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Paramount Arts Center Announces 2017 Kentucky Music Trail Series. Series features performances by Martina McBride, Trace Adkins and Emmylou Harris!

The Paramount Arts Center is excited to announce the lineup for the 2017 Kentucky Music Trail – a series of country music artists. This year’s lineup reads like a who’s who in country music.

Kicking off the Trail on August 10 will be Martina McBride. Multiple Grammy® nominee Martina McBride has sold over 18 million albums to date, which includes 20 Top 10 singles and six #1 hits. 2017 marks a milestone in Martina’s illustrious career – it is her 25th year of touring. In April 2016 Martina released RECKLESS, her thirteenth studio album. McBride has earned more than 15 major music awards, including four wins for Female Vocalist of the Year from the Country Music Association and won three Academy of Country Music for Top Female Vocalist. Martina has been awarded 14 Gold Records, nine Platinum honors, three Double Platinum Records, and two Triple Platinum Awards. Martina was awarded the Covenant House Beacon of Hope Award and Music Business Association’s prestigious 2015 Harry Chapin Memorial Humanitarian Award for her philanthropic efforts on behalf of domestic violence. Through her *Team Music Is Love* charity initiative, Martina partners with non-profit causes to help many of the towns she's performing in. Martina also invites fans to join her team in making the world a better place through the power of music. Since 2011, *Team Music Is Love* has been responsible for many successful fundraising and volunteer projects helping causes such as hunger relief, cancer research, combating domestic violence and helping children in need. For more information, please visit TeamMusicIsLove.com. Recently, Martina released her first book, *Around the Table*, a full-color illustrated collection of her favorite recipes, hosting tips, practical menu planning advice, and themed décor inspiration.

Next in the lineup is Trace Adkins on October 7. Trace Adkins’ trademark baritone has powered countless hits to the top of the charts and sold over 10 million albums, cumulatively. His hit list includes “You’re Gonna Miss This,” “Ladies Love Country Boys,” “Songs About Me,” “Every Light In The House,” “Hillbilly Bone (Blake Shelton & Trace Adkins),” and “Just Fishin’,” to name a few. The Grammy-nominated member of the Grand Ole Opry is a TV personality, actor, author, spokesman for the Wounded Warrior Program and the American Red Cross, for whom he raised over \$1.5 million dollars as winner of NBC’s All-Star Celebrity Apprentice. In recent years, Adkins has performed 10 USO Tours. In his 2007 autobiography, *A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck*, the former oil-rigger recounted his rise to fame, brushes with death, and battles with personal demons. Trace has played a tough as nails biker in *The Lincoln Lawyer* (starring Matthew McConaughey), and a wise oracle of a tattoo artist in the family-friendly film *Moms' Night Out* (starring Patricia Heaton, Sean Astin,

Sarah Drew). He also developed and hosted GAC's "Great American Heroes" honoring everyday heroes.

Emmylou Harris will close out the series on November 3. A 13-time Grammy winner and *Billboard* Century Award recipient, Emmylou Harris' contribution as a singer and songwriter spans 40 years. She has recorded more than 25 albums and has lent her talents to countless fellow artists' recordings. In recognition of her remarkable career, Harris was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2008. Harris is known as much for her eloquently straightforward songwriting as for her incomparably expressive singing. Admired through her career for her talent as an artist and song connoisseur, Harris shook up country radio in the 1970s, and established herself as the premiere songwriter of a generation selling more than 15 million records and garnering 13 Grammy Awards (this year she and Rodney Crowell won the Grammy for "Best Americana album"), three CMA Awards, and two Americana Awards. Harris is one of the most admired and influential women in music. She has recorded with such diverse artists as Linda Ronstadt, Daniel Lanois, Bob Dylan, Mark Knopfler, Neil Young, Gram Parsons, Willie Nelson, Dolly Parton, Roy Orbison, Ryan Adams, Beck, Elvis Costello, Johnny Cash, Lucinda Williams, Lyle Lovett and most recently Rodney Crowell. Few artists have achieved such honesty or have revealed such maturity in their writing. Forty years into her career, Harris continues to share the hard-earned wisdom that—hopefully if not inevitably—comes with getting older, though she's never stopped looking ahead. A longtime social activist, Harris has lent her voice to many causes. She has performed at Lilith Fair, helping promote feminism in music and organizing several benefit tours to support the Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation. Harris is also an avid supporter of animal rights and is actively involved in Bonaparte's Retreat, the dog rescue organization that she founded.

Tickets will be available online at www.paramountartscenter.com beginning at 5 PM on Friday, May 26 and in the box office of the Paramount Arts Center at 1300 Winchester Avenue, Ashland, KY or by phone 606-324-0007 beginning Tuesday, May 30 at 10 AM. Special Trailblazer seats are available in the first five rows and VIP packages are available for both Emmylou Harris and Trace Adkins.

The Kentucky Arts Council, the state arts agency, supports the Paramount Arts Center with state tax dollars and federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts. Support is also provided by the Paramount Woman's Association and private donations.