

GENE WATSON



HANGING OUT AT THE OPRY

Left: Gene enjoyed visiting backstage at the Grand Ole Opry with the legendary Mel Tillis when both Gene and Mel were there for a Classic Country Opry show in May .



THERE GOES MY EVERYTHING

Left: Jack Greene scored a # 1 hit with the song “There Goes My Everything”, a song that remained at #1 for seven weeks in 1966. Jack’s nickname is “the Jolly Green Giant” which you can see is appropriate for the tall man. Shown here, Jack and Gene snapped this photo backstage at the Opry.

GENE’S SING-A-LONG IN THE STUDIO

It was a dream come true for some Nashville insiders who were invited to come out and sing with Gene on his new album! The group added their vocals to the end of a special song that also features Trace Adkins. The song, “We’ve Got A Pulse” is co-written by Jerry Salley and Billy Yates.

Back Row: Mardi Haberer, Neva Pearson, Cyndi Pearson, Dale Dodson, Cyndi Forman
Front Row: Joanie Keller Johnson, Jimmy Melton, Billy Yates ,Gene, Clint Daniels



Living legends gathered to salute iconic songwriter Hank Cochran Monday, June 15 at BMI's Music Row offices in Nashville, TN. **Merle Haggard, Bobby Bare, Dean Dillon, Jamey Johnson, Lee Ann Womack, Gene Watson, Red Lane, and Whitey Shafer** took turns delivering acoustic versions of Hank Cochran classics, while guests including **Elvis Costello, Cowboy Jack Clement, Jeannie Seely, Dallas Frazier, Scotty Emerick, Shawn Camp, Jim Lauderdale** and others listened intently. **Willie Nelson** couldn't be at the reception, but he called and jovially addressed Cochran and the crowd via speaker phone. Gene wowed the crowd singing "A Way To Survive."



Above: Gene chats with Teresa Haggard, Merle Haggard and honoree, Hank Cochran at the BMI party June 15 in Nashville.. Gene has recorded many of Hank's songs and has included one on the upcoming album.



LEFT: Gene enjoyed talking to Jamey Johnson at the Hank Cochran party. Jamey's album *In Color* has sold over 500,000 copies and he's enjoying great success with his traditional sound. Besides his own hits, Jamey also co-wrote the #1 George Strait song "Give It Away" which was this year's CMA Song of the Year.

THREE AMIGOS

Right: At the June 15th party for Hank Cochran, Gene enjoyed visiting with Patsy Cline's husband, Charlie Dick, and Opry favorite, Jeannie Seely.





Left: This photo of Gene and fan, Margaret Brown, of Glasgow, Scotland was taken in Ireland in 2004.

Margaret is known as “Oprylady” to those on the CMT board.

Here’s Margaret’s personal message to Gene:
Thank you for all the pleasure you’ve given to fans over the years. It has been delightful meeting you and the Farewell Party Band. Everyone in the band is so friendly. You have many fans in Scotland so please come to Glasgow!

Fan Spotlight on Margaret Brown of Glasgow , Scotland

Q: Tell us about your home town and your family

A: I live in Glasgow, Scotland - where I have lived all my life. It’s a very friendly place that sits on the banks of the River Clyde. We also have our own Glasgow’s Grand Ole Opry. I’ve been happily married 48 years to my husband Joe. We have two sons and a granddaughter.

Q: What is your occupation?

A: Retired now – but I used to work in a factory that made umbrellas. Later on, I worked in a butcher’s shop as shop assistant.

Q: Do you have any special hobbies?

A: Listening to country music and attending concerts. I enjoy travelling to different parts of the world, especially the USA, to enjoy the music. I also enjoy attending college for further education. I love my computer and IT classes.

Q: When was the first time you heard Gene Watson?

A: I saw his LP in the library and liked his picture, so I took the album home to listen to it. The album was “Because You Believe In Me”. I have since purchased every recording that I know of, up to the present day.

Q: Where was your first Gene concert?

