

**Steamboat**

**PRESS RELEASE**

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# MUSICFEST FEATURES 6 DAYS, 40 SHOWS, 30 BANDS, 5 MOUNTAINS & 1 REALLY BIG TENT

*Steamboat Is The Music Capital Of The Rockies*

**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO-WINTER 2006/2007**-The largest group ski trip of its kind in the nation, the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual MusicFest at Steamboat brings the finest Texas and Americana music to the Colorado Rocky Mountains for a full week from January 4-9, 2007 in Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

"The Americana music phenomenon continues to sweep the nation as seen by the rising popularity of these artists," said Andy Wirth, vice president of sales & marketing for Steamboat. "The wide appeal of this genre of music is that you'll be just as likely to hear it on a country radio station as you would a rock or blues station."

Thirty bands will perform over the six days in the heart of the Rocky Mountains featuring free après-ski concerts, evening concerts and special engagements throughout the week including 40 live performances, from an increasingly diverse line up of artists with styles ranging from country to rock, blues to bluegrass, folk and western swing, and everything in between.

The festival boasts a stunning roster that includes both legends and rising talents alike. Artists already confirmed for 2007 include Leon Russell, Micky and The Motorcars, Roger Creager, Doug Moreland, Randy Rogers Band, Ryan Bingham, Hayes Carll, Jason Boland and the Stragglers, Robert Earl Keen, Cross Canadian Ragweed, Cory Morrow, Bonnie Bishop, Reckless Kelly, Bruce Robison, Dub Miller, Walt Wilkins, Max Stalling, Eli Young Band, Kathleen O'Keefe, Lucas Hubbard, Lee Ann Womack, Slaid Cleaves, Red Dirt Rangers, The Dedringers, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Wade Bowen, Jack Ingram, Brandon Rhyder, Stoney LaRue, Todd Fritsch, Kevin Fowler, and more to be announced.

"The Steamboat MusicFest combines a cross of musicians and musical styles that incorporates country, rock and blues in a beautiful Rocky Mountain setting," said John Dickson, president of Dickson Productions. "This is the ideal time for fans to share a week of activities, both on the slopes and off, with their favorite performers. Toss in plenty of Champagne Powder<sup>®</sup> snow and the laid back western atmosphere of Steamboat and you have an unbeatable combination at an extremely affordable price."

This marks the 22<sup>nd</sup> year that John Dickson has been organizing first-class group ski travel to Steamboat, complete with personal service, competitive package pricing on the best accommodations, and a jam-packed schedule of activities and events. John Dickson's innovation of mixing hot, live music centered around a large group trip to Steamboat has significantly changed the group trip landscape. Dickson Productions and the Steamboat Ski & Resort Corp. present the MusicFest at Steamboat.

Log onto [www.themusicfest.com](http://www.themusicfest.com) for all the details and up-to-the-minute schedule of performers. MusicFest packages may be booked through [www.themusicfest.com](http://www.themusicfest.com) or toll-free at 1-888-754-8447 as well as through Steamboat Central Reservations<sup>®</sup> at 800-922-2722 or online at [www.steamboat.com](http://www.steamboat.com).

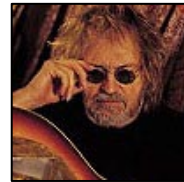


## 2007 STEAMBOAT MUSICFEST MUSICIANS



**Leon Russell** - The ultimate rock & roll session man, Leon Russell's long and storied career includes collaborations with a virtual who's who of music icons spanning from The Beatles to Eric Clapton, to the Rolling Stones. A similar eclecticism and scope also surfaced in his solo work, which embedded his charmingly raspy voice in a rustic yet rich swamp pop fusion of country, blues and gospel.

**Ray Wylie Hubbard** - In the stellar company of iconic colleagues like Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Doug Sahn and Jerry Jeff Walker, Ray Wylie Hubbard is an architect of the musical legacy that continues to inspire subsequent generations of up-and-coming Texas talent. It is no surprise that a songwriter of Hubbard's proven depth and originality would come to acclaim such an offering as his latest project: the gritty, humorous, seductive and exhilaratingly intelligent Snake Farm, a collection of commanding songs that represent the best of both worlds, juxtaposing impeccable lyrics with dirty, primal grooves.



