



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
CONTACT: BALTZ & COMPANY

SARAH ABELL, 917.584.8567  
[SABELL@BALTZCO.COM](mailto:SABELL@BALTZCO.COM)  
SUZANNAH MAY, 704.998.7695  
[SMAY@BALTZCO.COM](mailto:SMAY@BALTZCO.COM)

## ***Music City Food + Wine Festival Announces All-Star Line-Up and Tickets on Sale with Kings of Leon Anchoring Live Musical Performance***

*Sixth Annual Festival to Introduce “Official Drink of Nashville” Competition & Friday Night Throwdown with Celebrity Chefs and Predators vs. Titans; Kings of Leon and Special Guests Performing Iconic Disco Hits from 70s & 80s Award-Winning Chefs, Wine & Spirits Experts, Engaging Cooking Demos, Intimate Panel Discussions, Dynamic Tasting Sessions, Pappy Van Winkle Tasting, Gospel Brunch and More in Nashville, September 14 – 16, 2018*

NASHVILLE, Tenn., May 10, 2018 -- GRAMMY-Award winning artists **Kings of Leon**, James Beard Foundation Award-winning chef **Jonathan Waxman**, **Vector Management's Ken Levitan & Andy Mendelsohn** and **C3 Presents** are pleased to announce **Music City Food + Wine Festival, September 14-16, 2018**. The sixth annual festival will offer expanded festival programming, including the addition of the **Official Drink of Nashville** competition, a special **Friday Night Throwdown** pairing celebrity chefs with pro athletes, Saturday Night's **Harvest Night** anchored by **Kings of Leon**, the return of Sunday's **Gospel Brunch**, and much more. Tickets go on sale May 10, 2018, 10:00 a.m. CST, at <http://www.musiccityfoodandwinefestival.com/tickets>

“As Nashville’s food culture continues to evolve, we aim to strike a balance between showcasing our local culinary scene, world-renowned chefs that have inspired so many, along with some amazing musical elements,” says festival co-founder, **Ken Levitan** of Vector Management.

“Music City Food & Wine Festival is our favorite weekend of the year,” says festival co-founder, **Nathan Followill** of Kings of Leon. “It allows us to roll out Nashville’s welcome mat to eat, drink and be merry with friends from all walks of life.”

### **Friday Night Throwdown & Official Drink of Nashville:**

On Friday night, celebrate the ultimate Happy Hour and join chefs **Anne Burrell** and **Tim Love** for a throwdown as they go head-to-head in a spirited cooking demo, captaining teams featuring celebrity sous chefs from the **Nashville Predators** and **Tennessee Titans** and emceed by **Jessie James Decker**. The special guest sous chefs will be announced this summer. Each team will be challenged to create the ultimate meal from a surprise ingredient box. Come out and cheer on the hometown teams as they battle for bragging rights in the kitchen!

Join the city’s top bartenders and mixologists as they compete to create the **Official Drink of Nashville**. On Friday night, this competition will celebrate the spirit of Nashville and shine a spotlight on Music City’s talented bartending community. The city’s best bar teams will mix,

shake and measure to create this year's essential Nashville cocktail. Enjoy bites from top chefs & restaurants, wine and cocktail tastings and more.

### **Harvest Night, Saturday, September 15:**

On Saturday, September 15, **Kings of Leon** will anchor **Harvest Night** at Walk of Fame Park, the signature dine-around featuring the country's best chefs and a star-studded lineup of special musical guests performing iconic disco hits from the 70s & 80s. Festivalgoers are encouraged to dress up in their flashiest Studio 54-inspired garb for a fabulous dance party under the Nashville stars. Food will be served from 7:00 - 9:00 p.m., with the live musical performance led by Kings of Leon and special guests scheduled from 9:00 - 10:30 p.m. The lineup of special musical guests will be announced this summer.

Chefs scheduled to cook at Harvest Night include: **Jeni Britton Bauer** (Jeni's Ice Cream); **Tom Bayless** (The Public House); **Matt Bolus** (The 404 Kitchen); **Billy Durney** (Hometown Bar-B-Que); **Carla Hall** (Chef, Author, TV Personality); **Tiffani Faison** (Sweet Cheek, Tiger Mama, Fool's Errand); **Ford Fry** (Sea Wolf, Le Loup, Star Rover, Superica); **Matt Hyland & Graydon Atchley** (EMMY Squared Nashville); **Tim Love** (Lonesome Dove Western Bistro, Woodshed Smokehouse, Queenie's Steakhouse, Love Shack, White Elephant Saloon); **Matt McClure** (The Hive); **Margot McCormack** (Margot Café & Bar); **Aarón Sánchez** (Johnny Sánchez); **Chris Shepherd** (UB Preserv); **Jonathan Waxman** (Barbuto, Jams, Adele's, Brezza Cucina); **Tandy Wilson** (City House); and **Andrew Zimmern** (Four-Time James Beard Award-Winning TV Personality, Chef, Writer).

