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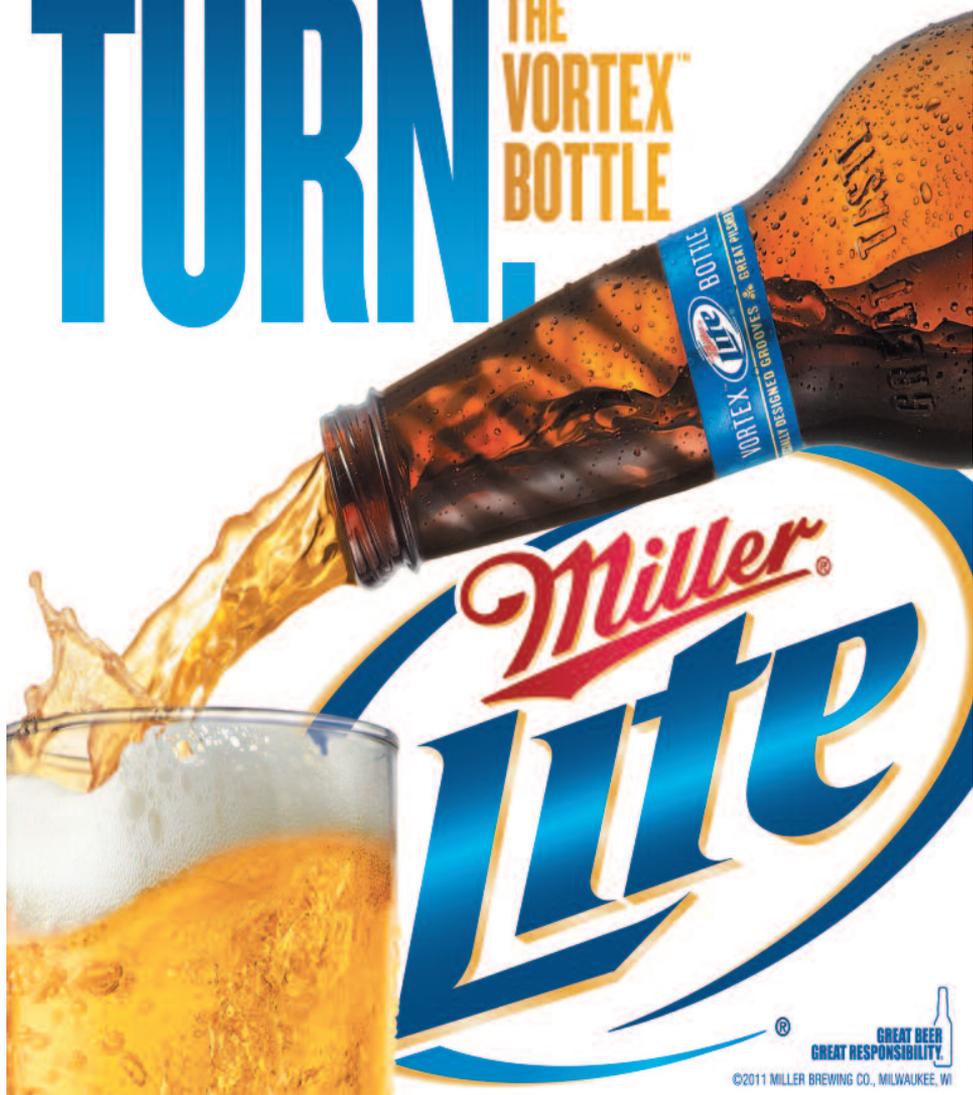
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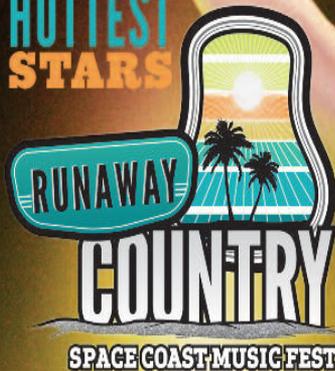


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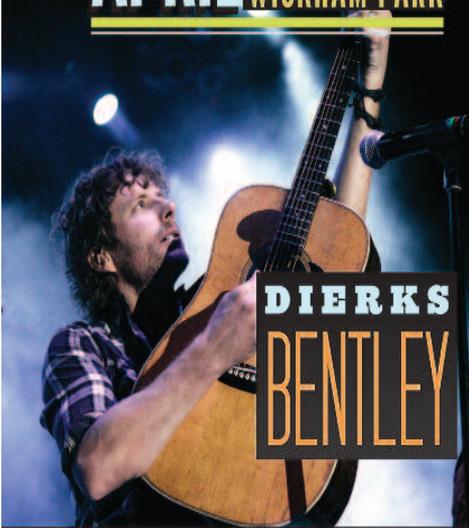
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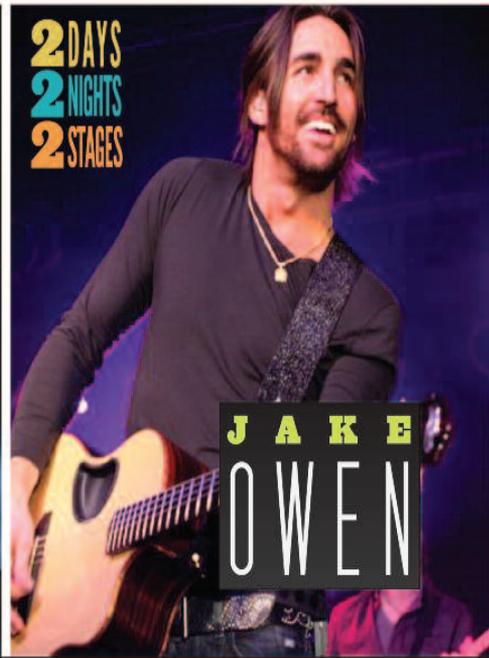
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# MUSIC NEWS

## SHANIA TWAIN EXPRESSES CANADIAN PRIDE DURING HALL OF FAME INDUCTION



Shania Twain was formally inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame during Sunday night's (March 27) Juno Awards in Toronto. Neil Young was named artist of the year and also received the Allan Waters

Humanitarian Award during the gala that marked the 40th anniversary of Junos, Canada's equivalent of the Grammys. Bryan Adams, who became a member of the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 2006, hosted Twain's induction. In accepting the honor, Twain downplayed her own accomplishments. "I'm really so proud of Canada's talent," she said. "I sit here tonight in the audience and I watch these amazing artists up here on the stage -- world class talent, songwriters, singers and performers. We should be proud of these people. They're just blowing me away. I guess I have more pride in what the country has created musically than I am of my own success. Honestly, I'm just more proud to be from Canada. I feel like I should be wearing the Canadian flag tonight." Arcade Fire were the top winners, claiming group of the year and songwriter of the year honors and also receiving the album of the year prize for *The Suburbs*. Justin Bieber won the fan choice award and received pop album of the year honors for *My World 2.0*. Johnny Reid's *A Place Called Love* was named country album of the year.

