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**NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR THE  
41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC® AWARDS  
COUNTRY MUSIC'S BIGGEST PARTY OF THE YEAR®**

**RASCAL FLATTS & CARRIE UNDERWOOD ANNOUNCED AS  
FIRST ROUND OF PERFORMERS FOR THE SHOW**

**TELECAST TO AIR LIVE FROM MGM GRAND IN LAS VEGAS**  
**TUESDAY, MAY 23<sup>rd</sup> AT 8:00 PM ET/PT ON CBS**

**Brad Paisley** leads with six nominations;  
**Brooks & Dunn** and **Sugarland** receive five nominations each;  
**Rascal Flatts** and **Carrie Underwood** receive four nominations each;  
**Big & Rich**, **Dolly Parton** and **Lee Ann Womack** receive three nominations each

NASHVILLE, TN (March 8, 2006) – Nominations have been announced for the **41<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**. Winners will receive their awards during a star-studded event to be broadcast LIVE from MGM GRAND in Las Vegas. The ceremony, which honors country music's top talent as well as the industry's hottest emerging talent, will be broadcast on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2006 at 8:00 PM ET/PT on CBS Television Network.

This morning **Brad Paisley** led with **six** nominations, including Top Male Vocalist of the Year, and Album of the Year for Time Well Wasted. In addition Paisley was recognized for Single Record of the Year for "Alcohol," and Song of the Year, Video of the Year and Vocal Event of the Year for "When I Get Where I'm Going," a duet with Dolly Parton. Paisley has previously won three Academy of Country Music Award honors.

**Brooks & Dunn** and **Sugarland** received **five** nominations each. **Brooks & Dunn** were nominated for Entertainer of the Year, Top Vocal Duo of the Year and Single Record of the Year, Song of the Year and Video of the Year for "Believe." They have previously been awarded 19 Academy of Country Music Awards including the Academy's prestigious Triple Crown Award.

First-time nominees **Sugarland** received nods for Album of the Year for Twice the Speed of Life, Top New Duo or Vocal Group of the Year and Top Vocal Group of the Year. They were also recognized in the Single Record of the Year and Song of the Year categories for "Baby Girl." Jennifer Nettles was also nominated for Vocal Event of the Year for "Who Says You Can't Go Home" with Bon Jovi.

The nominees were announced at a press conference held today at the Ford Theater at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville. Participating in the press conference was multi-platinum selling group **Rascal Flatts** along with double-platinum recording artist **Carrie Underwood**, both nominated in four categories each. It was also announced that Rascal Flatts and Carrie Underwood will be performing on the upcoming show.

Members of the Academy of Country Music select the nominees and winners of the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**. Presenters and performers who will appear on the special will be announced at a later date.

(MORE)

Following is the list of final nominees in the 13 categories voted on by the membership. Winners in each of the following categories will be presented with an ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARD during the television broadcast:

**ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR**

BROOKS & DUNN  
KENNY CHESNEY  
TOBY KEITH  
RASCAL FLATTS  
KEITH URBAN

**TOP MALE VOCALIST**

DIERKS BENTLEY  
KENNY CHESNEY  
BRAD PAISLEY  
GEORGE STRAIT  
KEITH URBAN

**TOP FEMALE VOCALIST**

SARA EVANS  
MARTINA McBRIDE  
CARRIE UNDERWOOD  
GRETCHEN WILSON  
LEE ANN WOMACK

**TOP VOCAL GROUP**

ALABAMA  
LITTLE BIG TOWN  
LONESTAR  
RASCAL FLATTS  
SUGARLAND

**TOP VOCAL DUO**

BIG & RICH  
BROOKS & DUNN  
MONTGOMERY GENTRY  
VAN ZANT  
THE WARREN BROTHERS

**TOP NEW MALE VOCALIST**

JASON ALDEAN  
BILLY CURRINGTON  
CRAIG MORGAN

**TOP NEW FEMALE VOCALIST**

MIRANDA LAMBERT  
JULIE ROBERTS  
CARRIE UNDERWOOD

**TOP NEW DUO OR VOCAL GROUP**

BIG & RICH  
LITTLE BIG TOWN  
SUGARLAND

(MORE)