A: 1986 in London at the Wembley Festival. On that same night, Gene had a late show at the Mean Fiddler club and that’s where I first met Gene. We had a chat and he signed one of my albums. In 1989, my husband, Joe, and I traveled to Branson, MO to see Gene at two shows at the Lowe’s Theater. We were delighted when Gene toured Ireland in 2004. We saw him there at a hotel in Gorey. We have since been back to Ireland to see Gene in 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Q: What’s your favorite Gene Watson song?

A: This is really very difficult to answer as there are so many I could mention!!

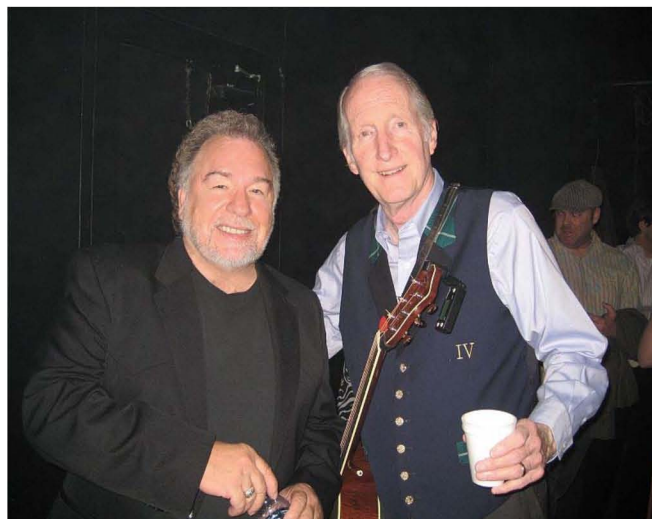
Because You Believe In Me, The Great Divide, Between This Time and The Next Time, Through The Eyes of Love, Old Loves Never Die, If I’m A Fool For Leaving, Love In The Hot Afternoon and Farewell Party

Q: Do you have a favorite Gene Watson album?

A: Again, it’s difficult to choose but I really like “Between This Time and The Next Time”, “Back In The Fire” and “Paper Rosie”

GEORGE HAMILTON IV

Left: George Hamilton IV's first hit was for the pop charts "A Rose And A Baby Ruth" but he really wanted to be a country star and he certainly became that with his big hit in 1963, "Abilene". Pictured here, Gene and George take a moment to chat backstage at a Classic Country Opry show.



EVERYONE LOVES GENE

Left: Add to that, everyone loves Ms. Rhonda Vincent! Rhonda is not only one of the most talented vocalists of our day, she's also one of the nicest. While signing autographs after her own show, a fan came up and told her that her two favorite artists were Rhonda Vincent and Gene Watson! So the creative Rhonda said "Let's make a sign and take a photo for Gene!". Fans of both Gene and Rhonda will be pleased to know the two recorded another beautiful duet which you'll soon hear on Gene's upcoming album.

For more on Rhonda Vincent, check her website www.nemr.net/~rhondav/



OPRY COUNTRY CLASSICS CRUISE SAILS JAN. 24, 2010

GENE WATSON FANS are in for a treat when the Opry Country Classics Cruise sails the Caribbean Jan. 24 - 31, 2010. Gene is set to entertain during the cruise alongside Opry stars Larry Gatlin, Jim Ed Brown and Jeannie Seely plus special guest Chuck Mead.

Fans of the classics will experience private shows by the artists performing their own hits in addition to all-time country favorites throughout the week. Additional musical fun onboard will include classic country karaoke with celebrity guests, screenings of classic country television performances, and an exclusive cocktail party with fellow Opry Country Classics Cruise passengers. A full casino, deck activities, dancing, first-run movies, and gourmet dining also are included. All meals aboard the ship, including a special "Welcome Aboard" party with the Captain, up to six meals a day, and a gala Bon Voyage Dinner are included. Departing from Miami, FL passengers aboard Carnival's Valor will visit four ports of call: Grand Cayman, Isla Roatan, Belize and Cozumel. For more on the cruise: www.OpryCruise.com or call Corporate Travel Service at 1.866.653.6779



LIGHTS! CAMERAS! ACTION!!