## MIKE STARR, ALICE IN CHAINS BASSIST, DEAD AT 44

Former Alice in Chains bassist Mike Starr was found dead in a Salt Lake City home on March 7th, TMZ reports. He, along with Jerry Cantrell, Sean Kinney and Layne Staley, were founding members of the Seattle grunge band that became Alice In Chains. His bass lines drove such '90s rock hits as "Would" and "Man in the Box." He left Alice in Chains during the band's 1992 tour and was replaced by Ozzy Osbourne's former bassist, Mike Inez.

Starr had appeared on VH1's "Celebrity Rehab" in 2009 and its spinoff, "Sober House." Just last month, police arrested him on felony drug charges. Dr. Drew Pinsky of "Celebrity Apprentice" wrote on Twitter today, "Devastating to hear of Mike Starr succumbing to his

illness. So very sad. Our prayers are with his family." Alice in Chains has now lost two of its founding members. Staley died of a drug overdose in 2002, and Starr was the last person to see him alive.

## SOUNDGARDEN BEGINS RECORDING NEW ALBUM

Soundgarden will start recording its first new album in 15 years next week. The new Soundgarden album recording will take place in the band's hometown of Seattle, and Adam Kasper will produce. It will be the first new Soundgarden album since 1996's *Down on the Upside*, which spawned the hits "Pretty Noose," "Burden in My Hand" and "Blow Up the Outside World." Kasper also produced that album.

It's shaping up to be a busy spring for the band. A new Soundgarden live album, *Live on I-5*, hit stores on March 22, and a Chris Cornell acoustic tour will wind through the country in April and early May.

Soundgarden is expected to play some concerts this spring. And he said there is no timetable for completing the new Soundgarden album.

## RONNIE DUNN SETS JUNE RELEASE OF SOLO DISC

Ronnie Dunn will launch his solo career with a self-titled solo album, coming June 7.

A 12-track collection, Dunn produced and wrote or co-wrote 9 of the songs.

The first single is *Bleed Red*, and the disc also includes the Dunn/Terry McBride co-write, *How Far to Waco*, *Cost of Livin'* and the ballad *Last Love I'm Tryin'*.

The collection starts with the party-time opener *Singer* in a *Cowboy Band*, penned by Dunn and Craig Wiseman, and closes with another Dunn co-write, the soulful *Love Owes Me One*.

Dunn will deliver his first televised performance of *Bleed Red* on the 46th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards, April 3, on CBS.

Dunn will also headline a free concert on Saturday, April 2, as part of ACM Weekend on Fremont Street Experience.

## **LADY ANTEBELLUM, KEITH URBAN BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN, BON JOVI AND ADELE CONTRIBUTE TO SONGS FOR JAPAN CHARITY COMPILATION**

Lady Antebellum, Keith Urban, Bruce Springsteen, Bon Jovi and Adele have joined other top artists in contributing material to Songs for Japan, an 18-track compilation to benefit the Japanese Red Cross Society's efforts to assist those affected by the recent earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Lady Antebellum's "I Run to You" and Urban's "Better Life" are featured alongside other songs by John Lennon, Justin Timberlake, Cee Lo Green, Black Eyed Peas, Kings of Leon and many others. All acts appearing on the album and their labels and music publishers have waived royalties to ensure the maximum amount of money is forwarded to the disaster relief efforts.

## **TAYLOR SWIFT EXTENDS U.S. TOUR**

Taylor Swift, who is in the final week of the European leg of her Taylor Swift Speak Now World Tour 2011, announced today she will extend the North American portion of the tour by 16 dates. New dates were added starting in September through late November. Swift will now headline 78 shows in stadiums and arenas in 63 cities in 42 states and provinces in the U.S. and Canada this year.

The tour launched Feb. 9 in Singapore, kicks off in the U.S. on May 27 with 2 sold-out shows at the Qwest Center in Omaha and now wraps with two shows at Madison Square Garden just before Thanksgiving.

Adam Brand will open the Sept. 24 and the November dates, and David Nail will open the added October shows. In his native Australia, Brand has three platinum and two gold albums, nominated four times for Best Country Album by ARIA (Australia Recording Industry Association), and winning a dozen CMAAs (Country Music Awards of Australia) including multiple wins in the Song of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year categories.

Brand has an upcoming U.S. release on Arista Records. MCA Nashville recording artist David Nail is scheduled to release his sophomore album in the fall, and his current single Let It Rain is the first offering from the still-to-be titled release.

One of the new dates just added includes November 12th at the St. Pete Times Forum in Tampa, FL.

## **INXS RECRUIT GUEST SINGERS FOR NEW ALBUM**

Thirteen years after the premature death of their frontman, Australian rockers INXS still have not settled on a full-fledged replacement. But the five members of the most successful home-grown rock act from Down Under are working with an assortment of singers in the meantime.

In the first few years after Michael Hutchence accidentally hung himself in a Sydney hotel room in 1997, they teamed with the likes of Terence Trent D'Arby and local heroes Jimmy Barnes and Jon Stevens for various shows. Then they went the American reality-TV show route, ending up with an unknown Canadian, JD Fortune, who remains their first choice on the concert circuit.

They have just activated another back-up plan, recruiting a host of international names for a new album boasting sharply reworked versions of their classic songs.

INXS gave the guest vocalists plenty of free rein. When the band approached Matchbox 20's Thomas about doing the ballad "Never Tear Us Apart," he asked if he could do "Original Sin" instead. Nikka Costa was not knocked over by a proposed revamp of "Kick," prompting the band to start with a new arrangement.

Fortune appears on two tracks. He is also writing songs with the band for an album of new material. His overnight ascension to stardom alongside a group of much older road veterans inevitably led to a drug problem and his erroneous allegation that he had been callously fired.

Farris, under no illusions that the album will be a big seller, views it as "our cathartic healer."

## **DOLLY PARTON ANNOUNCES TOUR DATES, NEW CD**

Dolly Parton will release a new disc later this year and tour in the U.S. and Europe starting in July.

"A Better Day" will be out on Parton's own label, Dolly Records. The first single, Together You & I, will be unveiled with a live performance on The Ellen DeGeneres Show. A video will be released thereafter.

"I wanted to do an album that would be very uplifting and positive, as well as inspirational," said Parton. "Times are hard all over. I think people need to feel better and I thought 'Better Day' was a perfect title because it says 'hope.'"

The new disc is the follow-up to "Backwoods Barbie" from 2008. Featuring 12 original Parton songs, the album will be released worldwide in June or July, marking the fourth release on the independent label.

The tour starts July 17 in Knoxville, Tenn. and ends Sept. 15 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

# Stone Sour

by Felicia Stokes

What do you get when you mix one part whiskey, one part orange juice, and one part sour mix? Stone Sour! Vocalist, Corey Taylor, and original drummer, Joel Ekman, came up with the original and interesting name for the band about twenty years ago by picking a drink from a drink menu... Even though they have the luxury of a tour bus equipped with satellite television, traveling from city to city becomes boring and is a necessity for the musicians to be able to perform. Dealing with the press for most of the day and being able to perform for only an hour or so comes with the territory. However, doing this on a daily basis when on tour is what they love to do, and what they do best! Not only do they get to do what they love

every day, they have the honor of writing music for movies like "Spider Man," getting to play with musicians like Shannon Larkin from Godsmack, and performing with bands like Avenged Sevenfold, Hellyeah, Halestorm, and Hollywood Undead.