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

**FEELS LIKE TODAY**

RASCAL FLATTS

PRODUCERS: MARK BRIGHT, MARTY WILLIAMS, RASCAL FLATTS

LYRIC STREET RECORDS

**THERE'S MORE WHERE THAT CAME FROM**

LEE ANN WOMACK

PRODUCERS: BYRON GALLIMORE, GREG DROMAN

MCA NASHVILLE

**TIME WELL WASTED**

BRAD PAISLEY

PRODUCERS: CHRIS DuBOIS, FRANK ROGERS

ARISTA

**TOUGH ALL OVER**

GARY ALLAN

PRODUCERS: MARK WRIGHT, GARY ALLAN

MCA NASHVILLE

**TWICE THE SPEED OF LIFE**

SUGARLAND

PRODUCER: GARTH FUNDIS

MERCURY RECORDS

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

**ALCOHOL**

BRAD PAISLEY

PRODUCERS: CHRIS DuBOIS, FRANK ROGERS

ARISTA

**BABY GIRL**

SUGARLAND

PRODUCER: GARTH FUNDIS

MERCURY RECORDS

**BELIEVE**

BROOKS & DUNN

PRODUCERS: TONY BROWN, RONNIE DUNN, KIX BROOKS

ARISTA

**BEST I EVER HAD**

GARY ALLAN

PRODUCERS: MARK WRIGHT, GARY ALLAN

MCA NASHVILLE

**JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL**

CARRIE UNDERWOOD

PRODUCER: MARK BRIGHT

ARISTA

(MORE)

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

**BABY GIRL**

WRITERS: KRISTIAN BUSH (BMI), KRISTEN HALL (ASCAP), JENNIFER NETTLES (ASCAP), LISA SIMONTON (ASCAP), ROBERT HARTLEY (ASCAP), TROY BIESER (ASCAP)

DIRKPIT MUSIC (BMI), GREATERGOOD SONGS (ASCAP), JENNIFER NETTLES PUBLISHING (ASCAP), TELEGRAMMUSIC (ASCAP), DRUMBUM MUSIC (ASCAP), TREMOLO BLUE (ASCAP), THE WORLD ASLEEP (ASCAP)  
SUGARLAND

**BELIEVE**

WRITERS: RONNIE DUNN (BMI), CRAIG WISEMAN (ASCAP)  
SONY / ATV TREE PUBLISHING CO. (BMI), SHOWBILLY MUSIC (BMI), BIG LOUD SHIRT INDUSTRIES (ASCAP)  
BROOKS & DUNN

**JESUS TAKE THE WHEEL**

WRITERS: BRETT JAMES (ASCAP), HILLARY LINDSEY (ASCAP), GORDON SAMPSON (SOCAN)  
DIMENSIONAL MUSIC OF 1091, SONY / ATV CROSS KEYS PUBLISHING (ASCAP), RAYLENE MUSIC / BPJ ADMINISTRATION (ASCAP), NO SUCH MUSIC (SOCAN), PASSING STRANGER MUSIC (ASCAP), 1609 SONGS (ASCAP), MUSIC OF WINDSWEPT (ASCAP)  
CARRIE UNDERWOOD

**SKIN (SARABETH)**

WRITERS: DOUG JOHNSON (BMI), JOE HENRY (ASCAP)  
COOL HAND MUSIC (ASCAP), MIKE CURB MUSIC / SWEET RADICAL MUSIC (BMI)  
ADMIN BY MIKE CURB MUSIC C/O KAREN SCHAUBEN PUBLISHING  
ADMINISTRATION  
RASCAL FLATTS

**WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING**

WRITERS: RIVERS RUTHERFORD (ASCAP), GEORGE TEREN (BMI)  
UNIVERSAL MUSIC CORP. (ASCAP), MEMPHERSFIELD MUSIC (ASCAP), HOUSE OF FULL CIRCLE MUSIC PUBLISHING (BMI)  
BRAD PAISLEY AND DOLLY PARTON

