

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## A Piece of History

Theirs is one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. The four-part harmonies and upbeat songs of The Oak Ridge Boys have spawned dozens of Country hits and a Number One Pop smash, earned them Grammy, Dove, CMA, and ACM awards and garnered a host of other industry and fan accolades. Every time they step before an audience, the Oaks bring four decades of charted singles, and 50 years of tradition, to a stage show widely acknowledged as among the most exciting anywhere. And each remains as enthusiastic about the process as they have ever been.

“When I go on stage, I get the same feeling I had the first time I sang with The Oak Ridge Boys,” says lead singer Duane Allen. “This is the only job I’ve ever wanted to have.”

“Like everyone else in the group,” adds bass singer extraordinaire, Richard Sterban, “I was a fan of the Oaks before I became a member. I’m still a fan of the group today. Being in The Oak Ridge Boys is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream.”

The two, along with tenor Joe Bonsall and baritone William Lee Golden, comprise one of Country’s truly legendary acts. Their string of hits includes the Country-Pop chart-topper *Elvira*, as well as *Bobbie Sue*, *Dream On*, *Thank God For Kids*, *American Made*, *I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes*, *Fancy Free*, *Gonna Take A Lot Of River* and many others. In 2009, they covered a White Stripes song, receiving accolades from Rock reviewers. In 2011, they rerecorded a thirtieth anniversary version of *Elvira* for a Cracker Barrel Old Country Store project.

The group has scored 12 gold, three platinum, and one double platinum album—plus one double platinum single—and had more than a dozen national Number One singles and over 30 Top Ten hits.

The Oaks represent a tradition that extends back to World War II. The original group, based in Knoxville, Tennessee, began performing Country and Gospel music in nearby Oak Ridge where the atomic bomb was being developed. They called themselves the Oak Ridge Quartet, and they began regular Grand Ole Opry appearances in the fall of '45. In the mid-fifties, they were featured in *Time* magazine as one of the top drawing Gospel groups in the nation.

By the late '60s, with more than 30 members having come and gone, they had a lineup that included Duane Allen, William Lee Golden, Noel Fox, and Willie Wynn. Among the Oaks' many acquaintances in the Gospel field were Bonsall, a streetwise Philadelphia kid who embraced Gospel music; and Sterban, who was singing in quartets and holding down a job as a men's clothing salesman. Both admired the distinctive, highly popular Oaks.

"They were the most innovative quartet in Gospel music," says Bonsall. "They performed Gospel with a Rock approach, had a full band, wore bell-bottom pants and grew their hair long...things unheard of at the time."

The four became friends, and when the Oaks needed a bass and tenor in '72 and '73, respectively, Sterban and Bonsall got the calls. For a while, the group remained at the pinnacle of the Gospel music circuit. It was there they refined the strengths that would soon make them an across-the-board attraction.

"We did a lot of package shows," says Bonsall. "There was an incredible amount of competition. You had to blow people away to sell records and get invited back."

Their Gospel sound had a distinct Pop edge to it and, although it made for excitement and crowd appeal, it also ruffled purist feathers and left promoters unsure about the Oaks' direction. Then in 1975, the Oaks were asked to open a number of dates for Roy Clark. Clark's manager, Jim Halsey, was impressed by their abilities.

"He came backstage and told us we were three-and-a-half minutes (meaning one hit record) away from being a major act," says Bonsall. "He said we had one of the most dynamic stage shows he'd ever seen but that we had to start singing Country songs."

They took his advice and the result was a breakthrough.

“Those who came to Country music with or after the New Traditionalists of the mid-eighties cannot possibly imagine the impact the Oaks had in 1977, when they lit up the sky from horizon to horizon with *Y’All Come Back Saloon*,” wrote *Billboard’s* Ed Morris. He added, “...the vocal intensity the group brought to it instantly enriched and enlivened the perilously staid Country format. These guys were exciting.”

#### The Oaks branch out

Their career has spanned not only decades, but also formats. In 1977, Paul Simon tapped the Oaks to sing backup for his hit *Slip Slidin’ Away*, and they went on to record with George Jones, Brenda Lee, Johnny Cash, Roy Rogers, Billy Ray Cyrus, Bill Monroe, Ray Charles and even Shooter Jennings, the son of their old friend Waylon Jennings and Jessi Colter.

They produced one of the first Country music videos. In 1977, *Easy*, although not released in the U.S., reached the Number Three slot in Australia. They participated in the first American popular music headline tour in the USSR.

The Oak Ridge Boys have appeared before five presidents. And they have become one of the most enduringly successful touring groups anywhere, still performing some 150 dates each year at major theaters, fairs, and festivals across the U.S. and Canada.

They did it with a consistently upbeat musical approach and terrific business savvy.

“We always look for songs that have lasting value and that are uplifting,” says Allen, who co-produced seven of the Oaks’ last eight studio albums. “You don’t hear us singing ‘cheating’ or ‘drinking’ songs, but ‘loving’ songs, because we think that will last. We also don’t put music in categories, except for ‘good’ or ‘bad.’ When we get through with it, it’s probably going to sound like an Oak Ridge Boys song no matter what it is.”

They proved their business acumen in any number of ways, including such steps as declining the chance to sit on the couch during their many appearances on the *Tonight Show*.

“We said, ‘If you’re going to give us four minutes on the couch with Johnny, we’d rather have four minutes to give you another song that lets people know what got us here,’” says Allen. “We didn’t get here talking; we got here singing.”

They also proved themselves to be capable and tireless advocates of charitable and civic causes, serving as spokesmen and/or board members of fundraisers for the *Boy Scouts of America*, the *National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse* (now, *Prevent Child Abuse America*), *Feed The Children*, the *National Anthem Project* and many more.

The group’s first personnel change in many years occurred in 1987 when Steve Sanders, who had been playing guitar in the Oaks Band, replaced William Lee as the baritone singer. Late in ‘95, Steve resigned from the Oaks and exactly one minute after midnight on New Year’s Eve, Duane, Joe and Richard surprised a packed house at the Holiday Star Theatre in Merrillville, Indiana, by welcoming William Lee on stage and back into the group. The hit makers were finally together again!

The Oaks’ high-energy stage show remains the heart and soul of what they do, and they refine it several times a year, striving to keep it fresh well into the future.

“We’re not willing to rest on our laurels,” Golden says. “That gets boring. As a group, we do things constantly to challenge ourselves, to try to do something different or better than the last time we did it.”

“I feel like I can do what I do on stage just as good now as I could 20 years ago,” says Bonsall. “I plan to be rockin’ my tail off out there as long as I’m healthy. The people who come out, who bring their families to see us, deserve everything I’ve got.”

“We’ve experienced a lot of longevity,” adds Sterban. “I think the reason is the love we have for what we do—the desire, the longing to actually get up there and do it. We love to sing together...to harmonize together. It’s what our lives are all about.”

"Back" to the future

In 2009, the group recorded a CD, **The Boys Are Back**, with 34-year-old, Pop-Rock producer Dave Cobb. Cobb encouraged them to stretch musically.

"*Seven Nation Army* was Dave's first idea out of the shoot. He said he envisioned us singing where The White Stripes and Jack White do the instrumental parts. It turned out incredibly well," Bonsall says. "The project is diverse and includes an old spiritual from the Smithsonian archives, *God's Gonna Ease Your Troublin' Mind*, as well as a new Jamey Johnson-penned, soon-to-be-classic called *Mama's Table*."

The Oaks' new music attracted the attention of a younger audience, while reminding dedicated fans that their favorite group is ever-evolving.

"When we throw those songs at the audience, it's fun to watch their reaction. The cool thing is they're loving it." Bonsall says. "We don't give it any introduction; we just go straight into each song. We did *Seven Nation Army* in Minnesota a few weeks ago and got a standing ovation. The younger kids in the audience were freaking out."

Duane Allen, who is Executive Producer for the project, adds, "We went to California to get a Rock and Roll producer who brought us back home to the very roots of our music, which is Gospel mixed with Country, Blues, and Rock and Roll."

Golden describes the new project as a "musical journey."

Sterban agrees. "I think David took us down some roads we might not have traveled on our own. The music may be different but he did not try to change us, he challenged us."

Many have labeled the Oaks' path as one similar to what Johnny Cash traveled with producer Rick Rubin. The Oak Ridge Boys find that analogy appropriate, almost sentimental, because Cash was one of their earliest supporters and a longtime friend.

"Back when we were struggling in the early 1970's, Johnny Cash encouraged us. He booked us on his show in Las Vegas, and he paid us too much money. But his belief in us was the most important thing. He sat us down and told us, 'Boys, you think it's rough right now, but there's magic in the four of you.

I can feel that magic. I know there is magic there. Don't break up.”

And the rest is history.

#### It's Only Natural

In 2011, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store asked The Oak Ridge Boys to record an album with a blend of previously recorded and brand new songs. The result was **It's Only Natural**, a twelve-track CD with seven rerecorded hits, including the group's multi-platinum, Country-Pop hit *Elvira*, and five new songs.

Veteran Oaks' producer Ron Chancey returned to the studio with the group to produce *Elvira* and two new songs, and the team of Duane Allen and Michael Sykes reunited to produce the remaining nine. The album debuted on September 19, a month after the Oaks were inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.

While the combination of Oak Ridge Boys and Cracker Barrel is “only natural,” the Oaks stretched—yet again—and invited YouTube sensation Keenan Cahill to join them on what would become a viral music video for their first single from the project. *What'cha Gonna Do?* was released to country radio in November 2011 and received widespread acceptance on national grass roots and Music Row charts.

5.3.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## Factsheet

**PERSONAL APPEARANCES** The Oak Ridge Boys work more than 150 personal appearances each year, ranging from giant state fairs to select theaters in the round and including symphony halls, auditoriums, festivals and arenas nationwide.

**MODE OF TRAVEL** Two customized Prevost buses.

**ENTOURAGE** The Oak Ridge Boys' tours are comprised of some 20 men, ten performers along with a road manager, stage manager, lighting and sound technicians, and other crew.

