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**BRAD PAISLEY AND GEORGE STRAIT NOW TIE FOR LEAD
WITH SIX NOMINATIONS EACH**

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**ALBUM OF THE YEAR NOMINEES ANNOUNCED
FOR THE 44th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**

ENCINO, CA (March 6, 2009) – Today the Academy of Country Music is announcing the nominees for the Album of the Year category for the **44th ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**. The ceremony, which honors country music's top talent as well as the industry's hottest emerging talent, is produced for television by dick clark productions and will be broadcast LIVE from MGM GRAND in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5th, 2009 at 8:00 PM ET/PT on the CBS Television Network.

This category changes the total number of award nominations for the top nominated artists:

- Brad Paisley and George Strait lead with 6 nominations each
- Jamey Johnson and Heidi Newfield receive 5 nominations each
- Kenny Chesney, Taylor Swift and Carrie Underwood receive 4 nominations each
- Keith Urban receives 3 nominations

Album of the Year Nominees

Back When I Knew It All – Montgomery Gentry (Columbia)

Produced by: Blake Chancey

Carnival Ride – Carrie Underwood (19/Arista Nashville)

Produced by: Mark Bright

Fearless – Taylor Swift (Big Machine)

Produced by: Scott Borchetta, Nathan Chapman, Taylor Swift

That Lonesome Song – Jamey Johnson (Mercury)

Produced by: The Kent Hardly Playboys

Troubadour – George Strait (MCA)

Produced by: Tony Brown and George Strait

About the Academy of Country Music Awards

The 44th ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS is dedicated to honoring and showcasing the biggest names and emerging talent in the country music industry. The show is produced for television by dick clark productions and will be broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas Sunday, April 5, 2009 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network. Orly Adelson and R.A. Clark are executive producers, Barry Adelman is producer and Bob Bardo is executive in charge of production.

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