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**CAT COUNTRY 107.1 AND THE LEE COUNTY VISITORS AND CONVENTION BUREAU BRING FIRST-EVER SONGWRITER FESTIVAL TO THE BEACHES OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

*The Island Hopper Songwriter Fest to Feature Exclusive Performances by Nationally Acclaimed Artists in Unique Venues on Sept. 26-28 and Oct. 3-5, 2014*

**LEE COUNTY, Fla. – September 18, 2014** – iHeartMedia and Cat Country 107.1 WCKT-FM invite music lovers to the Island Hopper Songwriters Festival, which will take place over two consecutive weekends, Sept. 26-28 on Captiva Island, and Oct. 3-5 on Fort Myers Beach. Presented by iHeartMedia, the world’s largest media company, Broadcast Music, Inc. ® (BMI ®), the largest music rights organization in the U.S and The Beaches of Sanibel and Fort Myers. The destination’s first-ever songwriter festival features free performances by nationally acclaimed singer-songwriters at popular island venues. The performers will sing in intimate venues dotted across the beautiful beaches of Southwest Florida, including local favorites ‘Tween Water’s Crow’s Nest, Key Lime Bistro and Mucky Duck on Captiva; as well as Nervous Nellie’s, Smokin’ Oyster Brewery and The Beached Whale on Fort Myers Beach.

An all-star line-up of talent will perform during the festival, including Kristian Bush, from the band Sugarland and country music stars Thompson Square and Austin Webb. Plus celebrated songwriters like GRAMMY®-nominated songwriter Tim James, who penned the number one single “My List” by Toby Keith; Wynn Varble, whose lyrics have been nominated for Song of the Year by the Country Music Association and the Academy of Country Music; as well as renowned singer-songwriters Phil O’Donnell, Kevn Kinney, Dylan Altman, Marshall Altman, Jeff Cohen, Kristen Kelly, Ruth Collins, Danny Myrick with Megan Linville, George Ducas, Billy Montana, Frank Myers and Loving Mary.

“This is one of those wonderful times where you have an idea that actually comes to fruition. The plan for this event started two years ago after attending the iconic Key West Songwriters Festival and a chance meeting with Laura Chmielewski and Nancy Macphee of the Lee County VCB. We then forged a partnership between iHeart Media (formally Clear Channel Media and Entertainment) and the Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau. With the help of both the VCB and iHeart staff’s, as well as others, we find ourselves ready for an amazing event. Special Thanks to Dan Spears with BMI, JJ Taylor, iBiquity Radio, Seminole Casino, Visit Florida and the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association for making it all possible.” **Sherri Griswold VP/General Manager WCKT-FM**

Guests interested in attending the festival can find more information and purchase tickets at [www.islandhopperfest.com](http://www.islandhopperfest.com).