**CORPORATE OFFICE** Oak Ridge Boys, Inc., 88 New Shackle Island Road, Hendersonville, TN 37075. Phone: 615-824-4924. Fax: 615-822-7078. E-mail: [omt@oakridgeboys.com](mailto:omt@oakridgeboys.com) Website: [www.oakridgeboys.com](http://www.oakridgeboys.com)

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**RECORD LABEL** Spring Hill Music, Inc., 101 Winners Circle, Ste. 123, Brentwood, TN 37027. Phone: 615-383-5535. Fax: 615-383-6632

**BOOKING/TV/CORPORATE SPONSORSHIP** William Morris Endeavor, 1600 Division Street, Suite 300, Nashville, TN 37203. Phone: 615-963-3000. Fax: 615-963-3090. Website: [www.wma.com](http://www.wma.com)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/NATIONAL** Kirt Webster, Webster & Associates, LLC, P.O. Box 23015, Nashville, TN 37202. Phone: 615-777-6995; Fax 615-369-2515. E-mail: [kirt@websterpr.com](mailto:kirt@websterpr.com)

**PUBLIC RELATIONS/TOUR PRESS** Sanford Brokaw, The Brokaw Company, 9255 Sunset Boulevard, Suite 804, Los Angeles, CA 90069. Phone: 310-273-2060. Fax: 310-276-4037. E-mail: [brokawc@aol.com](mailto:brokawc@aol.com)

**FAN CLUB** The Oak Ridge Boys International Fan Club, [www.oakridgeboys.com](http://www.oakridgeboys.com). E-mail: [ORBIFC@oakridgeboys.com](mailto:ORBIFC@oakridgeboys.com)

**PAST CORPORATE ENDORSEMENTS** The BluBlocker Corporation; Pillsbury/Totino's Pizza; Ralston-Purina; AT&T; Dr. Pepper

**INTERNATIONAL APPEARANCES** Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, France, Monaco, Norway, Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany

**COMMAND PERFORMANCES** King Gustaf of Sweden, Her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of Great Britain, President and Mrs. Jimmy Carter, President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan, President and Mrs. George H. W. Bush, President and Mrs. Bill Clinton, President and Mrs. George W. Bush

**TELEVISION APPEARANCES (PARTIAL LIST)** The Oak Ridge Boys have had a number of nationally-televised concert specials in recent years, including *Let Freedom Sing*, *Holiday Colors*, *From The Heart*, and *Christmas Cookies* for Feed The Children. They also hosted *The Oak Ridge Boys Live From Las Vegas* series for TNN. Previous Oak Ridge Boys specials were produced and aired by PBS and HBO.

A short list of other appearances includes: History Channel's *Pawn Stars*; *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives* for the Food Network; *Fox & Friends*; *CBS Early Show*; *Hannity & Colmes*; *Deborah Norville Tonight* (MSNBC); *American Bandstand's 30th Anniversary*; *ABC's 20/20*; *Good Morning America*; *Tonight Show*; *Regis & Kathie Lee*; *Grammy Awards*; *American Music Awards*; *Country Music Association Awards*; *Academy of Country Music Awards*; *TNN/Music City News Awards*; *Viewers Choice Awards*; *Entertainment Tonight*; *New Year's Rockin' Eve*; *TV's Bloopers & Practical Jokes*; *Wolftrap Salutes ASCAP* (PBS Great American Performances); *The Bush Presidential Inaugural Gala*; *The World's Largest Concert* for PBS; *\*Crook & Chase*; *\*Nashville Now*; and *\*Prime Time Country*. \*The Oak Ridge Boys were occasional guest hosts for these shows.

**PHILANTHROPIC ACTIVITIES** Over the years, the group has been active in diverse humanitarian activities. They helped build a *Habitat for Humanity* house in Kentucky. In 1997-1998, they lent their name to the *American Forests Country Music Tree Series*, a national non-profit conservation organization. They served as *Honorary Chairmen of the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse* (now *Prevent Child Abuse America*), 1985-88.

They recorded jingles and a television commercial as spokesmen for the Boy Scouts of America. They were featured in government campaigns such as *Take Pride In America* (U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture); the *Tennessee Adopt-A-Highway Program*; and the *National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's Buckle-Up Campaign*. And they were featured in a national *Tennessee Tourism* campaign.

In 1985, the Oaks represented all of American music at the grand opening of the Acropolis in Nice, France, where they donated their performance fee to the international relief organization *Feed The Children*. The money was used to drill four water wells in the Rift Valley of Kenya. Through their work with *Feed the Children*, the Oaks helped collect an estimated three million pounds of food for the needy.

In 2005, the group agreed to act as “musical ambassadors” for the three-year *National Anthem Project*, sponsored by MENC (The National Association For Music Education).

The Oaks have also donated their time to perform at several domestic military bases—from Fort Knox to Camp Lejeune—on behalf of the *Spirit of America Tour*.

In 2007, the Oak Ridge Boys joined a public campaign to establish a National War Dogs Monument in our nation’s capital to honor the service and sacrifice of U. S. military working dog teams since WWI. The bill (H.R. 1585, Sec. 2877), originally introduced by Congressman Walter Jones of North Carolina, was approved by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

In conjunction with their 2011 *The Boys Are Back for Christmas Tour*, the Oaks partnered with Save the Children to help raise money and awareness for the needs of disadvantaged children across the U.S. and internationally.

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## INDIVIDUAL BIOS

### **Duane Allen**

A native of Taylortown, Texas, Duane (“Ace”) Allen had formal training in both operatic and quartet singing before becoming a member of the Oaks in 1966. He is a member of the Texas Gospel Music Hall of Fame and has written a book on the history of Gospel music. He also holds an honorary doctorate from a Christian college.

Duane graduated from Paris Junior College, and then Texas A&M University at Commerce, Texas. He received a B.S. in Music from Texas A&M, studying with Metropolitan Opera stars Richard Webb and William Abbott. For his classical music degree, Duane concentrated on voice, piano, and composition. He has received the Distinguished Alumni Award from both Paris Junior College and Texas A&M. He and his wife Norah Lee underwrite a scholarship fund for Texas A&M University Department of Music students.

During the time Duane studied at Paris Junior College, two operettas were written based on his life—one entitled “College Go Round” and the other entitled “Let’s See Patee (Paris).” He received a music scholarship to Texas A&M, and while he was a student there he starred in a lead role of “Annie Get Your Gun.” He also sang in an elite chorale group, which toured through the United States, as well as internationally.

Now, when off the road, Duane likes to spend time at his farm in Hendersonville, Tennessee. The 72-acre farm features a menagerie of beef cattle, horses, burros, and Canada geese. A superb businessman, Duane is credited with keeping the Oaks on firm financial footing during their switch from Gospel to Country in the late 1970s. He also loves to find new music for the group.

In the past decade, Duane has taken on the role of co-producer and executive producer. He co-produced, with Michael Sykes, seven of the group's recent Spring Hill Music albums and nine tracks on the 2011 **It's Only Natural** album for Cracker Barrel. He is the executive producer of **The Boys Are Back** CD (produced by David Cobb) and the **Back Home Again** CD (produced by Ben Isaacs), as well as co-producer, along with Ben Isaacs, of the Oaks' still-untitled 2012 Christmas album.

To relax and stay in physical shape, he walks 20-30 miles each week and works out with a personal trainer. He is also an avid basketball fan and enjoys shooting hoops whenever he gets the chance. Duane is an antique car buff. He has more than two-dozen classics in a collection that is housed in a museum he calls *Ace On Wheels*.

"It's a great way to relax," he says of the restoration process. "I get a lot of pleasure out of going down there and sanding and painting with no real sense of urgency."

He and his wife Norah Lee raised two children, Jamie and Dee, and now enjoy spending time with their two grandsons, March and Kell, and two granddaughters, Texas LeeAnna and Tallant. Duane's children, as well as his grandchildren, are also gifted in music.

## Joe Bonsall

Joe's Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, background shows through clearly in his love of the Philadelphia Phillies.

According to Joe, "I live and die with the Phillies, no matter where they are. 1993 was great for me; one of the highlights was going home to Philadelphia and taking my parents to two World Series games. That was so cool."

Now a Nashvillian for almost four decades, Joe is also a Tennessee Titans football fan. He and his wife Mary attend Titans' games whenever he is in town.

Joe is an avid writer and songwriter. He became a published children's book author in 1997 with *The Molly Books*, a four-book series published by Ideal's Children's Books. In 2003, New Leaf Press published *G. I. Joe and Lillie: Remembering a Life of Love and Loyalty*, an inspirational biography Joe penned about his parents. His song by the same name was included on the Oaks' *Colors* album, released the same year. A music video of the song reemerged in the summer of 2009 and became a YouTube phenomenon with almost three million views.

Joe also wrote the title song to the Oaks' *The Journey* album, as well as the text for the Oaks' coffee table book, *An American Journey*. New Leaf also publishes his Christmas family book, *An Inconvenient Christmas*. In September 2010, Journey Press, a division of Sheaf House, released Joe's latest book, *From My Perspective*, a collection of commentaries, stories and other writings.

For relaxation, Joe retreats to his farm on the Tennessee-Kentucky state line and can often be found on his John Deere tractor mowing part of his 350-acres—or sitting on his front porch and playing his banjo, an instrument he has played for almost eleven years!

Joe joined the Oaks in 1973. As with the other group members, much of his time is spent on the road performing, but Joe has found his own way to get the maximum possible enjoyment out of touring.

"My life is really pretty simple," says the Oak who is the principal spokesman on stage. "I go out there and try to sing the best I can and give them

physically and mentally every single thing I've got. When it's done, I go back to my room, call home, eat my pizza or sushi, get on my Apple laptop, watch the sports scores and say to myself, 'Hey, I've done what I'm supposed to be doin' and I feel great about it.'"

Joe has two daughters, Jennifer and Sabrina, and two grandchildren, Breanne and Luke. He and Mary also have seven cats, Sunny, Sally Ann, Ted, Baybe', Blackie, Callie and Crockett.

Joe's personal web address is [www.josephsbonsall.com](http://www.josephsbonsall.com).

# William Lee Golden

William Lee Golden is one of the most recognized personalities in Country and Gospel music, having garnered the highest accolades as a member of the legendary group The Oak Ridge Boys. Now, the renowned “Mountain Man” is climbing to new heights in the world of fine art.

