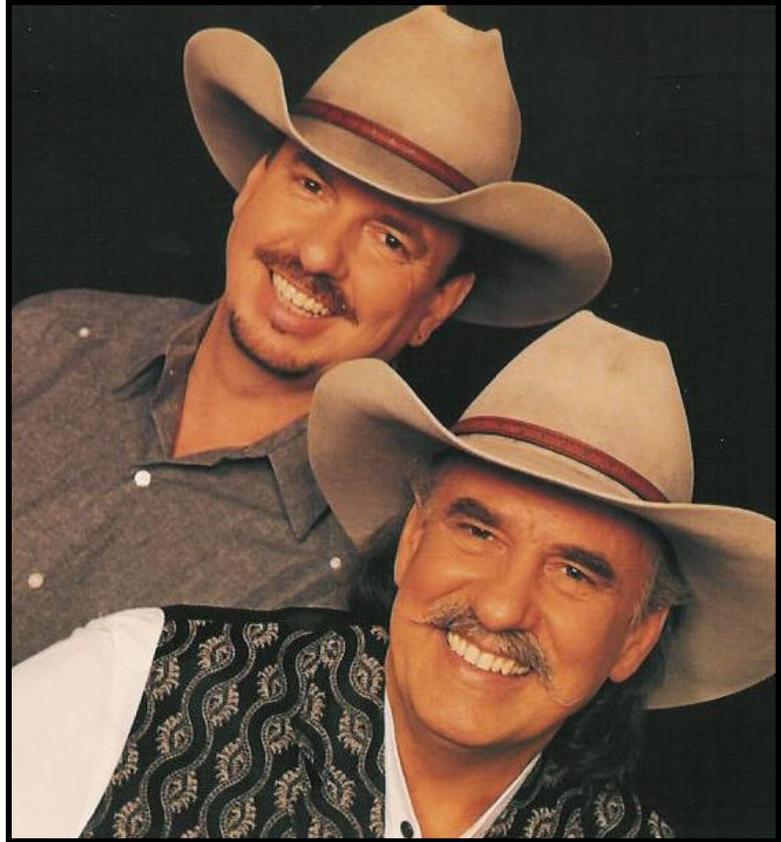


THE BELLAMY BROTHERS
"25 Years of Great Music"
by Tamela Meredith Partridge
"American Country" magazine
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Howard and David Bellamy are celebrating the 25th Anniversary of The Bellamy Brothers this year with the release of their latest album of all new material, "Lonely Planet."

"It's kind of amazing when you look back and realize you have been around that long," Howard Bellamy said during a recent phone interview from Mannington, West Virginia. "Dave and I usually approach everyday as, 'What is the next thing we can accomplish?' We are always working on something everyday, whether it is songs or if it is something in the studio. And after 25 years, you look back and see that you have accomplished quite a bit of work."



Applying their high work ethic to a schedule of more than 250 world-wide dates per year has made The Bellamy Brothers one of the most active touring bands in the business.

"Performing is not something we got into for the money," Howard said. "We got into it for the love of it. We just enjoy it. It is a lifestyle with us. You learn how to feel at home wherever you are. You have to adapt. That's how we've managed to stay on the road so long."

In addition to The Bellamy Brothers phenomenal country music success in North America is their ability to break through the international language barriers as a renowned overseas pop act in Europe, Scandinavia and Australia.

"The music and the songs get through to the listener even if they may not be able to completely understand the English lyrics," Howard said. "Mainly because they have listened to our records over the years and have spent enough time doing that to where the melody and lyrics are already pretty much imbedded in them. As far as the show goes, they seem to really relate to us and the songs, so the language barrier has never

been a problem. We have been performing overseas for about 25 years and we speak quite a bit of German and broken language phrases to get by. I guess we get around pretty well because we have been doing it for so long."

The Bellamy Brothers current single, "Vertical Expression (Of A Horizontal Desire)," was recorded in English, Spanish and Portuguese and became the No. 1 video on the Brazil/Latin America CMT charts in late June.

"That was an interesting project," Howard said. "We really liked how the magical blend of harmony, melody and lyric worked on this song. We liked it so much, we recorded it twice on the 'Lonely Planet' album. Our buddy, Freddy Fender, came in to help us give it an international flavor. We're big fans of Freddy's and the Texas Tornados and have recorded with him before. This song just seemed to beg for the bilingual treatment. Thanks to Freddy, it got it."

Listening to a Bellamy Brothers song, you can't help but notice the fun, upbeat melodies and engaging lyrics.

"I think we have always tried to convey a very positive message throughout our career," Howard said. "We are not the real tear-jerker type of musicians. We carry a very fun, positive and fairly honest message to our fans. Being able to do our music our way has enabled us to actually be more of who we really are. We have been able to live our music as opposed to some artists who were forced to record songs that were not really them. We have been very fortunate in that way, because we have done our music in our way. What you hear is what you get."

Growing up on a 2500-acre family ranch in Darby, FL, the Bellamy Brothers were surrounded by their father's love of country music and the harmonies and rhythms of the Jamaican fruit harvesters working in the family orange groves. Combining these childhood musical influences with the contemporary rock n' roll sounds of Elvis, Ricky Nelson, Buddy Holly and The Everly Brothers all contributed to the Bellamy Brothers unique signature sound.

"Our ranch has been in our family since 1870," Howard said. "We worked very hard on the ranch, but dad always set aside time to have fun too. Which is very important to do both. Dad was a musician, not professional or anything, but every weekend we had music in our home. It was a lifestyle for us. We thought everybody was reared like that. The ranch is where we picked up most of our music from."

The Bellamy Brothers first gig was in 1968 playing for free with their father at the Rattlesnake Roundup in San Antonio, Florida. Today, with 31 American, 9 UK and 6 German albums to their credit, the Bellamy Brothers conduct an Annual Snake, Rattle & Roll benefit concert in conjunction with the San Antonio Rattlesnake Festival, which has attracted more than 20,000 people per year since 1989.

Writing a high percentage of their own songs, The Bellamy Brothers hit the pop charts in '76 with debut No. 1 smash, "Let Your Love Flow" and went on to garner ten Billboard No. 1 country hits including, "If I Said You Had A Beautiful Body Would You Hold It Against Me," "Do You Love As Good As You Look," "Redneck Girl" and "Too Much Is Not Enough."

"We have done a couple of outside songs over the years, but usually we write most of our material," Howard said. "And you never know where a song inspiration may come from. It can come from a conversation at a table in a restaurant that you might overhear. It could come from a movie or something you are reading. It can just float out of the air. You just have to keep your antennae up and be very open and receptive to things because you just never really have an idea where inspiration may come from."

The Bellamy Brothers, who look forward to entertaining another generation of listeners, still continue to live, work and make music on the ranch that houses their families, offices, cattle business and successful recording studio.

"David and I have always been goal setters," Howard said. "While keeping our eye on the big picture, we still keep in mind that it takes one step at a time to achieve any goal. From starting our own record label to taking charge of the overseas market, we have never been content with just staying where we are. Those who do just stand still and never move forward. We're proud of what we've done, but we're more than excited about where we are going."