"I'm looking forward to hot chicken, barbecue and great music in my hometown of Nashville," says **Carla Hall**. "I'll be feeling right at home with new and old chef friends."

### **Grand Taste, Friday, September 14 & Saturday, September 15:**

Music City Food + Wine Festival brings together the stars of Nashville's thriving culinary and music communities with acclaimed regional and national chefs, wine and spirits experts, and musicians. The **Grand Taste**, held at Bicentennial Capitol State Mall Park (600 James Robertson Pkwy) on **Friday, September 14, from 6:00 – 10:00 p.m., and Saturday, September 15, from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.,** will offer immersive **cooking demonstrations**, engaging **panel discussions**, intimate **Tasting Sessions**, a dynamic line-up of local chefs and artisans serving signature dishes and drinks in the **Chef Showcase**, **Book Signings**, **Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends**, featuring an all-star roster of chefs, beverage pros and pitmasters from around the country that will smoke and grill meats and veggies in an interactive, live-fire barbecue feast on festival grounds, and more.

Throughout the weekend, attendees will have the opportunity to get up close and personal as chefs lead interactive and fun **Cooking Demonstrations** including **Anne Burrell**; **Carla Hall**; **Tim Love**; **Aarón Sánchez**; **Jonathan Waxman**; and **Andrew Zimmern**.

Featuring a dynamic roster of chefs and restaurants on Friday, September 14, and Saturday, September 15, the **Chef Showcase** in the Grand Taste at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park will give attendees the opportunity to meet some of the city's top chefs, while sampling dishes from a diverse line-up of restaurants. Chef Showcase will feature some of Nashville's most beloved chefs and restaurants, including: **Hrant Arakelian** (Lyra); **Kristopher Akers** (Americano); **Kahlil Arnold** (Arnold's Country Kitchen); **Jessica Benefield & Trey Burnette** (The Green Pheasant, Two Ten Jack); **Carey Bringle** (Peg Leg Porker); **Larry Carlile** (Hemingway's Bar & Hideaway); **Chris Carter & James Peisker** (Porter Road Butcher); **Tom Eckert** (Chauhan Ale & Masala House); **Trey Cioccia** (The Farm House, Black Rabbit); **Gerard Craft** (Pastaria); **Bill & Tony Darsinos** (GreKo Greek Street Food); **Nathan Duensing** (Marsh House); **Matt Farley** (Woolworth on 5th); **Tony Galzin** (Nicky's Coal Fired); **Daniel Gorman** (Henley); **Robert Grace** (Kayne Prime); **Mike Haggerty** (Sea Salt); **Hal M. Holden-Bache** (Lockeland Table); **Vui Hunt** (Vui's Kitchen, I love Juice Bar); **Matt Gillie** (Tàn-suō); **Jess Lambert** (etc Restaurant); **Daniel Lindley** (5<sup>th</sup> & Taylor); **B.J. Lofback** (Funk Seoul Brother); **Crystal De Luna-Bogan** (The Grilled Cheeserie); **Sean McTiernan** (Adele's); **Michael Morales** (Sunda); **Deb Paquette** (Etch Restaurant); **Kyle Patterson** (Sinema Nashville); **Nick Pellegrino**

(Mangia Nashville); **Giovanni Pinato** (Giovanni Ristorante); **Jess Rice** (My Poor Tired Liver); **Brian Riggendbach** (The Mockingbird Nashville); **Steven Robilio** (Saltine); **David Rule** (The Walnut Kitchen); **Joshua Simpson** (Proper Bagel); **Ian Shordon** (Lonesome Dove Knoxville); **Nina Singto** (Thai Esane); **David Tieman** (Five Points Pizza); **Murphy Vaughn & Chris Bowater** (Silo); **Andrew Whitney** (Moto, Virago); & **Tandy Wilson** (Mop / Broom Mess Hall); and more to be announced.

#### **Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends:**

On Friday night and Saturday, celebrated pitmaster **Pat Martin** will once again be joined by a host of decorated chefs and pitmasters, including **Billy Durney**, to cook and serve an interactive, live-fire barbeque and grilling fest at **Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends**. An all-star roster of guest chefs from across the country will be announced this summer.

#### **Gospel Brunch, Sunday, September 16:**

On Sunday, September 16, join an acclaimed group of chefs and restaurants as they prepare brunch favorites set to a spirited live gospel performance from **Gayle Mayes** for Music City Food + Wine's **Gospel Brunch** at Walk of Fame Park. Join some of Tennessee's most beloved chefs as they serve signature dishes paired with eye-opening cocktails, wines and coffee, including; a pastry tent extravaganza helmed by **Lisa Donovan** (pastry chef/writer), **Lauren Anderson** (East Park Donuts), **Caitlyn Jarvis** (Henrietta Red), **Davis Reese** (Husk) & **Danielle Veit** (Old School); **Laurence Faber** (The Barn at Blackberry Farm); **Tony Fraske** (Makeready Libations & Liberation @ Noelle); **Brandon Frohne** (Holler and Dash Biscuit House); **John Lasater** (Hattie B's); **Andy Little** (Josephine); **Pat Martin** (Hugh Baby's); **Margot McCormack** (Marche); **Claire Meneely** (Dozen Bakery); **Bryan Lee Weaver** (Butcher & Bee); and **Karl Worley** (Biscuit Love).

