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2021 TEXAS COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS WINNERS ANNOUNCED! Spectacular Event in the Fort Worth Stockyards at Billy Bob's Texas

TCMA Energizes the Texas Country Music Industry Once Again with Live Performances and 26 Awards at the Biggest Event in Texas Country Music

FORT WORTH, TX (Sunday, November 14, 2021) – For Texas Country Music fans from all over, the Fort Worth Stockyards was the place to be on Sunday November 14 as the Texas Country Music Association once again presented a spectacular event with the 2021 Texas Country Music Awards at Billy Bob's Texas. This was the event's fourth year in Fort Worth and third at Billy Bob's according to Linda Wilson, President and Founder of TCMA and once again proved why the Texas Country Music industry has exploded. The event included a host of top Texas artists including TCMA Spokesperson Brandon Rhyder hosting the event for the fifth year in a row. Co-hosting with Brandon this year was popular on-air radio personality Malone Ranger of 95.9 The Ranch Fort Worth. "The Brandon-Malone team was outstanding. They brought the awards ceremony to a new level and made the event high energy and fun."

The 2021 Texas Country Music Awards was brought to you once again by Title Sponsor, The Hotel Drover at the Fort Worth Stockyards, an Autograph Collection Hotel opening on Mule Alley in 2021 along with Stockyards Heritage, Majestic Realty and Mule Alley. The fabulous Hotel Drover, was host hotel for Texas Country Music Weekend and Awards destination boutique hotel in the tradition of the great ranches of Texas, offered rustic comfort and the truly special brand of genuine hospitality only Texas can deliver.

Radio Stations 95.9 THE RANCH and 92.1 HANK-FM in Fort Worth were the event's media sponsors. Other sponsors included Chuck Norris' CForce Water, Ginger Roots Boutique, Rebecca Creek Distillery, Lucchese Bootmaker, Ranch2o Spirits, Love and War in Texas, American Hat Company, Rattlesnake Roadhouse, Cavenders, Texas Artist Will Carter, Cinch Jeans, The Rustic, SkyPine Roofing, Schroeder Hall, Arnold Tiny Homes, NRS (National Roper's Supply), 2nd To None Buckles, Kenny Chesney's Blue Chair Bay Premium Rum, PickleJar Virtual Tip Jar and 1st Rodeo Limousine Service (the official transportation provider for TCMA).

Top fan and industry-voted Awards were presented in twenty-six categories related to Texas Country Music and Christian Country Music. The Texas Country Music Awards presentations were produced for the fifth year in a row by well-known record producer Chad Mauldin of Mauldin Productions. The performances, sound and were produced under the direction by Billy Bobs' John Zaskoda and his team. Filming and live stream production was Clayton Cullen, COO of Cowtown Coliseum, along with the Cowboy

Channel. “We are so grateful for all of the producers, coordinators and staff who worked so hard to pull together this event. Billy Bob’s Texas’ John Zaskoda and his team have worked hard on bringing this event to you for the past 3 years and they are the best in the business. We are looking forward to working with everyone again in 2022,” says Linda Wilson.

The event kicked off with the Red-Carpet interviews at 3:00pm and hosted by Jim Nash of Shooter-FM and Texas artist Jenn Ford. Musician and Songwriter of the Year awards took place during the pre-show at 4:30pm and included performances by the Darrin Morris Band, 2021 Christian Songwriter of the Year Jacob Bryant and representing the 2021 Country Songwriter of the Year J. Michael Harter was Chauncey Jones singing the winning song. TCMA President Linda Wilson along with Elliot Henson of Schroeder Hall presented the 2021 Artist Scholarship to Texas Country artist Abbey Duncan.

The main Awards ceremony began at 6:00pm with greetings from TCMA Founders, President and Executive Vice President Linda and Richard Wilson, and the opening prayer was offered by Christian Country Artist Justin Todd Herod, and TCMA Member Shelby Stone sang the National Anthem. Handling trophies and directing participants on stage were Jada Young, Calli Bowley and Paige Young.

TCMA Vice President Monty Dawson served as Production Coordinator and Stage Manager on behalf of TCMA. Project Manager April Mauldin served as Media Coordinator. “There were many volunteers and TCMA Members to help put this amazing event together and we could not have done it without each and every one.” says Linda Wilson.

Many of the top Award categories included not only the designation and trophy but unique gifts provided by event sponsors including a fabulous custom belt buckle from 2nd To None Buckles, an Engraved Bottle of Texas Ranger Whiskey from Rebecca Creek Distillery, Cinch Jeans and American Hat Company. All finalists received swag bags filled with gift items and certificates from many sponsors.

