

Hello Friends – While it did seem Mother Nature was just plain wreaking havoc on some of us for an extended time, it finally feels like Spring has sprung. We enjoy seeing the changes in the landscape as we travel across the country and although I'm not crazy about the pollen, it's good to see the trees leafing out again.

We've enjoyed being back at the Grand Ole Opry twice in the last few months. The Opry is the pinnacle of stages. We all have the proper reverence for who has stood before us on that stage and it never fails to give a special feeling when out there on that hallowed ground. The Opry also gives us a chance backstage to meet up with old friends and meet new ones. Except for the Country's Family Reunion TV tapings, there aren't that many opportunities to gather a diverse group of acts in one spot and the Opry does that at every show. So the band and I just enjoy it a great deal and I've got a lot of photos from our recent backstage visits in this newsletter to share with you.

I'm very pleased to say that my Country Gospel song "Old Roman Soldier" is sitting at # 2 on the charts and I'm hoping we'll see it reach #1 before too long. I appreciate hearing all your nice comments about the new Gospel album. As I've said, that's the music I grew up on and as music can do for you, as soon as I start to sing one of the old Gospel songs, I'm transported in my mind right back to those days singing with my family in our little church. It was a real pleasure recording this album and hopefully one day I'll get to do another one - I've certainly got a lot more Gospel songs I'd love to sing.

We've got a whole lot of shows coming up so I hope we'll see you at one of them. Check all the tour dates on my website at <u>www.GeneWatsonMusic.com</u>. Until then take care,



Grand Ole Opry - March 9, 2018



No one admires a songwriter quite like Gene does so he's always pleased to visit with his buddy, Bill Anderson. Bill might say no one quite sings a song like Gene does either!



Gene enjoyed a visit with Hee Haw and Opry star, Mike Snider. Mike is known for his comedy but is also a well respected banjo player.



The Farewell Party Band and Gene are huge fans of the great Jeannie Seely. Jeannie graciously agreed to a photo just prior to going onstage at the Opry.



Longtime friends from Lamar County, Texas, Gene and Duane Allen of the Oak Ridge Boys paused backstage to catch up and reminisce about their old stomping grounds. Check out the ORB's latest release "17th Avenue Revival".



Gene has long admired singer-songwriter, Dean Dillon. As a singer, Dean had some success on major labels but he is one of the most well-known songwriters of country music and is a member of the Nashville Songwriters Hall Of Fame. He wrote George Jones's 1983 hit, "Tennessee Whiskey" which was recently recorded by Chris Stapleton and performed on the CMA Awards show by Stapleton and Justin Timberlake. The song went on to sell 1.5 million copies. He has had more than 50 songs recorded by George Strait including "The Chair", "Nobody In His Right Mind Would've Left Her", "It Ain't Cool To Be Crazy About You", "Ocean Front Property", "Famous Last Words Of A Fool", "I've Come To Expect It From You", "If I Know Me" and many more.

Grand Ole Opry - April 20, 2018



Gene and the band snapped this photo in their dressing room, backstage at the Opry. It may be hard to see but the band shirts have a cool GW logo on them.



This large monitor is behind the band on the stage of the Opry and here it is showing Gene performing the Bill Anderson penned song "When A Man Can't Get A Woman Off His Mind".



Gene enjoyed meeting Ketch Secor and Cory Younts of Old Crow Medicine Show. The group was inducted into the Grand Old Opry in 2013. You'll no doubt know their signature song "Wagon Wheel" that was more recently recorded by Darius Rucker.



Gene was pleased to meet Joshua Hedley who was making his Opry debut on this night. Joshua is keeping real country music alive and well with his debut album, "Mr. Jukebox". Joshua was heard telling WSM-AM radio's Bill Cody that the one man he wanted to meet at the Opry that night was Mr. Gene Watson! Be sure to check out Josua Hedley at www.JoshuaHedley.com!



