

## NEWS RELEASE

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**Big Sky Country State Fair**  
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Additional artist bios and photos available upon request.



### **NIGHT SHOW ACTS ANNOUNCED**

#### ***Big Sky Country State Fair Announces 2021 Night Shows***

**Bozeman, MT**—Big Sky Country State Fair is pleased to announce their 2021-night show line-up, a mix of celebrated rap and country artists NELLY with special guest Carly Pearce will kick out the week, GRANGER SMITH with special guest Kolby Cooper on Thursday, we will round off the week with TRACE ADKINS with special guest Parmalee.

“Given the challenges over the last 12 months we are excited to be ‘Back Better Than Ever’ and offer this year’s musical line-up featuring established and upcoming artists,” said Dennis Voeller, General Manager of the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, and home of the Big Sky Country State Fair. “The live event industry as a whole has been impacted and so to be able to present this caliber entertainment is both rewarding and humbling. We welcome you to enjoy the Big Sky Country State Fair with first class musical entertainment, new experiences and traditional competitions that only happen once a year.

- **NELLY with special guest Carly Pearce performs Wednesday, July 21.**
- **GRANGER SMITH with special guest Kolby Cooper performs Thursday, July 22.**
- **TRACE ADKINS with special guest PARMALEE performs Friday, July 23.**

**NELLY** is a seasoned veteran in the music industry, “Ranked as the fourth best-selling rap artist of all time by the Recording Industry of America, Nelly has become a symbol of rap’s crossover success in mainstream pop music. With over 21 million albums sold in the US alone, his pop-infused hip hop and unique vocal delivery have earned him six Top 10 albums and made him a live concert favorite. His seventh studio album, 2012’s M.O., features hit singles “Hey Porsche” and “Get Like Me,” a collaboration with Nicki Minaj and Pharrell. Born Cornell Iral Haynes, Jr. in 1974, Nelly got his first taste of musical success with the St. Louis hip hop collective St. Lunatics. In 2000, he launched his solo career with No. 1 debut album Country Grammar, which showcased his signature Southern drawl mixed with a Midwestern twang. 2002 follow-up Nellyville also peaked at No. 1 and included the international smash “Hot in Herre,” which earned him a Grammy in 2003 for Best Male Rap Solo Performance. On 2013’s M.O. tour, Nelly treated ticket buyers to his greatest hits, earning rave reviews for his upbeat stage presence and charismatic performances”

**Carly Pearce's** kind of Country transcends the moment. Fiercely rooted in the classics, the girl who left her Kentucky home and high school at 16 to take a job at Dollywood has grown into a woman who embraces the genre's forward progression and is confident in what she wants to say. Lighting a fire with her debut album [EVERY LITTLE THING](#), the PLATINUM-certified history making title track steered a chart-topping trifecta on SiriusXM's The Highway as "If My Name Was Whiskey" and "Hide The Wine" followed. A loyal advocate of Country music's legacy and future, it's no surprise an institution like the Grand Ole Opry has invited her for more than 75 performances since her debut while the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum® partnered on [Unbroken Circle: Exploring Country Music History with Carly Pearce](#), connecting the genre's eras. Adding slots on major tours with Blake Shelton, Rascal Flatts, Luke Bryan and Jason Aldean as well as Old Dominion, Carly has become "Country's 'it' girl" (*ABC Radio*). The down-to-earth female vocalist has quickly carved out her own highly honest, emotionally compelling place in a very Pop-Country world, evident on her [self-titled sophomore album](#). Now, navigating her music for the first time without longtime mentor busbee, who unexpectedly passed away, Carly turned to the comfort of records she's drawn inspiration from since her childhood dream started to take hold. Like those before who spoke their minds with a little sass and steel guitar – Dolly, The Chicks, Trisha, Reba, Patty Loveless – she's leaning on her own intuitions with new single "[Next Girl](#)," out now with a clever [new video](#) on Big Machine Records. Carly co-wrote the looking-out-for-your-sister track with Shane McAnally and Josh Osborne, who stepped in as new collaborators and producers. With the most CMA Awards nods for any new artist nominee in 2020, Carly led with *New Artist of the Year*, *Song of the Year*, *Video of the Year* and won *Musical Event of the Year* for her PLATINUM-certified, No. 1 duet with Lee Brice. The ABC broadcast performance of "I Hope You're Happy Now" with Charles Kelley of Lady A is also [out now](#). Carly penned the 321+ million-global-streaming track alongside Luke Combs, Jonathan Singleton and Randy Montana. The song was also featured on multiple *Billboard* year end charts – Hot Country Songs, Country Airplay Songs, Country Streaming Songs – while Carly was listed on Top Country Artists and her self-titled sophomore project landed in Top Country Albums.

**GRANGER SMITH:** Over the course of his groundbreaking career, Granger Smith has amassed a massive and rabid audience now known as "Yee Yee Nation" built through heavy touring and grassroots fan engagement. He now has a social media following of nearly 7 million and over a quarter of a BILLION online video views. Flagship artist on BBR Music Group's Wheelhouse Records, Smith broke onto the national scene with *Remington*, an album that garnered him the No. 1 smash "Backroad Song." Smith was also awarded a BMI Country Award for writing, producing, publishing and performing "Backroad Song" and followed it with the Top 5 hit, "If The Boot Fits." "Backroad Song" was one of the Top 10 Most Played country singles of 2016 according to Mediabase and has been certified RIAA PLATINUM. He was nominated as **Best New Country Artist for the 2017** iHeartRadio Awards and was included in the 2017 crop of artists honored during the CRS "New Faces" show. He released his current full-length album *When The Good Guys Win* on October 27, which has spawned the Top 15 hit "Happens Like That" and current fast-rising single "You're In It." Granger recently released his first-ever book *If You're City, If You're Country*, which immediately hit No. 1 on **Amazon best-selling lists** upon its pre-order announcement.

