



STATE OF TENNESSEE

PROCLAMATION

BY THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS, years ago, in the hills and hollows of Tennessee, in the Appalachian heights and in rural expanses beyond our borders, the seeds of Country Music were sown by the same men and women who helped lay the foundation of our republic; and

WHEREAS, these were people who knew hard work first-hand, and shared a vision of a nation made strong and free, based on clear values and the principles of democracy; and

WHEREAS, those principles propagated the notion that every person is entitled to speak his or her mind and through that freedom to contribute to our emerging society, and for many speaking also meant singing, at first within the musical conventions inherited from their forebears and then increasingly through a newer sound forged by the intermingling of these traditions; and

WHEREAS, as they sang about their joys and sorrows, their love of family, and their faith in better days to come, their words evolved along with the vernacular of American English, and the notes to which they set these words began to reflect the experiences of others among them - a hint of the blues, touches of gospel and hymnody; and

WHEREAS, their contributions, and those of the many who learned from them and passed their own music to the next generation, bring us into the heart of today's Country Music; and

WHEREAS, our ancestors could not possibly have anticipated Country Music's modern manifestations - electric instrumentation, spectacular stage shows, the immediacy of the social networks - but its spirit would speak to them clearly, as it does to fans throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, this international appeal owes much to the efforts of the Country Music Association to widen awareness and enjoyment of this format through its Nashville-based CMA Music Festival, CMA Country Christmas, and CMA Awards; and

WHEREAS, by helping to finance music education, CMA's "Keep the Music Playing" campaign encourages public school students to enhance their lives through music appreciation and performance; and

WHEREAS, CMA's Songwriters Series introduces the legendary writers of Music Row to audiences throughout the country, thus illuminating the importance of the song as well as its performance; and

WHEREAS, CMA's college initiative CMA EDU provides career-building opportunities on college campuses in Middle Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, thanks to these and many other efforts, CMA has helped elevate Country Music into a global phenomenon; and

WHEREAS, this art form remains quintessentially American, uncovering the poetry embedded in everyday life, and celebrating the same traits that inspired those who laid its foundation before us;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bill Haslam, Governor of the State of Tennessee, do hereby proclaim October 2011 as

COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH

in Tennessee and encourage all citizens to join me in this worthy observance.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the State of Tennessee to be affixed at Nashville on this 30th day of September, 2011.

Governor

Secretary of State