



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Sept. 3, 2014**

Contacts: Francesca Donlan, Lee Rose, 239-338-3500

### **THE BEACHES OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL ANNOUNCES EXCITING LINE-UP**

*Exclusive performances by more than 40 nationally-acclaimed songwriters  
in unique Southwest Florida island venues on Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-5, 2014*

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

The festival will take place over two consecutive weekends on the area's most beautiful barrier islands and offer a range of star-studded performers. The festival kicks off on Captiva Island Sept. 26-28 and wraps up Oct. 3-5 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." Scotty Emerick has had more than 50 songs recorded by Toby Keith, including six No. 1's and four top 5's. Three songs: "I Love This Bar," "Beer For My Horses," and "As Good As I Once Was," spent six weeks in the No. 1 spot. 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 Tween Water's Crow's Nest, Key Lime Bistro and Doc Ford's at South Seas Island Resort on Captiva; as well as Nervous Nellie's, The Cottage, Smokin' Oyster Brewery and The Beached Whale on Fort Myers Beach.

One of the most exciting performance venues will be the private home of renowned American painter and graphic artist Robert Rauschenberg on Captiva Island, which will open its doors to the public for the first time exclusively for the festival. Check the festival's website for your chance to nab a free ticket.

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](http://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.

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

LEE COUNTY VISITOR & CONVENTION BUREAU 2201 SECOND STREET, SUITE 600 FORT MYERS, FL 33901-3086  
239.338.3500 800.237.6444 FACSMILE: 239.334.1106 WWW.FORTMYERS-SANIBEL.COM

*The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. For media assistance on the destination, please visit [www.fortmyerssanibel.com/media](http://www.fortmyerssanibel.com/media).*