Having just started touring with Halestorm again, Roy Mayorga, the current drummer for Stone Sour, lists them and previous tour mates, Avenged Sevenfold, as only a few of their favorite bands to tour with. Mayorga says that Avenged is a fun group of guys to hang with and Halestorm is a fun, talented bunch. After seeing those three bands perform together, I can definitely agree with those statements! In a band of five writers, you are guaranteed a collaborative and eclectic album.

A perfect example of this would be their album, *Audio Secrecy*, which was released in September 2010. Corey says, "Audio Secrecy is the summation of everything we want, everything we crave and everything we fight for... The dimensions go further than anything we've ever

tried before. It's metal, rock, slow, soft, hard, fast, bitter, beautiful and most importantly, it's real. You can't get an album like this out of a band that doesn't exist. We're throwing caution out the damn window." According to Taylor, "The intensity. The drama. The emotion. The colors. The darkness. The melodies. The anger. The honesty. The drive. The new. All of the above and more." Those are the things that created their passionate pulsing second album, "Come Whatever May," which came out in 2006.

Some of the biggest influences for Roy are Led Zeppelin, Pink Floyd, AC/DC, Aerosmith, Thin Lizzy, and Rick

Allen as a drummer, whom he has great respect for, given the fact that he had to completely re-teach himself how to play after his tragic accident. When asked what he would do if something like that ever happened to him he said, "That's a hell of a question." Laughing, "I'd probably find a way to continue playing."

Some of Roy's favorite places to tour are Germany, Poland, Bulgaria,

Czech Republic, England,

Macedonia, Greece, Australia, and Japan, all for different personal reasons. With Germany and England being like his second home, due to the fact he had lived in both places for a short period of time, as well as always touring there, it's understandable why he loves performing there so often. When asked about rumored benefit concerts for Japan and if Stone Sour would be a part of those efforts, Roy mentioned personal efforts in donating money and trying to get it out to everyone that they should be donating as well. And as far as Stone Sour goes, they would probably be doing something along those lines to help the efforts in Japan.





Mayorga says that after having a "long uphill grind" with touring and playing for about 25 years, he lists Stone Sour as his biggest accomplishment and is surprised with the success he's had. After all the blood, sweat, and tears and everything he's been through, he said it hasn't been easy, but he's still hungry and he wants to reach the horizon. And as far as future accomplishments go, he would like to get into scoring films, which is what he does at home outside of Stone Sour. He's been involved in a lot of studio work over the last twenty years and says it's been part of the evolution of who he is and what he does as a musician. Stone Sour being the ninth band he's been in, I'd say the progress that he's made has been great in many aspects. The band as a whole has come a long way from only having demo tapes when they started in 1992, which changed in 2002 when they released their self titled debut album, "Stone Sour, with songs from their demo tapes like "Bother," "Get Inside," and "Inhale."

Even with Taylor and Root going on temporary "hiatus" while going back to Slipknot, Stone Sour never loses touch with whom they are and always knows how to please their fans! While performing, Stone Sour never fails to present the same, if not more energy than the crowd, putting everything they have into every performance, night after night, song after song, showing their love for their music and appreciation for their fans! From jumping around on stage like David Lee Roth, to screaming into the mic like Steven Tyler, to wailing on the drums like Tommy Lee and shredding on the guitar like Slash, this band is something we can look forward to and hope for in the upcoming years--keeping sure their music stays fresh, upbeat and different, but always their own style!

While out on tour, like anyone, the band enjoys going out and seeing things for self-enjoyment in the cities they play in, as long as time allows it. However, most

of their time is spent doing things with the press before shows. As far as being in a specific genre, as much sense as it makes, it is up to the listener to decide, but in Roy's opinion, Stone Sour is a heavy hitting rock band, which most anyone can agree with. As far as the band sticking around, Roy says, "We'll be around for a while, we're not going anywhere, we're not a project, we're an actual band."

And even though they've just put an album out, they're already writing new music, but will take more time over the summer to continue writing once they have a break. This has

been longest they've toured, lasting about a year and a half. He says that he loves what he does and wouldn't be doing it if he didn't. He started playing when he was about 5 years old after seeing a drummer on T.V., and the group that really got him into playing was Led Zeppelin.

While on the tour for Audio Secrecy, which just started on March 29th, the band plans on hitting many states including Florida, Texas, and New York, eventually making it overseas. When asked how long they'll be touring for this album, Mayorga says they will tour as long as there is demand and as long as the songs are on the radio, which truly shows you how dedicated they are.

When on stage in front of the crowd, Stone Sour is one of the most energetic bands, with Alternative Press calling the group "masters of ass-kicking," adding, "In a better America, Stone Sour would be the face of American rock," and it's easy to see why. Taylor mentions a house the band stayed in during their free time, which he claims helped them with the album saying, "That house put us through hell. It was really old, so everything was broken down and leaking and infested with wasps and spiders. I'd get lost because there were so many damn rooms. It was like living in the Haunted Mansion at Disney World. It did keep us in the right mood, though, so maybe we should thank it in the liner notes." Small things like this make you wonder what else inspired the band to write the songs on Audio Secrecy to make it such a mind blowing album. With songs like "Hesitate," which has an 80's ballad sound to it, to songs like "Say You'll Haunt Me," it's obvious how much heart has been put into the album.

Being in a band is like being in a family, and when you've been in a band for well over five years, you create

a relationship with these people that's never ending and has an effect on you like no other. Roy says he has found a home with Stone Sour. This is his band, and he plans on staying.

When asked how the tour was going so far, Mayorga stated that it was going great and that he's pretty excited to be touring with Halestorm again, this being the third consecutive tour they've done with them. He says the sound is very different but awesome, because of the different styles of each band. Roy states that, not only with Soufly but with each band, the experiences have helped in his evolution not only as a musician but also as a drummer. A typical day for Stone Sour on tour begins with waking up in a new city, doing sound check, playing the show, getting back on the bus and heading for a new city. Mayorga states "It's nothing glamorous except that you get to play for an hour in front of a few thousand people and that's the great part of the day, that's the coolest part of the day, that's the part of the day you look forward to."

Roy also says he loves playing "Digital" from Audio Secrecy live the most because it's the most challenging and it's a rush. Finally, something that he would love to see happen with Stone Sour that hasn't happened



yet would be on top again and just keep building and expanding their catalogue of music.

Overall, we can say that Stone Sour will continue to make the music we've all grown to love and want for twenty years now, and whether their style changes or stays the same, their music will still be in demand by the listeners.

