



**CONTACTS:**

Enjoli Duval/ Lauren McGee  
BNC PR

Ph (310) 854-4800

[eduval@bncpr.com](mailto:eduval@bncpr.com) / [lmcgee@bncpr.com](mailto:lmcgee@bncpr.com)

**NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR THE  
44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC® AWARDS  
COUNTRY MUSIC'S PARTY OF THE YEAR™**

\* \* \* \*

**FANS WILL VOTE AGAIN FOR ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR;  
TOP NEW ARTIST CATEGORY FAN VOTED FOR FIRST TIME EVER**

**TELECAST TO AIR LIVE FROM MGM GRAND IN LAS VEGAS  
SUNDAY, APRIL 5<sup>th</sup> AT 8:00 PM LIVE ET/DELAYED PT ON CBS TELEVISION NETWORK**

**Brad Paisley leads with 6 nominations;**

**Heidi Newfield receives 5 nominations;**

**Kenny Chesney, Jamey Johnson and George Strait each receive 4 nominations;**

**Carrie Underwood and Keith Urban each receive 3 nominations;**

**Trace Adkins, Brooks & Dunn, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, James Otto, Jake Owen,**

**Taylor Swift and Sugarland each receive 2 nominations**

NASHVILLE, TN (February 11, 2009) – Nominations were announced today for the 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS a star-studded event produced for television by dick clark productions broadcast LIVE from the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas on Sunday, April 5 at 8:00 PM live ET/delayed PT on the CBS Television Network.

Nominees were announced at a press conference this morning at the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum in Nashville. Country Super Stars **Julianne Hough, Kellie Pickler, LeAnn Rimes** and **Jessica Simpson** read the nominations live during CBS' *The Early Show* broadcast.

For the first time ever, the three newcomer categories for the Annual Academy of Country Music Awards — Top New Female Vocalist, Top New Male Vocalist and Top New Vocal Duo or Group – will be opened up to interactive fan voting on GACTV.com, beginning Friday, February 13. The winners will then move on to compete in a new category, **Top New Artist**. For the second year, fans will also select the winner of the Academy's most prestigious honor, **Entertainer of the Year**. Online voting will be available at [www.voteACM.com](http://www.voteACM.com), and this year fans will also be able to text their votes for Entertainer of the Year during the broadcast. The winners of each category will be announced live during the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Academy of Country Music Awards.

This morning **Brad Paisley** led with six nominations, including Entertainer of the Year and Top Male Vocalist. In addition, Paisley was nominated for Single Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Video of the Year for "Waitin' on a Woman," and Vocal Event of the Year for "Start a Band" with Keith Urban. Paisley is the reigning Top Male Vocalist.

**Heidi Newfield** is nominated for five awards, including Top Female Vocalist. She is also nominated for Single Record of the Year and is nominated as an artist and composer for Song of the Year for "Johnny & June," for which she is also nominated for Video of the Year.

**Kenny Chesney** is nominated for four awards, including Entertainer of the Year, Top Male Vocalist and as an artist and producer for Vocal Event of the Year for "Down the Road" with Mac McAnally. If Chesney wins Entertainer of the Year, it will be his fifth consecutive win, which will tie Alabama for the most

consecutive wins in this category.

**Jamey Johnson** received four nominations, including Top New Male Vocalist, Single Record of the Year and as an artist and composer for Song of the Year for “In Color.” This is the first time Johnson has been nominated as an artist. He previously won an Academy of Country Music Award in 2006 for Song of the Year for “Give It Away,” which was recorded by George Strait.

**George Strait** received four nominations, including Entertainer of the Year, Top Male Vocalist and Song of the Year for “I Saw God Today.” He is also nominated for Video of the Year for “Troubadour.” If Strait wins Entertainer of the Year, it will be his second win in that category, previously winning the award in 1989. Strait has also been named the Academy of Country Music’s Artist of the Decade and will be honored in a television special to air later in the year on CBS.

**Carrie Underwood** is nominated for three awards, including Entertainer of Year. If Underwood wins Entertainer of the Year, she will be only the 7<sup>th</sup> female to take the award; previous winners include Loretta Lynn in 1975, Reba McEntire in 1994 and most recently Dixie Chicks in 2000. Underwood is also nominated for Top Female Vocalist, and her video “Just a Dream” is nominated for Video of the Year. If she wins Top Female Vocalist, it will be the third consecutive year she has won the category.

