



FLORENCE CITY-COUNTY CIVIC CENTER

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Two-Time 2004 CMA Award Nominee, Josh Turner Comes Home to Florence

Florence, SC. Sept. 22 – Josh Turner, one of country music's brightest new stars and a native of Hannah, SC, will be performing a special "Hometown Country Concert" at the Florence Civic Center Wednesday, October 27 at 7:30 pm. Special guest Billy Dean, "Billy The Kid," will join Turner when he brings his "Long Black Train" performance and latest songs, like "Only Here For A Little While" to the Florence audience.

Turner is nominated for two CMA awards: the Horizon Award for best new artist and Song of the Year for "Long Black Train." The song has also received a nomination for Outstanding Country Gospel Song of the Year for the 2004 Christian Country Music Awards.

A special part of the extravaganza event will be a "Meet the Pride" night, when prior to the concert, members of the Pee Dee Pride hockey team will be on the arena concourse to meet fans and sign autographs. The first 500 fans purchasing tickets to the concert will receive a free ticket to the Pride's preseason game on October 16 when they meet South Carolina.

A long way from Florence County, Josh Turner arrived in Nashville bringing with him his deep, mellow voice – and his music. After hearing Josh sing only two songs, MCA signed him in November of 2001. Along with Mark Wright (Gary Allan and Lee Ann Womack), noted producer Frank Rogers (Brad Paisley and Darryl Worley) co-produced Josh's debut album, "Long Black Train."

The title track "Long Black Train" is Josh's hit single – a traditional sounding country gospel – yes, gospel – song that would make Hank Williams proud. In fact, Luke the Drifter was the song's inspiration. Josh wrote the tune while still a student at Nashville's Belmont University, after listening to the entire Hank Sr. box set in the school's library.

"As I was walking home I noticed there was something unusually dark about that night", says Josh. "All of a sudden, I got this vision of a wide open space, out on the plains. There was a train running out in the middle of nowhere, and people were standing beside the tracks, just watching it go by."

"I was thinking, 'What does this mean? It dawned on me that the train was a physical metaphor for temptation. These people were standing there, deciding whether or not to get on it. That stuck with me. I was going through a tough time in my life at that time, and temptation was a subject that I knew a lot about. When I got home, I sat down on my bed with my guitar, and it just started pouring out of me."

(more)



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Josh, a strong Christian, knew he had something special – but never thought "Long Black Train" would become his first signature song. "This song is odd," he admits. "It's old-timey" - it sounds like 1940's gospel music. But I started playing it for people and they went crazy over it. It blew my mind. That song has opened so many doors for me. I'm glad it's the first track on the album, because it expresses my country upbringing and my Christian heritage."

"This concert was designed with the "hometown fans" in mind," said Kendall Wall, Civic Center General Manager. "Country music radio station WHEELZ, 100.5 and Pepsi are two of our major sponsors."

Tickets for the Josh Turner & Billy Dean Hometown Country Concert go on sale at 10:00 am, Saturday, September 25. Tickets may be purchased at the Florence Civic Center Box Office and the FYE Music Store in Magnolia Mall, or by calling Ticketmaster at 843-679-9333 and on line at www.ticketmaster.com

For additional information log on to the Florence Civic Center's web site at www.florenceciviccenter.com.
For more on Josh Turner go to joshturner.com

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Photo Attachment: Josh Turner

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