

# ACCENT



## THE sounds OF summer

Our staffers pick the must-see concerts of the season



TOP: One Republic will rock the Hard Rock on May 11. THOMAS P. COSTELLO

LEFT: Soul singer Leon Bridges will provide relief from all the loudness and nostalgia in an Aug. 24 concert at the Hard Rock. ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES

**PLUS**

Six country acts heading our way, page 3F

John Pacenti, Janis Fontaine and Kati Kokal Special to Palm Beach Post | USA TODAY NETWORK

Even as SunFest puts an exclamation point on the end of spring in the Palm Beaches with more than 30 live performances in the span of three days, music lovers need not fear a pending entertainment drought. While the summer promises hair-curling humidity and bouts of searing heat, the musical forecast is also hot — but in a good way. ● From hip-hop to pop to rock, you can enjoy a full calendar of tunes from now until Labor Day. We have curated this list of must-see concerts that hits on all those music genres in styles stretching the decades from the '80s to the current day.

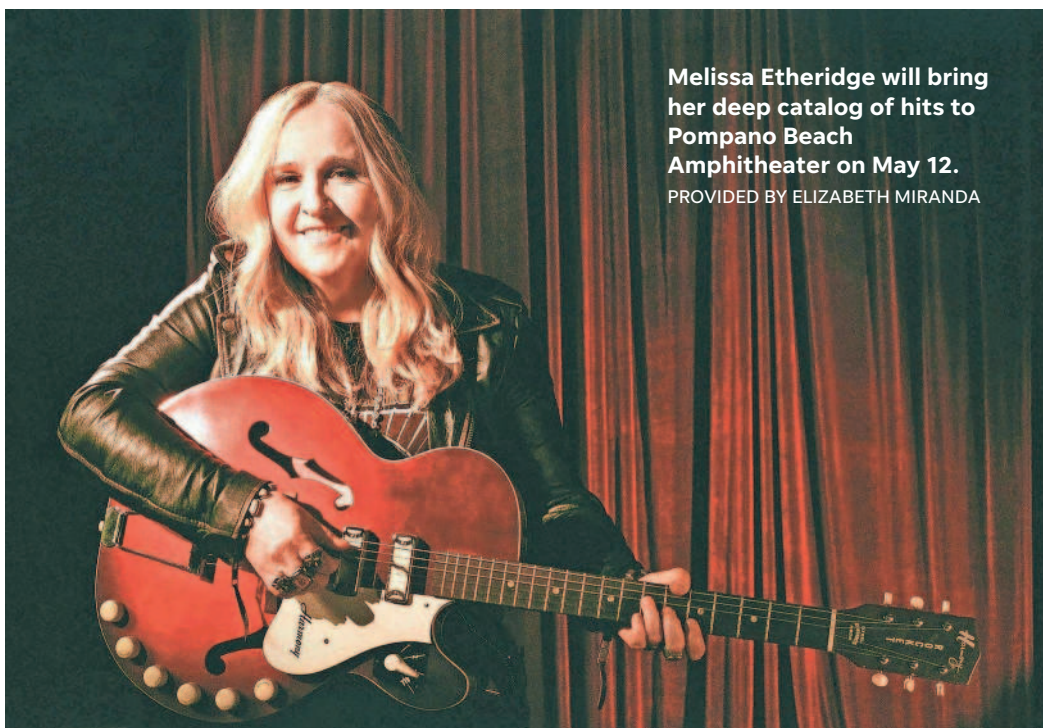
**OneRepublic with special guests Bebe Rexha and Jax**

This is big-sound pop rock. The hitmakers were just featured on the "Top Gun: Maverick" soundtrack and are known best for their song "Counting Stars." The band's catalog is not to be underestimated with a lead singer who's been referred to as the Undercover King of Pop for his prolific songwriting that includes singles for the likes of Beyonce and Taylor Swift. 8 p.m. Thursday, May 11; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; seminolehardrock-hollywood.com

