Gone Camping

The 6th Annual ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp brings smiles to Nashville

If it's summer, then it must be time for ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp. This year's installment, held on the Vanderbilt University Campus and in various iconic venues around Nashville June 19-23, attracted campers from across the nation as well as several giving country stars. ACM board member, producer and songwriter Ross Copperman returned again not only to produce the campers' recording session at Ocean Way Studios, but also to help them write this year's original song in one day along with fellow songwriter Heather Morgan. The result – "Wherever You Go" – was performed on the Tuesday night Grand Ole Opry along with the talented Hunter Hayes. Other big-hearted artists joining in the fun for various events included The Swon Brothers, JT Hodges and Scotty McCreery.
CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT: The Swon Brothers join karaoke night; JT Hodges hangs with campers at the Wildhorse Saloon; Hunter Hayes, center, with camp founder Lorie Lytle, Grand Ole Opry’s Pete Fisher, ACM’s Tiffany Moon, ACM Lifting Lives’ Hannah Martin, Vanderbilt’s Beth Moore, ACM Lifting Lives Vice President Lori Badgett and ACM Lifting Lives board member Ed Warm; Songwriters Ross Copperman and Heather Morgan help the campers write an original song in one day; Hunter Hayes performs with campers on the live Grand Ole Opry show; Copperman producing the campers’ at Ocean Way Studios; Scotty McCreery performing at the Bluebird Café.
With both the Cowboys and the Rangers in their backyard, the great people of Texas are pretty accustomed to having winning teams around. The first ever ACM Lifting Lives Gala brought a whole other type of all-star team to Dallas—one that included country legends and today’s hottest superstars, all huddling up for a great cause. The live show and auction, held April 17th at the Dallas Omni and hosted by Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood along with television personalities Nancy O’Dell and Montel Williams, offered up some amazing auction items (two trucks, including the one Brooks drove to Nashville to get a record deal) and collaborations (Hunter Hayes, who joined in with Brooks and Keith Urban on the classic hit “The Dance,” said later he was “in Heaven” during the performance). Money raised from the night benefited ACM Lifting Lives as well as Garth Brooks’ charity, Teammates for Kids, at the Child Life Zones at Children’s Health of Dallas and Cook Children’s of Fort Worth.

Performers giving their time and talent to the event also included Lady Antebellum, Little Big Town and The Band Perry, who shared the stage with performers from the ACM Lifting Lives Music Camp to sing their original composition, “Bright Eyes.” Karina Scali from Toronto, Ontario, was among those campers, and on the next page she shares the experience through her own eyes with personal photographs and captions from her trip to Texas.
"WE LOVE YOU GARTH BROOKS AND TRISHA YEARWOOD! THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DID FOR ME AND MY MOM, ALL THE LIFTING LIVES CAMPERS, THE ACM AND ALL THE CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES."
"Y'all made us feel like superstars! Everyone was beautiful – inside and out. My mom Monica was so happy she actually danced."

"A CAMPER'S JOURNAL"

{ BY KARINA SCALI }

"With my 'power' Giving Key and my The Band Perry boots on, I was fearless and ready to perform! My fairy tale boots (given to every camper by The Band Perry) fit perfectly, and I was off to a magical evening. They will be my lucky boots forever. I will only wear them for special performances and when I put them on, I will always remember your kindness."

"We loved singing our hearts out at rehearsal. We were ready to knock everyone's socks off. Thank you Hannah Martin for our Giving Keys. The "power" is for a powerful performance with The Band Perry and the power to overcome any life challenges that come my way."

"It was so exciting to see my friends again. We all come from different places and we all have different faces, but we are family."

"Thank you ACM Lifting Lives for always making me feel like part of the family. I love each and every one of you, and I am so proud to call you my friends."