Be sure to check out Stone Sour when they perform at RockFest at the St. Pete Times Forum on April 2nd. Performing with Stone Sour is 3 Doors Down, Skillet, Halestorm, Theory of a Deadman and Art of Dying.

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by Melissa Parker

Country music duo Steel Magnolia consists of 25-year-old Louisiana native Meghan Linsey and her boyfriend Joshua Scott Jones. Linsey spent her childhood in New Orleans, then her family moved to nearby Ponchatoula, just north of Lake Pontchartrain. Jones, 28, was born in Houston but raised by an adoptive family in rural Charleston, Illinois.

A chance meeting at a karaoke bar in Nashville's Printers Alley in 2006 led Linsey and Jones to form Steel Magnolia. The duo won season two of the television talent show *Can You Duet* and signed a recording contract with Big Machine Records to release their debut single, "Keep On Lovin' You," in August 2009. The song became a Top 5 hit on the Billboard country chart. A second single, "Just By Being You (Halo and Wings)," followed in July 2010.

*"I was really nervous because the Opry is just an institution. The Opry is in its own league so to go in the place for the first time you feel like there are just so many great people who have played there. It's almost like you need to wear some sort of a magical cloak when you walk in the building. You don't know really how to act and I didn't at first."*

Steel Magnolia's self-titled debut album was released on January 11, 2011, having been delayed from last September. It features the hit "Keep On Lovin' You," "Just By Being You (Halo and Wings)," as well as the current single "Last Night Again" written by Linsey, Jones, and Hillary Lindsey. The duo wrote or co-wrote an additional six songs on the album as well and recorded a song penned by Keith Urban entitled "Homespun Love."

**Melissa Parker:** Hey guys, great album! There is definitely as much pop as traditional country. Was that intentional?

**Meghan Linsey:** I think it definitely wasn't intentional. We went in with the idea that the front half would be a little more of the newer country sound and for the back half we were going to try to make it a little more traditional. We wanted to pay homage to our country roots because we actually both have pretty deep country roots from a young age. That's how the record worked out. I think the last couple of songs of the record are pretty country. "Glass Houses" and "Homespun Love" are probably the most country things on the record. I think for the next record we'd like to take it a little deeper and maybe do a little more traditional.

**Melissa Parker:** I hear some reggae, even a little calypso in the song "Rainbow."

**Meghan Linsey:** Definitely yeah. We actually co-wrote that with Tommy Henriksen who's a pop producer and Chioma Eze who's an R&B singer from South Africa. We wrote the song with the intention of pitching it to maybe a pop act or something and then Scott Borchetta from the record label liked it and wanted us to cut the song so we did.

**Melissa Parker:** Have you written many songs for other country artists?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Oh yeah, we've written a lot of songs for the country artists. We just have to get them to cut them (laughs).

**Meghan Linsey:** Yeah, we feel like we have anyways (laughs).

**Melissa Parker:** Both of you began performing at an early age. Josh, when did your interest in music begin?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I think I was always involved from the time I could ... from ever since I can remember. I would try to show off for the family. My brother used to make me fake guitars just out of a broomstick. He'd put a string on it like a strap and put a magazine over the bottom of it to make it look like the shape of a guitar. I'd go around and sing songs. I always felt like I was trying to entertain and sing and do all that from a very young age. I think it gets to a point where it just develops and develops until you get to a certain point when you

keep that on the forefront of your mind. Even now where we are we want to ... you eventually just want to do it all. I think that you're never really satisfied. You always want to write a better song or put on another great show or whatever it is. I think you finally get to the level where, especially since the album's coming out, that people will at least have a chance to hear your music.

**Melissa Parker:** Who are your influences, Josh?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** My influences from a very early age were classic country music, late 70s rock and roll, and early 80s rock and roll. My parents listened to classic country. I would wear out Patsy Cline records, Conway Twitty records, listening to old outlaw country like Willie Nelson and Waylon Jennings. My brother was always listening to the late 70s rock and early 80s stuff. That was my first thing. I think that it's funny because when you watch our live show a lot of that comes through and it has kind of come full circle.

**Melissa Parker:** Meghan, who are your musical influences?

**Meghan Linsey:** Yep, some country for sure. Tanya Tucker and Dolly Parton were two really big ones. My dad listened to a lot of late 70s rock. I have a soul influence, too, like Aretha Franklin, Susan Tedeschi, Bonnie Raitt, just anyone who could make you feel a song. That's what I gravitated toward as a kid.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** When I met Meghan I wasn't doing your middle of the road country stuff and she was. Meghan has a great country voice. She can sound like Loretta Lynn.

**Melissa Parker:** You two met at a karaoke bar in Nashville?

**Meghan Linsey:** Yeah, I did the karaoke jockey thing for like five years (laughs).

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I had just moved to town and had taken a job at a radio station selling advertising. I came into the bar and had just gotten off work. I was going out every night just to see Nashville and have fun because I was new to town and was just looking for a good time. Meghan and I happened to meet and we've pretty much been hanging out ever since.



**Melissa Parker:** You two won the second season of the TV talent show *Can You Duet* and you sang "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry."

**Meghan Linsey:** Yeah, we did that song and kind of put our own version to it. We thought that was a risk at the time. It was kind of scary to take such a classic like that and put your own spin on it, but it seemed like the judges liked it so we kept doing it (laughs).

**Joshua Scott Jones:** It paid off and it was the first time that I'd sung harmony with Meghan. She was the lead and I sang harmony so I was nervous about that. I think that people really like that song. It's such a great song and the lyrics are so poetic. It's an amazing American classic.

**Melissa Parker:** Absolutely. Hank Williams was one of the greatest country songwriters.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** That's another thing. Hank broke the doors wide open for country. He made it popular and was kind of the Elvis of that genre. He just had so much soul and feeling when he sang. No matter who you are, when you listen to those songs they are such undeniable words and music.

**Melissa Parker:** Okay, which one comes up with the lyrics and who comes up with the music? Do you argue during the songwriting process?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** All of that (laughs).

**Meghan Linsey:** Yeah (laughs). It's always different I think. Obviously Josh is the guitar player so he's always coming up with guitar melodies and stuff. Sometimes I'll start singing or he'll have a melody

and we'll just start writing lyrics. It just really depends on the song. We definitely fight (laughs). It's not easy always writing together. We have different ideas and stuff, you know?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Yeah, sometimes I'd rather shave my head with a cheese grater.

**Melissa Parker:** Thanks Josh, I will now have that image in my head for the next few minutes. I read that you wrote "Without You" after an argument. Is that accurate?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Yeah it is.

**Meghan Linsey:** He started it (laughs).

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Yeah, well, I started the argument.

**Meghan Linsey:** He started the argument and the song.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Well, I wrote the verses in about ten minutes. It just kind of came right out and then when I did it, I snagged the chorus of the song that Meghan and I and Van Preston had written together and inserted that into the song. I said that I'd just ask for forgiveness later. That's kind of what happened there because it just fit too nicely and maybe I was being a little lazy so ...