Born and raised in Brewton, Alabama to Ruth and Luke Golden, William Lee would sing while plowing the fields of his father’s large cotton and peanut farm. He and his sister, Lanette, and brother, Ronnie, looked forward to Sundays when they would have the opportunity to sing and play on their grandfather’s weekly radio show. Although he was painfully shy off stage, his love for singing and harmony was clear early on. He joined his high school’s FFA Quartet and soon formed his own group called “Pilot’s Trio.”

He married his high school sweetheart, Frogene Normand, during his senior year and began working in a paper mill plant to support his new family of three sons, Rusty, Craig and Chris. Never abandoning his dream of becoming an entertainer, the young father moved to Hendersonville, Tennessee in 1965, after getting the call to join a Gospel group he admired, The Oak Ridge Boys. As the members of the group began to change, the success of the group continued to grow. The demands and stress from touring over 250 days a year also grew. By the early 70’s, William Lee’s marriage ended.

By 1975, more changes came. Jim Halsey entered as the Oaks’ manager and put the Oaks’ focus on Country music. Two years later, they had their first Country hit with *Y’all Come Back Saloon*. They continued to control the charts and the box office throughout the late 70’s and 80’s.

With many more hits, including the mega crossover, *Elvira*, came financial freedom. After too many years sleeping on the couch at his Oak Ridge Boys’ office, the bachelor decided to invest in a house. But the history lover could not buy just any house. The baritone purchased a plantation built in 1786 by Revolutionary War Captain James Franklin. Because he signed the papers on his father’s birthday in July of 1980, he felt an even stronger kinship to the estate.

During his forties, Golden went through profound changes emotionally, spiritually and physically. “With all the success came a very fast paced agenda. The mountain man and indian way of life appealed to me because it brought me back to my childhood where the simple things in life meant the most. I wanted to stop and see myself as God made me.” William reflects. The once trendsetter let his hair and beard grow to its natural lengths.

Golden had a desire to grow musically as well. In 1985, Golden recorded his first solo album, called **American Vagabond** for MCA Records. The critically acclaimed album was produced by the great Booker T. Jones and showcased Golden’s individual talent.

The ultimate promoter himself, Golden hired New York publicist Pam Lewis. Pam was known for helping launch MTV and later became known for launching superstar Garth Brooks, as his co-manager. Pam continues to work with Golden to this day.

After years of grueling tour dates and disagreements, the Oaks unexpectedly fired Golden in the early spring of 1987. Hard feelings on both sides ran deep. Along with his relationship with the Oaks, Golden’s second marriage of two years to Las Vegas model Luetta Callaway ended.

The Mountain Man forged ahead by recording songs for Polygram Records, which earned him a number one video with *Louisiana Red Dirt Highway*. With two of his sons, Rusty and Chris, fronting the shows as The Goldenes, William Lee toured the U.S. and Canada. Featured on McDonald’s “Get on Up” TV breakfast campaign and a regular on CNN’s ShowBiz Today music countdown, Golden remained in the spotlight.

Having known and worked with her for over four years, William Lee married publicist, Brenda Hall on January 5, 1990. Surrounded by family and friends, the two recited their vows in the garden atrium at The Opryland Hotel. Universal Records and Cash Money music executive Jeffrey Panzer served as Best Man.

On January 1, 1996, to the delight and surprise of thousands of Country music fans, Joe Bonsall, Duane Allen, Richard Sterban, and William Lee Golden put away their differences and once again teamed up to tour and record as The

Oak Ridge Boys.

Along with the birth of his fourth son, Solomon, William Lee received another gift in 2001, art supplies. Knowing his love and knowledge of fine art, Brenda and their infant son gave him canvas and paint supplies for Christmas. Golden began turning out great works, which he paints while on the road with The Oak Ridge Boys.

“Traveling over 155 days a year, I needed to express myself and it keeps me out of trouble,” Golden quips. As an avid art collector and photographer, Golden soon became known as The Singing Painter.

In April of 2007, the prestigious Gilcrease Museum of Art in Tulsa, Oklahoma presented Golden’s autumn landscape named after the Oaks’ hit single *Ozark Mountain Jubilee*. That same year, the Nashville International Airport selected William Lee as the initial artist to launch their exhibiting hall in Concourse C. Millions of visitors viewed six of William’s original paintings during the ten-month showing. The William Lee Golden Art Exhibition has appeared at the Alabama Music Hall of Fame, the Tennessee State Museum, and other prominent venues across the United States.

Golden’s flowering Maine setting, *Bush Gardens*, is in the permanent collection and on display at the George H.W. Bush Presidential Library and Museum in College Station, Texas. His colorful Tennessee landscape, *Smoky Mountain Spring*, is on permanent display at the Tennessee State Museum.

Looking beyond the mound of accolades, the bearded audio and visual artist has always observed God’s handwriting in nature.

“In my travels around the world, I see the beauty and majesty in each country’s landscape. I try to capture my surroundings on canvas as I see them from the photographs I take during my journey. My paintings are the backdrops from my life.”

William Lee Golden has earned recognition for his individual achievements in both music and art. Over the years, the iconic features of The Singing Painter have been the subject of many sketches, paintings, and sculptures by other world-renowned artists. Golden has received the “Entertainment of the Year” Award from the Cherokee Indian Association, which is comprised of

twenty-one tribes from across America, as well as the “Lifetime Achievement Award” from the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Now days, Golden puts his life in balance. He still performs over 150 days a year with his Oak Ridge Boys partners but also enjoys traveling the world with his family, stopping to capture a scene he will later paint, or simply enjoying the seasons at Golden Era Plantation.

Pablo Picasso once said, “Painting is just another way of keeping a diary.” William Lee Golden’s art chronicles the journey of this extraordinary man. From singing to rows of cotton, to singing to sold-out stadiums, from working the dirt to painting it, William Lee Golden is one of today’s living masters working in the many fields of art.

For additional information about William Lee Golden, go to [www.williamleegolden.com](http://www.williamleegolden.com).

## Richard Sterban

Richard began his singing career as a six-year-old soprano in Sunday school in his native Camden, New Jersey. He was a tenor in the glee club in seventh grade, but when he returned in the fall for eighth grade, he was a bass!

He loved sports and music, decided he had more talent for the latter, and developed a simple goal: “I wanted to be in the best vocal group in the world.”

Prior to joining The Oak Ridge Boys in 1972, Richard sang with various groups, eventually joining J.D. Sumner and the Stamps Quartet, which afforded him the opportunity of a lifetime—the chance to sing with Elvis, the King of Rock and Roll, singing with him every night on stage, recording with him, and appearing in one of his movies (*Elvis on Tour*). It was during this time in the midst of Elvis’ heyday that Richard was offered the position as bass singer for The Oak Ridge Boys, and he had to make a major decision—remain on the big stage or chase his own dream. This period of Richard’s life is covered in detail in his upcoming book, *From Elvis to Elvira*, co-written with Steven Robinson. The book includes many great Elvis stories and stories about The Oak Ridge Boys that have never been told.

Baseball has also been a longtime passion for Richard. For many years, as a part owner of the *Nashville Sounds* (*Milwaukee Brewers* AAA club), he attended spring training and took bus trips with the team. He now serves as the team’s “official ambassador,” attends games anytime he is in town during the season, and often does color commentary. A long-time fan of the Vanderbilt Commodores, he also does color commentary for the school’s baseball team.

Richard’s well-tailored clothing reveals one of his other loves. “When I was singing part-time and working in a clothing store,” he recalls, “I developed a real interest in fashion, and it’s something that has carried through.”

He also enjoys fine restaurants, collecting wine, and traveling—particularly to the seashore, where he likes sailing and snorkeling. A fitness buff, he has a bicycle at home and keeps another stowed in a bay under the tour bus. He even has a case so he can check a bicycle aboard airplanes.

Because of his longstanding interest in weather (he enjoys watching the Weather Channel!), Richard recently recorded public service announcements for the *National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration* (NOAA) weather radio network, the “voice” of the National Weather Service. Richard is also the “voice” for the Classic Country channel on Sirius Satellite Radio.

He and his wife Donna have two daughters living at home, Lauren and Tori. He also has three older sons, Rich, Doug and Chris, as well as five grandchildren.

5.4.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## Discography

Gold ... Platinum ... MULTI-PLATINUM ...  
Over Thirty Million Records Sold!

Y'All Come Back Saloon * +	September, 1977
Room Service * +	May, 1978
Oak Ridge Boys Have Arrived * +	March, 1979
Together *	March, 1980
Greatest Hits ** +	October, 1980
Fancy Free *** +	May, 1981
Bobbie Sue * +	February, 1982
Oak Ridge Boys Christmas * +	September, 1982
American Made * +	January, 1983
Greatest Hits Two ** +	July, 1984
Deliver * +	October, 1984
Step On Out	March, 1985
Seasons	March, 1986
Christmas Again	September, 1986
Where The Fast Lane Ends	February, 1987
Heartbeat	September, 1987
Monongahela	August, 1988
Greatest Hits Volume Three	May, 1989
American Dreams	September, 1989

Unstoppable	April, 1991
Collection * +	April, 1992
The Long Haul	June, 1992
Country Christmas Eve	November, 1995
Revival	March, 1997
Voices	July, 1999
Millennium	August, 2000
From The Heart	May, 2001
An Inconvenient Christmas	September, 2002
Colors	May, 2003
The Journey	July, 2004
Common Thread	May, 2005
Christmas Cookies	October, 2005
Definitive Collection	August, 2006
Front Row Seats	September, 2006
Gold	January, 2007
The Gospel Collection	April, 2008
The Boys Are Back	May, 2009
It's Only Natural	September, 2011
Back Home Again	May, 2012

\*Indicates Gold \*\*Indicates Platinum \*\*\*Indicates Double Platinum  
+ Sales certified by the Recording Industry Association of America

5.3.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## AWARDS

*Listed by category in alphabetical and chronological order.*

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

Top Vocal Group, 1978

Album of the Year (Y'all Come Back Saloon), 1978

Single of the Year (Elvira), 1981

*Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award* (for lifetime achievement), 2007