**Melissa Etheridge**

This Grammy-winning rocker opened the door for many female songwriters in the late 1980s. Expect hits like "Come to My Window" and "Like the Way I Do" but this is no nostalgic act. Etheridge has 16 albums to her credit and a deep catalog. 8 p.m. Friday, May 12; Pompano Beach Amphitheater, 1806 NE 6th St., Pompano Beach; pompanobeachfl.gov

See **CONCERTS**, Page 2F



Melissa Etheridge will bring her deep catalog of hits to Pompano Beach Amphitheater on May 12. PROVIDED BY ELIZABETH MIRANDA

## Concert prices and hassle hit sour note with fans

Ben Sisario The New York Times

Ellen Rothman still speaks with awe about the first time she saw Bruce Springsteen perform, at "a sleazy little blues bar" in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1974.

"It was like the roof was going to blow off the venue," she recalled recently. "I have never experienced anything else like that in my life."

Now 75, Rothman said she had been to around 180 Springsteen concerts, but was skipping his latest tour. For decades, Springsteen had kept his tickets at bargain rates, buttressing his reputation as a man of the people. But for his current outing with the E Street Band, a chunk of the seats for each venue were sold through "dynamic pricing," which allows their cost to rise and fall with demand; some went for up to \$5,000.

"We feel betrayed on some level," Rothman said. "I have no problem with an artist making a good living. But at what point do you feel taken advantage of?"

This year should be a gigantic one for the concert business, with major tours by Springsteen, Taylor Swift, Beyoncé, Ed Sheeran, Drake, Madonna, Morgan



Bruce Springsteen performs at Madison Square Garden in New York on April 1. As some of music's biggest acts hit the road again, buying concert tickets has become a mess of high prices and surcharges, anxiety-inducing registrations and pervasive scalping. NINA WESTERVELT/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Wallen, Metallica and others filling stadiums and arenas. The music industry,

now largely free of the restrictions that hampered touring during the COVID-19

pandemic, is already buzzing about whether box-office records will be broken.

But for the average music fan, the once simple act of buying a ticket is now often a frustrating mess of high prices and surcharges, anxiety-inducing pre-sale registrations, pervasive scalping and crushing competition for the most in-demand shows.

"Nowadays it just feels so daunting," said Evan Howard, 24, a musician and Pilates instructor in New York. "It's this whole task you need to set aside an entire day for."

Swift's botched presale in November, when Ticketmaster's systems were overwhelmed by demand from both fans and bots, was the most high-profile problem. It led to a vituperative Senate Judiciary Committee hearing at which Ticketmaster and its corporate parent, Live Nation Entertainment, a monopoly.

Since then, ticketing has only heated up as a political issue. In his State of the Union address, President Joe Biden said "we can stop service fees on tickets to

See **HASSLE**, Page 2F



# Hassle

Continued from Page 1F

concerts and sporting events,” and called for the disclosure of all fees upfront, something Live Nation has said it supports. (The Justice Department is also conducting an antitrust investigation of Live Nation.)

But higher prices may simply be here to stay, at least for the biggest events. That, industry insiders say, is a function of increased costs all around, as well as a recognition by artists that resale platforms like StubHub have revealed the true market value of a top-notch concert ticket.

## A permanent trend?

In an interview last year with Rolling Stone, Springsteen endorsed that view. “The ticket broker or someone is going to be taking that money,” he said. “I’m going, ‘Hey, why shouldn’t that money go to the guys that are going to be up there sweating three hours a night for it?’”

For the first leg of Springsteen’s tour, which went on sale in July, around 11% of seats were designated “Official Platinum,” which are priced dynamically, according to Ticketmaster. The average price for all tickets at that time was \$262. Ticketmaster and Springsteen’s camp declined to release any more recent data; representatives for Springsteen also declined to comment for this article.

The cost of tickets for the tour has led to a roiling debate about whether the bond between artist and audience has been broken. Backstreets, the leading Springsteen fan publication since 1980, ran a fiery editorial last year saying that the new pricing “violates an implicit contract between Bruce Springsteen and his fans.” In February, Christopher Phillips, Backstreets’ editor and publisher, said he was shutting down the publication in protest.

