

"Troubadour" Sets A New Standard For Strait CDs

Each time a new George Strait CD arrives on the desk to be listened to, we do so with great excitement, but at the same time, that little thought in the back of the mind always asks the question, "How can this

CD live up to the one before it". The good news is that each CD has always managed to take that next leap to greatness. George Strait's new CD "Troubadour" has not only surpassed our expectations but may very well have raised the bar a couple of notches more than normal. It is simply the greatest George Strait CD we have ever heard and we have heard them all. We also realize that we are a little prejudiced toward his music but we are also usually guarded in our praise so as not to seem like cheerleaders. This CD is simply outstanding and the title says it

The first single from the CD, "I Saw God Today" was the highest debuting single of his career and, as

we write this, is moving near the top 10 in only three weeks. The song was written by Rodney Clawson, Monty Criswell and Wade Kirby. The amazing thing is that there are many other songs on the album

that are instant classics as well.

"Troubadour" is packed with 12 sensational songs produced by Strait and his long-time co-producer Tony Brown. In addition to Strait's incredible vocals, he has

George Strait
Troubadour

joined with one of the great female vocalists in country music history, Patty Loveless, on a magnificent rendering of the pulsating bluesy song "House of Cash" that was written by Monty Holmes and Leslie

Satcher.

Long time contributor Dean Dillon contributed his writing talents on a duet with Strait on the song "West Texas Town" that he wrote with Texas tunesmith Robert Earl

Keen.

The other songs on the album include "Troubadour" by Monty Holmes and Leslie Satcher, "It Was Me" by Buddy Cannon and Randy Hardison, "Brothers of the Highway" by Doug Johnson, Nicole Witt and Kim Williams, "River of Love" by Shawn Camp, Billy Burnette and Dennis Morgan, "Give Me More Time" by Dean Dillon, Scotty Emerick and Al Anderson, "When You're In Love" by Dean Dillon and Kerry Phillips, "Make Her Fall In Love With Me Song" by Leslie Satcher and Al Anderson, "House with No Doors" by Kacey Coppola, Kate Coppola and Jamey Johnson and "If Heartaches Were Horses" by Dean Dillon, Buddy

Brock and Will Nance.

"Troubadour" will be available on-line and in stores on April 1st and may be preordered through the George Strait Fan Club at www.georgestrait.com.

It's George Strait Team Roping Classic Time In Texas

The stalls have all been cleaned, the grounds spruced up, the new chutes checked and double checked, the buildings cleaned and touched up, the food and drink inventories ordered, the vendor booth space all sold, the sponsor agreements all in place and the US Tobacco scoreboard getting ready to be hung with care. In a few short days the security meetings will take place and all the final plans put into effect. Hours after that, the big diesel pickups and haulers pulling everything from single horse trailers to mansions on wheels will begin pulling into the San Antonio Rose Palace in San Antonio, Texas for America's premier Open Team Roping competition, the 26th Annual George Strait Team Classic.

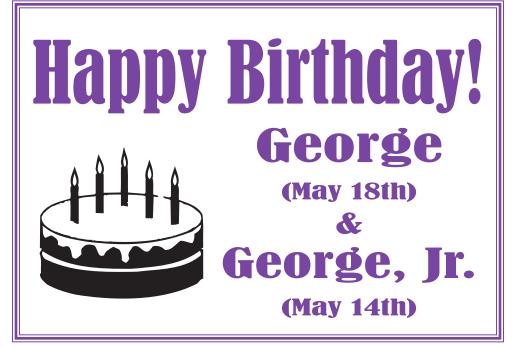
In 2007, 627 teams put up \$800 each to compete for more than \$500,000 in cash and prizes. In 2008, the entry fee of \$1000 per team will make the prize money even bigger. In addition to the prize money, Cavender Chevrolet of Boerne, Texas will provide the champion header and heeler each with a 2008 Chevy dually pickup truck to pull their Bruton Strait Extreme Three-Horse slant trailers home loaded with all that winning cash. Last years winners, Nick Johnson and Jhett Johnson, earned more than \$42,000 a piece.

