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WSRE to host free film screening of award-winning Hank Locklin documentary

“Hank Locklin: Country Music’s Timeless Tenor” tells story of a homegrown country music star

HANK LOCKLIN

Country Music’s Timeless Tenor

PENSACOLA, Fla., September 8, 2021 — WSRE’s award-winning production, “Hank Locklin: Country Music’s Timeless Tenor,” will be shown on the big screen in the station’s Jean & Paul Amos Performance Studio on Thursday, Sept. 30, at 7 p.m. Audience Q&A with Hank Adam Locklin and the film’s producers will take place after the film. Admission is free.

The one-hour film documents the story of Hank Locklin, who is best known for two monster hits, “Please Help Me, I’m Falling” and the self-penned “Send Me the Pillow You Dream On,” and as a longtime member of the Grand Ole Opry. The country crooner from Santa Rosa County recorded 65 albums with 15 million sold and had two Grammy nominations, six No. 1 hits and 70 chart singles. He is in the Florida Artists Hall of Fame and the Alabama Music Hall of Fame.

Iconic country artists Bill Anderson, Vince Gill, Dolly Parton, Jeannie Seely, Marty Stuart and Dwight Yoakam, along with Locklin’s son, Hank Adam Locklin, are featured in the film as the primary storytellers. Other country greats in the cast include Charley Pride, Crystal Gayle, William Lee Golden, Ray Stevens and broadcaster Ralph Emery.

WSRE won a Gold Telly Award in the Television Documentary category for the production, putting the local PBS station licensed to Pensacola State College in the company of filmmaking powerhouses including Florentine Films (Ken Burns), ESPN and Smithsonian Channel.

This free film screening is sponsored in part by The Kelly Group at Morgan Stanley. The event will be held in compliance with Florida COVID-19 Response guidelines in place at the time.

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About Hank Locklin:

Born Lawrence Hankins Locklin in McLellan, Fla., on Feb. 15, 1918, Hank Locklin began his career singing in roadhouses along the Gulf Coast and performing on WCOA radio in Pensacola. He went on to perform on the Big D Jamboree and Louisiana Hayride and was signed to 4 Star Records before being lured to record with Chet Atkins at RCA Victor, where he recorded in Nashville from 1955 to 1974 and helped establish the Nashville Sound. In 1960, he joined the Grand Ole Opry, of which he remained a member for 49 years. Locklin is known for his role in introducing concept albums; for being hugely popular overseas, especially in Ireland; and for the longevity of his high tenor voice, recording well into his 80s. Locklin had six No. 1 hits, two Grammy nominations and more than 15 million albums sold. He was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2007 and into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2014. He died on March 8, 2009, in Brewton, Ala.

About the Film:

“Hank Locklin: Country Music’s Timeless Tenor” is a production of PBS member station WSRE, Pensacola, Fla., and is produced by Mary Riker and directed by James Roy. The film’s broadcast premiere aired on WSRE on Oct. 29, 2020. Since then, the film has aired on more than 200 PBS stations covering about 55 percent of the country and has been awarded a 2021 Gold Telly Award in the Television Documentary category.

Major funding for “Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor” was provided in part by a Country Music Community Engagement Grant; The Bear Family Foundation; Jacque Falzone; McKenzie Buick GMC; and by Patricia R. Dyehouse; Bobby and Karen Emmons; Flora-Bama Lounge, Package & Oyster Bar and the Frank Brown International Songwriters’ Festival; Tom and Jane McMillan; Michael V. Riesberg, M.D.; Pam and Harry Schwartz; Videau Family Charitable Trust; and Pat Windham.

Country Music is a production of Florentine Films and WETA, Washington, DC, and is directed by Ken Burns. Funding for Country Music was provided by Bank of America, the Annenberg Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, Belmont University, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Rosalind P. Walter and by members of “The Better Angels Society,” including: The Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Schwartz/Reisman Foundation, the Pfeil Foundation, Diane and Hal Brierley, John and Catherine Debs, the Fullerton Family Charitable Fund, the Perry and Donna Golkin Family Foundation, Jay Alix and Una Jackman, Mercedes T. Bass, Fred and Donna Seigel, Gilchrist and Amy Berg, James R. Berdell Foundation, David Bonderman, Deborah P. and Jonathan T. Dawson, Senator Bill and Tracy Frist, Susan and David Kreisman, Rocco and Debby Landesman, Lillian Lovelace, John and Leslie McQuown, Mindy’s Hope Foundation, the Segal Family Foundation, Michelle Smith. Major funding was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS.

About WSRE: WSRE, a PBS member station licensed to the Pensacola State College District Board of Trustees and supported by the WSRE-TV Foundation, serves as a critical media source for trusted content and a safe media space for children to grow and learn.