

# GENE WATSON FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends –

What can I say- one of my biggest dreams has come true! To say I was shocked when Vince Gill invited me to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry is an understatement. It honestly took my breath away. I'm sure if you've viewed the video of that moment, you can see the surprise on my face. I can't say thank you enough to the Opry for giving me this opportunity but I also want to thank my amazing fans because I know you have submitted petitions and emails on my behalf and I believe those efforts were a part of the Opry's decision.

The invitation to join was given January 17th and the actual induction ceremony took place February 7th. There are so many photos from those nights that the entire newsletter is devoted to these special events and I hope you enjoy them. Thank you for all of your support over the years!



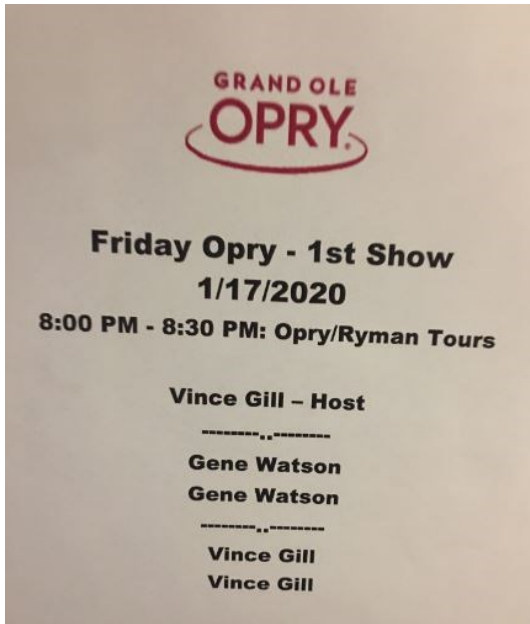
Here are just some of the Opry members who came to celebrate Gene's biggest night:

L – R: Darrin Vincent, Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent); Steve Wariner; Jeannie Seely; Gene Watson; Ricky Skaggs



Note: All photos are courtesy of the Opry, Chris Hollo or Derek Kuppish.

# January 17, 2020 - Gene Watson Is Invited To Be A Member Of The Grand Ole Opry by Vince Gill



Actual set list posted backstage (no mention of the surprise coming!)



Grand Ole Opry star, Vince Gill, tells Gene he'd like to give up one of his songs due to his cold. When the unsuspecting Gene agrees, Vince tells him if he will sing "Farewell Party", he will invite him to be a member of the Grand Ole Opry. At that, the audience erupted in thunderous applause and a standing ovation. Gene later commented that it "sounded like a bomb had gone off!"

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Alan Jackson (right) and Gene share equal praise of the other. Alan has even recorded two of Gene's hits including "Farewell Party."



One of Gene's favorite singers and a good friend, Connie Smith welcomes Gene to the Opry.



The three conspirators of the big surprise: Opry's Chief Executive, Dan Rogers, Gene, Opry Executive Talent Director, Gina Keltner and Opry star, Vince Gill visit with Gene backstage after the invitation.



A sample of the induction invitation sent to the press for Gene's formal ceremony night.

# February 7, 2020—Gene Watson Inducted As A Member Of The Grand Ole Opry by Steve Warnier

Opry member, Steve Warnier, formally inducted Gene into the Opry family and presented him with the special Opry microphone statue.



The Farewell Party band and bus driver join the newest member of the Opry for the cake cutting ceremony .



The Opry presented these special items to Gene for his induction night. The Hatch Show Print has a silver metallic coating to represent Gene's love of cars.



Connie Smith was not on the Opry show but came just to welcome Gene. Here, she and Steve Warnier (right) take a look at the cake before Gene slices the first piece.



The Mayor of Music Row, Charlie Monk, former Opryland exec and friend, Ed Stone, Gene, and Opry chief, Dan Rogers all congratulate Gene as the newest Opry member.

# February 7, 2020—Gene Watson Inducted As A Member Of The Grand Ole Opry by Steve Warnier



Jamie Dailey (Dailey & Vincent) came on his night off just to welcome Gene to the Opry.



Cake Cutting: Gina Keltner (left) and Dan Rogers (right) are on hand to assist Gene with the ceremonial cake cutting.



Special friends greet Gene in his dressing room: The Diner's Sheriff, Jimmy Capps and Diner vocalist, Michele Capps.



Young country stars Maddie Marlow (Left) and Tae Dye of the duo Maddie and Tae congratulate Gene on his big honor.



Just off the stage himself, John Conlee stops to welcome Gene as a member along with Steve Warnier and Mandy Barnett.