For concertgoers across the board, it has been a season of sticker shock.

Beyoncé, who had a far smoother sale than Swift, was selling dynamically priced seats off the floor at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey for about \$1,000 apiece, according to one attendee’s receipts. At Madison Square Garden in New York, you could get a pair of Madonna tickets for \$1,300; “platinum” seats in the same section are now nearly \$1,000 each.

When Drake’s three shows at Barclays Center in New York’s Brooklyn borough went on sale in March, “standard” tickets, listed at \$69.50 to \$329.50, were snapped up almost immediately, leaving fans to contend with dynamic prices as high as \$1,182.

Some Springsteen devotees said these price escalations happened en route to checkout. “It’s like going to Walmart and putting a TV in your cart for \$399, and you go to the register and they say, ‘Sorry, that’s now \$1,000,’” said Roberta Facinelli, a fan in New Orleans.

Extreme pricing is a phenomenon largely confined to a limited number of superstar tours. The average ticket price paid for one of the top 100 tours in North America last year was \$111, while the average ticket on Broadway last season was \$126. Try telling that to a Depeche Mode follower whose only options for a Madison Square Garden show this month are scalped seats ranging from \$302 to \$1,220.

Even bargain hunters have felt the sting. Alexus Bomar, a 27-year-old in Detroit, found two Beyoncé stadium tickets for \$330, and used a payment plan to cover the cost. But she was dismayed to see that Drake was charging about \$500 a pair in the upper decks.

“I saw a tweet that said they’d never spend more than what they spent for Beyoncé for anyone else,” Bomar said. “That’s kind of how I feel.”

## Surcharges upon surcharges

And then there are the fees, which have been creeping up for years. In 2018, the Government Accountability Office found that these charges added an average of 27% to a ticket order. This year, the American Economic Liberties Pro-

ject, as part of an activist group calling itself the Break Up Ticketmaster Coalition, said its research showed that fees added an average of 32%.

These charges frustrate artists as well as fans, as demonstrated by Robert Smith of the Cure, who for the past several weeks has been tweeting his way through one ticketing snag after another for his band’s North American tour.

The group took pains to keep prices low — they were just \$20 for some venues — and worked to thwart scalpers by making seats nontransferable outside of an online “face value ticket exchange” operated by Ticketmaster. Yet when tickets went on sale last month, fans found that for some of the cheapest seats, added fees exceeded the listed face value, more than doubling their ultimate cost.

On Twitter, Smith amplified fan complaints, pressuring Ticketmaster to solve egregious problems like seats on the face-value exchange that were nonetheless advertised for prices many times higher. In response, Ticketmaster agreed to refund some of the fees — a rare concession that raised eyebrows throughout the industry.

“We don’t want to price anybody out of the show,” Smith tweeted this week. “Any major artist can do the same. But we cannot control the fees that are added.”

A spokesperson for Ticketmaster noted that artists set the face value of their tickets, and usually keep most of that money, while “most fees are set and kept by venues.”

Ticketmaster’s Verified Fan program, a screening system meant to identify the buyers most likely to use their tickets, rather than scalp them, has been a double-edged sword. Some fans, like Bomar, credit it with giving them a fair shot. “That is the only good thing I could give to Ticketmaster,” she said.

But the system has also baffled customers, with decadeslong followers of acts like Springsteen and the Cure saying they were locked out. Arusha Baker, who has seen the Cure 120 times since 1986, said she had gotten the credential but was then “permanently wait-listed.”

## Scalpers gonna scalp

Scalpers have found some ingenious ways to resell Cure tickets — one method, documented on the tech site Motherboard, involved the transfer of entire Ticketmaster accounts — as Ticketmaster has struggled to police these problems.

To nonfans, Smith may be best known for his unruly mop of hair. But his crusade for fairer and more affordable tickets has made him something of a folk hero, even as Springsteen has risked some of that reputation through his latest tour.

