

New Performers and Additional Event Added For 61st ACM Awards Week Event Lineup in Las Vegas; Keith Urban Set to Headline ACM Next Wave: Country's Beach Bash

Whiskey Jam Welcome Party Joins 61st ACM Awards Week in Las Vegas Featuring Avery Anna, The Band Perry, Jenna Paulette, Caroline Jones and More to be Announced; Tickets for the 61st ACM Awards and ACM Awards Week Events are Now Available at AXS.COM

Nashville, TN — April 15, 2026 — Today, the [Academy of Country Music \(ACM\)](#) announced additional performers and new event details for this year's **ACM Awards Week** lineup, which will take place in the lead-up to the highly anticipated 61st ACM Awards on Sunday, May 17th at MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas.

2025 ACM Triple Crown Award recipient and 14-time ACM Award-winning Country superstar **Keith Urban** will headline “**ACM Next Wave: Country's Beach Bash**” at Mandalay Bay Beach, Saturday, May 16. Urban joins previously announced performers including **Flatland Cavalry, Ashley Cooke, Dasha, Braxton Keith, and Tucker Wetmore**, as well as members of the Opry NextStage Class of 2026 – **Willow Avalon, Graham Barham, Tyler Braden, Alexandra Kay, Vincent Mason, Emily Ann Roberts, and Hudson Westbrook**. Tickets are available starting at \$150 for VIP and \$75 for General Admission at [AXS.com](#).

Additionally, **Avery Anna, The Band Perry, Jenna Paulette** and **Caroline Jones** were announced today as performers for the “**Whiskey Jam Welcome Party**.” A long-standing Nashville staple for live music, **Whiskey Jam** is headed to Las Vegas on Thursday, May 14, from 8–11 p.m. for a free ACM Awards welcome party open to both fans and industry alike held at **Ole Red Las Vegas**. Additional performers to be announced.

“**Whiskey Jam Welcome Party**” joins the previously announced ACM Awards Week events including the aforementioned “**ACM Next Wave: Country's Beach Bash**” and “**ACM Lifting Lives Country on the Green: Riley Green & Friends**” at Topgolf Las Vegas on Friday, May 15th. The event will feature an unforgettable, up-close concert experience with headliner **Riley Green**, alongside **Lauren Alaina, Rodney Atkins, and Randy Houser**. Tickets are available at \$200 for VIP Early Access to General Admission doors and \$150 for General Admission at [AXS.com](#). Proceeds benefit ACM Lifting Lives, the philanthropic partner of the Academy of Country Music dedicated to improving lives through the power of music.

The 61st ACM Awards will stream live exclusively for a global audience across 240+ countries and territories on Prime Video on [Sunday, May 17, 2026](#), at 8 p.m. ET / 7 p.m. CT / 5 p.m. PT from the world-renowned MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada. Fans will also be able to watch the broadcast on the Amazon Music channel on Twitch, as well as in the Amazon Music app.

Additional ACM Awards Week performers, as well as ACM Awards' presenters, performers, and host, will be announced in the coming weeks. The **Media Credential Application** to cover on-site in Las Vegas, Nevada, is now available [HERE](#).

Returning to the Sunday night timeslot, the 61st ACM Awards promises to build on the momentum of its milestone year, celebrating the artists, collaborations, and moments that continue to shape Country Music. Follow the Academy of Country Music on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [TikTok](#), join the conversation with #ACMAwards, and sign up for the [FREE ACM A-List](#) to be the first to know the latest news and for exclusive pre-sale opportunities. .

Established in 1966, the Academy of Country Music Awards is the longest-running Country Music awards show and made history in 2022 as the first major awards ceremony to exclusively livestream, in collaboration with Prime Video. Since forming its partnership for the 57th ACM Awards, the show has been hosted by legends Dolly Parton, Garth Brooks, and Reba McEntire, featured the biggest collaborations with superstar pairings such as Ed Sheeran and Luke Combs, Dua Lipa and Chris Stapleton, Rascal Flatts and Backstreet Boys, and became the first Country Music awards show to be nominated for an Emmy® Award.