2018 GENE WATSON ITINERARY

April 27	Charles Wadsworth Auditorium	Newnan, Georgia
April 28	Dublin Theatre	Dublin, Georgia
May 4	Little Roy and Lizzie Festival	Lincolnton, Georgia
May 5	Red Barn Theatre	Winchester, Ohio
May 11	Main Street Crossing	Tomball, Texas
May 12	Arlington Music Hall	Arlington, Texas
May 19	Cactus Theater	Lubbock, Texas
May 26 & 27	King Opera House (Sun. matinee)	Van Buren, Arkansas
June 15 & 16	Cactus Pete's Horshoe Casino	Jackpot, Nevada
June 22 & 23	Ross Country Jamboree	Scottsburg, Indiana
July 7	Grand Casino	Shawnee, Oklahoma
July 14	First Council Casino (w/M. Gilley & J. Lee)	Newkirk, Oklahoma
August 3	Bedwell PAC at SE College	Cape Girardeau, MO
August 25	Stagecoach Ballroom	Ft. Worth, Texas
Aug. 31 & Sept. 1	Blue Gate Theater	Shipshewana, Indiana
September 15 & 1	.6 Midwest Country Music Theater	Sandstone, Minnesota
September 19	Liberty Hall	Tyler, Texas
September 20	Starlite Theatre (w/Larry's Country Diner)	Branson, Missouri
September 21 & 2	2 Kentucky Opry	Benton, Kentucky
October 4 & 5	Starlite Theatre	Branson, Missouri
October 6	(Downtown) Come & Take It Celebration	Gonzales, Texas
October 11	Milltown Music Hall	Bremen, Georgia
October 12	Newberry Opera House	Newberry, SC
October 13	Ponte Vedra Concert Hall	Ponte Vedra, Florida
October 20	Coyote Store	Gail, Texas
October 25	Anderson Civic Center	Anderson, SC
October 27	Liberty Showcase	Liberty, North Carolina

2018 GENE WATSON ITINERARY con't

November 3	Texas Opry	Weatherford, Texas				
November 8	Starlite Theatre (2 pm Show)	Branson, Missouri				
November 9	Starlite Theatre (7:30 pm Show)	Branson, Missouri				
November 10	Irving Arts Center	Irving, Texas				
November 11	Dosey Doe	The Woodlands, TX				
November 16	Country Tonite Theater	Pigeon Forge, TN				
2019						
February 16	Granbury Live!	Granbury, Texas				
March 1	Sumpter Opera House	Sumpter, SC				
March 2 & 3	Orange Blossom Opry	Weirsdale, Florida				
March 6	Strawberry Festival	Plant City, Florida				
March 8	Walhalla Civic Auditorium	Walhalla, SC				



Sailing Itinerary

Port	Arrive	Depart
Fort Lauderdale, FL		5:30pm
Cruising D. D. D.		
George Town, Grand Cayman	7:00am	3:30pm
Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico	11:00am	7:00pm
Cozumel, Mexico	8:00am	4:00pm
Cruising		
Fort Lauderdale, FL	5:30am	
	Fort Lauderdale, FL Cruising George Town, Grand Cayman Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico Cozumel, Mexico Cruising	Fort Lauderdale, FL Cruising George Town, Grand Cayman 7:00am Puerto Costa Maya, Mexico 11:00am Cozumel, Mexico 8:00am Cruising



Visit <u>www.cfrcruise.com</u> for more information!

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Representing Gene Watson



BATTLE ARTIST AGENCY

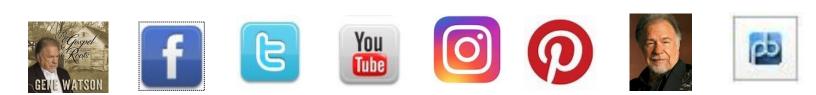
To book Gene Watson for an event in your area contact: Rob Battle at Battle Artist Agency at

1-615-368-7433 or by email at: <u>RBattleArtistAgent@United.net</u>.

TRIVIA CONTEST WINNER!

Congratulations to Jeanette Carroll of Bowling Green, KY who submitted the winning entry for our last trivia contest question: "What "first name" is mentioned in the song "Pick The Wildwood Flower"? The correct answer: GARY. 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: <u>GeneWatsonMusic@hotmail.com</u>.

If you are reading this and not a registered member of Gene Watson's Fan Club, just sign up at <u>www.GeneWatsonMusic.com</u> Only Fan Club members get the Trivia Question!



Click on icons to view these Gene Watson web sites!