



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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THE BEACHES OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL ISLAND HOPPER SONGWRITER FEST CONTINUES WITH EXCITING LINE-UP

*Exclusive performances by more than two dozen nationally-acclaimed songwriters
in unique Southwest Florida island venues on Oct. 3 - 5, 2014*

LEE COUNTY, FL – The first Island Hopper Songwriter Fest announces a strong line-up of talent.

The festival kicked off Sept. 26 – 28 on Captiva Island with rave reviews from visitors, locals, and performers. The fun continues Oct. 2 – 5 with star-studded performers on Fort Myers Beach.

The event will feature free performances from such hit-makers as Kristian Bush, who built his reputation as one half of the multi-platinum, Grammy-winning country duo Sugarland, and wrote dozens of hits including “Stuck Like Glue.” Thompson Square will close the festival on Oct. 5 with a free performance at Parrot Key Caribbean Grill on Fort Myers Beach. They swept the 2012 vocal duo awards with such hit singles as “Are You Gonna Kiss Me Or Not” as well as “I Got You.”

“Our sunshine, beaches and unspoiled beauty have inspired artists for quite some time, so it is only fitting that we should showcase both nature and music in one exciting event,” said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB).

Festival-goers can celebrate American roots music while getting a taste of the destination at local favorites including Nervous Nellie’s, The Cottage, Smokin’ Oyster Brewery and The Beached Whale on Fort Myers Beach.

A couple of successful Nashville songwriters will offer something special on Fort Myers Beach - a fireside performance. Ken Johnson and Andi Zack kick-off the Fort Myers Beach festival weekend on Thursday, Oct. 2 at 6 p.m. They will be performing for free on the beach at the Red Coconut RV Resort.

Johnson is a co-writer of hits like Josh Thompson's "*Beer On The Table*" and Craig Morgan's "*Still A Little Chicken Left On That Bone*" and more recently, "*Summer and 16*" and "*White Van*," both of which hit the No.1 spot for Texas artist Josh Grider. Johnson's song, "*Every Time I Fall In Love*" was recorded for the ABC television show "*NASHVILLE*", by artist Clare Bowen, who plays the role of Scarlett on the show. Zack has written songs recorded by artists such as Josh Thompson, Brothers Osborne, Danielle Peck, Etta Britt, Rachel Bradshaw, Drew Gregory, Elle Maze and other. She also co-wrote Josh Thompson's smash hit, "*Beer On The Table*" and Etta Britt's latest "*Make It Fast*."

The fireside event will be followed by a free, open mic jam session at the resort.

Sanibel & Captiva Islands Fort Myers Beach Fort Myers Bonita Springs Estero Cape Coral Pine Island Boca Grande & Outer Islands North Fort Myers Lehigh Acres

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Presented by BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S., along with partners iHeartRadio, and Cat Country 107.1, the destination's first-ever songwriter festival will take place at popular and intimate island venues.

Visit www.islandhopperfest.com for more information, to book tickets and view the list of artists, performance schedules and venues. There will be a few ticketed events for purchase designated with a red ticket icon. All other shows are free of charge. Follow the festival hashtag #islandhopper on Twitter and other social channels.