

# The CMA Music Festival

By Candice Mutschler

There's no place like Nashville when it comes to live entertainment, and for country music fans, there's no place they'd rather be in June when the world-renowned CMA Music Festival comes to town.

The sultry weather only adds to the sizzle as rising stars and superstars converge in downtown Nashville for four days of concerts and fan-pleasing events. From morning to night, the streets pulsate with music and activity—a collective heartbeat pumping life into this phenomenal fest.

The Convention Center fills with throngs of fans armed with cameras and Sharpies, hoping to get a photo or autograph. This is the entire point of Fan Fair Hall—to provide a venue where fans can meet their idols one-on-one while catching a performance in the Acoustic Corner.

Outside, the Riverfront Stage sees an impressive stream of acts throughout the day. More than 100 artists take the stage over the course of the event.

The festival is jam-packed with activities for the entire family, including a Fun Zone, Family Zone and Sports Zone, where there are interactive exhibits, competitions, giveaways and more live music. A free shuttle makes getting around easy.

Rockin' nights at LP Field are when the Vault Concert Stage lights up and country music icons step into the spotlight. Although the 2009 lineup hasn't been announced, expect headliners to include current chart toppers, heartthrobs and legends. Last year, Randy Travis, Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift were among the performers.

And you never know who's going to make a surprise appearance. Rascal Flatts, Kelly Clarkson and Keith Urban have all unexpectedly materialized in the past to the delight of fans.

Well-known singers also have been known to pop in unannounced at the downtown honky-tonks after their evening gigs. For many, the after-hours revelry and jam sessions continue well into the night.

Past CMA festival performers have included Carrie Underwood and other country greats.



## AAA offers CMA Music Festival Escapes Package

You can bet your boots that the CMA Music Festival will sell out again in 2009. Fortunately, AAA has planned another Escapes package to help get you there, and it's the best CMA Music Festival package yet! This year, an added benefit is the tour bus transportation between the Millennium Maxwell House Hotel before and after the evening concerts. **GP**

Book it

"CMA Music Festival"  
Nashville, Tennessee

AAA Escapes, June 10-15, 2009  
From \$699 per person\*

*These Escapes packages are going fast; reserve your spot now and prepare for an unforgettable experience in Music City.*

### CMA Package Includes:

- Four-day CMA event ticket
- Five nights at the beautiful Three Diamond Millennium Maxwell House Hotel, Nashville
- Buffet breakfast daily
- Nightly concerts at LP Field (Lower Level Sections: 113-116)
- Daily admission to the Nashville Convention Center
- Greased Lightning Riverfront Park daytime concerts
- Admission to Family Zone, Fun Zone & Sports Zone
- Country Music Hall of Fame audio tour admission ticket
- AAA Escapes full-time, on-site hosts at hotel/LP Field nightly concerts
- Complimentary transportation from/to airport and hotel
- Shuttle transportation from/to the hotel to the Nashville Convention Center to access daily activities
- Dedicated AAA Escapes transfers between LP Field and hotel before/after the nightly concerts
- All hotel taxes & service fees

**Book Today!**  
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or your local AAA office.

Past AAA Escapes CMA repeaters enjoy a "Welcome Back" dinner and commemorative gift.

\*Based on double occupancy