

TRAVIS TRITT

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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When Travis Tritt released the '89 debut single, "Country Club," he quickly earned the respect of one of Nashville's most influential country club members.

"Charlie Daniels was the first person to sort of take me under his wing when I came into this business 15 years ago," said Tritt, who will perform with Daniels at the Illinois State Fair in Springfield on Friday, August 20. "Charlie hired me sight unseen to open shows for him when all I had out was that first single. We've written songs together and been tremendous friends ever since."

Tritt was inducted in the Grand Ole Opry in 1992 and has topped the charts with such No. 1 hits as, "Help Me Hold On," "Anymore," "Can I Trust You With My Heart," "Foolish Pride," and "Best Of Intentions."

"I love a great lyric that tells a story or makes you feel like the singer has been reading your mail," said the Georgia born singer, songwriter and guitarist. "I'll divulge things in my songs about my personal life that I'll never talk about in interviews."

Tritt's ninth studio album, "My Honky Tonk History," is scheduled for a August 17th release. Tritt co-produced the twelve song project with Billy Joe Walker, Jr., and co-wrote the song, "We've Had It All," with friend and country colleague, Marty Stuart. The album also includes a duet with John Mellencamp, "What Say You," and Gretchen Wilson's background vocals and co-writing talents on "Gone Too Far To Turn Around."

"I had a lot of really good help on this album," Tritt said. "It has some beautiful ballads and straight-ahead country songs. But for the most part, I think it's the most up tempo, summertime, feel-good album I've done in my career."



The first single and video from "My Honky Tonk History" is the steadily climbing Billboard Top Twenty country hit, "The Girl's Gone Wild."

"That song makes me want to get in my vehicle, roll the windows down, turn up the speaker volume to ten, and drive a little faster than I should," Tritt said. "It draws a good, strong picture of being out on the beach and seeing girls -- from 16 to 60 and older -- having fun with all their other girlfriends and how much fun it is to watch them have a good time."

On the big screen, Tritt landed an acting role in the upcoming Tim Sullivan horror film, "2001 Maniacs."

"I play this evil gas station attendant who goes around warning all these teenagers about the impending doom they're about to get into," said Tritt, whose prior film credits include Outlaw Justice, Blues Brothers 2000, and The Cowboy Way. "When you hear actors talking about bad guy roles being the most fun to play, that's absolutely a fact. It saves me a whole lot of money on therapy too. I get all those feelings and emotions out and get by with a whole lot of things I'd never be able to get by with in reality."