

## BILL ANDERSON

by Tamela Meredith Partridge  
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Even after forty years as a country music singer and songwriter, "Whispering Bill" Anderson still wraps his warm, soothing voice around a song until it whispers its way right into the listener's heart.

Anderson and his Po' Folks band members will perform a duo headlining concert with fellow Grand Ole Opry star Little Jimmy Dickens at the Little Nashville Opry on Saturday, November 18, at 7pm.

"The Little Nashville Opry is large enough you can have a nice crowd," Anderson says, "but it's still small enough to obtain an intimate setting. One of the things that makes country music a little different than other forms of music, particularly for my generation of the country performers, is that closeness with the fans. And we've always been able to get that aspect at The Little Nashville Opry."

Since his 1958 debut hit, "That's What It's Like To Be Lonesome," Anderson has released over 80 chart-topping singles including, "The Tip Of My Fingers," "Po' Folks," "Mama Sang A Song," "Still," and "8 x 10."

"I've had the chance to write with Bill Anderson and see him perform many times," says Josh Turner, a new Nashville recording artist who recently performed at The Little Nashville Opry in September. "He's so full of wisdom, a master storyteller, and has a special way of crafting words around the melody. He's just a great person to watch, listen, and learn from."

Anderson has written and co-written songs recorded by a wide-variety of artists ranging from pop music's Aretha Franklin ("I May Never Get To Heaven"), Ray Price, Debbie Reynolds and Jerry Lee Lewis ("City Lights"), to country music's Steve Wariner ("Two Teardrops"), Mark Wills ("Wish You Were Here"), Kenny Chesney ("A Lot Of Things Different"), Brad Paisley and Alison Kraus duet ("Whiskey Lullaby"), and George Strait ("Give It Away").



"He sets a standard which all songwriters should strive for," says country artist Vince Gill, who co-wrote with Anderson on his Top Five hit, "Which Bridge To Cross (Which Bridge To Burn)."

A six-time winner of the Songwriter of the Year award, Anderson is also an inducted member of The Grand Ole Opry (1961), The Nashville Songwriter's Hall of Fame (1975), The Georgia Broadcasters Hall of Fame (1993), and The Country Music Hall of Fame (2001).

Always the entertainer, Anderson has hosted a syndicated tv series, "The Bill Anderson Show," a game show, "The Better Sex," a country music game show, "Fandango," and an interview show, "Opry Backstage." In addition, Anderson appeared for three years on ABC's Daytime soap opera, "One Life To Live," and was frequently a guest star on television's top variety and game shows, including The Tonight Show, The Today Show, Match Game, Family Feud, Hee Haw, and others.

Anderson, a University of Georgia graduate with a B.A. degree in Journalism, has authored an autobiography, "Whisperin' Bill" (1989), a humorous book about the music business, "I Hope You're Living As High On The Hog As The Pig You Turned Out To Be" (1993), and a cookbook, "Award Winning Whispers From The Kitchen" (2006).

"Songwriting, journalism, and writing books are entirely different disciplines," Anderson says. "With a background as a sportswriter, radio dj, and songwriter, I was used to the constraints of writing tightly and concisely. But I had a hard time at first tearing down those little walls of confinement when writing the books. My publisher kept saying, 'Expand on it!'"

Current projects for Anderson include hosting a weekly country legends show on XM Satellite Radio Channel 10, releasing a gospel album, "Softly and Tenderly," a dvd project, "Bill Anderson: His Life & His Music," and country album, "The Way I Feel."

"I feel like I've come full circle," Anderson says. "With the radio show, I have no restrictions on what I can do or who I can talk to. It's not really an interview format. I just basically sit down and have a conversation with some of the legends in country music and let a couple million of our closest friends listen in."