Day** award. How to choose between Alan Jackson's sweet/sad acoustic ballad, The Zac Brown Band's groove-a-thon, Wynonna's celestial performance, Love and Theft's dizzy pop confection, Dierks Bentley's party platter and Jefferson Ross's brilliant songwriting?

In the end, I went with the one that moved me most emotionally, "Prayer of a Common Man" by the heart-tugging **Phil Vassar**. But let me hasten to add that all seven of these records deserve your attention and support.

Carolwood Records is the new Lyric Street imprint. It is also the home of our **Discovery Award** winning group, **Love and Theft**. Who are these guys?

Our runners up for this honor, by the way, were Mr. Ross and the duo of Nathan Chance. You can't miss Chance when he's on Music Row. He stands over 6'6" tall.

DANIELLE REED/Kissing In The Rain

Writer: Marc Kushner; Producer: John Carter Cash; Publisher: none listed; Barcode (track) (www.daniellereed.com)

—This charmer sings with down-to-earth country simplicity. The song is a mid-tempo, plain-spoken rural romance. For an unknown, she sure has lined up a stellar support team. Produced by John Carter Cash, her debut disc features sidemen like Jamie Hartford, Bob Britt, Dave Roe and Hoot Hester.

DIERKS BENTLEY/Sideways

Writer: Jim Beavers/Dierks Bentley; Producer: Brett Beavers & Dierks Bentley; Publisher: Sony-ATV Tree/Beavertime Tunes/Big White Tracks, BMI/ASCAP; Capitol Nashville (track)

—You worked all week, it's time to play. And here's your soundtrack, a party-hearty anthem that's meant to get you out on that dance floor. Everything works here, from the mash-up of banjo and steel to the shouted "Heys," the crowd noise and the rollicking rhythm. Somewhere in there hollering is label boss Mike Dungan, making his disc debut.

NATHAN CHANCE/I Think She Loves Me

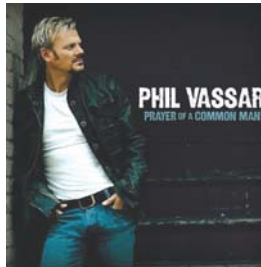
Writer: Dukas/Anderson; Producer: Kevin Lawson; Publisher: none listed; Nathan Chance (www.chancemckinney.com)

—Nathan Arneson and Chance McKinney were solo acts with solid followings in the Pacific Northwest. In 2006, they decided to combine forces and form a duo. This shouted rocker has loads of energy and power. The stunning "Some Bridges Don't Burn" proves they can handle a ballad as well. These dudes have audio charisma, and their stage show must be pretty good, too. They've opened for Chesney, Strait, Rascal Flatts, Martina and loads of other top headliners. This format needs more duos, especially ones that sound as good as this one. Send a full CD ASAP.

LOVE AND THEFT/Runaway

Writer: Stephen Barker Liles/Canaan Smith/Rob Blackledge; Producer: Jeff Coplan & Robert Ellis Orrall; Publisher: Hate and Purchase/Rockapop/House of StyleSonic/Kid in the Korner, ASCAP; Carolwood

—Utterly delicious. It's a foaming, frothy pop-country outing that's drenched in melody, harmonies and happy-feet rhythm. This sparkles with sunshine and begs for a drive on an empty two-lane blacktop. Summer is officially here.



MELISSA CLEVELAND/It's All About Me

Writer: Victoria Colbert/Brandon L. Shane/Nicole Nichols; Producer: Brandon Lynn Shane; Publisher: Shanethang, BMI; Mirror Image (track) (www.melissacleveland.com)

—It's a feisty-female "attitude" tune. She's sick of being a housewife drudge and is aiming to go out on the town to kick up her heels while he stays home for a change. The fiddler and guitarists sizzle around her scratching-kitten-claws vocal.

ALAN JACKSON/Sissy's Song

Writer: Alan Jackson; Producer: Keith Stegall; Publisher: EMI April/Tri Angels, ASCAP; Arista

—The prettiest, saddest ballad on Alan's *Good Time* CD has now become the collection's fourth single. The lyric about a departed loved one is beautifully backed by poetically plucked acoustic guitar lines.

Gorgeous in its perfectly ornamented restraint.

JEFFERSON ROSS/The Prophet Elijah

Writer: Jefferson Ross/Alison Mellon; Producer: Jefferson Ross; Publisher: none listed; Deep Fried Discs (track)

(www.jeffersonross.com)

—Jefferson is a Curb writer who has been on the road backing Terri Clark for 10 years. She tipped me off to his talent, and his debut CD arrived in the mail a few days later. What a find. He sings with immense heart and believability. This terrific track is about the injustice and violence faced by a peace-loving old black man. You'll hang on every word of this tender story song. And the rest of his *Azalea* collection is just as strong.

ZAC BROWN BAND/Whatever It Is

Writer: none listed; Producer: none listed; Publisher: none listed; Big Picture (ERG)

—The Zac Brown Band's second single is just as winning as "Chicken Fried" was. And it is even more irresistibly tuneful. There's just so much honesty and integrity in the group's singing and playing. I'm digging this groovy combo more and more.

PHIL VASSAR/Prayer Of A Common Man

Writer: Phil Vassar/Tom Douglas; Producer: Mark Wright & Phil Vassar; Publisher: Phylvester/Words & Music/Sony-ATV/Tomdouglasmusic, ASCAP/BMI; Universal South (track)

—A passionately sung and written little masterpiece for working stiffs everywhere. Phil sings his face off, and every line pierces your soul. It gave me a big ol' lump in my throat, and that's a very good thing.

WYNONNA/Sing

Writer: Rodney Crowell; Producer: Brent Maher & Don Potter; Publisher: Sony-ATV Milene/J Only, ASCAP; Curb (track)

—Wy's *Sing Chapter 1* album is a collection of mostly covers of classics such as "Ain't No Sunshine," "Til I Get it Right," "Anyone Who Had a Heart," "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" and "When I Fall in Love." Not everything is a standard, however. The title tune and first single is a thrilling, inspirational melody from a Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member. She soars into the stratosphere on this fabulous performance. For a sassier side of her prowess, check out the swinging revival of The Boswell Sisters' 1932 gem "That's How Rhythm Was Born." This is Wy's strongest album in years. Buy it.