

A Night to Remember: The 11th Annual Josie Music Awards Lights Up the Grand Ole Opry House

The independent Music Community was celebrated in a big way at the 11th Annual Josie Music Awards held at The Grand Ole Opry House.



Nashville, Tennessee Nov 5, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.issuewire.com)) - This past Sunday, November 2nd, the Grand Ole Opry House was transformed into a breathtaking celebration of independent music as the **11th Annual Josie Music Awards** took center stage. With heart, soul, and unmatched production excellence, co-founders and co-owners **Josie Passantino-Boone** and **Tinamarie Passantino** once again led the charge, hosting this iconic event that honors and elevates independent artists across the globe. Thousands in attendance came to celebrate with The Josie Music Awards.

The stage came alive with stellar performances from a lineup of celebrated artists including the legendary **Lorrie Morgan**, whose presence brought the house to its feet, **Carolina Rial**, **Esther June**, **Ashley Jordan** (introduced by actor **Barry Corbin** virtually), **Jasmine Cain**, **Jim Brown**, **Tyler**

Dean McDowell, Kathryn Shipley & Shane Thornton, and closing us out was **The Matt Boone Band**.

The evening opened with a powerful and emotional performance by **Tyler Dean McDowell**, who paid tribute to his father by performing “All Tied Up,” setting the tone for a night filled with unforgettable moments and standing ovations.

Among the night’s most poignant highlights:

- **Lorrie Morgan** received the **Lifetime Career Achievement Award**, presented by her son **Jesse Keith Whitley**, in a deeply moving tribute.
- **EG Daily** accepted the **JMA Icon Award** via video, honoring her enduring impact on the industry.
- **Wings of Rescue** was named **Humanitarian Organization of the Year**, applauded for their life-saving work.
- **The Malpass Brothers** were honored with the **JMA Tex Ritter Award**, presented by **Tommie Ritter**.
- Legendary hit songwriter **Steve Dorff** received the **Songwriter Legend Award**, presented by **John Berry** and **Bobby Tomberlin**.

One of the most spiritually resonant moments came when **Kathryn Shipley and Shane Thornton** performed a gospel song that moved the entire venue to rise in unity—many described it as a true revival.

Throughout the evening, Josie and Tinamarie were joined on stage by a host of esteemed presenters, including **Jake Hoot, Deborah Allen, Charlene Tilton, David Chokachi** (via video), **Vic Hill, Sammy Sadler with Dave Gibson, Clarence Jey, Carl Wayne Meekins, Jim Brown, Christopher Wyze**, and **Irene Michaels**, each adding their own sparkle to the celebration.

The awards ceremony was part of a full weekend of festivities that began with the **JMA Music Festival and Conference** held at the Belle Air Mansion in Nashville. The event featured:

- A keynote address by **Nick Holmstén**
- A dynamic industry panel with **John Mike (RMA Presents), Eric Dahl, John Ford Coley**, and **Jason Lee McKinney**
- A professional pavilion hosted by **RMA Presents, Perry Music Group**, and **Wayne PR**, where artists submitted materials directly to industry professionals

Festival performances included **Lauren Anderson, Sammy Sadler, Dave Gibson, Laura Sawosko, Gio**, and the **Jason Lee McKinney Band**. The night concluded with an intimate acoustic set by **Jake Hoot**, creating a magical close to an extraordinary weekend.

In total, **244 awards** were presented, recognizing excellence across genres, roles, and contributions to the independent music community.

Sponsors for the weekend included **The Vic Hill Show, Volunteer Speedway**, and **The Thrill.TV**, whose support helped bring this monumental celebration to life.

From the first note to the final bow, the 11th Annual Josie Music Awards was a testament to the power of independent artistry, community, and the unwavering dedication of its founders. It was more than an

event—it was a movement, a memory, and a milestone that is unmatched in the independent music industry.

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