

Capitol 'Throwdown'



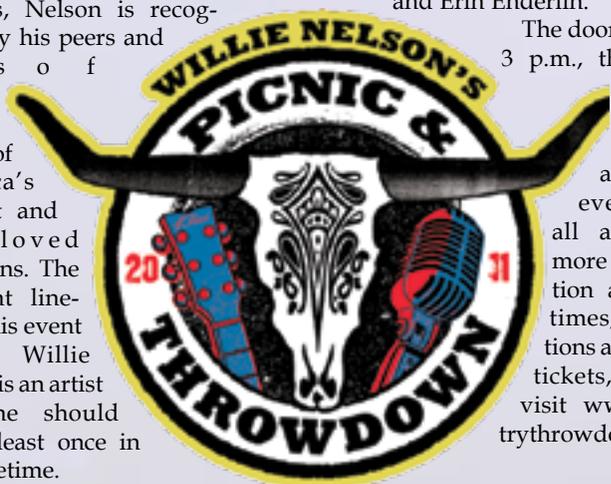
Willie and Lukas Nelson

Photo by: Jennifer Bronenkant

By
Anna VanHorn

Remember the good ole' days when musicians toured together in showcases that featured multiple artists? It was nothing to see Elvis, Johnny Cash and Roy Orbison (among others) sharing a bill. Well, leave it to Willie Nelson to follow the traditions of yesteryear by putting together a traveling musical act with multiple artists. Made up of the top country music artists mixed with the up and coming musicians of tomorrow, Willie Nelson's Country Throwdown will be making its way to the North Shore Riverwalk in North Little Rock on Saturday, June 4.

Headlining the whole thing, of course, is the red headed stranger himself, Willie Nelson. Known for his iconic career that spans over 50 years, Nelson crosses the country genres from outlaw, folk, Americana and honky-tonk. He can sing a song that makes you cry, and then turn around and crank out a tune that starts a bar brawl. With multiple award wins including Grammys, American Music Awards, and Country Music Awards, Nelson is recognized by his peers and legions of loyal fans as one of America's greatest and most-loved musicians. The excellent lineup of this event aside, Willie Nelson is an artist everyone should see at least once in their lifetime.



Also appearing on the bill are some of the top performers that country music has to offer today. Acclaimed singer/songwriter, Jamey Johnson, will be sharing the bill with his contemporaries such as Mississippi musician Randy Houser, and prolific independent artist Jack Ingram. Appearing right alongside the rest are the rugged yet melodic Lee Brice, the country/rock stylings of Brantley Gilbert and the powerful and down-to-earth Craig Campbell. Rounding out the well-knowns is Willie's son's band, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real, with a sound that mirrors his dad's musicality and innovation. All these artists boast chart topping singles and well-received albums, which culminates in quite an impressive lineup.

Together with top musicians, this lineup gives a stage to some of the most promising up and coming singer-songwriters and country artists in the business. You may or may not have heard their names yet, but it's a safe bet that their tunes will be topping the charts on the not-too-distant horizon. Be sure to check out Drake White, Adam Hood, Austin Lucas, Brent Cobb, Caitlyn Smith, Dani Flowers, and Erin Enderlin.

The doors open at 3 p.m., the music starts shortly after and is an event for all ages. For more information about set times, directions and to buy tickets, please visit www.countrythrowdown.com.

Little Rock, big shows

By Anna VanHorn

Summertime, and the livin' is easy. What a fantastic philosophy, right? There's plenty to keep you entertained in Little Rock this summer, starting with some great music coming at you in June.

The Cedric Burnside Project is going to be starting off the month right with some original foot-stomping hill-country blues music at White Water Tavern on Friday, June 3. This grandson of blues legend, R.L. Burnside, is guaranteed to put on a great show. The following Tuesday (June 7), head on over to Juanita's for a trio of southern metal bands, sure to have heads banging. The Sword, from Austin, TX, Kylesa hailing from Savannah, GA and Little Rock's own Rwake will be filling the room with heavy music and massive sound.

Wednesday, June 8, has a couple different options for those of you looking to get out on a school

appropriate name!), will be delighting the crowds of Juanita's on Saturday, June 18. Mixing everything from Japanese pop, Latin American dance tunes, orchestral classics, polka and rock and roll, this is the band that David Byrne of The Talking Heads chose to play at his wedding reception. And I don't know about you, but if it's good enough for David Byrne, it's good enough for me!

Get ready for another difficult choice on Sunday, June 19. The American indie rock band, Other Lives will be opening the show for the indie rock/dance/folk band The Rosebuds at Sticky Fingerz Chicken Shack that Sunday night. While over at the River Market Pavilion, Skrillex, the dubstep and electro house producer will be performing. You know what though? These two are so close together, why should you even try to make a decision. Just go to both!

Bud Summers can be seen and heard at Cajun's Warf on Wednesday, June 22. His masterful guitar work



Former Thieves

night. Oh wait; its summer! Take your choice between punk rock and pop rock tonight. The punk stylings of Former Thieves can be seen and heard at Downtown Music Hall, while over at the Rev Room, Parachute will be performing their blend of indie pop rock. Either choice is a good choice.

Grab your dancing shoes for The Congress, playing at The Flying Saucer on Friday, June 10. With tunes from today's top 40 and a mix of R&B hip hop jams, this is the band to get you on your feet. That same night, there's another band that gonna make you want to dance. Arkansas' own Honeyshine has a bluesy/folksy/bluegrass thing going on, and will be showing it off at Midtown Billiards that Friday night.

The Church at Rock Street is hosting an entire week of worship and Christian alternative rock, starting on Monday, June 13 and ending on Friday, June 17. Originally from Arkansas, the band Two Empty Chairs now travels all over the country bringing their message and we're happy to have them back in the natural state for a week.

If you're looking for something a little different than the norm, why not try out some polka rock? Yes, you read that right. The Grammy-winning band, Brave Combo (what an

blends elements of jazz, blues and rock that is sure to please any crowd.

Embarking on their annual "Hold My Beer and Watch This" acoustic tour, is Wade Bowen and Randy Rogers, appearing at the Rev Room on Wednesday, June 22. Both red-dirt country artists from Texas, this is a pair that will show you exactly what that Texas music sound is all about. Grab your beers and your boots, and get ready for a honky tonkin' good time.

Friday, June 24, brings another crowd favorite to the Rev Room stage. BoomBox is the dynamic combo of producer/engineer/DJ/drummer Russ Randolph and producer/DJ/vocalist/guitarist Zion Rock Godchaux. Not a band that is easily defined, the duo refers to themselves only as rock and roll. Go out and define for yourself what makes them so popular. You won't be sorry.

Finally, rounding out the month of June is Tiffany Christopher, appearing at Cajun's Warf on Saturday, June 25. This girl combines jazz, rock, folk and blues with stellar vocals and killer charisma.

There you have it Little Rock; More music than you can shake a stick at. Whatever that means...