**Keith Urban** received three nominations, including Entertainer of the Year, Top Male Vocalist and Vocal Event of the Year for his duet with Brad Paisley for “Start a Band.” Urban is a five-time ACM award winner, including Top Male Vocalist in 2004 and 2005, Album of the Year in 2004 and Top New Male Artist in 2000. If he wins Entertainer of the Year, he will be eligible for the Triple Crown Award, the Academy’s recognition of those who have taken Top New Artist, Top Artist and Entertainer of the Year awards.

**Trace Adkins, Brooks & Dunn, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, James Otto, Jake Owen, Taylor Swift and Sugarland** are each nominated for two awards. **Adkins** is nominated for Single Record of the Year and Song of the Year for “You’re Gonna Miss this.” **Brooks & Dunn** are nominated for Top Vocal Duo and Vocal Event of the Year. If they win Top Vocal Duo, it will be their 16<sup>th</sup> straight win in the category. **Miranda Lambert** received two nominations for Top Female Vocalist and Single Record of the Year. **Little Big Town** received two nominations for Top Vocal Group and Vocal Event of the Year. **James Otto**—a first-time nominee—is nominated for Top New Male Vocalist and as a producer for Song of the Year for “In Color.” **Jake Owen** is nominated for Top New Male Vocalist and Vocal Event of the Year, and was previously nominated for Top New Male Vocalist in 2007. **Swift** is nominated in two categories including Top Female Vocalist, and her video “Love Story” is nominated for Video of the Year. She won Top New Female Vocalist last year. **Sugarland** is nominated for Top Vocal Duo and Vocal Event of the Year. Last year they won Single Record of the Year for “Stay.”

Members of the Academy of Country Music select the nominees and winners of the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**, and select the final top five nominees of the Entertainer of the Year category and the top three nominees in newcomer categories, Top New Female Vocalist, Top New Male Vocalist and Top New Vocal Duo or Group. Presenters and performers who will appear at the ceremony will be announced at a later date. As previously announced, Reba McEntire will return for an unprecedented 11<sup>th</sup> time to host this year’s show.

Following is the list of final nominees; Nominees for Album of the Year will be announced in March. Winners in each of the following categories, except where noted, will be presented with an **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARD** during the television broadcast:

### **ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

- Kenny Chesney
- Brad Paisley
- George Strait
- Keith Urban
- Carrie Underwood

### **TOP MALE VOCALIST**

- Kenny Chesney
- Toby Keith
- Brad Paisley
- George Strait
- Keith Urban

### **TOP FEMALE VOCALIST**

- Miranda Lambert
- Heidi Newfield
- Taylor Swift
- Carrie Underwood
- Lee Ann Womack

### **TOP VOCAL GROUP**

- Lady Antebellum
- Little Big Town
- Rascal Flatts
- Randy Rogers Band
- The Lost Trailers

### **TOP VOCAL DUO**

- Big & Rich
- Brooks & Dunn
- Joey + Rory
- Montgomery Gentry
- Sugarland

### **TOP NEW MALE VOCALIST\*\***

- Jamey Johnson
- James Otto
- Jake Owen

### **TOP NEW FEMALE VOCALIST\*\***

- Sarah Buxton
- Julianne Hough
- Ashton Shepherd

### **TOP NEW VOCAL DUO OR GROUP\*\***

- Eli Young Band
- The Lost Trailers
- Zac Brown Band

### **SINGLE RECORD OF THE YEAR [Award to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company]**

- **Gunpowder & Lead**  
Miranda Lambert, Produced by Frank Liddell and Mike Wrucke  
Columbia
- **In Color**  
Jamey Johnson, Produced by The Kent Hardley Playboys

Mercury

- **Johnny & June**  
Heidi Newfield, Produced by Tony Brown  
Asylum-Curb
- **Waitin' On A Woman**  
Brad Paisley, Produced by Frank Rogers  
Arista Nashville
- **You're Gonna Miss This**  
Trace Adkins, Produced by Frank Rogers  
Capitol Nashville

