

Sports & Entertainment

Grammy winner Randy Travis to visit Grammy Museum Mississippi for intimate conversation and behind-the-scenes look at his legendary career presented by Needle Specialty

CLEVELAND, Miss. , July 16, 2025 — GRAMMY® Award winning singer, songwriter, and actor Randy Travis — one of the most influential artists in the history of the Country genre — will make a special appearance at GRAMMY Museum® Mississippi on Tuesday, Aug. 5 as part of its An Evening With series. He will be joined by his wife, Mary Travis, along with special guest vocalist James Dupré, who will perform during the evening. Tickets to An Evening With Randy Travis are currently only open to Museum Members. Membership to the Museum and tickets are available at grammy-museumms.org.

Sponsored by Needle Specialty Products, the event will take place on Tuesday, Aug. 5 at 7 p.m. in the Sanders Soundstage in the museum. A reception will take place before the event at 6 p.m. featuring a cash bar and light hors d'oeuvres. Additional support is provided by Visit Mississippi, SouthGroup, Robinson Electric, Hard Rock Hotel and Casino, SuperTalk Mississippi, and Regions.

“We are honored to welcome Randy Travis, a true pioneer and one of the most beloved voices in country music, to our museum,” said Emily Havens, Executive Director of GRAMMY Museum Mississippi. “From his groundbreaking debut to a career filled with chart-topping hits and cultural impact, Randy has helped shape the very sound of modern country. We are excited to celebrate his legacy with this intimate and unforgettable evening.”

“We are truly honored to sponsor An Evening with Randy Travis at the GRAMMY Museum Mississippi,” said Michael Belenchia, President and CEO of Needle Specialty Products. “This

museum is such a vital part of our community and our state, celebrating the rich musical heritage that connects us all. Our company is proud to support its mission and to be a part of such a meaningful event.”

About Randy Travis

With lifetime sales exceeding 23 million, Randy Travis is one of the most successful multi-genre artists of all time and a 2016 inductee into the Country Music Hall of Fame. A member of the Grand Ole Opry since 1986, his accolades include seven Grammy Awards, 11 Academy of Country Music Awards, 10 American Music Awards, two People’s Choice Awards, seven Music City News Awards, eight Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association, and five Country Music Association Awards. Three of his performances earned CMA Song of the Year honors: “On the Other Hand” (1986), “Forever and Ever, Amen” (1987), and “Three Wooden Crosses” (2002). To date, he has earned 23 No. 1 singles, 31 Top 10 hits, and more than 40 appearances in feature films and television shows. His discography includes four Gold albums, four Platinum albums, one Double Platinum album, one Triple Platinum album, and one Quintuple Platinum album.

In 1992, Travis was recognized by the USO for his support and dedication to U.S. troops, including five USO tours, and received the Bob Hope Entertainment Award. He was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 2004 and is celebrated on Nashville’s Music City Walk of Fame. Since suffering a near-fatal stroke in 2013, Travis—through the support of his wife, Mary, and rigorous physical ther-



apy—has made remarkable strides in recovery, including improvements in speaking, walking, and singing. In 2019, he released his critically acclaimed memoir Forever and Ever, Amen, co-authored with Ken Abraham. In 2021, CMT named Travis the CMT Artist of a Lifetime. In 2022, he released his award-winning documentary More Life, which garnered six Telly Awards.

In May 2024, with the assistance of cutting-edge AI technologies, Travis and Warner Music Nashville released “Where That Came

From,” marking his first new recording in over a decade and showcasing his signature vocals. The single debuted at No. 45 on Billboard’s Country Airplay chart and was met with enthusiastic praise from fans and country radio. The release also sparked a new chapter of advocacy, as Travis and his wife began working to promote creators’ rights in Washington D.C. and across the nation, championing fair compensation and protections for artists in the evolving digital age. For more information, visit RandyTravis.com.

About James Dupré

James Dupré was born and raised in Bayou Chicot, Louisiana. He was named one of Rolling Stone Magazine’s “Country Artists You Need to Know” and has spent years sharing his smooth baritone voice with his fans across social media and at venues and festivals across the United States, Canada, and Europe. The one-time aspiring meteorologist turned paramedic became a YouTube sensation in 2007 which ultimately led to an invitation to perform on The Ellen Degeneres Show. Shortly after, he released his debut album It’s All Happening in 2010, which charted on Billboard. After signing a record deal with Warner Music Nashville in 2011, Dupré began performing and touring full-time. In 2015, Dupré appeared on NBC’s The Voice (Season 9) with a four chair turn, landing him a spot on Adam Levine’s team. Following his departure from The Voice, James released his sophomore album Stoned to Death, yielding two singles charting on the Billboard Indicator chart: “Hurt Good” and the title track. The father of five made his acting debut in the film “The Price” playing the son of a country singer portrayed by Randy Travis. In 2019, James was handpicked by Randy and his wife, Mary, as the special guest vocalist for the “More Life Tour.” Along with Randy’s original band, James performs all of the Country Music Hall of Famer’s biggest hits. James released his third studio album, Home and Away, in 2020 with three singles: the title track, “Another Love Song,” and “Painfully Pretty.” In September 2023, he made his Grand Ole Opry debut in Nashville, Tenn.. In May 2024, James was featured

on CBS Sunday Morning as being the first ever “vocal bed” on a commercially released song. The single, “Where That Came From,” was the first new music released by Randy Travis in over a decade, and was produced with the help of Artificial Intelligence to reimagine Randy’s legendary vocals on new music. For more information, visit JamesDupre.com.