### **AMERICAN MUSIC AWARDS**

Country Group of the Year, 1982

Best Country Music Video Artist, 1985

### **AMERICAN ENTERTAINMENT MAGAZINE**

Best Music Act, 2007

### **BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

Silver Buffalo Award, 2001

### **COUNTRY MUSIC ASSOCIATION AWARDS**

Vocal Group of the Year, 1978

Instrumental Group of the Year (Oaks Band), 1978

Single of the Year (Elvira), 1981

Instrumental Group of the Year (Oaks Band), 1986

### **GRAMMY AWARDS**

Best Vocal Performance by a Country Group or Duo (Elvira), 1982

### **MUSIC CITY NEWS FAN AWARDS**

Band of the Year (Oaks Band), 1978

Best Single of the Year (Elvira), 1982

### **TNN VIEWERS CHOICE AWARDS**

Favorite Group, 1988

Favorite Group, 1989

### **AMERICAN GUILD OF VARIETY ARTISTS**

Best Country Vocal Group of the Year, 1981

## **BILLBOARD**

Breakthrough Award, 1977  
Number One Country Group, 1980  
Number One Country Group/Singles, 1980  
Number One Country Group/Albums, 1980  
Bill Williams Memorial Award, 1981

## **BROADCAST MUSIC INCORPORATED (BMI)**

Most Performed Song of the Year (Elvira), 1981

## **CASHBOX**

Country Vocal Group/Singles, 1978  
Country Vocal Group/Singles, 1979  
Country Vocal Group/Albums, 1979  
Country Vocal Group/Singles, 1980  
Country Vocal Group/Albums, 1981  
Country Crossover Group Pop/Singles, 1981  
Country Crossover Group Pop/Albums, 1981  
Country Crossover Group Pop/Singles, 1983

## **DISC JOCKEY AWARDS**

Group of the Year/Country, 1980

## **INTERNATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT BUYERS ASSC.**

Living Legend Award, 2005

## **INTERNATIONAL FAN CLUB ORGANIZATION**

Tex Ritter Award, 1993

## **FAME AWARD**

Presented by the MENC (National Association for Music Education), 2006

## **JUKE BOX OPERATORS OF AMERICA**

Country Group of the Year, 1980  
Song of the Year (Elvira), 1981

## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR CAMPUS ACTIVITIES**

Best Major Country Performance, 1983  
Best Major Country Performance, 1985  
Best Major Country Performance, 1986

## **NATIONAL MUSIC COUNCIL**

American Eagle Award, 1997

## **NATIONAL COMMITTEE TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE**

National Voice Award, 1997

## **PERFORMANCE MAGAZINE READERS POLL**

Country Act of the Year, 1981

## **RADIO & RECORDS COUNTRY MUSIC POLL**

Country Group of the Year, 1978-1980

Single of the Year (Elvira), 1981

## **RADIO PROGRAMMERS CHOICE AWARDS**

Vocal Group of the Year, 1981

## **RECORD WORLD**

Country Singles Award, 1977

Country Vocal Group/Singles 1978

Country Vocal Group/Albums 1978

Country Vocal Group/Singles 1980

Country Vocal Group/Albums 1980

Country Vocal Group/Albums 1981

Most Promising Male Group/Albums, 1981

Top Country Crossover Group, 1981

## **VOCAL GROUP HALL OF FAME**

Inducted, September 2001

## **GOSPEL**

## **CHRISTIAN COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**

Mainstream Artist of the Year, 2004

## **DOVE AWARDS**

Album of the Year, 1969

Album Jacket Design, 1969

Male Group of the Year, 1970

Album of the Year, 1972

Male Group of the Year, 1972

Album of the Year, 1973

Country Album of the Year, 2002

Country Recorded Song of the Year, 2007

Long Form Music Video of the Year, 2010

**GOSPEL MUSIC HALL OF FAME**

Inducted October 2000

**GRAMMY AWARDS**

Best Vocal Performance by a Group or Duo/Gospel, 1971-1979 (four awards)

**SOUTHERN GOSPEL MUSIC GUILD**

President's Award, 2010

**INTERNATIONAL**

**BILLBOARD/WEMBLEY FESTIVAL OF COUNTRY MUSIC**

Best Country Group, 1975

**COUNTRY RHYTHMS INTERNATIONAL FAN AWARDS**

Best Country Group, 1982

**KOUNTRY KORRAL MAGAZINE, SWEDEN**

Number One Country Group, 1975

Number One Gospel Group, 1975

**F.I.D.O.F (International music festival organization)**

Award of Excellence, 1986

4.22.10

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## Decades of Hits

<b>Y'All Come Back Saloon</b>	<b>July 16, 1977</b>
You're The One (In A Million)	December 3, 1977
<b>I'll Be True To You</b>	<b>April 15, 1978</b>
Cryin' Again	September 2, 1978
<b>Come On In</b>	<b>December 9, 1978</b>
Sail Away	April 7, 1979
<b>Dream On</b>	<b>August 18, 1979</b>
Leaving Louisiana (In The Broad Daylight)	December 1, 1979
<b>Trying To Love Two Women</b>	<b>April 19, 1980</b>
Heart Of Mine	July 19, 1980
<b>Beautiful You</b>	<b>November 15, 1980</b>
*Elvira	April 4, 1981
<b>(I'm Setting) Fancy Free</b>	<b>September 5, 1981</b>
**Bobbie Sue	January 23, 1982
<b>So Fine</b>	<b>June 5, 1982</b>
I Wish You Could Have Turned My Head (And Left My Heart Alone)	July 31, 1982
<b>Thank God For Kids</b>	<b>November 20, 1982</b>
American Made	February 26, 1983

<b>Love Song</b>	<b>June 4, 1983</b>
Ozark Mountain Jubilee	October 22, 1983
<b>I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes</b>	<b>February 25, 1984</b>
Everyday	July 14, 1984
<b>Make My Life With You</b>	<b>November 10, 1984</b>
Little Things	March 30, 1985
<b>Touch A Hand, Make A Friend</b>	<b>August 3, 1985</b>
Come On In (You Did The Best You Could Do)	November 23, 1985
<b>Juliet</b>	<b>March 22, 1986</b>
You Made A Rock Of A Rolling Stone	July 12, 1986
<b>It Take A Little Rain (To Make Love Grow)</b>	<b>February 21, 1987</b>
This Crazy Love	June 13, 1987
<b>Time In</b>	<b>October 10, 1987</b>
True Heart	February 27, 1988
<b>Gonna Take A Lot Of River</b>	<b>July 30, 1988</b>
Bridges And Walls	December 3, 1988
<b>Beyond Those Years</b>	<b>April 1, 1989</b>
An American Family	August 19, 1989
<b>No Matter How High</b>	<b>December 16, 1989</b>
Baby, You'll Be My Baby	May 19, 1990
<b>(You're My) Soul And Inspiration</b>	<b>December 1, 1990</b>
Lucky Moon	March 23, 1991

<b>Change My Mind</b>	<b>August 10, 1991</b>
Baby On Board	October 5, 1991
<b>Fall</b>	<b>June 27, 1992</b>
Baby, When Your Heart Breaks Down	June 28, 1999
<b>Ain't No Short Way Home</b>	<b>September 16, 1999</b>
Write Your Name Across My Heart	August 17, 2001
<b>Deep In Louisiana</b>	<b>March 15, 2002</b>
The Absence of Love / Colors	April 28/May 5, 2003
<b>Glory Bound</b>	<b>September 26, 2003</b>
Bad Case Of Missing You	June 11, 2004
<b>Someplace Green</b>	<b>January, 2005</b>
Hard To Be Cool (In A Minivan)	July, 2006
<b>Closer To Home</b>	<b>April, 2007</b>
Did I Make A Difference	January, 2008
<b>Seven Nation Army</b>	<b>April, 2009</b>
Mama's Table	September, 2009
<b>What'cha Gonna Do?</b>	<b>November, 2011</b>

\* Indicates Double Platinum

\*\* Indicates Gold

11.2.11

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## ACORNS

- Gaither Music will release two new Oak Ridge Boys projects in 2012, both produced or co-produced by Dove Award winning singer/songwriter/producer Ben Isaacs. The first, *Back Home Again*, a retro-flavored Gospel album, releases May 22.

A Christmas album, co-produced with Duane Allen and yet untitled, will release this fall.

- The Oak Ridge Boys performed at the 2012 *We're All for the Hall* fundraiser hosted by Keith Urban and Vince Gill. The April 10 concert event, held at Nashville's Bridgestone Arena, also featured Lady Antebellum, Rascal Flatts, the Band Perry, and Alabama, among others, and raised \$450,000 for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

- On November 8, 2011, The Oak Ridge Boys and Cracker Barrel released the Oaks' new single, *What'cha Gonna Do?* to Country radio. Internet sensation Keenan Cahill joined the group for the taping of their viral music video for the song.

- The Oaks' latest CD, **It's Only Natural**, sold exclusively through Cracker Barrel Old Country Store, debuted on the *Billboard* Country Album chart at #16, marking the fifth consecutive decade the group has scored *Billboard* Country chart action.

- On September 19, 2011, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store released a new and exclusive Oak Ridge Boys CD entitled **It's Only Natural**. The album features five new and seven signature songs, including a rerecording of the Oaks' double

platinum-selling single, *Elvira*. For the project, the Oaks were reunited in the studio with producers Ron Chancey, Michael Sykes, and Duane Allen.

- On July 8, 2011, The Oak Ridge Boys were invited to join The Grand Ole Opry. They were officially inducted the following month, on August 6, by Little Jimmy Dickens.

The Oaks' history has been intertwined with the Opry for more than sixty years, dating back to the founders of the Oak Ridge Quartet in the 1940's (see, Gospel Music Roots section in *A Piece of History*). The current lineup of Duane Allen, Joe Bonsall, Richard Sterban, and William Lee Golden has performed on the Opry stage many times during the past four decades.

- The Oak Ridge Boys recently contributed to a track for The Blind Boys of Alabama's upcoming Country-Gospel album, **Take the High Road**. The five-time Grammy Award and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award winners tapped Country music hit maker Jamey Johnson to co-produce the project. Johnson also contributes vocals, along with Vince Gill, Willie Nelson, Hank Williams Jr., and Lee Ann Womack.

The Oaks traveled to New York City in May for three days of press appearances with The "Blind Boys" and Johnson.

- On February 25, 2011, The Palm honored and immortalized the Oaks with the unveiling of signature caricatures, which were placed on permanent display at the Nashville restaurant. During the press conference the Oaks announced a 2011-2012 celebration of the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their double-platinum, iconic single, *Elvira*.