**Melissa Parker:** What are the greatest problems you face working together all of the time?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I think the problem is that we don't have time to worry about our problems because we are staying so busy right now and I think we realize what's important. Being so busy you have to learn to pick your battles and realize what is important and what needs to be argued about and what doesn't need to be argued about. I think at the end of the day we're very like-minded, Meghan and I, and we get along really well.

We have the same values and traditions. At the end of the day we really like each other and get along and we don't hold grudges. That is not in our nature. Not only that, but we just get along. When we do argue or fight it lasts in the moment and then it's over and never brought up again.

**Melissa Parker:** Is that how you feel, Meghan?

**Meghan Linsey:** For the most part. I don't know that we really fight all that much as we just have really quick arguments and then they're over.



**Joshua Scott Jones:** I think we would be comfortable just going to the Elks Lodge every night for dinner and coming home to watch The Lawrence Welk Show.

**Meghan Linsey:** That's true (laughs). We've talked about that.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** We're just content, you know? We're content around each other.

**Melissa Parker:** Would marriage make that situation better or worse?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I think everything is just fine.

**Meghan Linsey:** Uh huh. We'll get married when we feel like it I guess. I don't know.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** We are married to our music.

**Melissa Parker:** What was the experience like singing at the Grand Ole Opry?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I was really nervous because the Opry is just an institution. The Opry is in its own league so to go in the place for the first time you feel like there are just so many great people who have played there. It's almost like you need to wear some sort of a magical cloak when you walk in the building. You don't know really how to act and I didn't at first. I feel like the people who played there paid so many dues. It was just a real magical feeling the first time we played there.

**Melissa Parker:** How does it feel to be nominated for another Country Music Award?

**Meghan Linsey:** It feels good. It's funny because you work so hard and you're on the road constantly and doing radio and playing shows and just going and going and then you get a call that you're nominated for an award. You kind of get a little extra boost.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** It's like a B-12 shot right in your rear.

**Meghan Linsey:** Nice (laughs).

**Melissa Parker:** It makes you nervous also?

**Meghan Linsey:** Definitely yeah. It's our second year there, but we're not as scared this time. I think last year was just nerve racking even to get out of the car and walk the red carpet, much less to be nominated. But, to know what to expect is nice.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** I agree. It's fun. I think we'd be more nervous now at this point if we won because we've been to award shows a few times now.

**Meghan Linsey:** We've never written an acceptance speech and haven't won yet. I'm wondering if we should write one just to think that we will win.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** We're just happy to be a part of the show and be there among the people we look up to and have a lot of respect for. It's a great feeling.

**Melissa Parker:** Who came up with the name of the group?

**Meghan Linsey:** Oh that was me.

**Melissa Parker:** I ask because "steel magnolia" traditionally means a strong southern woman.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Thank you.

**Melissa Parker:** Funny Josh. How did that come about?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** We were playing out enough as a duo that it finally became time to think of a name. Meghan said, "Steel Magnolia." I said, "Well, we'll just change that later." But, I guess my procrastination didn't pay off.

**Meghan Linsey:** That's true (laughs).

**Joshua Scott Jones:** That's the same way I procrastinate certain things sometimes. But the name fits now and that's the thing. I think it says a lot about us.

**Melissa Parker:** Are you ever compared to Sugarland?

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Occasionally, but I think being a new group you're always going to be compared to somebody because you're new.

**Meghan Linsey:** We get compared to Lady Antebellum and Sugarland a lot. I think that's a great compliment. Both are really good so we'll take it.

**Melissa Parker:** What's new other than the album?

**Meghan Linsey:** We're just trying to get our show together. We've had rehearsals the last three days with the band. We expanded our team and band and we're just trying to get it all really tight.

We're going out with Blake Shelton on the road coming up so we've been planning for that. We have a couple of things in the works that really haven't been announced yet. We're just working on figuring it all out and taking it as it comes.

**Melissa Parker:** New music coming up?

**Meghan Linsey:** Eventually. We haven't really thought about it or had any talks about it. We write constantly so we have some material.

**Melissa Parker:** This CD was released on January 11, 2011. Does that date have some particular significance for you?

**Meghan Linsey:** Kind of (laughs).

**Joshua Scott Jones:** We're not really that superstitious. It just happened to fall on that date.

**Meghan Linsey:** Well, we were trying to figure out a date to move it to because we couldn't release the record in September as there were 15 superstar acts coming out with records in that same corridor and we didn't want to get lost in the mix.

We weren't real crazy about moving the record to be quite honest but someone said, "How about January 11?" I told Josh, "That's 1-11-11." That 11 thing has kind of followed us around throughout our career so we were like, "Hmm, that might be a sign. Maybe we should move it to that date."

**Melissa Parker:** I hope that is a sign. Continued success you two on the new album and the career!

**Meghan Linsey:** Thank you very much.

**Joshua Scott Jones:** Thank you sweet doll.

*This article was originally published by Smashing Interviews Magazine ([www.smashinginterviews.com](http://www.smashinginterviews.com)). Melissa Parker is the Publisher and Writer for Smashing Interviews Magazine and this interview was republished with the consent of Smashing Interviews Magazine and Melissa Parker.*



In July of 2003, the core members of Orlando based southern rock band DIABLO CANYON began rehearsing material with their eyes set on one goal: carve a niche as a professional festival and concert event act. No bars, No sets, no oversaturation.

Within a few short months they took their product to the streets, aligning with several biker organizations, doing some charity work to gain some exposure. By fall of 2003, the band had successfully played several large events including a slot on the Rockin Country Fest, that put them on the bill with notable acts like Southern Rock Allstars and Aaron Tippin.

In December, DIABLO CANYON performed at what would be the last Light Up Orlando, appearing in front of more than 12,000 people as one of the opening acts for Thirty-Eight Special.

“Man, that was a cold gig...” recalls founding lead vocalist “Iron Dave” Adams. “It was just a cold, early December, but the crowd was great! After we got through the production snags, we managed to pull off an abbreviated but well-executed set.”

In 2004 and 2005, the band would go onto focus on the event and concert shows. Performing at the Zellwood Corn Festival, Palatka Blue Crab Festival, Leesburg Bike Fest and the inaugural Sanford BikeFest. But the group has managed to maintain a grassroots following with smaller events aimed at the biker community and charitable events.

Through the years, the lineup evolved from the original seven players to its current line up. “We started out with two drummers,” states Adams. “One of the founding drummers made initial contact with [guitarist] Barry Stone and [drummer] Glen Davis, who had been working together for years. Barry is a smokin’ blues guitarist with roots in Detroit and some time in Austin Texas, so his sound is very keen with regard to the southern rock stuff.” From there bassist Bob Shelton was added and eventually this core lineup added a keyboardist and a second guitarist. “We were a seven piece band, but man, it was just a huge sound. We definitely got your attention when things got cranking.”