**VIDEO OF THE YEAR [Award to Producer(s)/Director(s)/Artist(s)]**

**AS GOOD AS I ONCE WAS**

PRODUCER: MARK KALBFELD  
DIRECTOR: MICHAEL SALOMON  
ARTIST: TOBY KEITH

**BELIEVE**

PRODUCER: STEVE LAMAR  
DIRECTOR: ROBERT DEATON, GEORGE FLANIGEN  
ARTISTS: BROOKS & DUNN

**I MAY HATE MYSELF IN THE MORNING**

PRODUCER: IVY DANE  
DIRECTOR: TREY FANJOY  
ARTIST: LEE ANN WOMACK

(MORE)

**KEROSENE**

PRODUCER: HOLLY MILLAR  
DIRECTOR: TREY FANJOY  
ARTIST: MIRANDA LAMBERT

**WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING**

PRODUCERS: MARK KALBFELD, PETER TILDEN  
DIRECTOR: JIM SHEA  
ARTISTS: BRAD PAISLEY AND DOLLY PARTON

**VOCAL EVENT OF THE YEAR [Award to Artist(s)/Producer(s)/Record Company]**

**I PLAY CHICKEN WITH THE TRAIN**

COWBOY TROY AND BIG & RICH  
PRODUCERS: JOHN RICH, BIG KENNY, PAUL WORLEY  
WARNER BROS. RECORDS / RAYBAW

**LIKE WE NEVER LOVED AT ALL**

FAITH HILL WITH TIM McGRAW  
PRODUCERS: DANN HUFF, FAITH HILL  
WARNER BROS. RECORDS / CURB RECORDS

**WHEN I GET WHERE I'M GOING**

BRAD PAISLEY AND DOLLY PARTON  
PRODUCERS: CHRIS DuBOIS, FRANK ROGERS  
ARISTA

**WHO SAYS YOU CAN'T GO HOME**

JENNIFER NETTLES AND BON JOVI  
PRODUCERS: JOHN SHANKS, JON BON JOVI, RICHIE SAMBORA, DANN HUFF  
THE ISLAND DEF JAM MUSIC GROUP

The Academy of Country Music was founded in 1964 with a mission to support, promote, and enhance the advancement of the country music industry worldwide. The Academy, which is comprised of more than 4,000 professional members and a newly established Associate Membership, is headquartered in Burbank, Calif. For more information on the **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS** and the Academy of Country Music, please visit [www.acmcountry.com](http://www.acmcountry.com).

The **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS** is produced for television by dick clark productions. The show is executive produced by Allen Shapiro and R.A. Clark, and produced by Barry Adelman. The executive in charge of production is Bob Bardo, and the executive in charge is Fran LaMaina.

Southwest Airlines is the official airline of the Academy of Country Music Awards.

The **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS** will be broadcast LIVE on CBS Tuesday, May 23, 2006 at 8:00 p.m. ET/PT.

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**OFF-CAMERA PRESS RELEASE BELOW**



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## OFF-CAMERA NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCED FOR THE 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS

NASHVILLE, TN (March 8, 2006) – The Academy of Country Music is also announcing nominations for the following categories, which, due to time constraints, will not be televised during the 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS:

### ON-AIR PERSONALITY - NATIONAL

- Jon Anthony - Highway 16 (XM Radio)
- Blair Garner - After MidNite
- Lia Knight - (Jones Radio Networks)
- Darren Tandy - Thee Country Station (Superadio Network)
- Danny Wright - All Night (Jones Radio Networks)

### ON-AIR PERSONALITY - MAJOR MARKET

- JD Cannon - WFMS Indianapolis, IN
- Jim Denny, Deborah Honeycutt & Kevin Freeman - WFMS Indianapolis, IN
- Lisa Dent - WUSN Chicago, IL
- Gerry House & The House Foundation - WSIX Nashville, TN
- Kelly, Jonathan & Mudflap - KYGO Denver, CO

