



GENE WATSON

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN COUNTRY MUSIC



BRANSON BACKSTAGE
 Pictured Left:
 It was a night of surprises for Gene and Moe in Branson! First, Rhonda Vincent stopped by to visit and sing a few songs with Gene, then Country Music Hall of Famer, Mel Tillis, dropped by to say hello! Shown here left to right: Gene Watson, Moe Bandy, Rhonda Vincent and Mel Tillis

Message From Gene:

Dear Friends, We've been enjoying some great shows the past few months and appreciate all your nice emails. We had a lot of fun in Branson and it was great to see so many of you out there. It's just hard for me to believe summer is over - although in Houston it still FEELS like summer. I think I need to book a couple of shows in Alaska next summer. The weatherman said 2012 was the hottest summer EVER for the U.S. I believe it. July was the hottest month on record and if you saw me at an outside show in July, you already know that's a fact. I could have fried an egg on my face.

But we sure do have fun at the shows and we're so glad you come and enjoy the heat with us.

So what's next...going to be at the Red River Valley Fair September 25th and then we are planning to get in the studio soon to work on a new Gospel album. I'm taping a new Country Family Reunion show in October. We'll let you know when we find out an air date.

Stay in touch and come out to see us at a show! Until then, I wish you all the best,

Gene



Photo Above: **THREE AMIGOS**
 Larry Black of Larry's Country Diner and Country Family Reunion was the perfect host for the Moe Bandy & Gene Watson shows in Branson. Shown here sharing a laugh are left to right: Gene, Larry, Moe

Photo Right:

Gene and Rhonda are photographed just before stepping onstage at the August 18, 2012 Bluegrass Festival in Marion, NC. Over 3,000 fans were on hand to cheer for their favorite singing duo.



Photo Below:

Thursday, September 6th: Presleys' Country Jubilee cast snapped this photo with Rhonda Vincent and Gene Watson.

PRESLEY TV SHOW CAST



Gene and Rhonda taped the Presleys' Country Jubilee TV show while in Branson. Did you know the Presley Family built Branson's original show on the main strip which has been going strong for over 40 years. Keep an eye on the Saturday night RFD-TV schedule for this show's air date.



**SPOTLIGHT ON
PRODUCER, DIRK
JOHNSON:**

Where did you grow up? : In Hiltons, VA (about 1 mile from the Carter Family homeplace)

How did you start in the music business? : At 13 I won a talent contest with my band... (I actually won it playing and singing FAREWELL PARTY... I don't think I've ever admitted that to Gene!) I won a recording session at a local studio. As a result, I started working there playing on all of their sessions. Engineering, producing, etc.. I was hooked on studio work.

Tell us more about your music history: When I was 16, I graduated high school in my Junior (3rd) year and moved to Nashville to take a job with The Hinsons (a popular Southern Gospel group). I worked with them throughout the rest of their career, playing on and producing their records. I left to tour with TG Sheppard for about a year. Then, as a part of Bill Anderson's touring/recording band "the Po' Folks", I was offered a staff position on two television shows on TNN. I performed on *You Can Be A Star*, *Play It Again Nashville* and *The Charlie Daniels Talent Roundup* for over a period of 10-12 years on TNN. In 1997, I was part of the very first of the *Country Family Reunion* TV series now seen on RFD-TV Network and I have been honored to be a part of every one since then.

Today I own and operate my own studio/production company, DirkWorks.

Who have you produced , recorded with and been on tour with? In one of my first recording sessions in Nashville, I played piano on two #1 records on the very same day. I was barely 17. The records were with The Hinsons, who I toured with and later

produced. I've recorded with, and/or produced folks like Dolly Parton, Trace Adkins, Alison Krauss, Alan Jackson (on the grammy winning *Don't Rock The Jukebox* album), Mark Wills, Clay Walker, Keith Whitley, B.J. Thomas, Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Bros, John Conlee, Daryle Singletary, Connie Smith, Ricky Skaggs, Rhonda Vincent, Clinton Gregory, The Whites, Charlie McCoy, and others.....