“Every step of the way, this man’s sole intent is to combat scalpers and keep tickets in the hands of the fans,” said Baker, who has spent more than 20 years making a documentary about Cure fans.

Other musicians, frustrated with the ticketing status quo, have experimented. Zach Bryan booked a tour avoiding venues affiliated with Ticketmaster, using a rival ticket vendor, AXS, and taking steps to rein in fees and block scalpers.

Still, the industry shows no signs of lowering prices. The shock that fans are experiencing, many executives and talent agents say, may be a necessary adjustment to a world where the most popular events just cost more — especially if those high-priced shows keep selling out.

Jed Weitzman, the head of music at Logitix, who uses data from the secondary market to advise artists on how to set prices for their tickets, says the business is “in a moment of transition.”

“The reality of a market economy is that things cost more,” Weitzman added. “Artists want to make money and deliver a great product, and I’m all for that. It’s not 1975 and tickets aren’t \$8 anymore.”

That may be cold comfort for fans like Rothman who built their connection to Springsteen show by show, at prices that for years remained at around \$100 but now are often many times higher.

“It’s not worth it,” she said. “Even for Bruce.”

# Concerts

Continued from Page 1F

## Tom Jones

What’s new pussycat? Channeling a 1969 Las Vegas vibe, the Welsh 82-year-old singer brings his swaggering style of pop along with his string of 1960s hits with, of course, “It’s Not Unusual” leading the pack. How much longer can this octogenarian tour? Don’t wait to find out. 8 p.m. Friday, May 12; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; seminolehardrockhollywood.com

## Walker Hayes

You might not know his name of the top of your head, but if you’ve seen or heard an Applebee’s commercial in the last year, you’ve probably heard Hayes’ song “Fancy Like,” a tribute to the affordable date-night spot. (The guy’s married with six kids; he knows about date night and saving money.) Sure, it’s catchy, but don’t buttonhole the guy; 6:30 p.m. Saturday, June 10, Mizner Park Amphitheater, 590 Plaza Real, Boca Raton. myboca.us.

## Ryan Adams

Beset by “me too” accusations pre-pandemic, Adams returns sober and with his reconstituted band for two dates — an indication he hasn’t lost his fan base. One of the most prolific alt-country songwriters in the aughts, Adams has veered toward mainstream rock for the past decade, so the set list will be of great interest to fans. Wednesday and Thursday, June 14 and 15; Parker Playhouse, 707 Northeast 8th St., Fort Lauderdale; 954-462-0222; parkerplayhouse.com

## Paramore

Sassy Haley Williams and bandmates have been tearing it up on her recent tour if TikTok snippets are any testament. With one of the most loyal fan bases of any ongoing concern, Paramore will bring its huge and diverse catalog, from the punk-influenced “Misery Business” to the exquisite pop of “The Only Exception.” 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 14; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; seminolehardrockhollywood.com

## Duran Duran with Nile Rodgers & Chic and Bastille

After being inducted in the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in November, the band behind 1980s hits such as “Hungry Like

A Wolf,” “Girls on Film” and “Rio” are touring behind a new album. Duran Duran will be joined by legendary musician and producer Nile Rodgers (“Le Freak”) and the English pop band Bastille. 7 p.m. Sunday, June 18; FLA Live Arena, 1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise; flalivearena.com

## Bryan Adams featuring special guest Joan Jett & the Blackhearts

The “Summer of ‘69” Canadian rocker will bring his string of hits that in the 1980s gave Journey a run for its money when it came to torch rock balladry. Jett is an icon who opened the door for women rockers first with the Runaways and then with the Blackhearts. She is also known to sprinkle in some awesome covers into her set. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, June 20; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; seminolehardrockhollywood.com

## Garbage & Noel Gallagher's High Flying Birds

A 1990s alt-rock double bill. Garbage — “Only Happy When It Rains” — brings one of the top female singers of any outfit in Shirley Manson; while Gallagher, the former Oasis guitarist who was behind the band’s biggest hits, will mix his new stuff with some classic “Wonderwall” performances. 7 p.m. Wednesday, June 21; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach; westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com