Pre-registration for the 2008 Classic will take place from 5-10 pm on Monday and Tuesday, March 3rd and 4th between 5 and 10 pm. Ropers wishing to enter can pre-register by calling 210-698-9251. Roper payment and final registration will begin at 5 pm on Thursday, March 13th and all entry fees must be paid by 9 am on Friday, March 14th.

The GSTRC gets underway on Friday, March 14th at 10 am with 2 go-rounds that will determine the top 50 teams. The top 50 teams from Friday will compete on Saturday, March 15th for the championship

In addition to Cavender Chevrolet and Bruton Trailers, the event is also sponsored by Brake Check, Bill Millers BBQ, Hill Country/Kioti Tractors, H.E.B. Food Stores, Cactus Ropes, Wrangler, Justin Boots, Classic Ropes, Frost Bank, Tractor Supply, Gist Buckles and US Tobacco. Wayne Wright Lawyers sponsors the extremely popular Red Wrapped Steer challenge on Saturday that will give ropers the opportunity to earn up to \$10,000 each round if they win that round on one of the Red Wrapped Steers.





Simple Set Wows Audience

By Stacy D. Johnson The Oklahoman

Country music icon George Strait knows how to wow an audience. Amazingly, he can simply stand on a stage, point at a crowd and receive a deafening standing ovation.

Luckily for a capacity crowd at the Ford Center on Friday night, Strait also belted out his songs that have become country classics.

Sarah Johns, a country music newcomer, opened Strait's show with a feisty set of songs from her recent release.

She was followed by the talented group, Little Big Town. The amazing voices of the quartet blended so smoothly in harmony that it appeared to be seamless on each song, beginning with their newest hit, "I'm With The Band."

The show featured a large square stage in the middle of the arena. During their set, band members moved separately to each side, playing to fans who were excited to hear "Bring It On Home" and other songs from their acclaimed albums that helped usher in a fresh sound in country music.

The eagerly anticipated "Boondocks" closed their performance in perfect sync. The overwhelming crowd response was well-deserved and a sure sign that larger things are to come for Little Big Town.

Strait entered the arena to one of many standing ovations as he was welcomed by a crowd of all ages armed with cameras and cell phones. He immediately started singing, picking through several of his hit songs, including "The Fireman" and "Check Yes or No," before greeting the adoring crowd.

"We got a lot of songs to play for you tonight. Hopefully, they'll be some of your favorites," he said to the loud, still-standing crowd.

True to his word, Strait and his Ace in the Hole Band entertained almost non-stop, serenading the audience with his popular swing hits and classic ballads from "Carrying Your Love With Me" and "Cowboys Like Us" to "Ocean Front Property."

He also treated the audience to some of his favorites, including the jazz-tinged "The

Seashores of Old Mexico" and "Amarillo By Morning," which fans happily sang along with him.

Strait wore his standard black cowboy hat, jeans, white shirt and cowboy boots. The show was equally simple - just the man and his music as he moved from microphone to microphone in each corner of the stage.

With more than 30 albums to his credit, there was no lack of material. Strait performed more than 20 songs, mesmerizing the audience with hits such as "Give It Away" and "Write This Down."

It was a perfect night for all loyal subjects in the King of Country Music's empire.

Strait Mixes Old & New, Delivers The Hits, During Tour Kickoff

By Clint Hale - San Antonio Express-News AUSTIN - A microphone stood at each of the four corners of the stage, thus providing the opportunity for George Strait to sing to everyone in the crowd at different points throughout his mammoth, hit-saturated set on Thursday night. Every two songs, Strait - the country icon who calls San Antonio home - would switch corners and play to a different sector of fans.

Need proof to just how thick Strait's country catalogue truly is?

By the time he concluded his 110-minute set, Strait had notched almost four full laps around his "in the round," center-based stage.

In kicking off his latest nationwide tour, one that will only make two Texas stops, Strait delivered a hit-filled set, mixing in a few obscure tunes along the way, before a capacity - and rather age diversified - crowd at the Frank Erwin Center.

Among the 29 (yes, 29) tracks featured dur-

ing Strait's rousing set were old favorites like "The Chair," "Ocean Front Property," "Heartland" and two backup vocalists, also managed to mix in more recent singles like "Wrapped," "I Hate Everything" and "Cowboys Like Us."

