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THE PRESIDENT AND MRS. OBAMA

welcome you to

THE WHITE HOUSE

COUNTRY MUSIC:

In Performance at the White House



Monday, November 21, 2011

LAUREN ALAINA

This Georgia native captured America's heart when she appeared on *American Idol* earlier this year and revealed her enthusiasm, humor and warmth—as well as a commanding voice that has been compared to the genre's premier vocalists, including Carrie Underwood and Martina McBride. Alaina has since made her debut on the world famous Grand Ole Opry, presented on the CMA Awards and released her debut album, *Wildflower*, to rave reviews. On the album, Alaina showcases compelling stories, powerful emotions and soaring vocals.

THE BAND PERRY

Inheriting a love of country and rock music from their parents, The Band Perry—siblings Kimberly, Reid, and Neil Perry—have performed and collaborated together for the past 13 years. They describe their three-part harmonies, traditional instrumentation and contemporary flair as a “modern throwback”—and it is a winning combination. The Band Perry recently won the 2011 CMA New Artist of the Year and Single of the Year awards, and Kimberly earned the Song of the Year award. Their self-titled album was released in 2010.

DIERKS BENTLEY

A CMA Award-winning singer/songwriter, Bentley has forged his own brand of country music combining classic country songwriting, influences of bluegrass instrumentation and the energy of rock and roll. With five studio albums, he has earned ten GRAMMY Award nominations and eight number one hits. Bentley is a member of the Grand Ole Opry and has headlined arena tours across the U.S. and abroad. His Miles & Music for Kids charity event series has raised to date two million dollars for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals.

STEVE GIBSON

At the center of the Nashville music industry for more than 30 years, Gibson has been a key player in the creation of nearly 200 number one records throughout the careers of George Strait, Martina McBride, Vince Gill, Reba McEntire, Randy Travis, Kenny Chesney, Dolly Parton, Trisha Yearwood, Alabama, and scores of others. Gibson is currently Music Director for the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, and also the Music Director for the CMA Awards. He also serves on the Recording Academy Producers and Engineers Wing committee.

ALISON KRAUSS

One of the finest bluegrass virtuosos in the world, Krauss' reputation as a renowned musician and singer was cemented in her early teens. She effortlessly bridges the gap between roots music and country, rock and pop. An award-winning producer and a highly sought-after collaborator, Krauss has worked with some of the biggest names in popular music and she has garnered 26 GRAMMY Awards, an unsurpassed achievement for a woman. Her latest album is *Paper Airplane*, all-new recordings in partnership with her longstanding band Union Station.

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

A GRAMMY Award-winning artist, Kristofferson studied creative writing at Pomona College in California. Then the Phi Beta Kappa graduate earned a Rhodes scholarship to study literature at Oxford. In 1965, Kristofferson turned down a West Point teaching assignment and moved to Nashville to pursue his music. Kristofferson achieved remarkable success as a songwriter at the start of the 1970s. His songs “Me and Bobby McGee,” “Help Me Make It Through the Night,” “Sunday Morning Coming Down,” and “For the Good Times” helped redefine songwriting in Music City.

LYLE LOVETT

A GRAMMY Award-winning singer, composer and actor, Lovett has broadened the definition of Americana music in a career that spans 14 albums. Coupled with his gift for storytelling, the Texas-based musician fuses elements of country, swing, jazz, folk, gospel, and blues in a convention-defying manner that breaks down barriers. Lovett has also appeared in 13 feature films, and on stage and television. His accolades include four GRAMMY Awards, the Americana Music Association's inaugural Trailblazer Award, and Lovett was recently named the 2011 Texas State Musician.

MICKEY

A native of Texas, Mickey Guyton grew up in Crawford, where she developed her voice and love of music while singing in church. Influenced by gospel music as a child and country music as a young adult, Mickey has always been drawn to artists with big voices including Dolly Parton, LeAnn Rimes and CeCe Winans. College brought her to Los Angeles, but her heart and hard work led her to Nashville, where she recently signed with Capitol Records Nashville and is currently working on her debut country album.

DARIUS RUCKER

A two-time GRAMMY Award-winner, Rucker—once only recognized as the frontman for one of the biggest bands of all time, Hootie & The Blowfish—has gracefully transitioned into one of country music's most beloved artists. Rucker has had five chart-topping singles from his debut album, *Learn to Live*, and 2010 release, *Charleston, SC 1966*. In addition to country music, Rucker offers much of his time to charitable efforts benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Hootie & The Blowfish Foundation, Pattison's Academy, and many other organizations.

JAMES TAYLOR

In 1971, Taylor was on the cover of *Time* magazine, heralded as the harbinger of the singer-songwriter era. Four decades later his warm baritone, introspective lyrics and unique guitar playing still blaze a path to which young musicians aspire. Taylor has earned 40 gold, platinum, and multi-platinum awards and five GRAMMY Awards. He recently received the National Medal of Arts from President Obama in a White House ceremony. Raised in North Carolina, Taylor lives in Massachusetts with his wife, Caroline, and their twins, Henry and Rufus.

IN THE EAST ROOM

Remarks by

THE PRESIDENT

Performances by

LAUREN ALAINA

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON

THE BAND PERRY

LYLE LOVETT

DIERKS BENTLEY

MICKEY

ALISON KRAUSS

DARIUS RUCKER

JAMES TAYLOR

STEVE GIBSON

Music Director



Program subject to change

IN PERFORMANCE AT THE WHITE HOUSE

In Performance at the White House is a music series distributed for national television broadcast by PBS and produced since its inception in 1978 by WETA, the flagship public broadcasting station in the Nation's Capital. WETA created *In Performance at the White House* to showcase the rich fabric of American culture in the setting of the Nation's most famous home. Throughout the years, the series has embraced virtually every genre of American performance from pop, country, gospel, jazz, and blues to theatre and dance. Past programs have presented such talent as cellist Mstislav Rostropovich, dancer and choreographer Mikhail Baryshnikov, country music singer Merle Haggard, and the United States Marine Band.

During the Obama administration, there have been six *In Performance at the White House* programs to date, from February 2009 to the most recent concert in February 2011. These events have honored the musical genius of Stevie Wonder and Sir Paul McCartney and their receipt of the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song; celebrated Hispanic musical heritage during Hispanic Heritage Month; marked Black History Month by featuring the music of Motown and music from the Civil Rights Movement, including the White House debut of Bob Dylan; and spotlighted Broadway and the unique spirit of the American musical.

Country Music: In Performance at the White House will be broadcast on PBS stations nationwide on Wednesday, November 23 at 8 p.m. (ET). The program will also be broadcast at a later date via the American Forces Network to American service men and women and civilians at U.S. Department of Defense locations around the world.