## The Smile

Some fans may know The Smile as the newest iteration of Radiohead with its chief songwriters Thom Yorke and Jonny Greenwood touring behind their strongest set of songs since 2007’s “In Rainbows.” The Smile is everything a Radiohead fan could want: polyrhythmic, inventive riffs, and an iconic singer whose voice can turn into liquid mercury. The band is said to be working on new material. 8 p.m. Monday, June 29; James L. Knight Center, 400 SE 2nd Avenue, Miami; 305-416-5978; jlkc.com

## Peter Frampton

Yes, this 73-year-old called it quits roughly four years ago, citing his health, but he’s back and launching his aptly named “Never Say Never” tour. There have been many great live albums but arguably none better than “Frampton Comes Alive.” Not to put too fine a point on it, but get out to see this legend before he calls it quits for good. 8 p.m. Monday, July 3; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 866-502-7529; seminolehardrockhollywood.com



Hayley Williams and her group, Paramore, make a stop at the Hard Rock on June 14. AARON J. THORNTON/WIREIMAGE

## Matchbox Twenty & The Wallflowers

The multi-platinum hitmakers Matchbox Twenty (“Push”) will join with Jakob Dylan’s outfit, The Wallflowers (“One Headlight”, “6th Avenue Heartache”) for some introspective rock. 7:30 p.m. Friday, July 7; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach; westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com

## Foreigner with Loverboy

Nostalgic for 1980s rock? One of the behemoths is on their farewell tour with another top act of the era, Loverboy. Mick Jones is the last original member, but Foreigner is still a six-member outfit and will bring hits like “Cold as Ice,” “Double Vision” and “Juke Box Hero.” 7:00 p.m. Saturday, July 8; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach; westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com

## Blink-182

**From the Gen-X dad of a young musician:** This band arguably is the most emulated by bratty teenage would-be rockers the world over. Their punky style of infectious alternative rock has endured over three decades and now the original members have reunited. **From a member of that younger generation:** Fans of the 2000s punk band

will be able to relive our heavy eyeliner phases together. If recent trends on TikTok are any indication, millennial parents are already frothy anticipating their future children’s discovery of Blink-182’s hits — including songs that catapult them back to their own time of life that definitely wasn’t a phase. Mom. Ugh. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 11; FLA Live Arena, 1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise; flalivearena.com

## ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd

Tragedy and Father Time have taken their toll on both these bands, but what is left will bring a heavy dose of Texas and Southern bluesy classic rock for those who grew up on their numerous hits. And can you really pass on going to the one concert where yelling, “Freebird” is actually appropriate? 6:30 p.m. Friday, July 21; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansburys Way, West Palm Beach; westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com

## Young The Giant

Known best for its 2010 self-titled first album and its massively popular indie single “Cough Syrup,” Young The Giant will bring its newest album, “American Bollywood,” to the stage. The new album, released in four parts with stunning visual elements, feels like a total departure from the band’s previous moody sound. It’s a rich exploration into lead singer Sameer Gadhia’s Indian-American lineage, his relationships with his parents and his own masculinity as a person with a foot in two countries and two cultures. The album feels relevant to children of immigrants to the U.S. no matter their country of origin. The band’s concerts are full of good vibes and easy-to-listen-to music that rocks on the radio. 7 p.m. Saturday, July 22; FPL Solar Amphitheater at Bayfront Park, 301 Biscayne Blvd., Miami; bayfrontparkamphitheater.com

## George Strait

Open up your wallet. The King of Country Music doesn’t come cheap. In between his six stadium tours with Chris Stapleton and Little Big Town, Strait is performing smaller shows at venues like the Hard Rock. And the Texas troubadour can pack them in, even at 70. Even his last album, 2019’s “Honky Tonk Time Machine,” is record-breaking: With his single “Weight of the Badge,” Strait became the first artist to have 100 songs on Billboard’s Country Airplay chart. But fans want to hear classic Strait masterpieces, and they will. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, Hard

See **CONCERTS**, Page 3F



# Country comes to South Florida the summer. Don't miss these 7 concerts

**Janis Fontaine**

Special to Palm Beach Post  
USA TODAY NETWORK

We are totally hyped about finding 23 must-see concerts for the summer of 2023, and in that list, we certainly didn't ignore the country music genre. (I mean, you can't have a best-of concert list and ignore George Strait.) But we couldn't resist giving country its own nod and giving our readers a few more options when it comes to planning summer time entertainment.