Strait, as subdued a musical legend as there is, kept in line with his simple ways, thanking the crowd, cracking a few jokes and introducing his Ace in the Hole band members. Of course, just because he eschews pyrotechnics and theatrics doesn't mean Strait isn't among the greatest entertainers of his generation.

At 55 years old, when most men his age are cruising towards retirement, Strait showcased his trademark twangy, honky tonk-flavored voice that resonates just as much now as it ever did. And it didn't hurt that as part of his three-song encore, he covered Johnny Cash' legendary "Folsom Prison Blues," which played well to fans young and old.

Fan Collectable Column

- Texas Monthly. January 2008 issue. Article on page 25.
 "January. In the charts by Jordan Breal/George Strait, Straight Strait."
- The Tuscaloosa News. January 8, 2008. Front page Headlines. "George Strait Coming to BJCC, Birmingham, AL." Tuscaloosa, AL.
- The Oklahoman. January 2, 2008. P. 1A and 10A. Written by Bryon Painter. "A New Yeaer provides a Chance to Look Ahead." Oklahoma City, OK.
- Spin to Win Rodeo. January 2008. P. 6 full page ad for Impact Gel, p. 16 mentioned in story "US Open Winners."
- Bona Fide Country Newspaper. January 2008. Portland Metro / SW Washington Edition, The Country Music Chronicle. Pp. 10-11 mentioned in story "Mel Tillis, Newest Member of the Grand Ole Opry" and "Pam Tillis, uniquely her own."
 Portland, OR.
- "Best Kept Secrets" by Sandra Brown. 2007. New York, NY p. 132 mentioned in story.
- Funcoast.com Magazine. January 9, 2008. P. 10 "Have You Heard," story with photo.
- "Heaven, Texas" Novel by Susan Elizabeth Phillips -Publishers - Piatkus p. 185 mentioned in novel.

- The Oklahoman. January 14, 2008. P. 2 Review from the concert at Ford Center on 1-11-08 in Oklahoma City, OK.
 Photo insert. Oklahoma City, OK.
- Country Weekly. January 28, 2008. Nashville, TN. Front
 Cover Picture and mentioned on front page with lots of fun
 things inside, p. 12 photos and info with George's name, p.
 13 photos and information, pp. 34-42 story and packed full of
 photos, p. 58 mentioned in "Jamie McMurrays Favorites," p.
 68 Singles and Albums.
- St. Petersburg Times. January 20, 2008. P. 2B Review with photo "As Strait As Day Is Long." St. Petersburg, FL.
- St. Petersburg Times. January 17, 2008. (Tampabay.com).
 Entertainment, on-line edition by Sean Daily. "Country King's Success Just Comes Naturally."
- Austin American Statesman. Life and Arts section p. 1F continued on page F3 (Review) with 3 photos by John T. Davis. Austin, TX.
- Baltimore Examiner. The List Section. P. 23 photo with story about ticket sales.
- Las Vegas Magazine. 2/8/08. Photo with story p. 40. Las Vegas, NV.

The following George Strait Fan Club Members submitted to the Collectable Column...

And We Thank You!

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		Signature On Left Chest, G.S. Logo On Sleeve And Large G.S. Logo A	nd	\/\/\/\	
		Hat On Back)		XXL \$95	.00
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	921 922	CARRYING YOUR LOVE WITH ME	\$16		
	923	ONE STEP AT A TIME	\$16		
	924	ALWAYS NEVER THE SAME			
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STREET A	DDRESS: _		SHIPPING CHARGES <u>DO NOT</u> APPLY TO MEMBERSHIPS!	SHIPPING	CHARGE
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E-MAIL:		PHONE: ()	Double Shipping Charges for Foreign Deliveries.		
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🎜 Anita's Notes 🎙

Welcome to the spring issue of Strait Talk. This is my favorite time of the year. It's a beginning of a fresh new tour, Team Roping, a new CD, and hopefully, a few awards.