Gene and Larry Gatlin shot a television commercial for the Opry Country Classics cruise after their May 14th Opry show which will be aired in various markets. Watch for this one in your area!



Left: Jim Black tickles the ivories backstage at the Grand Ole Opry.

Jim says he doesn't have a lot of time for hobbies but he's fascinated by classic cars, particularly from the '50's and '60's, especially ones with lots of chrome and tail-fins. He enjoys watching the Speed channel on TV when he can find the time.

Jim also works as Gene's Road Manager so he's a man of many talents!

MEET PIANO MAN , JIM BLACK!

Q: Where were you born / raised?

A: Born: Austin , TX Raised: Corpus Christi, TX Graduated Carroll High School 1962

Q: Where do you live now?

A: Huntsville, TX

Q: How and when did you get started in the music business?

A: In high school I was the bass drummer. Made the All-City band, but there were only three high schools in Corpus Christi at that time.

I was called by a band from Houston, playing in Corpus Christi the summer of 1960 (Band was Charlie Moore & The Crystals). They needed a piano player and I was the guy. When they returned to Houston, I began playing for a string of 4&5 piece rock n' roll bands in South Texas. The first country band I worked with was Ronnie Murray & The Outlaws in Corpus Christi (1965).

Q: When did you start with Gene Watson and how long have you been in the band?

A: I played on his first album in 1969 but did not join the band until 2001. I left at the end of 2005, then returned in June 2008 to fill in for Joe Eddie Gough.

Q: Who are your musical influences?

A: Floyd Cramer, Hargus "Pig" Robbins Vocally: Bobby Bare, Roy Drusky, Jim Reeves, George Morgan, Eddie Arnold - Soft and easy balladeers)

Q: If you were not in the music business, what might you be doing?

A: I've almost always had a day job. I've been a painter, truck driver, DJ at KIKK in Houston, worked at a chemical plant, worked as an alcoholism/drug counselor for the Texas Prison System for 19 years then retired 5 years and now I'm back working in Huntsville as a program administrator.

Q: Do you have any favorite sports teams?

A: Not necessarily in this order: Football, Baseball, Nascar Favorite teams are the Houston franchises (Texans, Astros, Rockets) but I really loved the Oilers football team and wish they hadn't moved.

Q: What's your favorite Gene Watson song to play?

A: "Fourteen Carat Mind" because it's always recognized by the audience as soon as I kick it off and it gives me a good workout. Also "Farewell Party" because it gives me a thrill to realize I'm on stage with the REAL DEAL...not just a "wannabe".

AND THE WINNER IS ...

In the last issue, the question was asked "What is the title of the album with this photo on the cover?"



The winner is Roger Glass who correctly identified the title as "No One Will Ever Know". Roger receives an autographed tee shirt.

For your chance to win a Gene tee shirt, answer this question:

What Gene song title starts off with these lyrics: "Come In Pretty Lady..."

EMAIL your answer to:

ARTIST@LytleMmgt.com by July 30th.

One winner to be drawn at random from all correct entries.

A Message From Gene

Dear Friends:

Already it's been a busy summer! I've been in the studio finishing up the album and I'm very proud of this one. We've titled the album "A Taste of the Truth" which is what we feel Country Music is all about. Rebecca Lynn Howard wrote the title song and I just know you're going to like it. The album is scheduled for released August 25th. Keep an eye on the websites for more details about where you can purchase the album.