The following is a list of the country concerts worth seeing and our reasons why these performers — and also their opening acts — are worthy. Some might require a little travel, others a little cash and at least one will require both!

## Walker Hayes

You might not know his name of the top of your head, but if you've seen or heard an Applebee's commercial in the last year, you've probably heard Hayes' song "Fancy Like," a tribute to the affordable date-night spot. (The guy's married with six kids; he knows about date night and saving money.) Sure, it's catchy, but don't buttonhole the guy; Hayes can do a lot more.

Although it seems like Hayes just arrived on the Nashville scene, he's been there songwriting and struggling since 2005. He saw a few of his songs recorded by other artists and seemed to be forever on the cusp of stardom until the single "You Broke Up With Me" from his project "Boom" exploded. The song peaked at No. 9 on the Hot Country Songs charts in 2018 and he was gaining momentum. Then COVID came along, and Hayes and his family started making TikTok videos at home from his country songs. They made one for "Fancy Like" and the rest is Oreo-shake history.

Hayes will share the stage with special guests Ingrid Andress and Breland, two chart-toppers in their own right. Andress ("More Hearts Than Mine" and "Good Person") is a strong songwriter with a huge future in front of her. Breland is a gifted singer and musician with a buttery baritone capable of vocal magic.

**If you go:** 6:30-11 p.m. Saturday, June 10, Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton. Special guest artists: Ingrid Andress and Breland. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or 561-393-7890.

## Lady A

Lady A kicked off the "Request Line Tour" in April after postponing it last August so Charles Kelley could work on his sobriety. Hilary Scott, Dave Haywood and Kelley are back with their delicious vocal harmony and Kelley with the song "As Far As You Could," a deeply touching, "therapeutic" song about sobriety. The trio uses the "request line" format on the tour to give fans a chance to interact and offer input on which songs Lady A plays. With eight studio albums and 11 No. 1 records, from 2008's "I Run To You" to 2022's "What A Song Can Do," and dozens of other great tracks, even the trio is surprised by what the fans want to hear.

The trio's special guest artist is sing-



**Our take: Luke Combs is worth the drive to Tampa.** BEAVER COUNTY TIMES FILE

er/songwriter Dave Barnes. You might not know his name, but you know his songs, which include the Blake Shelton hit "God Gave Me You."

**If you go:** 8 p.m. Saturday, July 1, Aurene Theater at Broward Center For the Performing Arts, Fort Lauderdale. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com)

## Dierks Bentley

Dierks Bentley has delivered a steady stream of hits since he released his first song, "What Was I Thinking," 20 years ago in April. Since then, Bentley has toured as much as anyone in the business and produced a wider variety of music than most. Critics loved his bluegrass album "Up On the Ridge" as much as fans love his catchy, colloquial offerings meant to be lighthearted fodder for the end of a long workweek: "Somewhere on a Beach," "Drunk on a Plane" and "Beers on Me."

"Gold," the first single from Bentley's 10th studio album, "Gravel & Gold," revisits another popular theme: Focusing on what's really valuable. These songs deal with deep subjects. "Home" is an anthem to the armed forces, and "I Hold On" is a deeply personal track about faith, love and freedom, proving Bentley has depth and a sense of humor.

