



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 29, 2010**

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COUNTRY ARTIST DARIUS RUCKER TO PLAY AT THE 65TH ANNUAL CRAWFORD COUNTY FAIR, WITH SPECIAL GUEST KELLIE PICKLER.

The 65th annual Crawford County Fair is proud to present nationally known country artist, Darius Rucker, in concert on August 26th at 7:30pm with special guest Kellie Pickler. The concert is being sponsored by the local Toyota Dealers – Palmiero Toyota, Meadville Allegheny Toyota, Franklin, & Dave Hallman’s Superior Toyota. The concert will be held at the Crawford County Fairgrounds, and tickets are \$40 on the track and \$35 in the grandstands. Tickets will go on sale Monday May 10th at 8:30am at 1-800-585-3737 or online at www.crawfordcountyfair.net. Tickets will be available at the Crawford County Courthouse at 8:30am Tuesday, May 11th, 2010.

Darius Rucker:

It’s a voice that needs no introduction. Darius Rucker’s soulful, rich baritone instantly resonates as a comforting companion in this journey we call life.

On LEARN TO LIVE, his first project for Capitol Records Nashville, Rucker has created a work that is steeped in the country traditions of meaningful lyrics and resonant melodies, yet sounds completely modern. As the best country albums do, LEARN TO LIVE takes the listener on a trip. “This CD is a journey,” Rucker says. “I realized I’m 42. I’m not going to write many songs about drinking, chasing girls or booty calls. I was going to write songs about having kids and stuff – songs about life.”

Rucker’s career path veered first into pop as the lead singer/co-writer for the wildly successful Hootie & the Blowfish. The Grammy-winning group’s 1994 debut, CRACKED REAR VIEW, is one of the best-selling albums in history, surpassing the 16 million album mark.

Fans of the band, many of whom have made the natural migration from pop to country radio, realize that Hootie & the Blowfish’s catchy songs were rooted in the same elements that make great country music. In fact, Rucker says, “I begged the guys in Hootie to be a country band, and I just got outvoted!” Therefore, making his first country CD was not so much a big leap for Rucker as simply a slight shift in Rucker’s musical



evolution. As *Billboard* magazine noted, “*There’s a sense of purpose that makes Rucker feel like a member of the country family, rather than an interloper...Sounds like country may have a shining new star.*”

While Hootie & the Blowfish are an ongoing project, Rucker’s solo career is taking center stage for the foreseeable future. He is devoted to promoting LEARN TO LIVE. “We’re taking a long time off,” he says. “It’s not, ‘make one record and go back to Hootie,’” Rucker says. “I’m making country music.”

Kellie Pickler:

Kellie established herself quickly as both a singer and a songwriter to be reckoned with, co-writing her first hit, "Red High Heels," her first gold single. Her debut album, *Small Town Girl*, produced two follow-up hits--the poignant "I Wonder," which she also co-wrote, and the light-hearted "Things That Never Cross A Man's Mind." Together, they propelled the release to near-platinum status.

Her second album, *Kellie Pickler*, for which she co-wrote half the songs, spawned the uplifting "Don't You Know You're Beautiful" and "Best Days of Your Life." The latter, co-written by Kellie with Taylor Swift, quickly became the biggest hit of her career, rising to the Top Ten and earning gold in digital sales.

Since her days as an American Idol contestant, Kellie has won three 2008 CMT Music Awards--Breakthrough Video, Tearjerker Video and Performance of the Year--all for "I Wonder," and has earned many other award nominations. She has received two ASCAP awards citing "Red High Heels" and "I Wonder" as among the most performed country songs of the year. Both her albums debuted #1 country and Top Ten overall in Billboard, a feat equaled by only six other females in country music. She has hosted *The View*, graced the cover of *USA Weekend*, and served as correspondent in Times Square for "Dick Clark's Rockin' Eve" with Ryan Seacrest to usher in 2009.

In a brief time, Kellie went from a 19-year-old with a troubled home life to a young woman running a multi-million-dollar business--"the Kellie Pickler Company," as she calls it--handling all the challenges and responsibilities of fame in a fast-paced world.

See Darius Rucker and Kellie Pickler at the 65th Annual Crawford County Fair, Thursday, August 26, 2010. Get your tickets for this dynamite concert, Monday, May 10th at 8:30am.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, please call Frederic Wagner, Crawford County Treasurer, at 814- 333-7400.