**Bonnie Bishop** - In the three short years that Bonnie Bishop has been on the Texas music scene, she has built a solid reputation with her band by sharing billing with such artists as Jack Ingram, Randy Rogers, and Ray Wylie Hubbard and frequenting top venues and festivals in the state including Willie Nelson's 4th of July Picnic. In the last year, she has almost tripled the number of dates she played, going from around 65 shows in 2005 to a whopping 150 planned in 2006! She is one of very few females to have been successful in the Texas country scene, something that most promoters and club owners would attribute to the fact that her full-band show is not only very energetic but unique as it offers a refreshing bluesy undertone.

**Ryan Bingham** - When you listen to Ryan Bingham perform you will hear a thoughtful mixture of western swing, delta blues, mariachi, and a little foot stompin' zydeco. His many life experiences have definitely influenced him all around, and have helped Bingham build a very reputable stash of original tunes. Bingham recently took L.A. by storm, where he worked with high profile players including Beck's bass player and Marc Ford of the Black Crowes, who helped produce *Dead Horses*.



**Wade Bowen** - After spearheading West 84 in college, Wade Bowen has since distinguished himself as a gripping songwriter and performer. With an innovative brand of country rock and songwriter credits also accumulating, Bowen is a leader amongst the rising generation of singer songwriter talents. Wade Bowen's evolving and innovative sound incorporates a range of influences, from Bruce Springsteen to Whiskeytown, and his strong melodies are bending ears and packing music venues throughout Texas, the Midwest, and Southeast.

**Jason Boland and the Stragglers** - With over 50,000 combined units sold independently and playing over 250 shows a year for over seven years, Jason Boland has more than earned his reputation as a voraciously untamed songsmith and performer. Backed by a fierce band of gifted players, the Stragglers have pushed themselves to the top with their overwhelming talents, boasting a sound all their own. Classic undertones and a magnetic modern flair have drawn a vast and diverse Americana following, resulting in a variety of well-deserved awards recognizing Jason Boland and the Straggler's rich vocals, honest and heartfelt song writing, and skillful backing.



**Hayes Carll** - Whether he's facing an intimate listening room audience or a packed dance hall, Hayes Carll hustles audiences with his hilarious wit and grand story songs that have drawn comparison to Steve Earle and even the late great Townes Van Zandt. A dry yet vibrant sense of humor pervades his work, as Carll's inter-song banter alone could probably win him attention at comedy clubs. Carll's songwriting abilities are no joke, as he set an Americana record as the first artist to top the chart with an independent debut. Newly signed to the renowned independent label, Lost Highway Records, and honored by SESAC's Singer-Songwriter of the Year, Hayes Carll is poised to become the next great Houston-area bred Singer-Songwriter of all time.

**Slaid Cleaves** - Befitting his reputation as a songwriter who diligently labors over each word, each chord change, each detail in a song's storyline, Slaid Cleaves' album *Unsung* is a tribute to a handful of his favorite artists. Slaid Cleaves' music is marked by both the quirky blend of isolated eccentricity and the steely resilience of his Yankee upbringing. He formed the roots-rocking Moxie Men in 1989, playing extensively throughout New England and winning a semi-finalist slot in Musician Magazine's best unsigned band contest.



**Roger Creager** - Roger Creager's resounding stage presence and down-home vigor make it clear that he and his tightknit band are doing what they love and what they do best. Creager has left an imprint on the dancehall circuit with his varied instrumentation and his highpowered stage performances. Always a captivating live show, Roger Creager is now selling out venues in record time.

**Cross Canadian Ragweed** - Propelled into the national spotlight by explosive live shows and their own edgy brand of southern-tinged rock, Cross Canadian Ragweed is a powerhouse foursome. Skillfully melding distinctive rock sounds with a country background, the group now ranks as a dominating presence with a massive grassroots following. Arguably one of the top acts touring nationally today, Cross Canadian Ragweed makes regular appearances on CMT, GAC, the Billboard Charts, and various media worldwide.