Bentley also has an opening act worth showing up for. Caylee Hammock recently released the song "History of Repeating," a sad ballad that asks why we make the same mistakes over and over. The redheaded "newcomer" released her first album in 2020 and she was getting ready to tour with Reba (the original redhead of country music) when COVID-19 derailed live music. Hammock released the video for "History of Repeating" at the beginning of April and it's filmed on a merry-go-round. How did she ride that thing long enough to make the video? Dramamine?

**If you go:** 7 p.m. Saturday, July 15, iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansbury's Way, West Palm Beach. Opening acts: Jordan Davis and Caylee Hammock. 561-795-8883; [westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com](http://westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com) or [livenation.com](http://livenation.com).

## George Strait

Open up your wallet. The King of Country Music doesn't come cheap.

In between his six stadium tours with Chris Stapleton and Little Big Town, Strait is performing smaller shows at venues like the Hard Rock. And the Texas Troubadour can pack them in, even at



**Dierks Bentley, at a 2017 concert in Texas, is touring this summer to promote his 10th studio album, "Gravel & Gold."** GETTY IMAGES

70. He fills the NRG Stadium for the Houston Rodeo beyond its 72,000 capacity every time he plays there.

Five dozen chart-topping singles over a 42+ year career and 33 platinum or multi-platinum albums (more than any other country artist) are records that may never be broken. Even his last album, 2019's "Honky Tonk Time Machine," is record-breaking: With his single "Weight of the Badge," Strait became the first artist to have 100 songs on Billboard's Country Airplay chart.

But the fans want to hear the classic Strait masterpieces, and they will.

This tour features Caitlyn Smith who often joins Strait on his Vegas dates. She has three albums under her belt: "Starfire" from 2018, "Supernova" from 2020 and the just released "High & Low" in April 2023. She's written songs for Miley Cyrus, Dolly Parton, Meghan Trainor, John Legend and Garth Brooks and Rolling Stone magazine called her one of ten country artists to know. Her powerhouse vocals on ballads like "Lately," and her classic country sound are clear indicators she's a good fit for a Strait show and a Strait fan.

**If you go:** 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, Hard Rock Live at the Seminole Hard Rock Hotel & Casino Hollywood, 1 Seminole Way, Fort Lauderdale. [seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://seminolehardrockhollywood.com)

Plus, one worth a trip out of town ...

## Luke Combs

The demand for Luke Combs' music started strong and has never faltered since he released "Hurricane" in 2016, even during the pandemic — proof that this man from North Carolina is the real deal. "Hurricane" hit No. 1 in 2017, and the hits kept coming: "When It Rains It Pours," "Beautiful Crazy," and "She Got the Best of Me." Why? Combs' music appeals to a broader range of fans than some of the other artists making records. He's an "everyman," still totally relatable, not too egocentric, pensive, thoughtful, a modern country music poet. Don't miss "Five Leaf Clover."

As soon as Combs finishes his U.S. tour, the current king of country takes his act over the wide blue to see his friends in New Zealand, Australia, Nor-

way, Denmark and the rest of Europe and the UK.

Combs' show (which starts early and ends late) is packed with talent, making it worth the effort of getting to Tampa. Riley Green ("There Was This Girl" and "I Wish Grandpas Never Died") and Lainey Wilson ("Yellowstone" fans will recognize her as will anyone who has heard her anthem "Heart Like A Truck.") are joined by Flatland Cavalry and Brent Cobb.

**If you go:** 5:45 p.m. Saturday, July 8, Raymond James Stadium, Tampa. [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com).

## Billy Currington

For pure vocal prowess — a slippery baritone so smooth you'll be sure it must be fixed in the studio but it's not — Billy Currington has been unmatched since he released his first song to country radio in 2003. The heart-breaking ballad, "Walk a Straighter," about his alcoholic stepfather peaked at No. 8 but proved this man wasn't afraid to stretch the boundaries, melodically and thematically.

His first No. 1 was the super-sexy, rolling-around-in-the-sand-on-the-beach song "Must Be Doing Somethin' Right." A string of No. 1s followed — including the poignant "People Are Crazy" and the lighthearted "Pretty Good at Drinking Beer" — but since the late 2010s, he hasn't charted again.

