



GENE WATSON

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS IN COUNTRY MUSIC

March—April, 2012

Volume 22

Dear Friends:

Hope you're having fun outside enjoying this unusual warm weather. I've got Spring Fever for sure. I haven't been on the golf course in a while so might be time to get out on the greens.

It's been a good year for the weather and for work. Releasing my music on my own label was an exercise in faith but has turned out to be a wonderful experience and I thank you for sharing my love for the classic hits I recorded. I've really enjoyed hearing all your comments on the *Best of the Best, 25 Greatest Hits* album. Some days it's hard to believe it has been 50 years since I released my first single back in 1962 but it's been a great ride and I never take a single day of it for granted.

You know, I've always loved the creative side of the music business. It's a real joy to be in a studio surrounded by some of the greatest musicians in the world. Musicians can add so much to a record with a special guitar lick or a great pedal steel intro. I love to hear what they can create. Sometimes it's just magic. In early March I had the opportunity to record with Ireland's "Top New Female" artist of the year, Lisa McHugh. We recorded a duet for her album and then that evening Lisa joined me onstage at the Grand Ole Opry to sing "Help Me Make It Through The Night". You can read more about Lisa at her website <http://www.lisa-mchugh.com>.

If you're planning a trip to Nashville, come join me at The Country Music Hall of Fame on April 11th for lunch and a show which they call "Cookin' Out Country". You can buy tickets for that at The Hall of Fame starting at 9AM on the 11th. On April 12th, I'm performing on the Opry Classic show so if you can't join us, be sure to listen in at www.WSMonline.com.

Take care and see you on the road,



Photos Inside!

- Gene Watson and Mark Chesnutt!
- Gene Watson and the cast of Larry's Country Diner!
- Gene Watson and Craig Campbell!
- Gene Watson and Joey + Rory!
- Gene Watson and Lisa McHugh!
- Fan Spotlight on Norman Rainey!
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"Larry's Country Diner" Day, February 6th



(Left) Mark Chesnutt and Gene ran into each other backstage when both were booked to perform for RFD-TV's "Larry's Country Diner". Mark is one of the great country singers ("Too Cold At Home", "It Sure Is Monday") and a good friend of Gene's.



It's definitely family style at the diner! Gene sang four songs with help from The Sheriff, Jimmy Capps, Renae Johnson "The Waitress", Michele Capps, Gene, Nadine, Larry Black, and Keith Bilbrey.



This episode of "Larry's Country Diner" airs on RFD-TV on Thursday, March 29th!

(Left): Terry Choate, Talent Director for "Larry's Country Diner" (and a fine singer himself), apparently has just told Gene a good joke just prior to Gene's performance.



March 6th—A Very Busy Day!

After recording a full day in the studio with Irish star, Lisa McHugh, Gene bolted to the Grand Ole Opry store for a CD release signing of his *Best Of The Best, 25 Greatest Hits*. Fans were lined up in the store, anxious to meet Gene, get a photo and an autographed CD. Many fans had driven in from Canada and surrounding states for this event.



(Below) Backstage at the Grand Ole Opry on March 6th, Gene Watson snapped this picture with recording artist Craig Campbell, who's music style has been called a cross between Alan Jackson and George Strait. Craig's first single, "Family Man" reached the Top 20 of the *Billboard* chart with a peak of number 14 in April 2011. Craig noted that he'd been in the audience at Gene's Nashville show back in January of this year. You can read more about Craig at his official website, <http://craigcampbell.tv/>



(Above) Recording artists, Joey + Rory, are frequent performers on Country's Family Reunion shows as is Gene so they enjoyed having a moment to visit backstage at the Opry March 6th. Joey and Rory are working on their own show for RFD-TV. Their 4th Annual Bib & Buckle Festival will take place on June 2, 2012 at Joey + Rory's farm in Pottsville, TN. You can find out more on these fabulous singers here at www.JoeyandRory.com.





Norman Rainey (left) and Gene Watson, Tuesday, June 12, 1979 in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Fan Spotlight on Norman Rainey

1. Where do you live?

I live in Parkgate, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland approx 15 miles from Belfast, I have lived there for the past 20 years.

2. What type work do you do?

I am now retired, prior to that I worked at a bank in Belfast.

3. Tell us about your family

I have been married to my wife Irene for 46 years and have 3 children, 2 boys in England and a girl in Australia, I also have 4 grandchildren in Australia.

4. What are your Top Five Gene songs?

I have many favorites but this would probably be my top five:

I Don't Need A Thing At All

Raining In Dallas

The Old Man And His Horn

Farewell Party

One Sided Conversation

5. What are your hobbies?

I like music & sport, I also enjoy travelling and visiting my grand children in Australia.

6. Where did you first hear about Gene Watson?

I first got interested In Gene in 1976, it was then that I bought my first album "Love in the hot afternoon" My good friend Crawford Bell brought Gene to Ireland in 1979, this was my first "live" concert.

7. How many concerts have you attended?

I have attended a lot of concerts over 35 years. I can from memory recall 14, mostly within the UK and Ireland. My last was the CFR/ Larry's Country Diner cruise in the Caribbean at the beginning of this year.

"I have been friends with Gene since 1979 when he first performed in Ireland. He visited my home on that occasion, which was the evening before his first concert outside the USA/Canada. We had a great time and a sing-along until the early hours of the next morning. We have remained friends ever since."

Norman Rainey

"I have attended a lot of concerts over 35 years. I can from memory recall 14, mostly within the UK and Ireland."

Norman Rainey



Norman Rainey & Gene Watson on the 2012 Country's Family Reunion/Larry's Country Diner cruise, January 2012.