ABOUT THE ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC

Founded in Southern California in 1964 as a regional trade organization, the ACADEMY OF COUNTRY MUSIC (ACM) has



grown over the past 60 years into a leading association for the Country Music industry. Headquartered in Nashville, TN and boasting record-high membership of more than 5,000 worldwide, the Academy serves as a powerhouse advocate for Country fans, artists, and all facets of the business, as well as a supporter of philanthropic work through charitable partner ACM LIFTING LIVES, dedicated to improving lives through the power of music and providing aid in times of need, with a focus on health initiatives. 2025 continues to be a landmark year for the Academy, with the success of the 60th ACM Awards, hosted by entertainment icon Reba McEntire, which returned to the Dallas Cowboys' world headquarters in Texas for a third consecutive year and streamed live to a global audience on Prime Video. The Academy also remains relentlessly committed to creating a more inclusive environment for underrepresented groups in Country Music, from the boardroom to the stage, and proudly presents ACM Level Up, a two-year professional development and enrichment curriculum for rising leaders, among other initiatives. For more information, visit [ACMcountry.com](https://www.acmcountry.com) or [ACMLiftingLives.org](https://www.acmliftinglives.org).

ABOUT MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA

The MGM Grand Garden Arena is home to concerts, championship boxing and premier sporting and special events. The Arena offers comfortable seating for as many as 16,800 with excellent sightlines and state-of-the-art acoustics, lighting and sound. Prominent events to date have included world championship fights between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson as well as Floyd Mayweather vs. Canelo Alvarez as well as Floyd Mayweather vs. Manny Pacquiao; and concerts by The Rolling Stones, Madonna, Elton John, Bruce Springsteen, Paul McCartney, Bette Midler, George Strait, Justin Timberlake, Beyonce, U2, Lady Gaga, Bruno Mars, Coldplay, Alicia Keys, Jimmy Buffett and the Barbra Streisand Millennium Concert. The MGM Grand Garden Arena also has been home to annual events including the Academy of Country Music Awards, the Billboard Music Awards, the Latin GRAMMY Awards, iHeartRadio Music Festival, Pac-12 Men's Basketball Championship and Frozen Fury NHL pre-season games hosted by the Los Angeles Kings.

ABOUT Mandalay Bay

Mandalay Bay Resort and Casino is set on 120 lush acres featuring Mandalay Bay Beach, a tropical pool paradise with real sand. The Michelob ULTRA Arena, award-winning restaurants, exhilarating entertainment, unique shopping, Shark Reef Aquarium and the 2-million-square-foot convention center combine to make Mandalay Bay a captivating Las Vegas resort destination. The resort offers three distinct hotel experiences: Mandalay Bay with 3,211 luxurious rooms and suites reflecting a modern tropical ambiance; Four Seasons Hotel, offering 424 rooms and suites; and the luxury all-suite W Las Vegas. Mandalay Bay is operated by MGM Resorts International (NYSE: MGM). For more information and reservations, visit [mandalaybay.com](https://www.mandalaybay.com), call toll free at (877) 632-7800, or find us on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [X](#).

ABOUT OLE RED

Ole Red is a lifestyle and entertainment brand inspired by Blake Shelton's clever, irreverent third-chart hit, "Ol' Red." Its bar, restaurant and live music venues showcase hand-selected country music talent alongside concert-quality production and a Shelton-inspired menu for a unique experience that is "served all day and night." You can find Ole Red entertainment venues and products in five cities in the United States: Nashville, Tennessee, home to the brand's flagship multi-story bar and restaurant on the famed Lower Broadway and a location at Nashville International Airport; Tishomingo, Oklahoma, Blake's hometown; Gatlinburg, Tennessee, in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains; Orlando, Florida located at Icon Park; and Las Vegas Nevada in the center of the famed Las Vegas strip. Ole Red is owned and operated by Ryman Hospitality Properties, Inc. as part of its Opry Entertainment division. For more information on Ole Red, please visit www.olered.com.

###

Media Contacts

Academy of Country Music | Sunshine Sachs Morgan & Lylis

Abi O'Donnell, Samantha Stephens, Bridget Cirone, Bryanna Vera, Madison Thomas & Samantha Haro | ACMAwards@ssmandl.com

MGM Resorts International | Scott Ghertner, sghertner@mgmresorts.com

<https://newsroom.mgmresorts.com/press-releases?item=122865>