Along with the 26 Awards presented at the 2021. Texas Country Music Awards, TCMA’s prestigious “Trailblazer Award” was presented to Mr. Walt Wilkins for his long-standing career and the unprecedented songwriting and success he has obtained in Country Music. "TCMA is extremely excited and pleased to have presented Walt the 2021 Trailblazer Award as part of the Awards Ceremony. He certainly ‘blazed the trail’ for others and he’s very deserving to be honored." says Linda Wilson, President and Founder of the Texas Country Music Association. Presenting the Award was TCMA Spokesperson Brandon Rhyder.

The spectacular evening was filled with top Texas talent including former winner of The Voice, Sundance Head who kicked off the main ceremony. Also performing were Brandon Rhyder, Sarah Hobbs, Curtis Grimes, Darrin Morris Band and four of the Emerging Artist Finalists, Cody Hibbard, Clay Hollis, Zach Neil, and Triston Marez. Finalist Graycie York was unable to attend to perform. Next was an unforgettable finale performance by Texas Country icon Aaron Watson.

The 2021 Texas Country Music Awards was covered by media from all over Texas as well as other states. The event was live streamed on the Cowboy Channel app and PickleJarLive app, as well as filmed by Cowboy Channel and Billy Bob's Texas. Footage will be edited for television to air on the Cowboy Channel on Thursday November 18.

The five Award Finalists in each of the categories came as a result of nominations and final round voting that took place between April and August of 2021.

The Award categories and the respective winners are:

Entertainer of The Year:

Aaron Watson

Male Artist of the Year:

Darrin Morris

Female Artist of the Year:

Morgan Ashley

Country Band of the Year:

Kin Faux

Western Swing Artist or Band of the Year

Jake Hooker & The Outsiders

Roots/Alternative Artist of the Year:

Creed Fisher

Young Artist (18 & Under):

Bailey Rae

Emerging Artist:

Clay Hollis

Country Album of The Year:

“American Soul,” Aaron Watson

Country Single of the Year:

“I Will,” Darrin Morris

Terrestrial Radio Station of the Year:

100.9 KVMK FM The Maverick College Station

Broadcast Personality of The Year:

Buzz Russell – 99.1 Texas KNES FM - Fairfield

Internet Radio Station of the Year:

MadeInTexasRadio.com

Live Music Venue of the Year:

Schroeder Hall - Goliad

Christian Country Artist of the Year:

Jason Allen

Christian Country Single of The Year:

“What I Already Know,” Scotty Alexander & Bryan White, Writers

Bassist of the Year:

Andrew Carrell

Fiddler of the Year:

Damien Green

Guitarist of the Year:

Scotty Alexander

Keyboard/Pianist of the Year:

Sam Jones

Steel Guitarist of the Year:

Sam Fields

Drummer of the Year:

Nate Coon

TCMA Artist Scholarship

Abbey Duncan

Trailblazer Award:

Mr. Walt Wilkins

Country Songwriter of the Year:

J. Michael Harter for “Truck Back”

Christian Country Songwriter of the Year:

Jacob Bryant for “Sometimes I Pray”

TCMA’s 2021 **Artist’s Scholarship** was presented to Texas artist singer/songwriter Abbey Duncan. The Artist’s Scholarship will pay to have one single recorded, engineered, mixed, and mastered at Chad Mauldin at Mauldin Productions; single distribution by Joe Kelly at CDX Traction TX; and a professional photography session by Courtney Ritter of Courtney Ritter Photography.

The Texas Country Music Association’s mission is to promote and enhance the Texas Country Music industry, its artists, songwriters, musicians, venues, media, and businesses behind the scenes to make it all happen. “We’re already planning the 2022 Texas Country Music Awards but from now until then we have big plans that will certainly continue to energize the Texas Country Music industry, and all involved in it.” says TCMA Executive Vice President Richard Wilson. He mentions a few successful projects already live such as the Texas Country Music Chart, Texas Country Music Television online, TCMA’s Texas Country Music Weekly Top 25 Spotify Playlist and the TCMA Event Center located in Carthage. There are many more plans and projects that TCMA will put in place, all to enhance the industry and support everyone involved.

Linda Wilson says, “More than anything we would like to thank our TCMA Members and Sponsors because without you, we could not do what we do.” More information about the Texas Country Music Association, its purpose, plans, membership, and goals are available on www.texascountrymusic.org.

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Linda Wilson, President

Texas Country Music Association

tcma@texascountrymusicassociation.org