

MEDIA CONTACT: Joshua Jannotta - 404.395.1785
Art Work Available/Feature Interview Opportunities

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Ticket Sales For The Best KMT Season Ever Is On Sale Friday 5/27 Online @ 5 PM and Tuesday 5/31 @ 10 AM @ The Paramount Arts Center

Ashland, KY – Four Award Winning Country Artists will be performing at the Paramount in our new KMT Season! For many years the Paramount Arts Center has been bringing some of the best Country Artists to the Tri-State area, and this year is going to be the best.

Country music hitmaker Phil Vassar is a piano-pounding powerhouse on stage who taps into his audiences via social media for song requests throughout his more than 135 shows a year. Phil's reign of signature songs include 10 No. 1 singles and 26 Top 40 hits, including "Carlene," "Just Another Day in Paradise," "Six-Pack Summer," "That's When I Love You" and many more. Vassar was racking up hits on the radio long before he even began his own recording career that has seen the release of six albums, two ASCAP Songwriter of the Year trophies, ACM's Top New Male Vocalist and sold-out shows across the country. Vassar's songwriting career blossomed in the mid-'90s when he landed a publishing contract with EMI and penned hits for Collin Raye ("Little Red Rodeo"), Alan Jackson ("Right on the Money"), Tim McGraw ("For a Little While"), Jo Dee Messina ("Bye Bye," "I'm Alright"), and BlackHawk ("Postmarked Birmingham"). He signed a record deal of his own with Arista in 1998 and was named ASCAP's Country Songwriter of the Year in 1999. Vassar continues to churn out incisive, soulful lyrics and infectious melodies that capture the heart and soul in the unique and special way that only he can. Phil Vassar will be at the Paramount Arts Center July 14th @ 7:30 PM.

Tickets: \$30, \$32, \$37. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.paramountartscenter.com or in the box office at 606.324.0007, press option 1 to buy tickets.

There are many ways to describe Kellie Pickler, with spunky, beautiful, talented and charismatic just scratching the surface. But there is one word that ties them all together and brings them to life. Kellie Pickler is real. Few people speak or sing so transparently from their hearts. Few can bridge life and art, story and song, so vibrantly and compellingly. "My life is a country song," she has said on occasion, and no one who knows her or has watched her career evolve from her days as a breakout presence on American Idol would argue in the least. Over the course of three albums, hundreds of concert appearances, and a breathtaking 2013 win on ABC's Dancing With The Stars, she has earned the admiration and affection of countless fans, serving as both inspiration and role model. Now, with the release of her latest album, her first for new label home Black River Entertainment, she takes yet another long step forward. The project reflects her continuing growth as an artist and as a person. It features the instrumental talents of many of Nashville's best musicians and songs from some of the city's most talented writers, as well as some she wrote herself and with co-writers including her husband Kyle Jacobs. She is, more than anything, a down-to-earth fan of her genre who also happens to be one of its best interpreters, a classic country singer with a state-of-the-art approach to life. There is also an echo of her idols in her love of taking her music to fans, one show at a time. Kellie Pickler will be at the Paramount Arts Center August 5 @ 7:30 PM.

Tickets: \$40, \$45, \$50. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.paramountartscenter.com or in the box office at 606.324.0007, press option 1 to buy tickets.

Kelsea Ballerini's breakout hit, "Love Me Like You Mean It," is just a taste of the country-pop sound in her imaginative catalog. The Knoxville, Tennessee native has dedicated the better part of the last decade to creating inspiring music, based on her life, to motivate others to live without fear of their emotions. Due May 18th, her full-length debut, *The First Time*, has Kelsea's credit behind every song. The album radiates positivity while exploring all facets of the human experience. She is a true poet, and *The First Time* reflects that. Kelsea's refreshing approach to music is rooted in a vulnerable place. Turning to songwriting to help her through her parents' divorce, she first discovered Keith Urban's "Stupid Boy." Captured by the lyrics and the story, Kelsea knew she had found a creative home in country music and continued to uncover strength and inspiration from artists such as Shania Twain, Taylor Swift, Rascal Flatts, and the Dixie Chicks. Newly

crowned one of *CMT*'s "Next Women of Country," Kelsea is featured on several "ones to watch" lists for 2015, including *Billboard*, *Country Weekly*, *Rolling Stone Country*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Spotify*. NBC's *Today Show* spotlighted "Love Me Like You Mean It" on "iHoda," Hoda Kotb's Playlist. *USA Today*, *The Washington Post*, *Just Jared*, and many more have glowing pieces on Kelsea.

Recently, Kelsea made her Grand Ole Opry debut and is currently co-headlining *CMT*'s inaugural "Next Women of Country" Tour. "Dreams do come true. I'm seeing it first hand. While I want to do it all, the arena tours and award shows, most of all, I just want to put out good music that matters." *The First Time* is Kelsea's first big opportunity to do that. "When I signed the record deal, in my heart I thought, 'what do you want to say to the world? Because now, there are people who are going to help you say it.'" Kelsea Ballerini will be at the Paramount Arts Center August 26 @ 7:30 PM.

Tickets: \$22, \$30. Tickets are on sale now and can be purchased online at www.paramountartscenter.com or in the box office at 606.324.0007, press option 1 to buy tickets.

Our fourth and final KMT performance is a Bonus Concert added to our KMT Season, and it is going to be amazing! If you like Country/Bluegrass, you are going to love our final show!

The final surprise concert of the KMT Season is November 5 @ 7:30 PM.