**LEGENDARY GUITARIST AND SONGWRITER STEVE CROPPER TO BE NAMED BMI ICON AT THE 2018 BMI COUNTRY AWARDS**

 ***Top Country Songwriters, Publishers & Administrators to be Honored at***

***November 13 Event***

**October xx, 2018 – Nashville, TN** – [**Broadcast Music, Inc.®, (BMI®)**](http://www.bmi.com/), the global leader in music rights management, will celebrate the extraordinary career of **Steve Cropper** by naming him a **BMI Icon** at the **66th annual BMI Country Awards**.  Cropper will receive this honor in recognition of his unique and indelible influence on generations of music makers. The event will be held Tuesday, November 13th at BMI’s Nashville office and will be hosted by BMI President and CEO Mike O’Neill and Jody Williams, BMI Vice President, Creative, Nashville.

The BMI Icon Award is presented to songwriters who have distinctly and profoundly influenced the music industry. In receiving the award, Cropper will join an impressive list of Country music’s greatest songwriters including previous recipients Bob DiPiero, Vince Gill, Mac Davis, Hank Williams, Jr., Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Merle Haggard, Charlie Daniels, Dolly Parton, Kris Kristofferson and more.

“The iconic music coming out of Memphis in the 60’s is some of the best known American music ever made and is still heard all over the world.  One consummate music man was in the middle of that wave…Steve Cropper,” said Jody Williams, VP, Creative, Nashville. “Not only is Steve a masterful songwriter, he is one of the most influential guitarists in the world.  His body of work as an artist and producer, along with along with the massive hits he wrote, truly make Steve a BMI Icon.”

Throughout the evening, the private event will also salute the songwriters, publishers and administrators of the past year’s most-performed country songs in the United States from BMI’s repertoire of nearly 14 million musical works. The BMI Country Song, Songwriter and Publisher of the Year will also be named during the ceremony.

Steve Cropper made his musical debut on American Bandstand in 1961 and within one year, along with Booker T and the MG’s, he had written the number one hit “Green Onions.” In the years to follow, he established himself as songwriting royalty, co-writing some of music’s biggest classics such as “Knock On Wood,” “Midnight Hour,” and the legendary “(Sittin’ On) The Dock of the Bay” with friend Otis Redding. In addition to his obvious songwriting prowess, producing became second nature as he turned out timeless tracks by renowned artists like Wilson Pickett, Tower of Power, John Mellencamp, Otis Redding, and more. Cropper’s exemplary guitar work can be heard on albums by Rod Stewart, Peter Frampton, Booker T and the MGs, Ringo Starr, and Wynonna, and he has toured with legends like Neil Young and Jimmy Buffet. In the late 1970s, Cropper began his now famous work as an original of the Blues Brothers Band, appearing in both the major motion pictures and numerous TV shows. Cropper has been inducted into both the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Rhythm and Blues Hall of Fame. In 2004, he was the solo inductee into the Songwriter’s Hall of Fame. Additionally, he has received Tennessee’s Arts and Humanities Lifetime Achievement Award and a lifetime achievement GRAMMY in 2007.

To request press credentials, visit<http://www.bmi.com/press#credentials>. Press credentials will be for red-carpet arrivals only. A limited number of media will be credentialed to cover the awards ceremony.

**ABOUT BMI:**

Celebrating over 78 years of service to songwriters, composers, music publishers and businesses, Broadcast Music, Inc.® (BMI®) is a global leader in music rights management, serving as an advocate for the value of music. BMI represents the public performance rights in 14 million musical works created and owned by more than 900,000 songwriters, composers, and music publishers. The Company negotiates music license agreements and distributes the fees it generates as royalties to its affiliated writers and publishers when their songs are performed in public. In 1939, BMI created a groundbreaking open-door policy becoming the only performing rights organization to welcome and represent the creators of blues, jazz, country, and American roots music. Today, the musical compositions in BMI’s repertoire, from chart toppers to perennial favorites, span all genres of music and are consistently among the most-performed hits of the year. For additional information and the latest BMI news, visit [bmi.com](https://t.e2ma.net/click/z4wncb/jkun5m/3b9wmk), follow us on Twitter [@BMI](https://t.e2ma.net/click/z4wncb/jkun5m/j49wmk) or stay connected through Broadcast Music, Inc.‘s [Facebook page](https://t.e2ma.net/click/z4wncb/jkun5m/zwaxmk). Sign up for [*BMI’s The Weekly*](https://t.e2ma.net/click/z4wncb/jkun5m/fpbxmk)™ and receive our e-newsletter every week to stay up to date on all things music.

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