### ON-AIR PERSONALITY - MEDIUM MARKET

- Bill Barrett, Tim Fox & Tracy Berry - KGNU Eugene, OR
- Mark Ericson & Danielle Carrier - WOKQ Dover, NH
- Gunner - WIVK Knoxville, TN
- Scott Innes - WYNK Baton Rouge, LA
- Buzz Jackson - KIIM Tucson, AZ

### ON-AIR PERSONALITY - SMALL MARKET

- Becky Austin & Brad Austin - KLUR Wichita Falls, TX
- Buddy Baron & Allyson Scott - WBBN Laurel, MS
- Carrie & Uncle - KCLR Columbia, MO
- Marty McFly & Stew James - WGSQ Cookeville, TN
- Scott Schuler & Angie Foster - KRKT Albany, OR

### RADIO STATION - MAJOR MARKET

- KNIX - Phoenix, AZ
- KYGO - Denver, CO
- WFMS - Indianapolis, IN
- WPOC - Baltimore, MD
- WUSN - Chicago, IL

(MORE)

### **RADIO STATION - MEDIUM MARKET**

- KIZN - Boise, ID
- KTTS - Springfield, MO
- WBBS - Syracuse, NY
- WGNA - Schenectady, NY
- WUSY - Chattanooga, TN

### **RADIO STATION - SMALL MARKET**

- WGSQ - Cookeville, TN
- WIXY - Champaign, IL
- WPAP - Panama City, FL
- WTCR - Huntington, WV
- WYCT - Pensacola, FL

### **PRODUCER OF THE YEAR**

- Mark Bright
- Buddy Cannon
- Byron Gallimore
- Dann Huff
- Frank Rogers

### **AUDIO ENGINEER OF THE YEAR**

- Chuck Ainlay
- Julian King
- Steve Marcantonio
- Justin Niebank
- Gary Paczoza

### **TOP BASS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Mike Brignardello
- David Hungate
- Larry Paxton
- Michael Rhodes
- Jimmy Lee Sloas

### **TOP PERCUSSIONIST/DRUMMER OF THE YEAR**

- Steve Brewster
- Chad Cromwell
- Shannon Forrest
- Paul Leim
- Greg Morrow

(MORE)

### **TOP FIDDLE PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Glen Duncan
- Larry Franklin
- Rob Hajacos
- Aubrey Haynie
- Jonathan Yudkin

#### **TOP GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Richard Bennett
- Pat Buchanan
- Tom Bukovac
- J.T. Corenflos
- Kenny Greenberg

#### **TOP PIANO / KEYBOARDS PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Jim Brown
- Gordon Mote
- Michael Omartian
- Mike Rojas
- Reese Wynans

#### **TOP SPECIALTY INSTRUMENT(S) PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Eric Darken
- Jim Hoke
- Jim Horn
- Rob Ickes
- Brian Sutton

#### **TOP STEEL GUITAR PLAYER OF THE YEAR**

- Paul Franklin
- Sonny Garrish
- John Hughey
- Mike Johnson
- Russ Pahl

#### **VENUE OF THE YEAR**

- Ameristar Casino - Kansas City, MO
- Casino Rama Resort - Orilla, Ontario
- Mohegan Sun Casino - Uncasville, CT
- Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort - Mt. Pleasant, MI
- Turning Stone Casino - Verona, NY

#### **NIGHTCLUB OF THE YEAR**

- 8 Seconds - Indianapolis, IN
- Billy Bob's - Fort Worth TX
- Cowboy's - Atlanta, GA
- Coyote's - Louisville, KY
- Grizzly Rose - Denver, CO
- Joe's Bar - Chicago, IL

(MORE)

#### **DON ROMEO TALENT BUYER OF THE YEAR**

- Brad Combs - Meridian Entertainment

- Gary Osier - Gary Osier Presents
- Terrye Seigel - Terrye Seigel Productions
- David Snowden - Triangle Talent, Inc.
- Suzanne Wilson - Wilson Events, Inc.

#### **PROMOTER OF THE YEAR**

- Ben Farrell - Varnell Enterprises
- Brad Garrett - Police Productions
- Gary Marx - Game Inc.
- Louis Messina - The Messina Group
- Mike Smardak - Outback Concerts of TN, Inc.

#### **ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC**

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