**The Dedringers** - At only 20 years of age, Sean and Jonny have a head start on a long music career, with writing and performance skills beyond their years. Part of the next generation of standout talents in Americana, fans will definitely not be able to resist the rising duo's fresh take on influences like Gram Parsons and Bob Dylan. Their debut EP, *Definitely Purposely Infinite*, was produced by Mike McClure and released last year, and the quality amazed the easily unimpressed insiders of Americana.

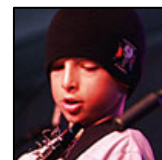
**Kevin Fowler** - Kevin Fowler is a fan's artist, and clubs all over Texas pack to the rafters with people singing the words to every song. Renowned for his light-hearted satire and classic shuffles, Kevin is proof positive that you can take the boy out of the country, but you can't take the country out of the boy. Kevin Fowler is now regarded as one of the reigning kings of Texas honky tonks.



**Todd Fritsch** - In 2005, Todd shot out of the pen with a self-titled CD that earned him three worldwide country radio hits. Todd performed at the CMA Music Festival in Nashville and just returned from his first and highly successful European tour. You might know him as the singer who brought "I Got Mexico" back, or as the voice on "Small Town Radio" or "I Don't Live Here Anymore." Whatever else you might know about this Texan, two things are certain: Todd will keep it country.



**Lucas Hubbard** - Lucas Hubbard began playing guitar at the age of 10, learning some "greasy" pentatonic blues licks from his legendary father, Ray Wylie Hubbard, and studying up on blues legends like Freddie King and Muddy Waters. Now 13, Lucas has made great strides in his playing and regularly accompanies his father onstage as well as making appearances with Cross Canadian Ragweed among others.



**Jack Ingram** - Jack Ingram's high-energy live shows have jolted him into the well deserved spotlight gaining a legendary reputation in the Texas music scene. Now breaking major strides nationally, Ingram was a presenter at the 2006 CMT Music Awards, and toured this year with Brooks and Dunn as well as crossover superstar Sheryl Crow. He has won himself a presence on CMT, GAC and various media worldwide, and has gained the hard earned respect of many.



**Robert Earl Keen** - Keen is arguably one of the most influential artists to launch out of Texas, with his prolific material reaching across the nation and beyond. He's even serenaded the International Space Station Commander in space! He is revered as a major player in Americana and alt-country circles everywhere, and is appreciated for his continuously evolving work.



**Reckless Kelly** - Despite the name, the Austin-based band is more spontaneously rugged than reckless, fusing the sounds of rock, country and blues into an Americana reverberation. Early innovators in country tinged roots rock, the quintet is highly revered by peers and fans alike.



**Stoney LaRue** - LaRue's soulful Allman Brothers meets Keith Whitley style leaves audiences wanting more of his dynamic songwriting and vocal abilities. His shows are unpredictably fresh, planted firmly in the "not to miss" category, as you never know who will sit in or what he'll do next.



**The Doug Moreland Show** - 'Jack-of-all-trades' is a name Doug Moreland has picked up in his years of varied adventures. From fiddling in a small town to taking his singing dog on the road, telling a few jokes, and becoming the best chainsaw artist in Texas, Doug Moreland has made his debut on several television shows and has appeared on various media nationwide. His acoustic formula echoes of country music's classic eras, with a contemporary flair that makes it all his own.





**Dub Miller** - Often compared to Guy Clark, Robert Earl Keen, and Steve Earle, Dub Miller is a stylist who transcends the trappings of everyday radio blandness, and creates a world of color, vitality and texture. One of the favorite shows of last year's MusicFest was the reunion performance by Dub and the original members of The Highway 6 Band. Dub is currently moving forward with new material and plans to bring more of his unique brand of country music to the world.

**Cory Morrow** - Morrow is probably best known today as one of the most popular performers in Texas, working his way up from unknown songwriter in 1993 to current bona-fide household name on the Texas music scene and beyond. Morrow has sold more than 200,000 records independently, released six albums to date (four studio and two live recordings), received praise and acclaim from country music's toughest critics, and established a devoted base of fans that stretches from the dance halls of Texas to rock clubs in North Carolina.