- The Nashville Predators have invited The Oak Ridge Boys to perform the national anthem at the Preds-Blackhawks game, Thursday, February 24.

- On Monday, January 24, 2011, The Oak Ridge Boys inducted their friend and mentor Johnny Cash, posthumously, into the Gospel Music Hall of Fame. "The

Oak Ridge Boys relationship with Johnny Cash has been well documented over the years,” Joe Bonsall told the crowd. “I daresay I don't know that we would be here today if not for Johnny Cash.”

The Oak Ridge Boys were similarly honored with a Hall of Fame induction in 2001.

- The Oak Ridge Boys are one of eight Country artists—including Brad Paisley, Dierks Bentley, Charlie Daniels, and Dolly Parton—to contribute to the Grascals & Friends CD, **Country Classics with a Bluegrass Spin** CD, released exclusively by the Cracker Barrel Old Country Store in January 2011. The album debuted at Number One on the Billboard Bluegrass chart.
- In December 2010, the Oaks make a cameo appearance on The History Channel’s hit television show, *Pawn Stars*.
- The Oak Ridge Boys’ single, *Fancy Free*, written by Roy August and Jimbeau Hinson, has been recognized by BMI as a Double Million-Airs song—certifying more than two million broadcast performances.
- In April 2010, the Oaks taped an episode of *Diners, Drive-ins and Dives*, hosted by the Food Network’s Guy Fieri, for airing later this year.
- The Oak Ridge Boys were honored at the 41<sup>st</sup> Annual GMA Dove Awards for their Country-Gospel documentary-performance video, *A Gospel Journey*, which took home the *Long Form Music Video* award.
- Gospel music accolades rolled in for the Oaks in February 2010 with two *Gospel Music Association Dove* award nominations for *Southern Gospel Recorded Song of the Year (Live With Jesus)* and *Long Form Video of the Year (A Gospel Journey)*, as well as the announcement that the group would receive the *Southern Gospel Music Guild’s* prestigious *President’s Award* in April.

- In January 2010, the Oaks celebrated four decades of charted Country music singles, when their current release, *Mama's Table*, re-entered the **Billboard Country Singles** chart. The group's first Billboard-charted Country single was with Johnny Cash (*Praise The Lord And Pass the Soup*) in 1973, and then on their own in 1976 with *Family Reunion*.
- **The Oak Ridge Boys Live @ SXSW** television special, airing on Direct TV and produced by Blaze TV, has been nominated in the Long Form Video Music Category for the *Ninth Annual Independent Music Awards*. The show features songs from The Oak Ridge Boys' latest CD, **The Boys Are Back**, including their current single release, *Mama's Table*.
- A music video of The Oak Ridge Boys' performance of *G. I. Joe and Lillie*, featuring Joe Bonsall, the songwriter and author of a book by the same name, recently surpassed one and a half million views and is still climbing. The song can be found on The Oak Ridge Boys' **Colors** CD, released by Spring Hill Music Group. The book, by the same name, now in its eighth printing with New Leaf Press, has sold more than 115,000 copies to date. The music video was produced and directed by Sherman Halsey.
- In October 2009, Spring Hill Music released the Oaks' second single from **The Boys Are Back**. *Mama's Table* was written by Jamey Johnson and George G. Teren and celebrates the best of family memories. A music video is now in pre-production.
- Two years ago, Shooter Jennings, the son of the Oaks' old friend Waylon Jennings and Jessi Coulter, asked the Oaks to sing backup on *Slow Train*, a track for Shooters' sophomore CD. At the recording session, they met David Cobb, Shooter's producer. Almost immediately, Dave and the Oaks made plans to record a project together. **The Boys Are Back** was released by Spring Hill on May 19, 2009.

Shooter Jennings wrote the title song and is one of several cutting edge songwriters contributing to the CD. Jamey Johnson co-wrote *Mama's Table* and Paul Kennerley wrote *Live For Jesus* for the project. Additional tracks were written (or co-written) by Neil Young (*Beautiful Bluebird*), John Lee Hooker (*Boom, Boom*) and Ray Lamontagne (*Hold Me In Your Arms*).

The first single from the CD is an unexpected makeover of *Seven Nation Army*, originally penned and recorded by Jack White (The White Stripes). The Oaks' version of the song has received critical acclaim and garnered plenty of attention from younger fans. The YouTube adaptation of the song is approaching 100,000 views.

- The Oak Ridge Boys were asked to participate in the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual *SXSW Music and Media Festival* held in March 2009 in downtown Austin, Texas. DIRECTV taped the Oaks' performance for their SXSW Live broadcast to subscribers. Additionally, the Oaks hosted a seminar ("The Masters of Re-Invention") for festival attendees. The Oaks and their longtime manager, Jim Halsey, spoke about meeting the challenges of the changing nature of the music industry.
- *The Academy of Country Music* named The Oak Ridge Boys a 2008 recipient of the *ACM Clifflie Stone Pioneer Award*. The Oaks were honored, along with fellow recipients Brenda Lee, Conway Twitty and Porter Wagoner (the latter two posthumously), at a special ceremony held in Nashville in September. The Oak Ridge Boys are only the third group to receive this accolade in Academy history.
- William Lee Golden 's new children's book, *Noah, Didn't It Rain*, was released by New Leaf Press in May 2008. The colorful and entertaining book, illustrated by Bill Looney, tells the story of the Biblical Noah and is based on the Oaks' current single to Christian radio, *Didn't It Rain*. A CD of the song accompanies the book.

- The Tennessee State Legislature recently honored the Oak Ridge Boys for their public service and patriotic spirit. The Proclamation was presented to the group at the 105<sup>th</sup> General Assembly on April 21.
- On April 3, 2008, Joe Bonsall was presented a plaque and special edition book from New Leaf Press to commemorate 100,000 copies sold of his creative non-fiction work, *G I. Joe and Lillie*. The book is based on the lives of Bonsall's parents, Joe, Sr. and Lillie, who both served in the Army during World War II.
- Respected Country music critique Robert K. Oermann, referencing the Oaks' most recent Country radio single, *Did I Make A Difference*, wrote in the November 30, 2007 issue of *@Music Row*: "This quartet is making some of the best music of its career, right now."
- William Lee Golden transformed the scene of Music City with his art exhibit at Nashville International Airport. An opening celebration for the six-piece collection of paintings, entitled "The First of Many to Come," was held on Tuesday, August 28, 2007. More than 300 guests and airport travelers attended the event. William Lee's paintings will be on display through early 2008, as part of the *Arts at the Airport* program.
- On June 16, 2007, the City of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, recognized the Oaks for their contribution as "ambassadors" by naming a street *The Oak Ridge Boys Way*. The presentation was made while the group was in town to perform at the Fifth Annual Secret City Festival. The original "Oak Ridge Quartet" took its name from the City of Oak Ridge.
- *American Entertainment Magazine* named the Oak Ridge Boys the 2007 *Reader's Choice Award* winner for Best Music Act of 2007. The magazine is the official publication of the International Association of Corporate Entertainment Producers.

- The Oaks recently re-recorded their classic hit, *American Made*, for a special **Support Our Troops** CD that will benefit the USO. The CD is available exclusively at participating 7-Eleven stores in the United States.
- *Closer to Home*, the group's single from **Front Row Seats**, received accolades from Country music reviewer Robert K. Oermann in the May 20, 2007, edition of Music Row magazine. "It's a spectacular salute to the common man with a melody and arrangement that are every bit as inspiring as the lyric... a sensational record." The single was released to Country radio in late April 2007.
- On April 25, 2007, the Oak Ridge Boys were honored with their eighth Gospel Music Association Dove award. *Jonah, Job and Moses* won the **Country Recorded Song of the Year**. Written by Tia Sillers and Bill Anderson, the song appears on the Oaks' most recent Country CD released by Spring Hill Music. **Front Row Seats** was produced by Duane Allen and Michael Sykes.
- In January 2007, MCA released **Oak Ridge Boys: Gold**, a double-disc CD package featuring over 30 ORB favorites.
- In August 2006, MCA Records released a new greatest hits compilation CD entitled **The Oak Ridge Boys Definitive Collection**. The CD features 24 songs, including 15 Number One hits from the 1970s and 1980s.
- The Oaks made an appearance on FOX & Friends, July 10, 2006, marking the national television debut of their single *Hard To Be Cool (In A Minivan)*. The song appears on **Front Row Seats**, released by Spring Hill Music Group on September 26, 2006.
- In April 2006, the Oaks taped a Feed The Children television special with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. The patriotic special aired across the U.S. on Independence Day weekend 2006.

- On March 9, 2006, The Oak Ridge Boys were honored by the MENC (The National Association for Music Education) for their role as Musical Ambassadors of the National Anthem Project.
  
- On October 4, 2005, the International Entertainment Buyers Association presented the Oaks with the *Living Legend* award in recognition of the group's outstanding contributions to the entertainment industry.
  
- The Country Music Hall of Fame honored The Oak Ridge Boys with a six-month spotlight exhibit in 2005. The collection of individual and group memorabilia included a priceless Hirshfeld original caricature of the group, Harvey Krantz and Manual stage clothing, and personal artifacts.
  
- In 2005, the Oak Ridge Boys were named the Musical Ambassadors of the MENC (National Association for Music Education) National Anthem Project, a multi-year effort to re-teach "The Star-Spangled Banner" to all Americans. Mrs. Laura Bush serves as the Honorary Chairperson and the *Jeep* brand is the national presenting sponsor. For more information, please visit [www.thenationalanthemproject.org](http://www.thenationalanthemproject.org).
  
- Spring Hill Music released two new CDs from the Oaks in 2005. A Gospel album, entitled **Common Thread**, was released in May. And a new Bluegrass-flavored Christmas album, **Christmas Cookies**, followed in the fall. The release of the second album coincides with a new *Feed The Children* Christmas television special and a 19-city, Christmas tour in November and December.
  
- The Oaks released a Bluegrass-style Country album, **The Journey**, in July 2004. A few months later, New Leaf Press published a coffee table book, entitled **The Oak Ridge Boys: An American Journey**. The book chronicles the 30-year history of the group in photos and text and was written by Joe Bonsall.

