



CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

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"The Times" newspaper

Ottawa, IL.

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PERU - Country music icon, Tim McGraw will headline the Lou's LaGrotto "Concerts For A Cause" at the Illinois Valley Regional Airport in Peru on Saturday, July 6.

"I love Tim McGraw," says Merry Noonan, co-owner of Lou's LaGrotto restaurant in Peru . "He's been around forever, has a ton of hits and is such a likeable guy. I think it's going to be a great show."

The Tim McGraw concert, which will benefit the local branch of The March of Dimes, is the first in a series of Lou's LaGrotto "Concerts For A Cause" for the 2013 summer season. The second concert, featuring Brantley Gilbert, will be held on August 3 and benefit the local Boys and Girls Little League.

Tickets are on sale now for both concerts at Lou's LaGrotto Restaurant via phone 815-223-3083 or online www.louslagrotto.com.

The "Concerts For A Cause" Tim McGraw concert will also showcase opening act entertainment by Nashville's ACM-nominated country duo, Love and Theft.

"In an effort to raise as much money as possible for The March of Dimes, Tim McGraw will also be performing a private acoustical set right before his main concert for a small audience of highest-bidding attendees," Noonan says. "Advance-bidding only for the private acoustical set is done by calling Lou's LaGrotto, 815-223-3083."

Sponsored by Euclid Beverage, Midland State Bank, and Elliott Concrete, the "Concerts For A Cause" limits seating to blankets only; no chairs, no coolers, no tailgating. The City of Peru will be charging a \$5/car parking fee for the concert.

TIM MCGRAW
**(Condensed from Two Lanes
Of Freedom official bio)**

For over twenty years, Grammy-winning superstar, Tim McGraw, remains dedicated to delivering music that is innovative, heartfelt, and authentic.

"Songs are written and constructed in a way that people can impose their own memories and put themselves in your place, like going to a great movie and making yourself the hero," McGraw says. "Art has to be cathartic; that's why people enjoy it. It makes you think or reflect, it purges you emotionally. That's what propels you as an artist, and it's what makes a listener stay engaged."

In his record-shattering career, McGraw has sold over 40 million albums, and dominated the charts with 32 Number One singles. Since the release of his debut album in 1993, he has won three Grammys, 14 Academy of Country Music Awards, 12 Country Music Association Awards, and 10 American Music Awards, while simultaneously maintaining a parallel career as a successful actor in such films as *The Blind Side*, *Country Strong*, and *Friday Night Lights*—as well as hosting *Saturday Night Live*, a rare honor for a singer in any genre. McGraw has never been afraid of breaking new ground; over the years, he has collaborated with musicians from Nelly to Tony Bennett to Def Leppard and Ne-Yo.

Over the last few years, McGraw has seen a transformation in numerous aspects of his career: changes in his management, his record company, and his band.

With "Two Lanes of Freedom" - his new album and first release for Big Machine Records - McGraw is covering his broadest emotional range yet, with a set of songs that looks forward and back, gets deep and gets loose, and reveals that even the biggest stars can continue to grow with consistency and maturity.



"I feel like I've progressed in my work, and I've gotten better," McGraw says. "On my last album, Emotional Traffic, I was discovering some new sounds and new things that I wanted to do, scratching the surface of the direction I wanted to head. This album was a way to reach a little further back, to all that I'd done throughout my career, and bring both sides together—it's a combination of that discovery, along with some rediscovery."

"Two Lanes of Freedom closes" with "The Highway Don't Care," a breezy yet complex track that features two of country music's biggest superstars, Taylor Swift and Keith Urban.

"I thought this song had the potential to be really special the very first time I heard the demo," McGraw says. "And then standing on the stage with Taylor and Keith performing it live for the first time on the ACMs, I knew that it was really the kind of magical collaboration that only comes along every few years. The energy that night was undeniable...I know the three of us could feel it."

McGraw's desire to perform and record songs close to his heart revolves around his dedication to stay true to the music and fans that got him to where he is today.

"A lot of artists can tell you how they feel," McGraw says, "but when somebody can tell you how you feel, and you didn't know it or couldn't put it into words, that's the goal. What you want to do as an artist is let someone discover how they feel from your music, in a really visceral way, from the inside out."



LOVE AND THEFT
(Condensed from
Love and Theft official bio)

Love and Theft country duo, Stephen Barker Liles and Eric Gunderson, may be celebrating the release of their sophomore album, “Love and Theft,” but to the ACM-nominated singer/songwriters, the self-titled release might as well be their first.

And in a way, it is. “Love and Theft” is their first album since joining RCA Nashville, the home to many of their musical inspirations.

“The history of RCA Records is incredible,” Liles says. “Just knowing that we are on the same label as some of our biggest influences, like Elvis Presley, is an awesome feeling.”

Love and Theft – originally formed as a trio in 2006 by Brian Bandas, Liles and Gunderson – signed with Lyric Street Records in '09. The band released their debut album, “World Wide Open,” and its singles, “Runaway” and “Dancing In Circles”.

Love and Theft became a duo when Lyric Street Records closed in 2010, and founding member Brian Bandas left the band. Liles and Gunderson then signed with RCA Nashville and released the 2012 album, “Love and Theft,” and its No#1 hit, “Angel Eyes,” and following singles, “Runnin’ Out of Air,” and “If You Ever Get Lonely.”

A fluid mix of country melodies and sing-along choruses is palpable throughout the 11 songs that comprise the Love and Theft album, all driven by Gunderson's earthy voice and Lile's high-altitude tenor. The guys share lead vocals, harmonize like a church choir, and bolster their songs with their own guitar playing.

"We sound like brothers when we sing," Gunderson says. "Stephen and I have always been on the same page as far as the vision for the band, and we feel like we have made the record we've always wanted to make."

Love and Theft certainly have a knack for crafting sharp hooks. Whether they're writing for themselves or for other artists, Liles and Gunderson are well-versed in the ingredients necessary for a hit.

And the release of Love and Theft is proof of that. With a renewed emphasis on organic sounds, the album has brought Love and Theft closer to what it set out to be: a band that writes, records and performs honest, soulful country music.

"This record shows a more mature, evolved Love and Theft," Gunderson says. "But the core is still the same. Our sound will always be driven by harmonies."