**Kolby Cooper** started selling out shows and clocking millions of streams using only his songs as muscle. Three years out of high school, still living in his East Texas hometown, no label or industry machine in place, Cooper earned Spotify numbers typically reserved for household names: After only one year online, "It Ain't Me" has almost hit 7 million streams, "Every Single Kiss" has topped 4.5 million, and "Fall" is hovering around 2.7 million. When Cooper releases the anticipated *Vol. 2* EP in the summer of 2020, his devoted listeners will dive into another round of his already-signature blend of searing break-up anthems and gut-wrenchingly relatable songs of loss and growth. Cooper's ragged velvet vocals are an ideal vehicle, which he layers over rock-and-roll guitar and distinctly Texas bottom-end. "I really want

them to hear it and hear what we hear,” Cooper says of the new songs. “It is the best stuff we’ve ever released.

**TRACE ADKINS:** Towering baritone Trace Adkins has sold more than 11 million albums and charted more than 20 singles in his 25 years in Nashville, a remarkable run for one of country music’s most easily identifiable stars. With over one billion spins on Pandora (10 million per month), one million followers on Spotify and nearly 200 million plays on YouTube, the Louisiana native has been back in the studio after releasing his 12th studio album, *Something’s Going On*, in 2017. His EP *Ain’t That Kind of Cowboy* released October 16, 2020 via Verge Records, featuring singles “Better Off,” “Mind On Fishin’” and “Just The Way We Do It.” A three-time GRAMMY Award nominee, Adkins has won three Academy of Country Music Awards, including the 2009 Single of the Year Award for “You’re Gonna Miss This” and Vocal Event of the Year with Blake Shelton for “Hillbilly Bone” in 2010. The Grand Ole Opry member is also an author and spokesman for the Wounded Warrior Project and The American Red Cross, for whom he raised more than \$1.5 million dollars as winner of NBC’s *All-Star Celebrity Apprentice*. In recent years, Adkins has performed for our service members across 12 USO Tours. In his 2007 autobiography, *A Personal Stand: Observations and Opinions from a Freethinking Roughneck*, Adkins recounted his rise to fame, brushes with death, and battles with personal demons. Adkins has also acted in multiple films and television shows, playing a tough-as-nails biker in “The Lincoln Lawyer” (starring Matthew McConaughey), a desperate father in “Deepwater Horizon” (starring Mark Wahlberg), a wise oracle of a tattoo artist in the family friendly film “Moms’ Night Out” (starring Patricia Heaton, Sean Astin, Sarah Drew), and as MercyMe’s real-life manager, Brickell, in the box office smash “I Can Only Imagine.” The film was the third biggest selling movie on its opening weekend in America. His latest role was as a grandiloquent former general in the film “Badland” which was released in select theaters and on Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV in November 2019.

**Parmalee:** 2016 ACM “New Vocal Duo/Group of the Year” nominee Parmalee is one of Country music’s most successful new acts: The Platinum-selling band of brothers is one of only four groups since 2001 to earn three consecutive Top 10 singles from a debut Country album. Since their debut at Country radio, Parmalee has earned over 373 million Pandora streams, 123 million plays on Spotify, over 31 million YouTube/ VEVO views, and 1.7 million Shazam subscribers. Heralded as “Country Music’s Breakout Stars” by *MSN Entertainment*, Parmalee has supported Brad Paisley and Jake Owen on national tours while finding time to perform on NBC’s *TODAY* show, *The Late Late Show*, *FOX & Friends All American Summer Concert Series*, *MLB Central’s Studio 21*, *The Queen Latifah Show* and more. Parmalee – comprised of brothers Matt and Scott Thomas (lead vocals/guitar and drums, respectively), cousin Barry Knox (bass) and life-long best friend Josh McSwain (guitar) – continue to show loyalty to their home state of North Carolina with the release “Down Town.” The band’s latest release “Just the Way”, is a collaboration with BBR Music Group’s Blanco Brown, the mastermind behind the international smash single ‘The Git Up’. Parmalee and Brown struck up a friendship several years ago and have since written together on several occasions. Knowing how dedicated Blanco is to spreading joy and purpose, Parmalee invited the “TrailerTrap” creator to join them on the song and share in spreading the message of self-love. The feel good, from-the-heart track, with it’s melodic groove, blends Matt Thomas’ lead vocals with Blanco’s, in a new way, never heard before. The new collaboration praises folks for being true to themselves and encourages self-acceptance.

**All shows are held in Anderson Arena with doors open at 6 p.m., opening acts at 7 p.m., and the headlining performance at 8 p.m.** All night shows are \$32.50 for general admission and \$37.50 for reserved seating. All concert tickets come with gate admission and can be purchased at [406StateFair.com](http://406StateFair.com). Additional information may be found at [406StateFair.com](http://406StateFair.com).

Big Sky Country State Fair is held Wednesday, July 21 through Sunday, July 25 in Bozeman, MT. The Fair opens to the public Wednesday, July 17. Check out [406StateFair.com](http://406StateFair.com) for continual updated information on entertainment, tickets, and competitions.

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*The Big Sky Country State Fair is managed by the Gallatin County Fairgrounds, under direction of Gallatin County. The first fair – called Inter-State Fair – was held in 1902 and morphed over the years to its function today. The Fair serves citizens of the Gallatin Valley and regional visitors from agricultural, urban, rural and tourist backgrounds. The much-loved Bozeman Roundup Ranch Rodeo celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2019.*