- Another book written by Bonsall, entitled ***An Inconvenient Christmas***, was published by New Leaf Press for the holiday season in 2004. The book was inspired by the Oaks' hit song, ***The Most Inconvenient Christmas***, which was penned by songwriter Kyle Matthews.
- In 2004, *Colors*, the title cut from the Oaks' third album on Spring Hill, was nominated for a Grammy in the category of *Best Country Performance by a Group or Duo with Vocals*, and the Gospel Music Association nominated the **Colors** album for *Country Album of the Year*. Duane Allen and Michael Sykes produced the album. In fact, the duo has produced all of the Oaks' Spring Hill albums.
- The Oak Ridge Boys **Red, White & BluBlocker® Tour** took the group to 170 cities in the United States and Canada in 2003. The following year, the Oaks set out for another busy twelve months, performing at major state fairs, auditoriums, and theaters on their **Red, White & Blublocker® Journey**.
- Joe Bonsall authored an inspirational biography. ***G.I. Joe and Lillie: Remembering a Life of Love and Loyalty***, which was released by New Leaf Press in 2003. A song by the same name, *G.I. Joe and Lillie*, was included on the Oaks' **Colors** album, also released in 2003.
- The **Colors** album also featured remakes of the Oaks' Number One hits *Thank God For Kids* and *An American Family* (with updated lyrics).
- In September 2002, Spring Hill Music released **An Inconvenient Christmas**, an album which has been the central theme for two Christmas tours, including the 2003 **Red, White & BluBlocker® Holiday Colors Tour**.
- An ORB Christmas television special, which originally aired in 2002, was re-edited and aired during the 2003 holiday season. The show, produced in

conjunction with *Feed The Children* and the Halsey Company, featured songs from ***An Inconvenient Christmas*** project.

- The group also filmed two additional, one-hour television specials for *Feed The Children* in recent months, ***Let Freedom Sing*** and ***From The Heart***.

- In 2002, the group was awarded a Dove for their ***From The Heart*** album, the group's first retail Gospel music project in over 25 years. During their career, they have been awarded countless Grammy, Dove, Country Music Association, Academy of Country Music — and many other prestigious awards.

- The Oaks have one of the most distinctive and recognizable sounds in the music industry. Their four-part harmonies and upbeat songs have sold over 30 million records and spawned 25 Number One hits including: *Elvira, American Made, Bobbie Sue, Thank God For Kids, and Y'all Come Back Saloon*. They have logged Number One records across three fields of music — Pop, Country, and Gospel.

- In recognition of the group's outstanding service to youth, on June 1, 2001, the Oaks were presented with the highest honor bestowed by the **Boy Scouts of America**, the *Silver Buffalo Award*.

- **The Vocal Group Hall of Fame** honored the Oak Ridge Boys with induction on September 13, 2001. As the first Country music group to receive such an honor, the Oaks joined stellar acts such as the Eagles and the Bee Gees.

- In October 2000, the Gospel Music Association inducted the Oak Ridge Boys into its **Gospel Music Hall of Fame**. The Oaks, subsequently, hosted the 2001 Hall of Fame ceremonies, posthumously inducting Elvis Presley.

5.4.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## Music Videos

**“What’cha Gonna Do?”** (*It’s Only Natural*, Cracker Barrel, 2011); Director: Sherman Halsey; Producer Sherman Halsey, Steven Haddad and Oak Ridge Boys II Productions, Inc. The video features Internet YouTube sensation Keenan Cahill.

**“Mama’s Table”** (*The Boys Are Back*, Spring Hill Music, 2009); Director: Sherman Halsey; Producer: The Halsey Company. Featuring footage from the Oaks’ appearance at SXSW music festival in Austin, courtesy of Blaze Television.

**“It’s Hard to Be Cool (In a Minivan)”** (*Front Row Seats*, Spring Hill Music, 2006); Director: Steven L. Weaver; Producer: Randy Brewer for Revolution Pictures, Inc.; Location: Franklin, TN

**“Someplace Green”** (*The Journey*, Spring Hill Music, 2004); Performance footage – Director: Sherman Halsey; Producer: Sherman Halsey; Location: Shepherd of the Hills, Branson, MO. Vignettes and Post-production – Director: Stan Moore; Producer: Stan Moore

**“The Most Inconvenient Christmas”** (*An Inconvenient Christmas*, Spring Hill Music, 2002); Director: Sherman Halsey; Producer: Sherman Halsey; Location: The Grand Palace, Branson, MO

**“Winter Wonderland”** (*An Inconvenient Christmas*, Spring Hill Music, 2002); Director: Sherman Halsey; Producer: Sherman Halsey; Location: The Grand Palace, Branson, MO

**“Write Your Name Across My Heart”** (*From The Heart*, Spring Hill Music, 2001); Director: Eric Welch; Producer: Susan Bowman for The Collective; Location: Nashville National Cemetery (military cemetery), Madison, TN

**“Ain’t No Short Way Home”** (*Voices*, Platinum Records, 1999); Director/Producer: Tom Bevins for Southern Exposure; Location: Manchester, TN, and Louisiana Gulf Coast

**“Fall”** (*Long Haul*, RCA Records, 1992); Director/Producer: Wayne Miller/Stan Strickland for Rainmaker; Location: DR&A Soundstage, Nashville, TN

**“Change My Mind”** (*Unstoppable*, RCA Records, 1991); Director/Producer: Larry Boothby/Buck Ford for Scene Three; Location: Oak Hill, TN, and the community of Ashley Green, Bellevue, TN

**“Soul and Inspiration”** (*My Heroes Have Always Been Cowboys*, Motion Picture Soundtrack, RCA Records, 1991); Director/Producer: Dean Lent/Kimberly Lansing for Limelight Productions; Locations: Belle Meade and Belmont Theatres, Nashville, TN

**“No Matter How High”** (*American Dreams*, MCA Records, 1989); Director/Producer: Larry Boothby/Kitty Moon for Scene Three; Locations: Nashville, TN; Philadelphia, PA; Atlantic City, NJ; and Cunningham, TX

**“Beyond Those Years”** (*Monongahela*, MCA Records, 1988); Director/Producer: Larry Boothby/Kitty Moon and Marc Ball for Scene Three; Location: A residential neighborhood and Scene Three Studios, Nashville, TN

**“Gonna Take A Lot Of River”** (*Monongahela*, MCA Records, 1988); Director/Producer: Larry Boothby and Ken Walz/Kitty Moon and Marc Ball for Scene Three; Location: Lakewood Marina, Old Hickory Lake, Nashville, TN

**“Take Pride In America”** (*Greatest Hits Three*, MCA Records, 1989); Director/Producer: Dick Heard for Dick Heard Productions; Larry Quinn, United States Department of Agriculture, Chief of the Video and Film Division/produced by the United States Department of Agriculture; Location: The Oaks Place Recording Studio, Hendersonville, TN

**“Juliet”** (*Seasons*, MCA Records, 1986); Director/Producer: Scott Hello and Martha Holmes/Ken Walz for Ken Walz Productions; Location: Kaufman Astoria Studios, New York City, NY

**“Little Things”** (*Step On Out*, MCA Records, 1985); Director/Producer: Patricia Birch/Ken Walz for Ken Walz Productions; Location: Ellington Agricultural Center, Nashville, TN

**“Everyday”** (*Greatest Hits Two*, MCA Records, 1984); Director/Producer: Ken Walz/Ken Walz Productions; Location: Tennessee Performing Arts Center, Nashville, TN.

**“I Guess It Never Hurts To Hurt Sometimes”** (*Deliver*, MCA Records, 1983); Director/Producer: Dominic Orlando/Pendulum Productions; Location: Nashville, TN

**“Ozark Mountain Jubilee”** (*Deliver*, MCA Records, 1983); Director/Producer: Mark Dice/Nocturne Productions; Location: In concert at Greensboro Coliseum, Greensboro, NC

**“Love Song”** (*American Made*, MCA Records, 1983); Director: Paul Henman/Kaleidoscope Productions; Location: High Desert, Palmdale, CA

**“Thank God For Kids”** (*Christmas*, MCA Records, 1982); Director: Kenny Meyers/Rock Cottage Productions; Location: Sesame Place, Irving, TX

**“So Fine”** (*Bobbie Sue*, MCA Records, 1982); Director/Producer: Sherman Halsey/Churchill Productions; Location: Dallas, TX

**“Easy”** (*Y’All Come Back Saloon*, MCA Records, 1978). This is believed to be the first concept music video ever produced for a Country music artist in the United States. Although not released in the U.S., the video reached the #3 slot in Australia.

11.3.11

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## Career Highlights Timeline

**1973** – The current lineup—William Lee Golden, Duane Allen, Richard Sterban and Joe Bonsall—come together.

**1974** – Johnny Cash helps the Oaks by including them on shows, encouraging them to persevere. Jimmy Dean would also become a mentor for the group the following year.

**1975** – The group signs a management contract with Jim Halsey, beginning a 34-year association to date.

**1976** – The Oaks take the Country charts by storm with *Y'all Come Back Saloon* on ABC-Dot Records.

The group also breaks new boundaries for Country music with a 21-day tour of the Soviet Union with Roy Clark. They are the first Country music group to perform in the USSR.

**1977** – The Oaks win their first major Country music award, *Best Vocal Group* from the ***Academy of Country Music*** and headline a show at New York City's renowned Carnegie Hall.

The group produces one of the first Country music videos, for their song, *Easy*, which is a hit in Australia.

**1978** – The ***Country Music Association*** bestows its *Vocal Group of the Year* award on the group.

Paul Simon presents a gold album to the Oaks for their unforgettable backup vocals on his classic hit, *Slip Slidin' Away*. Paul Simon and Phil Ramone produced the project.

**1979** – The Oaks chalk up another *Best Vocal Group* award from the **Academy of Country Music** and wrap up a record breaking, two-year tour with Kenny Rogers.

Three international stops make headlines for the Boys: a command performance for Princess Caroline in Monaco; a show at the historic Opera House at Mideum in Cannes, France; and a stellar appearance at the Montreax Jazz Festival.

**1980** – The **Juke Box Operators of America** award their prestigious *Country Group of the Year* award to the Oak Ridge Boys.

The group co-headlines a show, with Johnny Mathis, at Royal Albert Hall in London, England.

**1981** – The Oaks' single *Elvira* hits the top of the Country and Pop charts, selling two and a half million singles. Two more awards: the **Country Music Association** *Single of the Year* (*Elvira*), and an **American Music Awards** *Best Country Music Video* (*Everyday*).

