



CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"The Times" newspaper
Ottawa, IL.
© 2011

PERU - Country music artists, Trace Adkins and Eric Church will headline the Lou's LaGrotto "Concerts For A Cause" at the Illinois Valley Regional Airport in Peru on Saturday, June 25.

"Together, they put on a great show," says Merry Noonan, co-owner of Lou's LaGrotto restaurant in Peru. "Eric Church will bring in a younger audience and Trace Adkins appeals to all ages. It's a good combination."

The Adkins and Church concert, sponsored by Euclid Beverage, will benefit the Van Orin Elementary School, in northern Bureau County, for new textbooks.

So far, the "Concerts For A Cause" have raised over \$300,000 for local charities since 2005.

General Admission advance tickets are \$42 through Friday or \$50 at the door Saturday. Tickets can be purchased in person at Lou's LaGrotto pizza restaurant, 3001 Fifth St., Peru, or Wyanet Carpet, 816 N. Main St., Princeton; or by calling Lou's LaGrotto at 815-223-3083.

The Adkins and Church concert is the first in a series of three Lou's LaGrotto "Concerts For A Cause" for the 2011 summer season.

Tickets are on sale now for the second concert, featuring boy band Big Time Rush, held on August 13 to benefit reopening Peru's municipal pool.

The third concert, an all day country music festival, is still in the planning stages for September.

TRACE ADKINS

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"The Times" newspaper
Ottawa, IL.
© 2011

Grand Ole Opry member, Trace Adkins, states he's "Proud To Be Here" with his August 2nd release of second album for Show Dog-Universal Music, the label headed by Toby Keith and producer/songwriter Mark Wright.

"Proud To Be Here" is another project I'm proud to put my name on," Adkins told The Times during a recent phone interview. "I found as good of songs as I could find, I wrote as good of songs as I could write, and I sang them as good as I could sing them."

The album's first single and video, "Just Fishin'", features Adkins' youngest daughter, Trinity, in a father's tender observation on how quickly children grow.

"It doesn't really matter what kind of wholesome activity you choose to do with your kids as long as you spend quality time with them and make those memories that will last them a lifetime," says Adkins of the steadily climbing Billboard Top Twenty country hit.

In addition to the 10-track traditional release of "Proud To Be Here," a 14-track Deluxe Edition version will be available July 12th for presale on iTunes, while a 16-track Deluxe Edition will be available exclusively through Target.

"The title track song is kinda autobiographical," says Adkins, a Sarepta, Louisiana native. "It has been well chronicled that I've had several near death experiences. I'm going on 15 years in this business now and I went past its normal life span a long time ago. All of which makes me proud to still be here."



No stranger to adversity, Adkins recently lost his Brentwood, TN home to a fire on June 4th. After reassuring fans that he and his family were safe, Adkins has redirected offers of support he received to the American Red Cross (<http://american.redcross.org/TraceAdkins>) in an effort to help those who were recently devastated by recent floods and tornadoes in the South.

"We're blessed because my family wasn't hurt and we had somewhere else to go," says Adkins, who currently lives at his family farm cabin where the Just Fishin' video was filmed.

Adkins, a traditionalist who speaks his mind and honors the past, has charted such career hits as "Every Light In The House," "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing," "Ladies Love Country Boys," "Honky Tonk Badonkadonk," "You're Gonna Miss This," and "All I Ask For Anymore."

Adkins, who has testified before Congress on the importance of protecting Civil War battlefields, is also a successful author ('07 autobiography), veteran tv personality, voiceover narrator, commercial spokesman and accomplished tv and film actor. Acting gigs for Adkins include being a finalist on tv's "The Celebrity Apprentice" (2008), the Angel of Death in "An American Carol" (2008), and a motorcycle gang leader, Eddie Vogel, in "The Lincoln Lawyer" (2010).

"It really wasn't a stretch for me to play Eddie," says Adkins of his supporting role in The Lincoln Lawyer. "I had a blast getting paid to ride around Los Angeles on a motorcycle. If they ever do a sequel, sign me up, because it was a lot of fun."

ERIC CHURCH

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"The Times" newspaper
Ottawa, IL.
© 2011

Never afraid to push the Nashville envelope, country singer and songwriter, Eric Church, makes authenticity a top musical priority with the July 26th release of his third studio album on EMI Records, "Chief."

"With Chief, we aimed to record the unharnessed vibe of our live shows," Church told The Times. "When we take the stage, we empty the tank, give everything we've got, and are very rock-n-roll and in-your-face at times. The songs on this album are very outside of the box and push some boundaries, which is what I love doing."



Chief's title track holds a special meaning for the 34 year old Granite Falls, North Carolina native.

"My grandfather was Chief of Police for 35 years, and everyone called him Chief," says Church, who co-wrote ten out of eleven tracks for the album. "Organically, on the road, my band started calling me Chief when it's time to put on show. I'd put on the hat and sunglasses and that's how people know it's game time. Not only is Chief a multi-generational tribute nickname I share with my grandfather, but it also represents what showtime means to us."

Chief's lead single and video, "Homeboy," is a heartfelt appeal from one brother to another to get back on track and make peace with his family.

"We all, at some time in our lives, end up on the wrong path," says the 2011 ACM New Solo Vocalist of the Year. "You don't have to end up in jail or breaking the law to be on the wrong path. Whether we realize it ourselves or someone else shows us we're on the wrong path, it's about getting off that path of destruction and heading in a better direction."

Church's '06 debut album, "Sinners Like Me," and '09 sophomore release, "Carolina", has resulted in such country singles as "How 'Bout You," "Two Pink Lines," "Guys Like Me," "Love Your Love The Most," "Hell On The Heart," and "Smoke A Little Smoke."

"I'm a huge fan of Eric's songwriting," says Concerts For A Cause co-headliner, Trace Adkins. "I've seen his concerts many times and he puts on a great show."