2013 "Country's Family Reunion" and "Larry's Country Diner" Cruise! January 19–24, 2013

Gabriel Communications will once again take to the high-seas for a five-day ~~blow~~ home+Caribbean Cruise. Fans can climb aboard the Royal Caribbean *Liberty of the Seas* cruise liner **January 19-24, 2013** and enjoy entertainment featuring **Bill Anderson, Jeannie Seely, Jim Ed Brown, Helen Cornelius, Gene Watson, Moe Bandy, T. Graham Brown, Ronny Robbins**, with more artists to be announced. Of course, there will be a special onboard *Larry's Country Diner* show, featuring the entire cast, and very special stand-up performances by the ever-popular **Nadine**. The *Liberty of the Seas*, which will dock at ports of call including **Cozumel** and **Belize**, boasts amenities such as a **9-hole golf course, waterpark, full-sized sports courts, fitness center, day spa and unlimited onboard activities**. Based on the success last year's cruise, these will sell out quickly, so fans are encouraged to book early by calling: **1-800-820-5405** or by logging on to www.cfrcruise.com.



Royal Caribbean's *Liberty Of The Seas!*



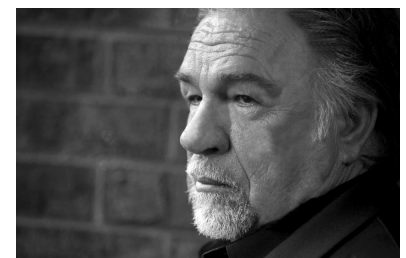
(Left) February 7th, Gene was on the air at WSM-AM with show producer, Charlie Mattos and host, Bill Cody. Bill talked with Gene about his 50 years in the music business and played songs for the hour long show from Gene's *Best Of The Best, 25 Greatest Hists* CD. Shown left to right: Charlie Mattos, Gene Watson, and Bill Cody.



To celebrate his 50th year in country music, the velvet-voiced Gene Watson releases *Best Of The Best – 25 Greatest Hits* on his own Fourteen Carat Music label.

Greatest Hits package includes 5 country No. 1 singles: "Where Love Begins," "Paper Rosie," "Should I Come Home (Or Should I Go Crazy)," "Fourteen Carat Mind," "You're Out Doing What I'm Here Doing Without."

Available Now At
www.GeneWatsonMusic.com



Join Us On The WEB!

Two Websites!

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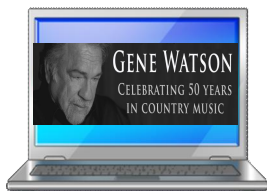
www.Facebook.com/GeneWatsonMusic

YouTube!

www.youtube.com/GeneWatsonVideos

Gene Watson Fan Forum!

<http://genewatsonfans.proboards.com>



And The Winner Is:

Doris Conway

of OR! Congratulations for correctly answering the question **"What was the name of the song Gene Watson sang on his very first Grand Ole Opry appearance?"** The answer: **"I Can't Help It If I'm Still In Love With You"**.

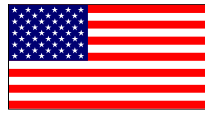
For your chance to win an autographed Tee Shirt, just answer the question sent to Fan Club Members only, then e-mail the correct response to:
If you are reading this and

GENEWATSONMUSIC@HOTMAIL.com

not a registered member of the free fan club, just sign up at:

www.genewatsonmusic.com

Only fan club members get the Trivia Contest Questions!



Gene Watson Upcoming Tour Schedule

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| April 11, 2012 April 12, 2012 | Country Music Hall Of Fame Opry Country Classics/Ryman Auditorium | Nashville, TN Nashville, TN |
| April 28, 2012 April 29, 2012 | Cuero Rodeo Arena Traders Village | Cuero, TX San Antonio, TX |
| May 3, 2012 May 4, 2012 | Effingham Performing Arts Center Decatur County Fairgrounds | Effingham, IL Parsons, TN |
| May 10, 2012 May 11, 2012 May 13, 2012 May 14, 2012 May 15, 2012 | Enmax Centre Conexus Centre TCU Place Southern Jubilee Auditorium Jubilee Auditorium | Lethbridge, Alberta Regina, Saskatchewan Saskatoon, SK Calgary, Alberta Edmonton, Alberta |
| May 18, 2012 May 19, 2012 May 20, 2012 | The Don Gibson Theater Providence Grove High School American Music Theater | Shelby, NC Climax, NC Lancaster, PA |
| June 2, 2012 | Bowie Civic Center | Bowie, TX |
| June 9, 2012 | Bean Blossom Festival | Bean Blossom, IN |
| June 11-13, 2012 June 14, 2012 June 15, 2012 | Oneida Casino Midwest Country Music Theater Sisseton Performing Arts Center | Green Bay, WI Sandstone, MN Sisseton, SD |
| July 6, 2012 July 7, 2012 July 8, 2012 | Moss Bank Labour Club Debenhaum Leisure Center Americana Int'l Music Festival | St. Helens, Merseyside, UK Suffolk, UK Newark, Nottinghamshire, UK |
| July 9, 2012 | Queen's Hall | Watton, England, UK |
| July 20, 2012 | Independence County Fair | Batesville, AR |
| Aug. 17, 2012 Aug. 18, 2012 | The Opera House Bluegrass Festival | Hawkinsville, GA Marion, NC |
| Aug. 28 & 29, 2012 | Auction Barn Jamboree | Colborne, Ontario |
| Sept. 22, 2012 | N.E. Arkansas District Fair | Jonesboro, AR |
| Sept. 28, 2012 | Renfro Valley Entertainment Center, New Barn | Renfro Valley, KY |