

MEDIA ALERT:

PENSACOLA, Fla., Aug. 23, 2019

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

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FREE “COUNTRY MUSIC” SCREENING WITH BLUEGRASS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

- WHO:** WSRE public television presents the new mega-documentary, “Country Music,” directed by Ken Burns and produced Burns, Dayton Duncan and Julie Dunfey. For a special screening event, The Gator Boys bluegrass band, made up of Jacob Graffrath, Brenan Woody, Dylan Williams and Dustin Hicklen, will perform starting at 6 p.m., an hour before the film. After the film, a panel discussion will be led by country comedian J. Terry “T. Bubba” Bechtol and include Nashville songwriter and record producer Rusty Budde, Pensacola Beach Songwriters Festival Director Reneda Cross, award-winning songwriter Mark Sherrill and artist Ricky Lee Phelps of Brother Phelps and the Kentucky Headhunters.
- WHAT:** WSRE will host a free big-screen preview of the new Ken Burns “Country Music” documentary, which chronicles country music’s history from the 1920s through the 1990s and premieres on PBS stations this fall. A 45-minute screener of the 16-hour film series will be shown, featuring Kathy Mattea, Kris Kristofferson, Charley Pride, Carlene Carter, Dolly Parton, Merle Haggard, Garth Brooks, Rodney Crowell, Marty Stuart, Brenda Lee, Jimmy Dickens, Willie Nelson, Trisha Yearwood, Elvis Costello, Jack White, Loretta Lynn, Rosanne Cash, Reba McEntire, Jeannie Seely, Billy Sherrill, Vince Gill, Dierks Bentley and others. The full-length film series premieres on WSRE over eight nights starting Sept. 15.
- WHEN:** Thursday, Sept. 5 with local bluegrass band, The Gator Boys, playing at 6 p.m., film starting at 7 p.m., followed by a panel discussion with audience Q&A.
- WHERE:** WSRE Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio at Pensacola State College
- WHY:** To explore the remarkable stories of the people and places behind a true American art form and gain the perspectives of local music industry insiders.
- HOW:** Admission is free. No tickets required. Register at wsre.org/country-music.

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About “Country Music” on PBS

“Country Music,” an eight-part film series directed by Ken Burns and produced by Burns and his long-time collaborators Dayton Duncan and Julie Dunfey, premieres Sunday through Wednesday, Sept. 15–18, and Sunday through Wednesday, Sept. 22–25, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. CDT on PBS. The first four episodes will stream on station-branded PBS platforms, including PBS.org and PBS apps, timed to the Sunday, Sept. 15 premiere. The second four will stream timed to the broadcast of Episode 5 on Sunday, Sept. 22. Each episode will stream for a period of three weeks. WSRE/PBS Passport members will be able to stream the entire series for a period of six months beginning Sunday, Sept. 15.

Funding for “Country Music” was provided by Bank of America, the Annenberg Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, Belmont University, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Rosalind P. Walter and by members of ‘The Better Angels Society,’ including: The Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Schwartz/Reisman Foundation, the Pfeil Foundation, Diane and Hal Brierley, John and Catherine Debs, the Fullerton Family Charitable Fund, the Perry and Donna Golkin Family Foundation, Jay Alix and Una Jackman, Mercedes T. Bass, Fred and Donna Seigel, Gilchrist and Amy Berg, James R. Berdell Foundation, David Bonderman, Deborah P. and Jonathan T. Dawson, Senator Bill and Tracy Frist, Susan and David Kreisman, Rocco and Debby Landesman, Lillian Lovelace, John and Leslie McQuown, the Segal Family Foundation, Michelle Smith. Major funding was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS. “Country Music” is a production of Florentine Films and WETA, Washington, DC.

About WSRE

WSRE is a Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) member station, locally owned and licensed to the Pensacola State College District Board of Trustees. Since 1967, WSRE has served Gulf Coast communities with informative, educational and entertaining programs and services. WSRE produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse cultural, political, geographic and demographic characteristics of the coverage area, and WSRE connects teachers, parents, caregivers and children to PBS educational resources.