



About the Birthplace of Country Music Museum

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, explores the history of the 1927 Bristol Sessions and their lasting impact on our music heritage. From the Bristol Sessions and beyond, our region continues to influence music around the world.

The 24,000 square foot museum is located at 101 Country Music Way (corner of Moore & Cumberland Streets) in Historic Downtown Bristol, Virginia. Through multiple theater experiences, film and sound, and interactive, technology-infused displays—along with a variety of educational programs, music programs, and community events—the exciting story of this music and its far-reaching influence comes alive. Rotating exhibitions from guest curators and other institutions, including the Smithsonian, will be featured throughout the year in the Special Exhibits Gallery. The museum is also home to an extensive digital archive.

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. through 6:00 p.m. and Sunday, 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The museum is closed on Mondays and most major holidays; call ahead for clarification at 423-573-1927. Admission is \$13.65 for adults, \$11.55 for seniors, students, military, children ages 6–17, and groups of 20 or more. Children 5 and under are free. Admission prices include Virginia admission tax.

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Located in Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia, the Birthplace of Country Music (BCM) is the parent nonprofit organization of the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, the Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival, and Radio Bristol. It is the mission of BCM to perpetuate, promote, and celebrate Bristol's rich music heritage; to educate and engage audiences worldwide regarding the history, impact, and legacy of the 1927 Bristol Sessions from which BCM derives its name; and to create recognition, opportunities, and economic benefit for BCM's local and regional communities. BCM accomplishes this mission through each of its primary branches (museum, festival, and radio station), special projects and events, and a multitude of community and educational outreach programs.

For admission cost, a complete list of events happening at the museum, and a comprehensive look at everything the Birthplace of Country Music has to offer, visit BirthplaceOfCountryMusic.org.

HONKY TONK

Portraits of Country Music, 1972-1981

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HENRY HORENSTEIN

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 — MARCH 28, 2021

Honky Tonk: Portraits of Country Music, 1972-1981

OPEN SEPTEMBER 29, 2020 - MARCH 28, 2021

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum Special Exhibit Press Release

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum in Historic Downtown Bristol, Virginia-Tennessee has unveiled *Honky Tonk: Portraits of Country Music, 1972-1981*, its latest special exhibit on display through March 28, 2021.

"Henry Horenstein's images capture performers like Dolly Parton, Doc Watson, Loretta Lynn, and Del McCoury, along with a host of iconic country and bluegrass stars throughout their careers," said Dr. Rene Rodgers, the museum's Head Curator. "With this exhibit, he explores the concept of honky tonk through the artists who made the music, the fans who followed them, and the venues that brought them to the stage."

Honky Tonk is a collection of photographs taken by renowned photographer, filmmaker, teacher, and author Henry Horenstein, who once shot album covers for bluegrass label Rounder Records. Horenstein kept his camera handy in his off-time, capturing images from the honky tonk scene of the 1970s at locations ranging from family music parks and festivals to Nashville's Tootsies Orchid Lounge and the Grand Ole Opry. Horenstein's lively portraits of the honky tonk community preserve the scene where musicians and fans, cowboys and townies all converged to step out, strum, and strut their stuff.

Horenstein's work is collected and exhibited internationally, and he has published over 30 books including several monographs of his own work such as *Histories, Show, Honky Tonk, Animalia, Humans, Racing Days, Close Relations*, and others. He also authored *Black & White Photography, Digital Photography, and Beyond Basic Photography*, used by hundreds of thousands of learning institutions as textbooks. His *Shoot What You Love* serves as both a memoir and personal history of photography over the past 50 years.

In recent years Horenstein has been making films: *Preacher, Murray, Spoke, Partners, and Blitto Underground*, which will premiere in 2021. He is a professor of photography at Rhode Island School of Design and lives in Boston.

A supplementary display related to honky tonk music, including *A Selection of Hard Rock's Country Music Memorabilia* and several objects sourced from local collectors and other museums, will be included with the exhibit. Other programming related to the *Honky Tonk* special exhibit will be introduced at a later date.

For more information visit BirthplaceOfCountryMusic.org.