#### **Panel Discussions & Tasting Sessions:**

Listen in as chefs, musicians and wine & spirits experts engage in dynamic conversations during a series of intimate **Tasting Sessions** and **Panel Discussions**. Learn how to throw the *Ultimate Dinner Party*, listen in as chefs share their *Kitchen Highs & Lows*, prep your shopping list with *Must-Have* pantry ingredients, and walk away learning *about Things You Always Wanted to Know but Were Too Afraid to Ask*. Stay tuned for panelist and moderator announcements.

#### **Pappy Hour:**

Back by popular demand, Music City Food + Wine Festival is proud to host **Pappy Hour** at the Grand Taste Pavilion on Saturday, September 16. This exclusive bourbon tasting will be led by **Preston Van Winkle** of Old Rip Van Winkle Distillery, great grandson of iconic bourbon maker Julian P. "Pappy" Van Winkle. More information on how to attend Pappy Hour will be announced this summer.

#### **Tickets & More Information:**

Music City Food + Wine Festival ticket options include an **All-In Ticket**, as well as **Friday Evening Ticket**, **Saturday Ticket**, **Harvest Night Ticket**, and **Gospel Brunch Ticket**. All attendees must be 21 years of age or older.

The **All-In Ticket** (\$525 per person) enables guests to experience the full weekend of Music City Food + Wine Festival programming, including the Official Drink of Nashville competition and Friday Night Throwdown and Saturday festival access; the Grand Taste cooking demos and panel discussions; more than 80 beer, wine, cocktail, and culinary tastings; access to Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends; book signings; access to Saturday's Harvest Night and Sunday's Gospel Brunch.

The **Friday Evening Ticket** (\$165 per person) includes single-day access to Friday, September 14 festival programming at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, including the Official Drink of Nashville competition and the Friday Night Throwdown; Grand Taste more than 80 beer, wine, cocktail, and culinary tastings; and access to Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends.

The **Saturday Ticket** (\$165 per person) includes single-day access to Saturday, September 15 festival programming at Bicentennial Capitol Mall State Park, including the Grand Taste cooking demos and panel discussions; more than 80 beer, wine, cocktail, and culinary tastings; book signings; and access to Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint and Friends.

**Harvest Night Ticket** (\$275 per person) available as a stand-alone ticket option for Saturday evening, September 15. Harvest Night brings together signature dishes from world-renowned chefs from Nashville and across the country with a live musical performance anchored by Kings of Leon and special guests celebrating iconic disco hits of the 70s & 80s. Attendees are encouraged to dress up in their most festive Studio 54-inspired costumes for a rocking dance party under the stars at Walk of Fame Park in downtown Nashville.

**Gospel Brunch** (\$85 per person) will return to Walk of Fame Park on Sunday, September 16, featuring a dynamic roster of restaurants and chefs serving creative brunch favorites. Get a jump-start on the day with eye-opening cocktails, wine, coffee, and a spirited live gospel brunch performance from Gayle Mayes.

For more information, please visit <http://www.musiccityfoodandwinefestival.com> or follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/musiccityfw](https://twitter.com/musiccityfw)) and Facebook ([Facebook.com/musiccityfw](https://Facebook.com/musiccityfw)) #MCFW.

For media credentials, please fill out the online application here:  
<http://www.musiccityfoodandwinefestival.com/press/>

Music City Food + Wine is generously sponsored by: Nashville Convention + Visitors Bureau, Toyota and FOOD & WINE.

**About Music City Food + Wine Festival:**

Music City Food + Wine Festival is produced by GRAMMY-award winning artists (and Nashville residents) Kings of Leon, world-renowned chef Jonathan Waxman, Vector Management's Ken Levitan and Andy Mendelsohn, and Austin-based C3 Presents — producer of Lollapalooza in Chicago's Grant Park, and Austin City Limits Music Festival in Austin's Zilker Park.

**About FOOD & WINE:**

FOOD & WINE is the ultimate authority on the best of what's new in food, drink, travel, design and entertaining. FOOD & WINE has an extensive social media following on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr and Snapchat. FOOD & WINE includes a monthly magazine in print and digital; a website, [foodandwine.com](http://foodandwine.com); a books division; plus newsletters, clubs, events, dinnerware and cookware. FOOD & WINE is a registered trademark of Time Inc. Affluent Media Group.