

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 1, 2016**  
**EVENT DATE: AUGUST 11-14, 2016**  
**Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival**

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**For Detailed Up-to-Date Festival Information, Visit [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org)**

Note: This news release is intended to summarize the Festival. There are over 20 additional news releases that describe in detail the full range of festival activities that can be downloaded at [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org)

## **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival**

MOUNT VERNON – The 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Arts Festival will be held in the streets of downtown Mount Vernon August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, marking the 29<sup>th</sup> year for the event. The Festival’s mission is to “Celebrate the Legacy” of Dan Emmett. This homegrown musician, composer, and founder of minstrelsy tradition is known world-wide as the author of “Dixie.” Dan Emmett’s life and career is honored through a varied format of performing and creative artists on three stages and all along South Main Street for the enjoyment of Festival goers of all ages.

There have been some changes to the format of the 2016 Festival. The Festival will open on Thursday with the 3-day **Crafts & Trades Show** with local merchants, vendors, crafters, and artisans displaying their wares. The **Fine Arts & Handcraft Fair** also opens Thursday, featuring several well-known artisans, selected by a jury of their peers to assure the quality and originality of the arts products. Senior citizens are invited to spend “A Day on the Square” with special entertainment beginning at lunchtime, with the Youth Showcase taking to the South Stage and various local youth performing on the Square. The afternoon will be filled with continuous activities and music for our honored seniors. A variety of historical figures will come to life in the evening with a **Chautauqua** series held at ThePlace@TheWoodward. The annual **Cheer Competition** will take place on South Main Street at 6:00 p.m., followed by the semi-final round of the **Knox Idol competition** at 7:30 p.m. on the South Stage. Come Dance to the Oldies with the **Kokosing River Surf Club** at 6:30 p.m. on the First-Knox Main Stage, followed by **Phil Dirt & The Dozers** at 8:30 p.m., the best rock ‘n’ roldies performers of all time.

On Friday, some of the most talented young vocalists of Knox County will take the stage to compete in the Finals for the title of **Knox Idol**. The 2016 awards will be presented to the audience’s choice in the teen and the young adult categories. The young adults will sing to snag the **\$1,000 prize**. On the South Stage at 6:30 p.m., **Elvis’ Lost Brother** will get the audience all shook up, followed by the best of bluegrass from **Chestnut Ridge** at 7:45 p.m.

- more -

2016 Dan Emmett Festival/pg. 2 of 2

The historic Woodward Opera House, America's Oldest Authentic 19<sup>th</sup> Century Theater, is currently under construction, and is scheduled to open in the Fall of 2017. Special on site presentations will be available to bring visitors up to date on the project.

Saturday will be another fun-filled day in Downtown Mount Vernon, featuring performers from Knox County and the surrounding area. The ever-popular **Fiddle, Banjo, and Flat-Pick Guitar Contests** will bring burgeoning musicians from all over the Midwest. Many local singers and musicians will share their vocal and musical talent with the crowd throughout the afternoon.

The evening's entertainment kicks off with **Safire Sun** on the Main Stage, followed by the Festival Bell Auction. The 2016 Festival Bells honors the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Soldiers Monument at the center of Mount Vernon's Public Square. The widely acclaimed **BJ Thomas** will step onto the stage at 9:30 p.m. to entertain young and old alike.

Rev your engines, because Sunday is all cars, trucks, and motorcycles. The day will start on the Square with a pancake breakfast followed by a bluegrass worship service at 9:30 a.m. At 1:00 p.m. in ThePlace@TheWoodward, the best in praise and pure gospel music will fill the air. The **Motorcycle Show and Cruise-In** will also be held on Sunday. The registration is from 11:00 am to 2:30 p.m., with an awards presentation at 3:00 p.m. The cars will line the streets to participate in the **Antique and Classic Car Show**, with the awards presentation for the favorites beginning at 4:00 p.m. **The Caffiends** and **King Darwin** will play throughout the afternoon. New this year for the Car Show is an afternoon cruise around town, with Motor Music at 2:00 p.m.

The Festival runs August 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> in Downtown Mount Vernon with various activities each day. Preferred seating is available for a modest fee for those wishing guaranteed seating to **BJ Thomas** concert. For general information, contact the Festival at (740) 392-FEST (3378). For detailed scheduling information, visit the Festival website at [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org). The 2016 Dan Emmett Music & Art Festival is made possible by the generous contributions of Ariel, First-Knox National Bank, and Time Warner Cable.

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THANK YOU!

Please visit the Festival website at [www.DanEmmettFestival.org](http://www.DanEmmettFestival.org) for all Festival news releases.

**MEDIA RELEASES FOR 2016 DAN EMMETT MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL**  
**Thursday - August 11<sup>th</sup> thru Sunday - August 14<sup>th</sup>**  
**Version 2016.08.05**

**All of the following news releases and photo downloads are available on our detailed website**

**Summary**

1. **Basic Overall News Release** - Intro announcing line up (this news release)

**Main Topics & Headliners**

2. **BJ Thomas - Early Release** Headliner – Saturday
3. **BJ Thomas – 2<sup>nd</sup> Release** Headliner – Saturday
4. **Phil Dirt & The Dozers Headliner** – Thursday
5. **Knox Idol Auditions** – Wednesday 7/29/2015
6. **Knox Idol Finalists** – Thursday & Friday
7. **Kokosing River Surf Club** – Thursday
8. **Caffiends** – Saturday
9. (Open)

**Special Events**

10. **Awards to Be Presented** - Various
11. **Festival Bell Auction** – Saturday Night
12. **Friend of the Festival**
13. **Cheer Competition** - Thursday
14. **Fiddle, Banjo, Guitar Contest** – Saturday
15. **Chautauqua** – Thursday
16. **Antique and Classic Car Show** – Sunday
17. **Motorcycle Show** - Sunday
18. (Open)
19. (Open)

**Shows & Tours, Contests and Competitions**

20. **Woodward Opera House Historic Tours** – Friday, Saturday, & Sunday
21. **Studios & Teachers** – Varies
22. **Youth Talent** - Various
23. **Local Talent** – Various
24. (Open)
25. (Open)
26. (Open)
27. (Open)
28. (Open)
29. (Open)
30. (Open)
31. (Open)

**Facilities & Food**

32. **Street Closings** during the Festival
33. **Handicap Accessible Parking** during the festival
34. **Food Concessions** - All 4 days
35. **Pancake Breakfast** – Sunday
36. **Video Contest – Open to world! >> 3<sup>rd</sup> year**