Performing cover selections from all the southern rock and blues groups, the band rifles through numbers from Allman Brothers, Marshall Tucker, Outlaws, Charlie Daniels and Lynyrd Skynyrd. Adams is quick to point out, “But we don’t really do anything too predictable. We have all heard ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ and some of those tunes enough in the bar scene. We wanted to go a little deeper and find stuff people will relate to without it being stale or burned out.” As a result the band clocks in a 90+ minute set, 9-shorter when opening

for another band. With tunes like “Hotlanta” and “T for Texas”, this really gets the crowds going, especially when guitarists Stone and Randall Bivin (who joined the lineup in 2005) trade licks in some of the jam portions of the arrangements.

In late 2007, the band took a hiatus after four solid years of gigging. “The economy hit everybody, promoters were not getting sponsorship dollars and things dried up for a while...” says Barry Stone. “We all had other things going on that we were loosely committed to, but Dave approached us last year and we agreed it was time to revisit what seems to be an undeniable chemistry.”

In April 2010, the band agreed to resume with it’s core lineup of Stone, Davis, Bivin, Shelton and Adams. Added to the lineup was keyboardist Bob Jones.

Already in the past year, Diablo Canyon has resumed their focus on event work, having performed events for Frito Lay and the Florida Hospital Diabetes institute. Their most recent outing brought them into Plant City for the Southern Rock Volunteer Jam. Their shows include some original selections that they hope to record for an EP type project. “People love the covers, and they seem to really get the original material too,” says Adams.



Vocalist Dave Adams

“We plan to keep playing where ever there’s a stage, and from this point on, we ain’t looking back. It’s nice to have done all the things we have already accomplished, but now we have our sights on some new goals, and we are looking to make some new friends along the way. We’re on Facebook and working on an improved version of our website and we just want to bring great music to good people.”

You can find **Diablo Canyon** on Facebook or visit them online at [www.diablocanyon.net](http://www.diablocanyon.net).

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# ALBUM REVIEWS



**Sara Evans**  
*Stronger*  
Sony Nashville  
★★★★☆

Six years full of on and off the grid highs and lows have passed since country chanteuse Sara Evans released any new material. The artist weathered a very public divorce, performed on *Dancing With the Stars*, remarried and took up novel writing. Now, at what she feels is the right time, the artist is set to reveal what it's taken to make her "Stronger."

It's a less traditional sound Evans' employs on "Stronger," opting instead for more of the radio-friendly pop country dominating airwaves. And while the album does boast a few tracks worth skipping like *Desperately*, colored by some odd opening background vocals and a *Born to Fly* rehash, although this time with a bluegrass slant, Evans has some solid things to say throughout.

The most notable track is *A Little Bit Stronger*, now raiding the airwaves as the album releases. With an appropriately somber yet hopeful vibe, Evans owns the lyrics of love, loss and moving on. The Rod Stewart hit *My Heart Can't Tell You No* is given a distinctly countrified feel and is ready to sing along with as *Alone's* slow build, accented with some nice fiddle and Dobro work, really showcases Evans' still fine voice. A song like *Life Without Losing* sounds like something that would fit in a *Lady Antebellum* set while the remaining tracks provide snapshots of love, loss and life.

Sara Evans has returned from her six-year hiatus a stronger woman. On these tracks, with but a few exceptions, she shows that the tough times of life have sharpened her skills, softened her heart and drawn her to a deeper place of peace and faith. And on these 10 songs, she warmly invites you in. It's an invitation well worth accepting.



**Sierra Hull**  
*Daybreak*  
Rounder  
★★★★☆

Sierra Hull may have made her mark at 16 with her debut album, but as she sings on the opening track *Easy Come, Easy Go* from "Daybreak," "I'm not a child any more." Any talk of 'child prodigy' ought to cease with this

assured sophomore effort, produced by Union Station's Barry Bales and Hull.

She isn't a flashy picker or vocalist, yet her self-confident mastery of both shines throughout songs such as the traditional bluegrass *Don't Pick Me Up* and the newgrass instrumental *Bombshell*. In fact, if one wasn't aware of her age while listening to these songs, it would have no real reason to come up either as criticism or compliment - the songs stand on their own, as do the performances. Comparisons can be made to many of the preceding female bluegrass and country artists who have blazed this path already, and Hull takes from each what she needs to form her own musical persona. Listen closely, and you'll hear the upbeat picking of Rhonda Vincent, the quiet emotions of Alison Krauss and the easily relatable songwriting of Dolly Parton.

Perhaps the one advantage of youth Hull has left is her willingness to tackle different sounds, not settling for a straight bluegrass sound or allowing herself to fall into a more polished, contemporary style. At 19, she is still able to hopscotch like a child through traditional, modern, swing, country and more, with the sure hand of Bales tying everything together.



**Aaron Lewis**  
*Town Line*  
Stroudavariety  
★★★★☆

If you take the hard rock power chords away from singer/songwriter Aaron Lewis and replace these strums with steel guitar lines, you don't end up with anything all that different. Producer James Stroud has done a good job bringing Lewis' songs to life on this 7-song EP (with the title track featured a whole three different times, in slightly different variations), but he has not transformed the man into a Darius Rucker-like country singer - yet.

Whether Lewis is complaining about the hard toll life takes on us all with *Vicious Circles* or attempting to establish country music credibility with the title track, Lewis always sounds like that constantly-suffering artist he's always been with his rock band, *Staind*. *Country Boy* is especially annoying, as it relies upon patriotic and NRA-inspired clichés to state its overused case. The love song, *Tangled Up In You*, which also features Alexa Carter's female vocals and was on *Staind's* "The Illusion of Progress CD," somewhat lightens the mood. However,

this addition is not nearly enough muscle to lift off the heavy burden created by this recording. Some stains just never come out, no matter how much Southern elbow grease is applied.



**Joe Nichols**  
*Greatest Hits*  
Show Dog/Universal  
★★★★☆

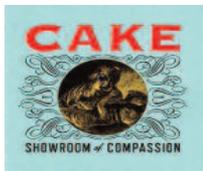
Greatest hits collections are easy to take to task for two things: 1) Does it cover an

artist's chart success completely, and 2) Does it offer anything new? Sad to say, on this package, it's lacking on both counts. There's not a single new track here, and only 10 songs total. Even a cover tune would have been a welcome token. And as the Nichols faithful can attest, some very entertaining lesser lights that enjoyed decent airplay got left off the table.

Across seven studio records, Nichols has posted quite a few high points. Many first became aware of the Arkansas native and his deep drawl in 2002 from his second record, "Man with a Memory." That album contained the inspiring number *The Impossible*, which still generates goose-bumps, along with *Brokenheartsville*. This kiss-off track found great middle ground between the slow Nichols number that overflows with feeling, and the more raucous ones, with their sly, quotable lines. *Brokenheartsville* still holds up, and Nichols arguably hasn't outdone it yet.

The compilation does get a few things right in that all three of the number one records are here (*Tequila Makes Her Clothes Come Off* and *Gimmie That Girl* being the others). And there's nothing that stretches or defies the definition of "hit." But there's no getting around it that certain songs deserve inclusion, prime candidates being *She Only Smokes When She Drinks* and *Believers*.