Maybe that will change with the sexy duet with his tourmate and longtime friend, guest star Jesse James Decker. This guy who cut his vocal chops in church blends perfectly with the raspy Decker on "Still Love You," released in late 2022.

If you're a "Dancing with the Stars" fan, you'll recognize Decker from Season 31 in 2022 when she danced with Alan Bernstein. She's an incredibly gifted dancer, but her voice is even more flexible than her body. Find solid vocals dynamically delivered and maybe some new dance steps.

**If you go:** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 8, Mizner Park Amphitheater, Boca Raton. With special guest Jessie James Decker. [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or 561-393-7890

## Concerts

Continued from Page 2F

Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Fort Lauderdale. 866-502-7529; [seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://seminolehardrockhollywood.com)

## Counting Crows with Dashboard Confessional

Of the rock bands that emerged in the early 1990s, there are few left standing. Counting Crows is one of them, and singer Adam Duritz and Co. will bring their jam folk to South Florida behind a new EP, a well-received song suite that at times evokes early Bruce Springsteen. 8 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; [seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://seminolehardrockhollywood.com)

## Beyoncé

Any South Florida concert roundup would be remiss if it didn't mention Queen Bey. Beyoncé will grace the stage at Hard Rock Stadium following an international tour that will take her from Sweden and Germany to Atlanta and her native Houston. Although Beyoncé



**Beyoncé hasn't toured since 2016, but with a new album out fans are busy speculating about the coming spectacle — and that is one thing that is guaranteed.** CHRIS PIZZELLO/INVISION/AP

is the most-nominated female artist in Grammy history (79 noms and counting), she's coming off a disappointing awards season where many fans felt she was snubbed at this year's Grammys when Harry Styles won Album of the Year. Beyoncé's show in Miami is not yet sold out, and it's sure to be an absolute spectacle. With new hits from her "Renaissance" album likely to be on the set-

list, including infectious dance hits "Break My Soul" and "Cuff It," Beyoncé's show is sure to be a high-energy celebration of an artist who is truly once in a generation. 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 18; Hard Rock Stadium, 374 Don Shula Dr., Miami Gardens; 1-866-502-7529; [hardrockstadium.com](http://hardrockstadium.com)

## Smashing Pumpkins with Interpol and Rival Sons

Fresh off their tour with Janes Addiction, this time Billy Corgan and company will visit with moody Interpol. The Pumpkins' shows recently have been visually stunning as Corgan brings an Uncle Fester/Nosferatu vibe. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 19; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansbury's Way, West Palm Beach; [livenation.com](http://livenation.com)

## Leon Bridges

A modern soul singer who seems to be cut from the same musical tree as Otis Redding and Sam Cooke, Bridges gives — let's say a more adult music alternative — in a summer full of nostalgia tours and pop. 8 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 24; Hard Rock Live, 1 Seminole Way, Hollywood; 1-866-502-7529; [seminolehardrockhollywood.com](http://seminolehardrockhollywood.com)

## Lionel Richie and Earth Wind & Fire

Richie made hits first with the Commodores and then as a solo artist. "Say You, Say Me," "Hello," and "Three Times a Lady" dominated the charts. Earth, Wind & Fire's "December" is an anthem that is interwoven into the culture now. The question is: Will Richie break out "Brick House?" 7:30 p.m. Friday, Aug. 25; FLA Live Arena, 1 Panther Parkway, Sunrise; [flalivearena.com](http://flalivearena.com)

## Dave Matthews Band

So how many times do you think Matthews will comment on how hot it is? The genre-bending DMB always make a summer stop in Palm Beach County, but this time they should have some new tunes to play as a new album has been teased. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, July 28 and 29; iThink Financial Amphitheatre, 601-7 Sansbury's Way, West Palm Beach; [westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com](http://westpalmbeachamphitheatre.com)

Labor Day weekend and therefore summer officially ends before the arrival of Madonna. The iconic Material Girl's latest tour stops in Miami for two days the following weekend on Sept. 9 and 10.