



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hitmakers Hummon, Ewing, Johnson, Slater, Matthews headline Avenue Bank's Country Ride 'n Roll for Saddle Up! benefit concert**

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (August 26, 2008) You know their music, and now you get to meet and hear the writers behind the songs at the Avenue Bank Country Ride 'n Roll benefit concert Saturday, Sept. 20, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at Duke It Out Farm, 4105 Columbia Pike, Franklin.

The concert is open to the public. Tickets, at only \$50 if purchased by September 18 or \$75 at the gate, include the concert, dinner and spirits. The concert is slated to take place at the main house of the private, 300-acre farm opened exclusively once a year for this event in support of Saddle Up!. The concert caps off a day that begins with a "ride-a-thon" trail ride, also open to the public as part of the fundraising activities. Details about both the trail ride and/or concert are available by calling Saddle Up! at 615-794-1150 or visiting the website, [www.saddleupnashville.org](http://www.saddleupnashville.org), where concert tickets may also be purchased and trail ride brochures are available for registration information.

With chart-topping and Grammy nominated songs, Music City hitmakers Marcus Hummon, Skip Ewing, Tim Johnson, James Slater and Jason Matthews will perform "in the round," a favorite format in Nashville for songwriters to share songs, quips and more. Opening the evening's entertainment is rising writer Luke Sheets, of Weimarhymes Publishing.

A brief look at the writers and their hits:

- **Marcus Hummon.** His first No. 1 hit was "Only Love" (Wynonna Judd). Other top songs include: "Every Little Word" (Hal Ketchum), "One Of These Days" (Tim McGraw), Grammy nominated "Ready to Run" (Dixie Chicks), "Born To Fly" (Sara Evans), and, "Bless The Broken Road," (Rascal Flatts), with two Grammy nominations. As an artist, Marcus has released a total of 11 albums on the Columbia, MTM and Armadillo labels.
- **Skip Ewing.** Skip scored three consecutive No. 1 hits – "Someone Else's Star," "Rebecca Lynn," and "I'm Not Supposed To Love You Anymore" – all recorded by Bryan White. Collin Raye, Doug Stone and Kenny Chesney have ridden Skip's songs to the top of the charts. Since his debut in the late 1980s, Skip has recorded eight albums on the Capitol, MCA and Word labels. "Every Other Weekend" is his recent radio hit.

- **Tim Johnson.** Tim has scored an extraordinary 100+ major label cuts, including such hits as "I Let Her Lie" (Daryle Singletary), "Someone You Used To Know" (Collin Raye), "Thank God For Believers" (Mark Chesnutt), and Diamond Rio's "God Only Cries." Tim also wrote "When I Think About Leavin'" on Kenny Chesney's quadruple platinum album, WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN.
- **Jason Matthews.** Jason is the writer of Billy Currington's smash No. 1 hit, "Must Be Doin' Somethin' Right," and Julie Roberts' "Break Down Here." A writer at Universal Music Publishing Group, Matthews earned the coveted Music Row Break Through Writer award.
- **James Slater.** A writer at Song Garden/Cal IV publishing, James has had songs recorded by Tim McGraw, Lorrie Morgan, Mark Wills, and Billy Gilman. His song "In My Daughter's Eyes," recorded by Martina McBride, became a crossover classic and earned a Grammy nomination.

All proceeds from the trail ride and concert benefit Saddle Up! the midstate's oldest and largest recreational therapeutic horseback riding program serving children with disabilities.

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