Nichols is certainly still a work in progress at age 34, and some of his hits are less than 2 years old. So, the whole project may be premature. If this package is appropriate for an artist at this stage, it deserved a fuller look back than this.



**Cake**  
*Showroom of Compassion*  
★★★★☆

In their first album in more than 6 years, Cake bares no rust to shake off. From the opening track, "Federal Funding" – a satirical critique of government inefficiency – the familiarity of John McCrea's deadpan voice relieves longtime Cake fans, while the echo that follows it is a welcomed new layer. With a healthy balance of traditional Cake-sounding

(though some might label them "filler") tracks like "Long Time," "Got to move" and "Bound Away," as well as fresh licks like "Mustache Man," "Teenage Pregnancy" (first piano ever featured on a Cake track) and "Easy to Crash," Cake's first ever self-recorded and independently released album maintains the distinct flavor that's had the quintet from Southern California evading genre-allocation for their nearly 20 year life.



**Bad Religion**  
*Dissent of Man*  
Epitaph  
★★★★☆

I remember seeing a billboard for this album in

Hollywood a few months ago.

Seeing the Epitaph logo reminded me that they are back home with the label, after going full bore with a major. It is a good home for them considering they essentially put Epitaph on the map in more ways than one.

The first thing I noticed about this album is that it is way more rock and roll sounding than any other previous album. It was a little unexpected. Luckily, they have a few strong punk anthemic songs such as "Someone to Believe" and "The Day the Earth Stalled" to keep the core BR fan satisfied. A good solid release for sure.



**Arcade Fire**  
*The Suburbs*  
Merge  
★★★★☆

Through the optimistic hybrid of piano keys over layers of guitar chords and drums, the Canadian trio Arcade Fire tops their 2010 album, "The Suburbs" for the 2011 Grammy Awards album of the year.

After their enthralling 2004 debut, "Funeral", and 2007 follow-up, "Neon Bible", "The Suburbs" transcended from a gothic beginning to a more showcase approach. They will soon be topping off the line up for Bonnaroo's 2011, 10th year festival, that is being held from June 9-12, 2011 in Manchester, Tennessee.

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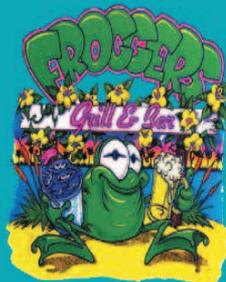
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# CONCERT REVIEWS

## Kenny Chesney & Friends Entertain 50,000+ Fans at Raymond James.

by David Harrison

The parties broke out early all over town: the college hoops fiesta at the St. Pete Times Forum, the golfing tourney at Innisbrook, scattered backyard salutes to the life-affirming 80-degree climes. And as Saturday wore on, all those good times converged into one mighty yeehaw at Raymond James Stadium as country king Kenny Chesney and his superstar friends put on a show. Maybe it's the weather; maybe it's a long run of lousy news here and abroad. But, man, oh, man, did we need a day like this one and a concert like that one, with beach balls and beer fumes gamboling over a crowd of 50,548. (If you're curious, U2 has the joint's all-time attendance record, football games included, at 72,000.)

Hick-hop grunt Uncle Kracker and neo-trad cutie Billy Currington were first to entertain the sun-washed fans, who were allowed into the stadium at 3 p.m. — although many had been



tailgating for hours before that. Nevertheless, by the time the penultimate act, the jam-happy Zac Brown Band, took the stage around 6:30 p.m., the crowd still had the juice and verve to welcome them as if they'd never been happier to see anyone in their lives.

And why not? This was Life Appreciation Day. Sure, it might have been a little cheeseball when Georgia's Zac & Co. merged America the Beautiful with mondo hit Chicken Fried, but it sounded sweet and genuine, as did a massive crowd sing-along that ruffled the sails of that end-zone pirate ship.

This show couldn't have come at a better time. Much like hair metal, country thrives on our simplest pleasures and pains. It's comfort food that doesn't pretend to be anything but. Zac Brown understands this and then some: One of the day's hottest tickets was a preshow "meet-and-eat" with the man, who doesn't just entertain his throngs but stuffs their craws, too.

Although ZBB could pick and strut for sure (including a ferocious cover of The Devil Went Down to Georgia), it excelled at slower grooves, on display during bittersweetly beautiful As She's Walking Away (from 2010's *You Get What You Give*) and a merging of Free and Van Morrison's *Into the Mystic*.

When the sun finally went down on a show that spanned six hours, the masses — looking good in

muscle shirts and cowboy boots with matching thighs — needed a goose. Enter Chesney, whose "Goin' Coastal" show was as informed by AC/DC as Alan Jackson. (Then again, chill-inducing new song Somewhere With You, from new album Hemingway's Whiskey, sounded a bit like Bono and the boys.)

First appearing harnessed high above the 50-yard line, Chesney slowly zip-lined to the stage and tore off a few cooks, including Reality and Live Those Songs. The Tennessee star's vocals were perilously low in the mix at first, a messy muddle for sure, but by the time Summertime and Beer in Mexico cha-cha'd around, the Sleeveless Wonder was coming in clear.

The only artist in any genre to sell more than 1 million concert tickets for eight consecutive summers, Chesney is compared to Jimmy Buffett, especially since's J.B.'s old Corona beer sponsor is now K.C.'s. But there's a big difference between the two entertainers, as different as a Caribbean getaway and a weekend in Disney. Buffett is the

well-heeled beach bum who's already found a hammock; Chesney sings for the 9-to-5er constantly in search of one.

For more than two hours, the 42-year-old wanted everyone to see how hard he was working, sweating, shaking his hips and running like mad. His songs were mostly commoner's laments and fantasies. For the chummy happy-hour hit When the Sun Goes Down, Chesney even brought out portly duet partner Uncle Kracker, who looked like he wandered in from a Jiffy Lube office party. With a full moon looking on, Chesney finished his set with lackluster gridiron dirge The Boys of Fall, then came back for a wild, loose encore that included the awesomely stupid She Thinks My Tractor's Sexy and, with Zac Brown joining in, a cover of Alabama's Dixieland Delight, ZBB's own Knee Deep, the Rolling Stones' Jumpin' Jack Flash and Tom Petty's Runnin' Down a Dream. And still not sated, the fans screamed for more. After a day like this, who could blame them?