Hall & Oates member, John Oates, was on hand to witness the special induction ceremony and congratulated Gene backstage.

## 2020 Tour Schedule

February 27th	Rodgers Theater	Poplar Bluff, Missouri
February 29th	AmeriStar Casino	Kansas City, Missouri
March 13th	Rainwater Conference Center	Valdosta, Georgia
March 14th	Theater Dublin	Dublin, Georgia
March 20th	Dothan Opera House	Dothan, Alabama
March 21st	The Nashville Palace	Nashville, Tennessee
March 27th	Heart Of Texas Music Festival	Brady, Texas
March 28th	Music City Texas Theater	Linden, Texas
April 4th	Windstone Entertainment Center	Jefferson City, Missouri
April 7th	Grand Ole Opry	Nashville, Tennessee
April 8th	CabaRay	Nashville, Tennessee
April 17th	Edna Boykin Cultural Center	Wilson, North Carolina
April 18th	Red Barn Convention Center	Winchester, Ohio
April 19th	Walhalla Civic Auditorium	Walhalla, South Carolina
April 25th	Margaritaville Casino	Bossier City, Louisiana
April 26th	Melba Theater	Batesville, Arkansas
April 30th	Palace Theater	Crossville, Tennessee
May 1st	Little Roy & Lizzy Festival	Lincolnton, Georgia
May 2nd	Liberty Showcase Theater	Liberty, North Carolina
May 3rd	Social Circle Theater	Social Circle, Georgia
May 8th	Blue Gate Performing Arts Center	Shipshewana, Indiana
May 9th	Renfro Valley Entertainment Center	Renfro Valley, Kentucky
May 16th & 17th	Old Dominion Barn Dance	Hopewell, Virginia
May 21st	Arena Theater	Houston, Texas
May 22nd	WinStar World Casino & Resort	Thackerville, Oklahoma
May 23rd	Riverwind Casino	Norman, Oklahoma

## 2020 Tour Schedule - continued

May 29th	Country Tonite Theater	Pigeon Forge, Tennessee
May 30th	Anderson Music Theater	Hiawassee, Georgia
May 31st	Newberry Opera House	Newberry, South Carolina
June 5th	Hank Williams, Sr. Festival	Georgiana, Alabama
June 13th	Old Town Theater	Huntsville, Texas
June 18th—20th	Cactus Pete's Casino	Jackpot, Nevada
June 26th	Harvester Performance Center	Rocky Mt., Virginia
June 27th	The Park Theater	McMinnville, Tennessee
July 12th	American Music Theater	Lancaster, Pennsylvania
July 18th	IP Casino Resort & Spa	Biloxi, Mississippi
July 31st	The Paramount	Abilene, Texas
August 1st	Greenville Municipal Auditorium	Greenville, Texas
August 7th	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
August 8th	Arlington Music Theater	Arlington, Texas
August 14th	Wild Rose Casino	Emmetsburg, Iowa
August 21st	Capitol Theater	Bowling Green Kentucky
August 29th	The Coyote Store	Gail, Texas
September 12th	Smokey Mountain Performing Arts Center	Franklin, North Carolina
September 19th	Hardy Murphy Coliseum	Ardmore, Oklahoma
September 26th	Sugar Creek Casino	Hinton, Oklahoma
October 3rd	Old Mill Music Hall	Bremen, Georgia
October 8th	Clay Cooper Theater w/Larry's Country Diner	Branson, Missouri
October 11th	Renfro Valley Entertainment Center	Renfro Valley, Kentucky
October 16th & 17th	Kentucky Opry	Benton, Kentucky
October 23rd	The Mansion Theater	Branson, Missouri
October 25th	54 Country	Fulton, Missouri
November 6th	Marion Cultural & Civic Center	Marion, Illinois
November 7th	The Mansion Theater	Branson, Missouri

# TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Perry Cooper, who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: The question : Finish the lyrics to "You're Out Doing...". The answer: "What I'm Here Doing Without". For your chance to win an autographed tee shirt, just answer the trivia question sent to Fan Club Members only and send the correct answer to: [GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com](mailto:GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com).

If you are reading this and not a registered member of Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at [www.GeneWatsonMusic.com](http://www.GeneWatsonMusic.com). Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!



## BATTLE ARTIST AGENCY

To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact:

Rob Battle at Battle Artist Agency at

1-615-368-7433 or by email at: [RBattleArtistAgent@United.net](mailto:RBattleArtistAgent@United.net)

# Adkins Publicity

1618 16th Avenue South  
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