**1982** – This year brings a **Grammy** win (the Oaks' fifth) for *Best Vocal Performance by a Country Group or Duo* (*Elvira*) and a one-hour HBO television special.

The **American Music Awards** bestows the *Country Group of the Year*, and the **Academy of Country Music** chooses *Elvira* as the *Single of the Year*.

**1983** – The **National Association for College Activities (NACA)** awards the Oaks with the first of three, consecutive *Best Major Country Performance* awards.

The group performs at the third annual Congressional Barbecue on the lawn of the White House, an honor they will have again in 1989 and 2008. During the course of their career, the group has performed for five presidents, as well as King Gustaf of Sweden, her Royal Highness Princess Caroline of Monaco, and Her Royal Highness Princess Anne of Great Britain.

**1984** – The Oak Ridge Boys debut their new single, *It Never Hurts to Hurt Sometimes*, on the **Tonight Show**.

**1985** – The Oaks represent all of American music at the grand opening of the Acropolis in Nice, France, donating their performance fee to international relief organization Feed the Children. The money is used to drill four water wells in the Rift Valley, Kenya.

**1986** – The group’s headline performance at New York City’s Radio City Music also features The Judds. The show poster includes a rendering of the “Boys” by iconic Broadway caricaturist Al Hirschfeld.

FIDOF (International Federation of Festival Organizations) presents the Oak Ridge Boys with their Award of Excellence in recognition of the Oaks’ numerous international appearances in Belgium, Canada, England, Finland, France, Monaco, Norway, the Soviet Union, Sweden, Switzerland and West Germany, including MIDEM.

**1987** – The group participates for the second time in the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade, broadcast live on NBC.

**1989** – The Oaks hook up with Pillsbury for a national Totino’s Pizza promotion.

**1997** – Two distinguished designations are bestowed on the Oaks: ***The National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse National Voice Award*** and the **American Music Council American Eagle Award**.

**1998** – TNN posts huge audiences for *The Oak Ridge Boys Live from Las Vegas* variety show series produced by Sherman Halsey. Guests include contemporary and classic talent from Tim McGraw, Sara Evans and Bill Engvall to the Captain and Tennille and the Fairfield Four.

**2000** – The Oak Ridge Boys are inducted into the **Gospel Music Hall of Fame**.

**2001** – In recognition of their outstanding service to youth, the **Boy Scouts of America** presents the group with their highest national honor, the *Silver Buffalo*.

**2002** – The group is awarded a *Dove* from the **Gospel Music Association** for their *From The Heart* CD, their first retail Gospel music project in over 25 years.

**2003** – **The Oak Ridge Boys' Red, White & BluBlocker® Tour** takes the Oaks to 170 cities across the United States and Canada.

**2004** – New Leaf Press publishes *The Oak Ridge Boys: An American Journey*, a group autobiography penned by tenor singer Joe Bonsall, who is a multi-published author.

**2005** – The **International Talent Buyers Association** presents the Oaks with the *Living Legend Award*.

The **Country Music Hall of Fame** honors the group with a six-month spotlight exhibit.

**2006** – The **MENC (National Association for Music Education)** bestows the *Fame Award* on the Oak Ridge Boys for their work as *Musical Ambassadors* for the three-year **National Anthem Project**

**2007** – The Oak Ridge Boys ride in the lead float in the Rose Bowl Parade, as a part of the NAMM (National Association of Music Merchandisers) American Music Salute campaign (National Anthem Project). They perform for one and a half billion viewers.

*American Entertainment Magazine*, the official publication for the **International Association of Corporate Entertainment Producers**, announces the group as their recipients of the *Readers Choice Award for Best Music Act of 2007*.

The **Gospel Music Association** bestows the Oaks with their eighth *Dove Award*, this one for *Country Recorded Song of the Year* (Jonah, Job and Moses).

**2008** – The **Academy of Country Music** recognizes the Oak Ridge Boys as recipients of the *Cliffie Stone Pioneer Award*.

The group continues to perform more than 150 days a year on tour across the United States and Canada, their tour busses jointly receiving over 24 million impressions per year.

The Oak Ridge Boys' Christmas tour, a 20-year tradition, sells out halls across the country each year. As well, in 2008, the group's *Feed the Children* multiple cable network Christmas television special received over 100 million viewer hits.

**2009** – The Oak Ridge Boys continue to prove they are one of the most diverse music groups in American music. In April, they release both a cover of the White Stripes song, *Seven Nation Army*, to Country radio, and a debut Gaither Gospel Music Homecoming television special.

The Oaks will be featured speakers (*The Masters of Reinvention*) at the 2009 **SXSW Music, Film and Interactive Festival** in Austin, Texas, in March. Additionally, their one-hour performance during the festival will be broadcast live (and on tape throughout the year) by DIRECTV, with 45 million viewers per broadcast.

**2010** – Roy August, co-writer of the Oaks’ single *Fancy Free* (co-written by Jimbeau Hinson), received a “two million spins” award from BMI. As of July 2010, the song had been broadcast over 116,600 hours, equating to more than 13 years of continuous airplay.

Also in July, AOL listed *Elvira* by The Oak Ridge Boys as the “catchiest” song in Country music. The Oaks’ chart topping single beat out several other “catchy” songs, which filled out the AOL Top Ten Catchy Songs in Country list, including *Achy Breaky Heart* by Billy Ray Cyrus, *The Gambler* by Kenny Rogers, and *Undo It* by Carrie Underwood.

**2011** – The Oaks celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their double platinum selling, Country-Pop smash hit single, *Elvira*.

The group is inducted into the Grand Ole Opry on August 6, almost 66 years after the Oak Ridge Quartet first started making regular appearances on the Opry.

In September, Cracker Barrel Old Country Store® released the Oaks’ **It’s Only Natural** CD, and the first single, *What’cha Gonna Do?*, inspired a now-viral music video taped with Internet sensation Keenan Cahill.

4.4.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## People Are Talking...

Since hitting the top ten for the first time in 1977 with **Y'all Come Back Saloon**, the Oak Ridge Boys have carved out one of the most successful careers of all time." Chuck Dauphin, *Billboard*, <http://www.billboard.com/column/the-615/oak-ridge-boys-venture-home-again-with-new-1006955352.story#/column/the-615/oak-ridge-boys-venture-home-again-with-new-1006955352.story> (May 3, 2012)

**The Boys Are Back** fuses good-ol' God-fearing glory with blues and rock staples for this unusual collection of tunes, featuring new music and classics. <http://www.californiachronicle.com/articles/yb/147219924>

For more than a half-century, The Oak Ridge Boys have created an American music legacy all their own. Their foundational influence and award-winning history is attributed not only to their dynamic personalities and musical diversity, but also to great songs that have connected with the hearts of their audiences. <http://www.latestmoviepreview.com/genres/music-video-concerts/the-best-of-the-oak-ridge-boys-a-gospel-journey/> (May 30, 2010)

One of the traditions that goes back many years and is consistent (sic) as the taste of a funnel cake is seeing the Oak Ridge Boys perform at the Kentucky State Fair. Jessica Blankenship, *LEXINGTON COUNTRY MUSIC EXAMINER*, <http://www.examiner.com/x-18972-Lexington-Country-Music-Examiner~y2009m8d8-Kentucky-State-Fair-offers-sizzling-country-concerts> (August 8, 2009)

... the show attracted a near-capacity audience, with a surprising number of smiling teens and college-age fans mixed in with the longtime supporters. ~ William Kerns, *A-J ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR*, [http://lubbockonline.com/stories/062309/fea\\_453620846.shtml](http://lubbockonline.com/stories/062309/fea_453620846.shtml) (June 23, 2009)

Even after the house lights came up, the crowd still called out for more. Randell Bolton, *LOUISVILLE COURIER-JOURNAL.com* (August 19, 2008)

The Oak Ridge Boys have continued to make the journey no matter what... through all of the incredibly tough times, through changes and adversity, through financial struggles, record deals, touring, and through the challenges of both Gospel and country music and the industry that controls them... The Oaks have always had a higher calling than any other group I know of, (They are) the supreme example of a "class act" in every way. *Matthew Gillian, Historian/Broadcast Personality/Entertainer (January 10, 2008)*

Sounding like the day they brought home the Grammy award for best country group in 1981, the Oaks (as they're affectionately known) brought a high-energy show and didn't leave the audience disappointed. *Gary Carter, HERALD DEMOCRAT ONLINE (October 29, 2007)*

(N)obody brings people together (more) than the wonderful Oak Ridge Boys. I left ... wondering, how many of today's "hitmakers" could have drawn such a big crowd on such a miserable night. *Tommy Jackson is a longtime Arkansas newspaper editor who now writes a weekly entertainment column for a number of papers in Arkansas and Missouri. (August 13, 2007)*

It was fantastic. I loved how they blended the classic hits with the new songs and the gospel selections. Top notch performance! *Kris Losh, Country Club In The Morning, WKDW, Staunton VA (March 5, 2007)*

The Oak Ridge Boys serve as a reminder for the entire industry on how to evolve as an act over the course of time. They have lost none of their drive, their ability to select material that the public can identify with, and their delight in bringing that music to the masses in concert. Their recent performance at the CMA Music Festival is proof of the latter, and FRONT ROW SEATS is a fine example of one of Music City's crown jewels continuing to raise the bar to a new musical level. *NEW MUSIC MAGAZINE (September 22, 2006)*

Speaking of Middle America, the mini-van driving audience went nuts for the band's new rocking song "(Hard to Be Cool) In a Minivan... *CHRONICLE-TELEGRAM, Wellington, OH (August 24, 2006)*

(T)hey're part of the fabric of Americana...a marvel: utterly relaxed, supremely confident, vocally superb, and so supremely energetic... *COURIER-JOURNAL, Louisville, KY (August 22, 2006)*

Smiles were common in the crowd. Old couples held hands. Young couples spooned vertically. A dad rocked his baby on his hip in time to the music. It was a hot night on the fairgrounds. It was a slice of America. *GAZETTE XTRA, Janesville, WI (July 31, 2006)*

The audience, its gears jammed in the high "woo" and "yeah" positions, reacted by clapping and swaying along to the many familiar melodies and snapping photos with cell phones retrieved from fanny packs. *THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH, Columbus, OH (August 9, 2006)*

