

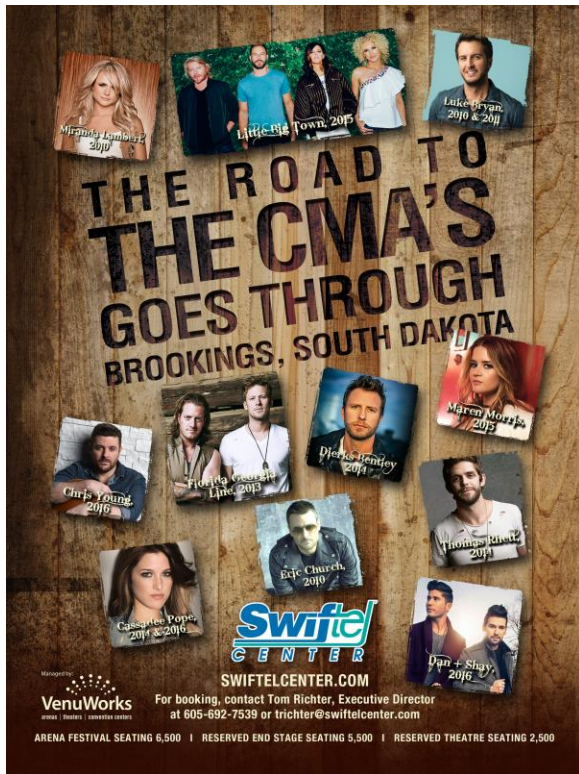
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# PRESS RELEASE

## This stage goes to 11

*Eleven of the 2016 CMA Award nominees have graced the stage at the Swiftel Center*



Eleven of the 2016 CMA Award nominees have performed at the Swiftel Center in Brookings, SD. The 2016 CMA Awards air Wednesday, November 2 at 7:00p.m.on ABC.

Brookings, S.D. (11/01/2016) – The Swiftel Center has made a name for itself as being a stop on the road to country music fame. The nominees for 2016 CMA Awards have been released and, of all the nominees, 11 have performed at the Swiftel Center.

The earliest performer nominated for a 2016 CMA Award dates back to 2010 when three of today’s hottest country music stars graced the stage. In March of 2010, Luke Bryan opened for Jason Aldean’s tour, “Wide Open.” Later that year, in November, Eric Church opened for Miranda Lambert on her “Revolution” tour for CMT On Tour. Church is nominated for Single of the Year, Song of the Year, Male Vocalist of the Year, and Music Video of the Year. Lambert is nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year.

In 2011, Luke Bryan came back on his headlining tour “Tailgate & Tanlines” for CMT On Tour. Bryan is nominated for his fourth consecutive year for the 2016 CMA Award for Entertainer of the Year.

Florida Georgia Line kicked-off their 2013 “Here’s to the Good Times” headlining tour at the Swiftel Center. Now the duo is nominated for a fourth consecutive year for Vocal Duo of the Year.

Three of this year's nominees performed at the Swiftel Center and then hit the road, headed literally to the CMA Awards. Chris Young along with Dan + Shay and Cassadee Pope made a stop in Brookings on Young's "I'm Comin' Over" tour. The three artists performed October 22 to a crowd of over 3,500 screaming, die-hard country music fans. Dan + Shay will compete against Florida Georgia Line for Vocal Duo of the Year. Chris Young and Cassadee Pope together are nominated for Musical Event of the Year for their duet, "Think of You."

And the hits just keep rolling on the road through Brookings. Miranda Lambert recently announced she is hitting the road on her new "Highway Vagabond" tour. This latest tour announcement includes a stop at the Swiftel Center on Friday, March 3. Pre-sale and on-sale information will be released to fans soon along with ticketing information and pricing.

The other 2016 CMA Award nominees that have performed at the Swiftel Center include:

- Dierks Bentley (2014 – Headliner on Bentley's "Riser Tour")
- Thomas Rhett (2014 – Opened for Jake Owen on the "Days of Gold Tour")
- Little Big Town (2015 – Headliner on their "The Pain Killer Tour")
- Maren Morris (2015 – Opened for Little Big Town on "The Pain Killer Tour")

The 50th Annual CMA Awards airs live November 2 at 7:00 p.m. on ABC. Country superstars Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood preside over the evening, returning as hosts for "Country Music's Biggest Night." The 2016 event promises spectacle, accolades and countless special moments as a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CMA Awards.

### **50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL COUNTRY MUSIC AWARDS**

The CMA Awards nominees and winners are determined by the more than 6,300 industry professional members of CMA, which when established in 1958 became the first trade organization formed to promote an individual genre of music. The first CMA Awards Banquet and Show was held in 1967. The following year, the CMA Awards was broadcast on NBC television for the first time – making it the longest running, annual music awards program on network television. The show aired on NBC through 1971 and on the CBS Television Network from 1972 through 2005 before moving in 2006 to ABC, where it is set to air through 2021. To learn more about the 2016 CMA Awards visit [www.CMAawards50.com](http://www.CMAawards50.com).

For more information on the Swiftel Center, visit [www.swiftelcenter.com](http://www.swiftelcenter.com), call (605) 692-7539 or follow us at [www.facebook.com/swiftelcenter](http://www.facebook.com/swiftelcenter).

### **About the Swiftel Center**

The Swiftel Center is a gathering place for cultural, recreational and educational events. With a 30,000 square foot arena, state-of-the-art banquet rooms, conference rooms and in-house catering, the Swiftel Center is an international award-winning venue of excellence and one of South Dakota's premiere event centers.

**About VenuWorks**

VenuWorks provides customized management and consulting solutions for arenas, stadiums, theatres and convention centers throughout the country with services that include operations, catering, and concessions along with the booking and marketing of sports and entertainment events.