You can see from this newsletter that we've had fun visiting and performing with many good friends and as the economy lightens up, we hope we'll be traveling to your city too. Take care and see you soon,

TOUR DATES

Saturday, July 4th

[Roundup Independence Day Extravaganza](#), Rodeo Arena, Roundup, MT

Saturday July 11

[Stagecoach Ballroom](#), Fort Worth, TX

Friday July 17

[Georgia Mountain Fair](#), Hiawassee, GA

Saturday July 18

[Kentucky Opry](#), Draffenville, KY

Saturday August 15

[Renfro Valley Entertainment Center](#), Renfro, KY

Performance times: 7.00pm & 9.15pm

Friday August 21

[The Old Mill Theatre](#), Buhler, KS

Saturday August 22

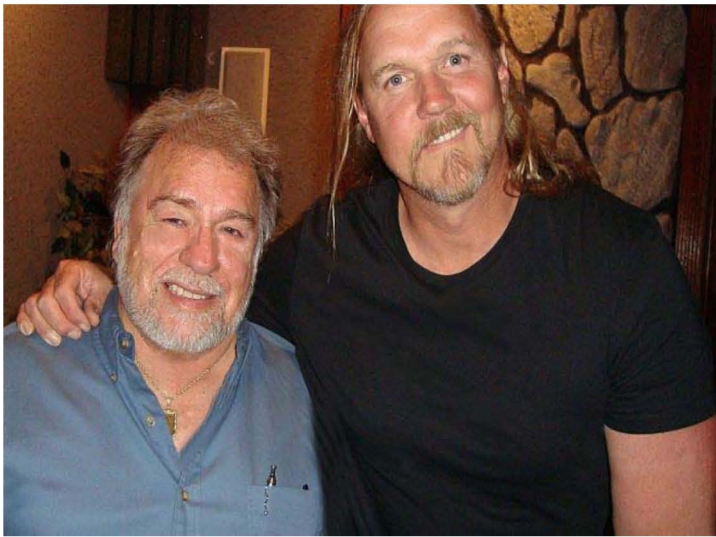
[Annie's Country Jubilee](#), Tonganoxie, KS

Booking Agent for Gene Watson: Carrie Moore-Reed www.ThirdCoastTalent.com

Phone : 615-333-7235

For current news on Gene Watson, always check the websites: www.GeneWatsonMusic.com and www.Gene-Watson.com

For general information on Gene Watson, email: Artist@LytleMgMt.com



IN THE STUDIO

Left: Gene was delighted that his good friend, Trace Adkins, could join him on one of the new songs for the upcoming album titled "We've Got A Pulse". Trace used to open for Gene many years ago and they've remained close ever since. If you caught Trace's appearance on last year's television show "The Apprentice", you're aware of what an intelligent, kind and generous man he is and of course, he's a brilliant singer too!

May 28th, Gene and Trace took a moment from recording at the Hilltop Studios in Nashville, TN to snap this picture.

MERLE HAGGARD & GENE PERFORM

Right: It was a sold out show when Gene opened for the legendary Merle Haggard in Branson, MO June 11th. After Gene's performance, Merle brought Gene back to the stage where the two great performers sang the classic "I'll Fly Away" to close the show.

Photo courtesy of Bob Cannella, Up Close Concerts



www.Gene-Watson.com Site Re-Launched!

The Gene Watson Fan Site was re-launched on Monday 4 May 2009 - & we're celebrating!

Courtesy of Jo Ashbridge at Surrey, England-based Hump Head Country, the Gene Watson Fan Site has 4 copies to give away of the special Gene Watson compilation 'Matters of the Heart' (which was officially released on Monday 11 August 2008).

Courtesy of Lytle Management in Nashville, the Gene Watson Fan Site also has 5 autographed photos from Gene Watson himself to giveaway.

The special online competition will continue until Wednesday, July 1, 2009 - Gene Watson fans can enter the competition at this link:

http://www.gene-watson.com/site_relaunch_giveaway.htm

SIGN THE PETITION FOR A GENE WATSON BOX SET

A Gene Watson Box Set of music would be a fitting tribute to a man who has been a standard bearer for honest, traditional country music for thirty years. A comprehensive Gene Watson Box Set should ideally include all previously released material plus previously unreleased material, rare demo recordings, studio out-takes, live performances, interviews & a plethora of photographs. If you feel that a comprehensive Gene Watson Box Set should be released, for the benefit of Gene, his family & his longstanding army of fans around the world, please add your signature here.

http://www.gene-watson.com/box_set_petition.htm