**Dwight Yoakam to be Honored with BMI President’s Award at the 2019**

**BMI Country Awards**

***Top Country Songwriters and Publishers to be Honored at November 12 Event***

***“Rocky Top” to be Presented Inaugural Legacy Award***

October 10, 2019 – Nashville, TN – Broadcast Music, Inc.®, (BMI®), will celebrate the extraordinary career of Dwight Yoakam by presenting him with the BMI President’s Award at the company’s 67th annual BMI Country Awards, to be held at BMI’s Nashville office on November 12, 2019. BMI President and CEO Mike O’Neill will host the ceremony with Jody Williams, BMI Vice President, Creative, Nashville.

The BMI President’s Award is presented to songwriters who have distinctly and profoundly influenced the entertainment industry. In receiving the award, Yoakam will join an impressive list of past honorees that includes Kenny Chesney, P!nk, Harlan Howard, Brooks & Dunn, Pitbull, Adam Levine, Billy Sherrill, and Toni Braxton.

“To this day, no other artist has captured country music’s past and catapulted it into the future quite like Dwight Yoakam,” said Jody Williams, VP, Creative, Nashville. “Standing on the shoulders of Bakersfield legends, Dwight’s self-penned songs have made indelible marks on America’s musical culture. His career includes roles in most every facet of the entertainment business and we are thrilled to celebrate him with BMI’s Presidents Award.”

Yoakam has sold over 25 million albums worldwide, with five reaching the #1 spot on *Billboard*. He is a 21-time nominated, multiple GRAMMY Award winner, who has 12 gold albums and 9 platinum or multi-platinum albums. He is also the recipient of the Artist of the Year award from the Americana Music Association. He has collaborated with everyone from Beck to Kid Rock, ZZ Top, Hunter S. Thompson and Jack White. Yoakam has toured with the likes of Buck Owens, Johnny Cash and Hüsker Dü. In 1977, Yoakam left Kentucky for Nashville to embark on a music career but found that Music City was moving away from traditional country roots to more pop-country. So, he found himself better suited to the post-Bakersfield movement and became one of the founding fathers of the “L.A. Cowpunk Scene” influenced by second-wave rockabilly and punk alongside X, Los Lobos, The Knitters, Rank & File and The Blasters.

In 2018, Yoakam launched his very own SiriusXM channel, Dwight Yoakam & The Bakersfield Beat, featuring music from the icon’s extensive career and celebrating the Bakersfield sound and California Country. Yoakam will be exploring this theme further at his Wynn Las Vegas debut this December with a six-night residency entitled An Evening with Dwight Yoakam & The Bakersfield Beat, performing a variety of music that influenced and created the Bakersfield and California Country Rock genres.

In addition to Yoakam’s award, this year, BMI will introduce a new honor, the Legacy Award. The inaugural award will go to the timeless “Rocky Top,” penned by legendary BMI writers Felice and Boudleaux Bryant. The Legacy Award will honor indelible classics that not only found commercial success, but have also found a life of their own in the consciousness of the public.

BMI will also crown the Country Songwriter, Song and Publisher of the Year, as well as salute the writers and publishers of the past year’s 50 most-performed songs from BMI’s country catalog at the invitation-only event. This year’s awards dinner is sponsored by Crown Royal and Daou Vineyards & Winery.

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**ABOUT BMI:**

Celebrating over 79 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 over 15 million musical works created and owned by more than one million 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/nry69c/3ne5d3/ria9pv), follow us on Twitter [@BMI](https://t.e2ma.net/click/nry69c/3ne5d3/7ab9pv) or stay connected through Broadcast Music, Inc.‘s [Facebook page](https://t.e2ma.net/click/nry69c/3ne5d3/n3b9pv). Sign up for [BMI’s The Weekly™](https://t.e2ma.net/click/nry69c/3ne5d3/3vc9pv) and receive our e-newsletter every week to stay up to date on all things music.

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