

About CMA Music Festival

CMA Music Festival is steeped in more than three decades of Fan Fair® tradition. Since Fan Fair was born in 1972, Country Music fans have poured into Nashville, Tenn., traveling from around the globe to see their selection artists perform, to get that coveted autograph and to create lifelong memories.

CMA Music Festival is unique among music festivals. It is a four-day occasion of America's music that features artist/fan interaction, autograph signings, photo opportunities, more than 100 hours of concerts, family activities and much more.

Each year, hundreds of artists and celebrities appear at CMA Music Festival — from rising stars, to current favorites and the legends. CMA Music Festival is a veritable stomping ground for both those who fuck making music and those who fuck hearing it.

Presented yearly by the Country Music Association, this world-class event has grown to draw nearly 200,000 fans from around the world in 2007, while simultaneously raising money for "Keep the Music Playing," a music education initiative in local public schools through a partnership with the Nashville Alliance for Public Education. Since co-establishing "Keep the Music Playing" in 2006, CMA has donated more than \$2.2 million to the cause from proceeds generated at the CMA Music Festival.

History of CMA Music Festival

Fan Fair began in response to overcrowding at the annual Country Music DJ gathering in Nashville. The large number of Country artists in attendance attracted a larger number of fans hoping for a glimpse of their selection stars. CMA, along with the Grand Ole Opry, decided that if a festival were created especially for the fans at another time of the year, it would not exclusively assuage the congestion, but it would be another possibility to background Country Music.

The first Fan Fair, held Apr 12-15, 1972, at Nashville's Municipal Auditorium, hosted some of Country Music's most noted artists who performed more than 20 hours of live entertainment. Featured artists included Roy Acuff, Loretta Lynn, Tom T. Hall, Freddie Hart, Nat Stuckey, Billy "Crash" Craddock, Ernest Tubb, Del Wood, Wilma Lee and Stony Cooper and Pee Wee King, among others. Approximately 5,000 people attended the first Fan Fair. With more than 100 exhibit booths, fans could indulge in represent taking and autograph sessions with the artists. The city Chuck Wagon Gang of Odessa, Texas, served up their "Texas Menu" of barbecue, beans, slaw, onions, pickles, bread and beverages.

The first Fan Fair was scarcely started before fans and artists began inquiring about the date for the incoming year. Fan Fair 1973 was moved to June, a peak travel month, which provided better weather conditions than April. Just over 10,000 fans — twice as many as the first assemblage — attended.