About GRAMMY Museum Mississippi

Developed by the Cleveland Music Foundation—a nonprofit organization founded in 2011—the 28,000-square foot GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is housed near the campus of Delta State University, home of the Delta Music Institute’s Entertainment Industry Studies program, which features the most unique audio recording facilities in the South. Affiliated with the GRAMMY Museum Foundation™, GRAMMY Museum Mississippi is dedicated to exploring the past, present, and future of music, and the cultural context from which it emerges, while casting a focused spotlight on the deep musical roots of Mississippi. The Museum features a dynamic combination of public events, educational programming, engaging multimedia presentations, and interactive permanent and traveling exhibits, including a Mississippi-centric area that introduces visitors to the impact of Mississippi’s songwriters, producers, and musicians on the traditional and modern music landscape.

For more information, visit grammymuseumms.org.

B.A.S.S. announces Watauga Lake, Tenn. as venue of 2025 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket Presented by Lew’s

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., July 2025— The road to the 2026 Bass Pro Shops Bassmaster Classic presented by Under Armour will wind through the scenic Appalachian Mountains this fall as B.A.S.S. announces Watauga Lake in Carter County, Tenn., as the host site for the 2025 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket presented by Lew’s. The event will take place on the clear, deep waters of Watauga Lake, a highland reservoir nestled within the Cherokee National Forest. The Bassmaster College Classic Bracket is the ultimate test of collegiate bass fishing excellence, where the top four teams from the Strike King Bassmaster College National Championship presented by Bass Pro Shops are split up and will compete head-to-head as eight individual anglers in a bracket-style, elimination tournament. The stakes couldn’t be higher: The winner earns a berth in the 2026 Bassmaster Classic, a coveted in-



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itation to fish the 2026 St. Croix Bassmaster Opens presented by SEVIIN in both divisions and the use of a fully rigged Nitro boat and Toyota Tundra for the season.

“Super-excited to be sharing this moment with each of these anglers as they chase their dreams,” said Glenn Cale, B.A.S.S. tournament manager for the College, High School and Junior Series. “Best of luck to all of them.”

Watauga Lake, which spans 6,430 acres, offers a unique challenge for competitors with its deep, clear water and abundance of both largemouth and smallmouth bass. As part of Tennessee’s Bill Dance Signature Lakes program, Watauga has seen con-

“On behalf of the state of Tennessee, we couldn’t be more excited to welcome the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket tournament back to Tennessee and, specifically, to Watauga Lake,” said the Chief Customer Officer – TN Department of Tourist Development at State of Tennessee, Dennis Tumlin.

tinued investment to enhance habitat and access, making it one of the state’s premier fishing destinations.

“Carter County Tourism is excited to showcase the scenic beauty and incredible fishing of Watauga Lake with the 2025 Bassmaster College Bracket Tournament,” said Director of Tourism for the Elizabethton/Carter County Chamber of Commerce Luke Freeman. “We look forward to

having these anglers experience firsthand all that Carter County has to offer.”

The excitement around this event isn’t limited to Carter County. The state of Tennessee is once again proud to welcome the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket to its waters.

“On behalf of the state of Tennessee, we couldn’t be more excited to welcome the Bassmaster College Classic Bracket tournament back to Tennessee and, specifically, to Watauga Lake,” said the Chief Customer Officer – TN Department of Tourist Development at State of Tennessee, Dennis Tumlin. “Watauga, situated along the Tennessee/North Carolina state borders, is one of our hidden gems and is part of Tennessee’s Bill Dance Signature Lakes program. Visitors are going to be amazed by the hospitality and the natural beauty surrounding this 6,430-acre TVA

highland reservoir nestled inside the Cherokee National Forest. I expect both largemouth and smallmouth to come into play, and I won’t be surprised to see a smallmouth over 6 pounds hit the scales during this event. With fishing this good, it’s easy to see why Tennessee ‘Sounds Perfect’ for your next fishing destination.”

Fans can follow all the action from the 2025 Bassmaster College Classic Bracket presented by Lew’s on Bassmaster.com and across Bassmaster social media platforms.

For more information on visiting Carter County and Watauga Lake, visit tourcartercounty.com and follow #TNVACATION, #BillDanceSignatureLakes and #FishTennessee. This event is being hosted by Carter County Tourism.



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