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# EVENT CALENDAR

## APRIL

- 2 **3 Doors Down, Seether, Stone Sour, Theory of a Deadman, Halestorm, Skillet and Art of Dying**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa
- 2 **House of Pain**  
State Theater, St. Petersburg
- 2 **MC Hammer**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg
- 6 **Lil Wayne**  
Amway Center, Orlando
- 7 **Aaron Lewis**  
Seminole Hard Rock Cafe, Tampa
- 7 **moe.**  
The Ritz, Ybor City
- 8 **Ricky Martin**  
Amway Center, Orlando
- 8 **Slaughter**  
Bikefest, Leesburg
- 8 **Robert Cray Band**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg
- 8 **Jackyl**  
State Theater, St. Petersburg
- 8 **Harry Connick, Jr.**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 9 **Jackyl**  
Bikefest, Leesburg
- 9 **Jim Brickman**  
Van Wezel Hall, Sarasota
- 9 **Kellie Pickler and The Outlaws**  
Manatee Fairgrounds, Palmetto
- 9 **Jonny Lang**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg
- 10 **Tab Benoit, Eric Lindell, Jon Cleary & Irma Thomas**  
Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg
- 10 **PBR Bull Riding**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa
- 10 **The Radiators**  
Jannus Landing, St. Petersburg
- 14 **Boz Scaggs and Marc Cohn**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 14 **Saving Abel**  
State Theater, St. Petersburg
- 15 **Big Bad Voodoo Daddy**  
Capital Theatre, Clearwater
- 15 **The Beach Boys**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 15 **Coheed and Cambria**  
Jannus Landing, St. Petersburg
- 15 **Lady Gaga**  
Amway Center, Orlando
- 15 **Dierks Bentley, Eric Church, Lo Cash Cowboys, John Anderson and Steel Magnolia**  
Wickham Park, Melbourne
- 16 **Miranda Lambert, Jake Owen, Justin Moore, Lonestar, and Josh Kelley**  
Wickham Park, Melbourne
- 16 **Lady Gaga**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa
- 16 **Warrant**  
Seminole Hard Rock Cafe, Tampa
- 16 **Jimmy Buffett**  
1-800-Ask-Gary Amphitheatre, Tampa
- 17 **Iron Maiden**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa
- 18 **Yanni**  
Straz Performing Arts Center, Tampa
- 21 **Chicago**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 22 **Tom Jones**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 22 **Charlie Sheen**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa

*Your Source for the Latest Listings  
of your Favorite Artists and Events.*

- 22 **Lee Brice and Jerrod Niemann**  
Joyland, Bradenton
- 23 **Trans-Siberian Orchestra**  
Lakeland Center, Lakeland
- 23 **Ke\$ha**  
House of Blues, Orlando
- 24 **Ke\$ha**  
House of Blues, Orlando
- 29 **Tim McGraw, Luke Bryan  
and The Band Perry**  
1-800-Ask-Gary Amphitheatre, Tampa
- 30 **Earth, Wind & Fire**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 30 **REO Speedwagon**  
Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg

**MAY**

- 1 **Toad The Wet Sprocket**  
The Ritz, Ybor City
- 1 **Puff Daddy and Diddy-Dirty Money**  
House of Blues, Orlando
- 6 **Sister Hazel**  
Jannus Live, St. Petersburg
- 7 **Jeff Beck**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 7 **The Smithereens**  
Lakeland Center, Lakeland
- 8 **Kylie Minogue**  
Hard Rock Live, Orlando
- 14 **Darius Rucker**  
Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg
- 14 **Michael W. Smith**  
Busch Gardens, Tampa
- 15 **Bon Jovi**  
Amway Center, Orlando
- 20 **Chris Isaak, Josh Turner**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg

- 21 **Bonnie Raitt, Buddy Guy &  
Jon Cleary**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg
- 22 **Third Eye Blind, Colbie Caillat  
Allison Iraheta & Adam 812**  
Vinoy Waterfront Park, St. Petersburg
- 25 **Jackson Browne**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 26 **Seven Mary Three**  
Seminole Hard Rock Cafe, Tampa

**JUNE**

- 3 **John Waite**  
Capitol Theatre, Clearwater
- 4 **The Monkees**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 4 **Taylor Swift**  
Amway Center, Orlando
- 7 **Primus**  
Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater
- 9 **Nashville Pussy**  
State Theater, St. Petersburg
- 10 **Katy Perry**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa
- 17 **Def Leppard and Heart**  
1-800-Ask-Gary Amphitheatre, Tampa
- 18 **Keith Urban and Jake Owen**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa

**JULY**

- 6 **Motley Crue, Poison and NY Dolls**  
St. Pete Times Forum, Tampa

**AUGUST**

- 6 **Goo Goo Dolls**  
Tropicana Field, St. Petersburg
- 11 **Disturbed, Godsmack, Megadeth,  
Machine Head, In Flames, Trivium**  
1-800-Ask-Gary Amphitheatre, Tampa

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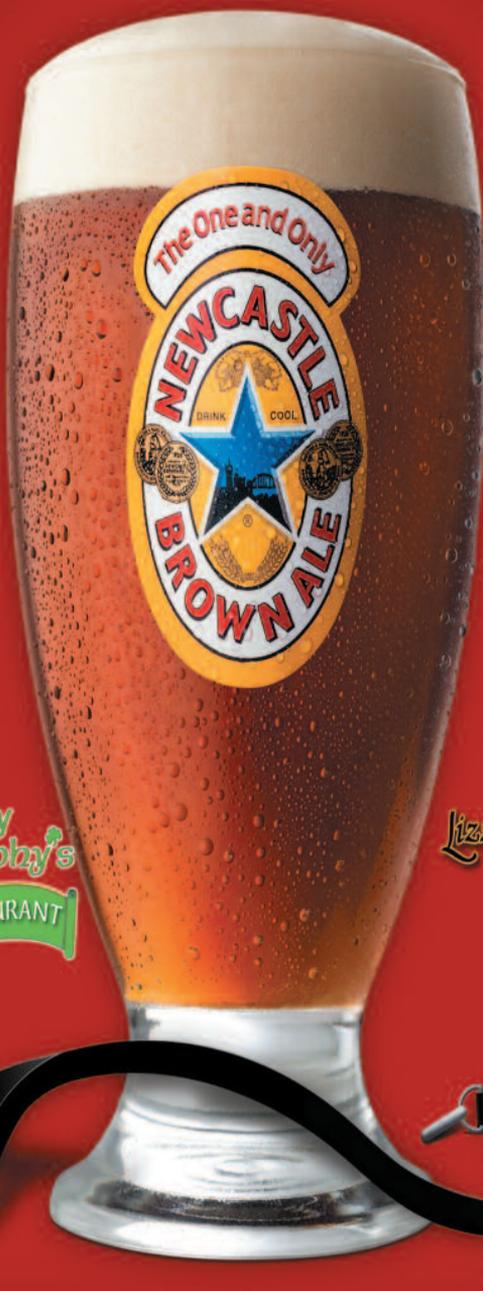
HOUSE & MASHUPS | FREE DRINKS 11:30-1am | \$5 CALLS ALL NIGHT  
LADIES IN GROUPS OF 8 RECEIVE A FREE BOTTLE OF CHAMPAGNE

Lodge   
RESTAURANT & BAR

\$2 CHAMELEON  
SHOTS!!!

516 SOUTH HOWARD AVE. | TAMPA, FL | [WWW.LODGETAMPA.COM](http://WWW.LODGETAMPA.COM)

FOR VIP PARTIES AND BOTTLE SERVICE CALL 813-418-9647



TIME TO

**WALK THE DOG.**

Celebrate  
the true taste  
of Ireland here.