**SONG OF THE YEAR [Award to Composer(s)/Publisher(s)/Artist(s)]**

- **I Saw God Today**  
George Strait  
Composers: Rodney Clawson, Monty Criswell, Wade Kirby  
Publishers: Big Red Toe Music (BMI), Blind Mule Music (BMI), Extremely Loud Music (BMI), Steel Wheels Music (BMI)
- **In Color**  
Jamey Johnson  
Composers: Jamey Johnson, Lee Thomas Miller, James Otto  
Publishers: Big Gassed Hitties (BMI), Eldorotto Music Publishing (BMI), EMI Blackwood Music, Inc., Lucky Thumb Music (BMI), New Song of Sea Gayle (BMI), Noah's Little Boat Music (BMI)
- **Johnny & June**  
Heidi Newfield  
Composers: Deanna Bryant, Heidi Newfield, Stephony Smith  
Publishers: Amylase Music (ASCAP), Big Hit Makers Music (BMI), Rainy Graham Publishing LLC (BMI), Souljet Music Tell Texas Tune III (ASCAP)
- **Waitin' On A Woman**  
Brad Paisley  
Composers: Don Sampson, Wynn Varble  
Publishers: EMI April Music, Inc. (ASCAP), Sea Gayle Music LLC (ASCAP), Warner-Tamerlane Publishing Corp. (BMI)
- **You're Gonna Miss This**  
Trace Adkins  
Composers: Ashley Gorley and Lee Thomas Miller  
Publishers: EMI Blackwood Music, Inc. (BMI), Music of Windswept (ASCAP), Noah's Little Boat Music (BMI), Song of Combustion (ASCAP), Songs of Sea Gayle (BMI)

**Video of the Year [Award to Producer(s)/Director(s)/Artist(s)]**

- **Johnny & June** - Heidi Newfield  
Producer: Karen Martin  
Director: Eric Welch

- **Just A Dream** - Carrie Underwood  
Producer: Randy Brewer  
Director: Roman White
- **Love Story** - Taylor Swift  
Producer: Trent Hardville  
Director: Trey Fanjoy
- **Troubadour** - George Strait  
Producer: Dominic Cancilla  
Director: Trey Fanjoy
- **Waitin' On A Woman** - Brad Paisley  
Producer: Mark Kalbfeld, Jim Shea  
Director: Jim Shea, Peter Tilden

**Vocal Event of the Year [Award to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company]**

- **Another Try** - Josh Turner Featuring Trisha Yearwood  
Produced by: Frank Rogers  
MCA Nashville
- **Cowgirls Don't Cry** - Brooks & Dunn Featuring Reba McEntire  
Produced by: Kix Brooks, Tony Brown, Ronnie Dunn,  
Arista Nashville
- **Down The Road** - Kenny Chesney With Mac McAnally  
Produced by: Buddy Cannon, Kenny Chesney  
Blue Chair/BNA
- **Life In A Northern Town** - Sugarland Featuring Little Big Town & Jake Owen  
Mercury
- **Start A Band** - Brad Paisley Duet With Keith Urban  
Produced by: Frank Rogers  
Arista Nashville

\*\* Fan voting for **Top New Male Vocalist**, **Top New Female Vocalist** and **Top New Vocal Duo or Group** will begin at GACTV.com on Friday, February 13, and will close on Thursday, March 5. The winner in each of the three categories will be announced March 9, and will move on to compete in a brand new Academy of Country Music Awards category, **Top New Artist**.

**About the Academy of Country Music Awards**

The 44<sup>th</sup> 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.

For more information on the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC** and the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**, please visit [www.acmcountry.com](http://www.acmcountry.com).

Photos will be available on [www.cbspressexpress.com](http://www.cbspressexpress.com)

\* \* \*

CBS Press Contact:

Andrea Ballas	818-655-1581	<a href="mailto:andrea.ballas@cbs.com">andrea.ballas@cbs.com</a>
Kim Izzo-Emmet	212-975-3820	<a href="mailto:krizzo-emmet@cbs.com">krizzo-emmet@cbs.com</a>

CBS Photo Contacts:

Rudi Simpson	818-655-1545	<a href="mailto:rudi.simpson@cbs.com">rudi.simpson@cbs.com</a>
Nancy Eichenbaum	212-975-7627	<a href="mailto:neichenbaum@cbs.com">neichenbaum@cbs.com</a>

###