Name your Top Five Gene Watson songs :

I will humbly claim USE ME AGAIN as my "favorite" Gene record. It's one of the first I produced on him with my friend, Alison Krauss, harmonizing and my wife , Gail, doing some beautiful strings. Another favorite is an album track, OLD LOVES NEVER DIE and AFTER THE PARTY(two of the first songs I recorded with Gene), COULDN'T LOVE HAVE PICKED A BETTER PLACE TO DIE and MIRRORS DON'T LIE and of course, FOURTEEN CARAT MIND. (whoops... that's 6! it's hard to stop!)

When and where did you first meet Gene Watson? I first met Gene on the set of *PLAY IT AGAIN NASHVILLE*. I was 20 and was playing FOURTEEN CARAT MIND with him for the show. (See youtube.com/dirkworks2 . Pretty cool to have video of that day!) That's a difficult piano part at best and he came over and introduced himself and commented on my playing.

What instruments do you play? Piano and all Keyboard instruments

Who are some of your musical influences? My singing heroes are Gene Watson and the late, Kenny Hinson. My country piano hero is Hargus

"Pig" Robbins. In other music I like Donald Fagen, Michael Omartian and David Foster as a keyboardist and producer.

If you were not in the music business, what might you be doing? Probably something not very well! Actually, I probably would have been a psychologist.

Other than Gene's music, can you name a couple of your all time favorite songs? STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED by Ronnie Milsap (an awesome "Pig" Robbins intro) and RIKKI DON'T LOSE THAT NUMBER by Steely Dan (a Donald Fagen classic w/"Omar" on piano.





Photo Left: HANGING with MICKEY GILLEY

Gene and Rhonda taped TWO shows for Mickey Gilley's Cafe program. These shows will air on the new MAV TV which serves over 130 Dish cable stations. On September 15th, Gene and Mickey will share the stage at the Oil Palace in Tyler, TX.

GENE'S TOUR DATES

- Sept. 15 Oil Palace, Tyler, TX
- Sept. 22 NE AR District Fair, Jonesboro, AR
- Sept. 25 Red River Valley Fair, Paris, TX
- Sept. 27 Boot City Opry, Terre Haute, IN
- Sept. 28 Renfro Valley Ent. Center, Renfro Valley, KY
- Sept. 29 Kentucky Opry, Benton, KY
- Oct. 5 Garner PAC, Garner, NC
- Oct. 6 Tar Heel Variety Theatre, Chocowinity, NC
- Oct. 12 Gilley's Choctaw Casino, Durant, OK
- Oct. 19 Diamond B Auction Barn, W. Monroe, LA
- Oct. 20 Wind Festival, Roscoe, TX
- Nov. 24 Tin Hall, Cypress, TX
- Dec. 1 The Stagecoach, Ft. Worth, Tx
- Dec. 15 Sugarcreek Casino, Hinton OK
- 2013**
- Feb. 16 Lenoir Community College, Kinston, NC
- Mar. 1 Strawberry Festival, PLant City, FL
- Apr. 12 Farmer's Opry. Pace, FL
- Apr. 13 Orange Blossom Opry, Weirsdale, FL

TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER

Congratulations to Stefan of Sri Lanka for correctly answering the question: In the song "One Sided Conversation", Gene sings about A Narrow Minded Wall.

For your chance to win an autographed Gene Watson Tee shirt, be sure you are signed up for the FREE newsletter at www.GeneWatsonMusic.com because ONLY members receive the trivia question!



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Photo Below:

Gene and Rhonda performed to sell out crowds at the Auction Barn Jamboree in Colborne, Ontario, Canada September 28 and 29. Fans lined up around the building for the highly anticipated show. Shown here: Rhonda and Gene singing their fabulous duet "Gone for Good" from their album Your Money And My Good Looks.

Check Out Gene's Newest Music
"Best of The Best, 25 Greatest Hits"

Get it here:

<http://genewatson.ras.bustores.com/gene-watson-25-greatest-hits.html>



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