George and the Ace in the Hole Band launched their 2008 tour in Austin, TX the second weekend of January. What a great beginning. We decided to take a little road trip on January 17th to Birmingham to see George. As I sat in Birmingham's Jefferson Civic Center watching him interact with the fans, it all came back to me. After all these years, he's still got it... but even more now and the fans truly enjoy his music. It was really a thrill to experience the evening. Adding to the excitement was the fact that Kenny Chesney, who stopped by to see the show, joined George on stage for one song. As would be expected, the crowd went wild.

The following day, we traveled to Duluth, GA for another show. What a beautiful city! Everyone there was so kind and helpful. Our hats are off to them for their hospitality. The show was super and the fact that our family and fan club staff were there made it even more special. We had a most memorable evening with George, Little Big Town and Sarah Johns. I really understand when fans call in and write us about their great experiences.

A week after our trip, George came down with Cedar Fever and had to reschedule his Jacksonville, Columbia, and Baltimore shows. Please check on the back of this issue of Strait Talk for the new dates. Please remember that all tickets for the original shows will be honored for the rescheduled shows. With a restful week

George and his crew were back on the road heading to the west coast. I didn't make it to California, but landed in Las Vegas for Super Bowl weekend. Las Vegas is a fun city and we thoroughly enjoy going there. It was nice to see a number of fan club members who had traveled there for the show. The show was super and we were treated to George performing his new single "I Saw God Today" for the first time Live. You could hear a pin drop. It was so quiet and the crowd went wild at the end. WOW! True Enjoyment! Well, this will have to last me for a while, but for those of you who are traveling on - Have a blast!!

The next trip will be out to San Antonio, TX on March 14th and 15th for the SOLD OUT 26th Annual GSTRC. This is a totally different atmosphere. No Lights... just a lot of cameras flashing on George and his horse. It is so much fun to watch with the world's best Team Ropers competing for more than \$500,000 in cash and prizes. Good luck to George and Bubba as they try again for the elusive title.

On April 1st of 2008, George will release his new CD "Troubadour." With his new single, "I Saw God Today" already playing on virtually every country radio station in America and spiraling up the chart rapidly, this CD is set to explode out of the box. You have heard me say before - This is George's best CD - but, I believe this one truly is. For those of you who have trouble finding the CD near where you live, you will be able to pre-order the CD on our website in the near future at www.georgestrait.com.

Remember, if we use any of your

reviews, photos, or games that you send to us, you will receive \$5 in Strait Cash, a collector's card and your Strait Talk by first class mail. Strait Cash is good to use for purchasing merchandise from our Fan Club General Store or for fan club renewals. Strait Cash is not good to purchase merchandise at any of the tour concerts. As we mentioned in the last issue, we no longer have our toll free 800 number as the vast majority of our orders are now placed on the web. If, for some reason, you do not want to place a web order, you may still call the fan club office Monday - Friday from 8:30 am to 3:00 PM at 615-824-7176 and your order will be taken there. We still take orders by mail using the catalog order form in the newsletter. You may pay for mail orders by Credit Card, Check or Money Order.

We have a winner for the George Strait Collectable column section and it is Dee Walker of Tuscaloosa, AL.

Congratulations! She is our March, April, May winner. You can win just like Dee by submitting reviews, photos, magazine and newspaper stories and other collectable items for publication in the newsletter.

Are you moving? Have you changed your email address? Please call us or drop us a note if you have or plan to. Remember, your Strait Talk is shipped by a bulk mail process and will not be forwarded by the post office.

Thanks for corresponding with us at the GSFC office. We hope to see you at the 26th Annual George Strait Team Roping Classic. Till we meet again, keep it Strait. In closing, we ask that you all keep our servicemen and women in your prayers.



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(NEW HOURS: MONDAY-FRIDAY 8:30 AM - 3:00 PM CENTRAL TIME)



GRORGE STRAIT INTERACTOR INTERACT

DATE	CITY	VENUE	ON SALE
4/4	Baltimore, MD	1st Mariner Arena	On Sale
4/5	Columbia, SD	Colonial Center	On Sale
4/6	Jacksonville, FL	Veterans Memorial Col.	On Sale

^{*} Please check the George Strait website at www.georgestrait.com for additional information and on-sale dates.