

## SAWYER BROWN

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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After 23 years in the country music industry, Sawyer Brown still generates excitement and emotion with their dynamic music and live stage shows.

"The greatest thing about this bunch of guys is the huge amount of respect we have for each other as artists, musicians, and friends," says original founding member, Hobie Hubbard. "It's an amazing balance."



The Sawyer Brown legacy originated when Hubbard became friends with Mark Miller in junior high school.

"We had no idea back then what the future would hold for us musically," Hubbard says. "Mark was completely obsessed with basketball and my initial plans were to become an English teacher. But once we started the band, we all believed right from the very beginning that this is what we were supposed to be doing. There was no telling us 'No.' Sometimes that sheer determination will get you through a lot. It still comes in handy."

The band, originally known as Savannah, began playing at local Nashville gigs in '82. They later changed the name to Sawyer Brown, derived from an actual street in west Nashville. The re-named band went on to win the \$100,000 first prize in '84 on the television talent show, "Star Search," and soon landed a record deal.

"Winning the Star Search contest was such a surprise," says Hubbard. "At the most, we figured we'd be able to use the audition tape as a means of pitching for jobs. We in no way expected to make it on the show, much less to get out there and start winning the whole deal."

Sawyer Brown debuted in '84 with the Top Twenty single, "Leona," and has continually raced to the top of the charts with close to twenty Top Ten Billboard country hits including, "Step That Step," "The Walk," "Some Girls Do," "Thank God For You," and "This Time."

"It's the guy-next-door type of people, the general everyday life kind of songs that strikes a chord or makes a connection with us," says Hubbard.

The cornerstone of the firm Sawyer Brown foundation lies in their ability to appreciate and blend five individual personalities and talents into one harmonious unit.

Hubbard (keyboardist), is a liberal arts graduate of Nashville's Belmont University with an impressive 4.0 grade point average.

Mark Miller (lead vocalist) -- known for his boundless stage energy and stylistic dancing -- leads a surprisingly serene private life as a family man, cattle breeder, basketball player/coach and devout Christian.

Jim Scholten (bassist), has an inquisitive nature that draws him to literature, films and people.

Joe "Curly" Smyth (drummer), a Maine native, is a Civil War historian who has made significant contributions as a preservationist.

Shayne Hill (lead guitarist), is from South Dakota and enjoys sports, horses, movies, and home improvement projects.

With over 3500 live show tour dates to their credit, Sawyer Brown pays homage to the hard work, determination, and fan loyalty that made their journey upon the road of success so memorable.

"The people sitting in the audience are responsible for our success, as much, or even more so, than us," says Hubbard. "They go out of their way to be the constant support in all this. We can't even begin to express how thankful we are for that."