**Micky and the Motorcars** - The Motorcars are gaining recognition from industry and fans, not just in the growing crowds across Texas, but across the nation. With the recent release of their third independent album *Careless*, they are rapidly accelerating across the Americana front. A lead car in the rising talents of the Americana circuit, Micky and the Motorcars stand out brand of alt-country has placed them at the forefront, with swarms of fans coming back for more.

**Kathleen O'Keefe** - Honing her own sound citing influences like Patty Griffin, Kelly Willis, and Lucinda Williams, she is earning her way into the ever popular Austin music scene, where a wide variety fan base is already in tow.



**Red Dirt Rangers** - Blending traditional Southwestern styles (Western swing, honky tonk, cowboy, Tex-Mex) with contemporary influences ranging from Dylan to the Dead, The Rangers have excelled in their brand of country-folk-rock.

**Brandon Rhyder** - Rhyder's latest CD, *Conviction*, has garnered much attention for Rhyder's keen singer-songwriter eye and descriptive eloquence. Rhyder has recently been featured in Texas Music Magazine and is consistently reaching more fans and regions with his sharp talent.



**Bruce Robison** - Described as "one of the best of a new breed of singer-songwriters in Texas and beyond" by Billboard magazine, Bruce Robison has built a career as a recording artist whose songs are sought out by country stars, Americana artists, and singer-songwriters across the board. His albums present personal versions of his distinctive songs, highlighting the wry emotion of his dry expressive Texas tenor, his knack for stories with impact, and his reflective take on the world. Robison's "Lonely Too" graced MusicFest veteran Lee Ann Womack's breakthrough, multiplatinum *I Hope You Dance*. His two hit-mines for Sony's Lucky Dog imprint (1998's *Wrapped* and 1999's *Long Way From Anywhere*) yielded Tim McGraw's mondo hit "Angry All The Time" along with many of Robison's other choice cuts.



**Randy Rogers Band** - Rogers and his cohorts can rock with the best, so don't let yourself be fooled into notions of him being of the 'sleepy folk persuasion' because as they say, the Randy Rogers Band "ain't no acoustic show." Get ready to see the Randy Rogers Band embark on high profile tours and propel themselves to the forefront of the industry with original and melodic country sounds.



**Max Stalling** - Max Stalling's country-folk style is always more interested in the journey than the destination. A genuine voice - his words are intelligent yet accessible -- allowing listeners to see deeper roots and meanings in his songs. The variety of emotions and characters in the stories seem to set a stage - giving listeners plenty of room for their own endings and interpretations.

**Walt Wilkins** - Wilkins has one of those superb gifts of being able to see a situation from a totally unique perspective and then write a song about it in a way that is commercially viable and full of artistic integrity. Wilkins is a troubadour of the Guy Clark and Kris Kristofferson tradition. A near constant presence on the Texas Music Chart since its inception as a songwriter, producer, singer, guitar player and artist, Wilkins is the heir apparent of the Texas songwriter's crown.





**Lee Ann Womack** - The MusicFest's leading lady, Lee Ann Womack, is widely known for hit songs including "I Hope You Dance", "Mendocino County Line"- her duet with Willie Nelson, and the most recent, "I May Hate Myself in the Morning." With classically flawless vocal abilities and a flair all her own, CMA Female Vocalist and Grammy award winner Lee Ann Womack is the MusicFest's kind of superstar, one that's grounded enough to stay up all night and jam.

**Eli Young Band** - With roots firmly planted in the fertile musical soil of Texas, the Eli Young Band is stretching its legs with a new video on CMT, a brand new upcoming live album, and a guitar-driven country rock resonance. This band is making big strides and is poised to put their unique stamp on Americana and an even wider audience.



#### **MUSICFEST FACTS:**

- Participants hail from 38 states and multiple counties
- Largest collegiate ski trip gathering in the United States.
- Radio Campaign on 50+ FM stations and worldwide Satellite Radio
- 90 hours of broadcast to date on XM Satellite Radio and scheduled to broadcast live again for 2007
- Highest One Pass online auction bid in history of Continental Airlines
- Reached 1.8 million through March 2004 issue of Continental Airlines In Flight Magazine
- Recognized by The Center for Texas Music History.

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