



**ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC & GREAT AMERICAN COUNTRY
PARTNER TO LET THE FANS DECIDE
TOP NEW ARTIST NOMINEES**

* * * * *

Encino, CA (January 27, 2010) – The Academy of Country Music and Great American Country (GAC) announced today that for the second year, the three newcomer categories for the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS** — Top New Solo Vocalist, Top New Vocal Duo and Top New Vocal Group — will be opened up to interactive fan voting through VoteACM.com. As previously announced, the Top New Solo Vocalist category will take the place of the Top New Male Vocalist and Top New Female Vocalist categories.

Following is the list of final nominees in the Top New categories that the Academy announced today:

TOP NEW SOLO VOCALIST

- Luke Bryan
- Jamey Johnson
- Chris Young

TOP NEW VOCAL DUO

- Bomshel
- Joey + Rory
- Steel Magnolia

TOP NEW VOCAL GROUP

- Eli Young Band
- Gloriana
- The Lost Trailers

Professional members of the Academy of Country Music select the final nominees in the Top New Solo Vocalist, Top New Vocal Duo and Top New Vocal Group categories. Professional member votes will be combined with fan votes to obtain the winners of the Top New categories of the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**.

Fan voting for these three categories will begin at VoteACM.com on Friday, February 26, and will close on Friday, March 12. The winner in each category will be announced in mid-March and will move on to compete for **Top New Artist**. Voting for the Top New Artist category will begin at VoteACM.com on Thursday, April 1, and will close on April 18, with the winner being announced live during the **45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards** broadcast on the CBS Television Network.

As part of this partnership, GAC will air several stand-alone specials, including a show featuring all the nominees from each of the three categories, as well as a show featuring the three winners who will compete for overall Top New Artist.

“GAC provides many new country music artists their first television exposure, and this special

programming gives fans the opportunity to get to know the ACM new artist nominees even better,” said Sarah Trahern, Senior Vice President of Programming for GAC.

“The Academy’s partnership with GAC last year brought a lot of new faces to the forefront of country fans minds, and we hope to build on that success, exposing a brand new slate of newcomers to GAC viewers,” said Bob Romeo, Executive Director of the Academy of Country Music.

The first GAC special, hosted by reigning ACM Top New Male Vocalist Jake Owen, will feature the nine nominees, three from each newcomer category, and will premiere Thursday, February 25 at 10:00 PM ET. This special will re-air through March 12, when voting closes.

On March 23, GAC will tape a second special wherein the winner in each category will be named and presented with the award for Top New Solo Vocalist, Top New Vocal Duo, and Top New Vocal Group. Each winning act will perform on this special, which will air multiple times before the Academy of Country Music Awards. The premiere airdate of the special is Thursday, April 1 at 10:00 PM ET.

The winner of the new Top New Artist category will be awarded on the 45th Annual Academy of Country Music Awards broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas Sunday, April 18, 2010 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network.

The complete list of nominees for the Academy of Country Music Awards will be announced in February.

About the Academy of Country Music Awards

The 45th 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 18, 2010 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. For more information, please visit www.acmcountry.com.

About Great American Country (GAC)

Great American Country is the leader in country music entertainment, and delivers to viewers the widest variety of country music, its artists and the lifestyles they influence. GAC broadcasts original country music programming, music performance specials, live concerts and music videos. GAC is available in more than 58 million households and online at <http://www.GACTV.com>.

GAC is owned by Scripps Networks, the leading developer of lifestyle-oriented content for television and the Internet, including [HGTV](#), [DIY Network](#), [Food Network](#), [Travel Channel](#) and [Fine Living Network](#). Scripps Networks is based in Knoxville, Tenn., with offices in New York, Los Angeles, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta and Nashville, and is a unit of Scripps Networks Interactive (NYSE:SNI).

*If you are a member of the media, please log on to the Scripps Networks **Online Media Center** (<http://newsroom.scrippsnetworks.com>) for the latest brand news, useful photos and graphics, detailed programming information, contacts and current research.*

#

Media Contacts:

Katie Jo Sheek
Academy of Country Music
818.788.8000 ext 220
katiejo@acmcountry.com

Lee Hall
Great American Country (GAC)

865.560.3853

LHall@scrippsnetworks.com

Ronna Rubin

Rubin Media for Great American Country (GAC)

615.298.4400

ronna@rubinmedia.biz