The Oak Ridge Boys were a revelation. They introduced four new tunes, and they were the best things I've heard them sing in 20 years. Their pitch-perfect, four-part harmony proved that they have lost nothing vocally over these many years. *BOB OERMANN, @ MUSIC ROW (August 4, 2006)*

#### SYMPHONY PERFORMANCE REVIEWS

Oh, what a tight, powerful vocal quartet can do with a superb acoustical space. After three trips to the Holland Performing Arts Center, the Oak Ridge Boys surely have mastered the hall.... The Boys and their six-piece backup band performed just over half their show with the symphony, which enhanced the quartet's romantic ballads and boosted the power behind up-tempo songs like "Seven Nation Army...." Resident conductor Ernest Richardson was obviously enjoying himself, and the orchestra's energy and charisma reflected its leader. *Todd von Kampen, OMAHA WORLD-HERALD, <http://www.omaha.com/article/20110521/GO/705219832/0> (May 21, 2010)*

There is no question, the Boys are back! With their trademark non-stop, high energy delivery, the Oak Ridge Boys had our audiences on their feet cheering mid-way through the show. As expected, "Elvira" brought the house down. They are as good as anybody on stage. *Ann Koonsman, President and CEO, Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra Association, July 13, 2009*

It's a credit to a veteran country group like the Oak Ridge Boys when almost half their Saturday concert with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra consisted of songs from a new album that was ballyhooed at Austin's trendy South by Southwest music conference this spring. It's even better when that unfamiliar material is received with cheers from people who showed up at Bass Performance Hall primarily for "Elvira" and "Bobbie Sue." *Shirley Jinkins, Fort Worth Star-Telegram - McClatchy-Tribune Information Services via COMTEX, June 21, 2009*

## CHRISTMAS TOUR REVIEW

There are just some shows you anticipate like clockwork. In the summer it's Lollapalooza and Summerfest. During the holidays it's Handel's "Messiah" and Christmas renditions from R&B, jazz, country, pop and American music artists. We say all that to say, it's also **Oak Ridge Boys Christmas Show** time. Whether you are a big country music fan during the rest of the year, or prefer your country in the Taylor Swift pop style, this is a seasonal chestnut that is not to be missed. *CHICAGO TRIBUNE (December 17, 2010)*

The quartet certainly painted this town red and white and green and gold. Their harmonious voices and warm demeanor made for a perfect intro into the holiday season. The Oaks entertained concert-goers with their big hits for the first half of the evening. But after intermission, it was all about Christmas. The snow was falling, the elves were dancing, the lights were twinkling and spirits were high. *PANAMA CITY NEWS HERALD / THE ENTERTAINER*

The veteran foursome of lead singer Duane Allen, tenor Joe Bonsall, baritone William Lee Golden and bass singer Richard Sterban made the next-to-last stop on their "Christmas Cookies" tour at the F.M. Kirby Center for the Performing Arts on Saturday, bringing a delightful mix of secular and religious holiday favorites and their own bag full of greatest hits.

The Oaks opened the concert with a 45-minute set featuring three new songs and seven of their biggest hits. *Brad Patton, THE TIMES-LEADER, Wilkes Barre, PA (December 2008)*

5.4.12

# THE OAK RIDGE BOYS

## The "Mighty" Oaks Band

**Don Carr** (lead guitar) Born in Wayne, MI, and raised in Henderson, KY, Don is the only member of his family who has musical talent. He began singing as a toddler, even before he had mastered talking. Picking up a discarded guitar, Don took lessons at the YMCA. He practiced at home by listening to records and learning to imitate the guitar licks. Beginning at age 15, Don played guitar in a club band, later joining a rock band whose members wrote and recorded their own material. The group won grand prize in a radio station-sponsored contest, and Don was hooked on the music business! Attending North Texas State in Denton and Belmont College in Nashville, he pursued music majors. It was while studying at Belmont that he began making friends in the country music industry, eventually leading to his first major road job, playing with David Slater. Later Don traveled with Shelly West, Earl Thomas Conley, and Marie Osmond. He joined The Oaks Band in 1991 to play lead guitar, but Don also plays the drums and says that he has a 'percussive attitude' toward the guitar, which he describes as 'very rhythmic.'

**Chris Golden** (drums and percussion) A second generation of the Oaks' organization, Chris Golden was two in 1964 when his father William Lee Golden joined the Oak Ridge Boys. In elementary school, Chris was already learning to play drums. By the time he graduated high school, he was touring with his brother Rusty in The Boys Band, a Pop music act that recorded an album for Elektra/Asylum. Around this time Chris started singing. Within a year he was performing solo, making his lead vocal debut on the hit TV show Hee Haw. At age 20, he joined the Canadian group Cedar Creek. In the late '80s, Chris—paired with his brother Rusty as The Golden—recorded albums for Epic and for Capitol Records. Chris also produced and directed one of their music videos. The brothers racked up several chart singles. In 1995, Chris began performing with the Oaks, playing guitar, mandolin, and harmonica and filling in on keyboards and drums. In July of 1998, this multi-talented man, who also has charted songwriter credits, became the Oaks' full-time drummer. He has been the voice of Heinz 57 as national radio spokesman and enjoyed a brief stint with country-rock legends the Flying Burrito Brothers. His latest solo project, "CenterStage," garnered rave reviews from Billboard magazine. Chris enjoys studio work and produces various acts. In 2000, he produced William Lee Golden's CD box set, "My Life's Work." Chris can also be heard on the Oaks' recent CDs, "From The Heart," "An Inconvenient Christmas" and "The Journey." He and his wife Kimberly, their daughters Elizabeth and Rebekah, and their son Elijah live near Nashville. To learn more about Chris, log on to [www.chrisgolden.net](http://www.chrisgolden.net).

**Jimmy Fulbright** (bass guitar) Jimmy was born in Columbus, GA, but he “grew up everywhere” because his father was in the Air Force. He’s been interested in music since early childhood and credits his grandfather as his musical mentor. He is proficient on piano and loves to sing. He also plays guitar and drums. With a diverse professional music background, he has played keyboards and/or bass for Gospel acts, such as the Dixie Echoes, as well as Country acts, Donna Fargo, Earl Thomas Conley, Lee Greenwood and T. Graham Brown. Jimmy also has 12 years of experience at production theaters in Branson, MO, and Pigeon Forge, TN. He originally joined The Oaks Band in the summer of 2001. He left for a short while and returned in 2003. His chief philosophy in life is ‘work hard and be prepared to change plans if the first one doesn’t work out!’

**Jeff Douglas** (guitar and dobro) Jeff Douglas was born and raised in Kentucky, spending most of his early years in the small town of Paris. An only child, his dad worked for the Post Office and his mom worked for the local school system. While attending the University of Kentucky, Jeff began working at a music store repairing and building guitars. It was in the local music scene that he met longtime friend, Paul Martin. Through this friendship he met the Oaks. In 1995, Jeff moved to the Nashville area to take a job as the ORB Band Tech. He was later promoted to Stage Manager. Jeff has played the guitar since he was sixteen and in 1999, when the Oaks needed a bit of extra “fill” in the show, he started playing three or four songs on rhythm guitar. However, he played offstage while also attending to his production work! In 2004, the Oaks released their Bluegrass-flavored *The Journey* CD. Jeff immediately bought a dobro and learned to play it so he could contribute to an additional four or five songs on the show. However, when playing the dobro he walks onstage—no longer a ghost player! In his spare time Jeff enjoys woodworking, tennis, photography, and recording. He is single and has no children.

**Rex Wiseman** (fiddle, pedal steel, mandolin, guitar) Rex Wiseman is the newest member of the Oaks Band, joining in 2006. Born and raised in Birdseye, Indiana, Rex grew up in a musical family. His father, four brothers, and sister were “back porch” pickers, playing mostly for their own enjoyment. Rex, who was the youngest, learned to play the mandolin at age five. Eventually he taught himself to play fiddle, guitar, pedal steel, electric bass, dobro, banjo, and mandolin. At the ripe old age of 11, Rex became a “professional,” earning money by playing in a local Country band with his brother. When he was 16, he put together his own band. Then in 1980, he moved to Nashville to work with Little David Wilkins. He subsequently worked with John Conlee, Bill Anderson, Rhonda Vincent, Billy Yates, Phillip Claypool and Clay Walker. Rex’s early dream was for a solo record deal. His timing was less than perfect, however, because Contemporary Country was in vogue in the early eighties, and he played and sang traditional style. He finally gave up on solo aspirations in May 1985, two months

before Randy Travis became an “overnight” sensation! Timing is everything! Rex has persevered through the turns his life has taken. Losing his mom at an early age, he learned the value of family and the importance of every moment. He has two daughters, Mary Jo and Kady, as well as three granddaughters. Rex, his wife Kim, and daughter Kady live in the Nashville area. In addition to music, another one of Rex’s lifelong passions has been horses and horse training.

**Chris Nole** (Keyboards) Born in Valley Forge, PA, songwriter-composer, accomplished session musician, producer, and recording artist, Chris Nole has toured internationally and recorded with some of the best known acts in the music industry, including John Denver and Faith Hill. Chris’ songs have been recorded by a number of artists, from Faith Hill to The Swamphonkys, and used in various television productions (NBC's *Heroes*, E’s *True Hollywood Story*, and CBS’ *Evening Shade*).

“I’ve been influenced by every great talent I’ve been fortunate enough to work with, whether on the stage or in the studio,” Chris says. “Every time I sit at the piano I learn something new. That’s what keeps me coming back for more! Music fuels the fire inside of me.”

The Oak Ridge Boys and Oaks Band endorse the following:

- Audio Technica
- Deering Banjo
- GHS (strings)
- John Pearse
- Larrivee’ Guitars
- L.R. Baggs
- Samo Music Solutions
- Muse Research
- Paige Capo
- Seymour Duncan (pick-ups)
- Paul Reed Smith Guitars
- Mesa Boogie Amps
- Radial Engineering
- Evans (drumheads)
- Vic Firth (sticks)
- Barcus-Berry Violins
- Emmons Pedal Steel Guitars
- Gibson Mandolins
- Fender instruments
- Peterson Strobe
- Bluechip Picks

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