



NASHVILLE'S CORPORATE COMMUNITY EMBRACES TRADITION, HOLIDAY SPIRIT OF NASHVILLE CHRISTMAS PARADE

Nashville Conventions & Visitor's Bureau, Wal-Mart Lead Sponsors of Parade

NASHVILLE, TN., Dec. 1 – Fifty-seven years in the making, Nashville's annual Christmas Parade is once again poised to spread holiday cheer to thousands of individuals and families in the region. The parade, hosted by Piedmont Natural Gas, has long been supported by the Nashville business community, helping to make the annual event a signature opening to the holiday season.

The parade kicks-off the Christmas season in downtown Nashville on Friday, December 4, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. CST. Following a tree lighting ceremony at 6:00 p.m. at the Public Square, the Parade will commence at the intersection of Broadway and 6th Avenue in front of the Sommet Center and continue through Nashville's historic downtown, concluding at LP Field. Fireworks sponsored by the Nashville Downtown Partnership will kick off the parade.

Community sponsors for this year's parade include the Nashville Conventions & Visitor's Bureau and Wal-Mart. Other sponsors include Averitt Express, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, and Caldwell, Bridgestone Americas, Inc. (BSAM), Clair Global, The Copper Kettle, Gaylord Hotels Music City Bowl, Joslin Signs, Kickin' Coffee & Tea, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, Nashville Downtown Partnership, Performance Studios and Signature Limousine.

Presenting Media partners are *The Tennessean*, Lamar Outdoor Advertising, Comcast and Clear Channel Communications which includes WSIX 98, 1510 WLAC, 107.5 The River, 105.9 The Rock and 101.1 The Beat.

"On behalf of the thousands of people eagerly anticipating this week's festivities, I want to thank our corporate sponsors for supporting the Nashville Christmas Parade," said Eddie Davidson, Piedmont's senior manager, Legislative and Community Affairs for Tennessee. "It's encouraging to see support from such a diverse group of companies. It speaks to the health of Nashville's business community and the popularity of the Nashville Christmas Parade."

Proceeds from the 57th annual Nashville Christmas Parade will benefit the Piedmont Natural Gas *Share the Warmth* Round Up program, helping provide emergency energy assistance to Nashville-area residents throughout the year.

Special Guests

Two rising country music groups, Carter's Chord and Steel Magnolia, will join Mayor Karl Dean, Parade Grand Marshal John Rich and others at the tree lighting ceremony and parade.

About Carter's Chord

Carter's Chord is, as the name implies, a musical triad of proverbial notes in perfect and beautiful harmony: three singing and songwriting sisters who were literally born into and raised on music. Becky, Emily and Joanna Robertson were blessed with music by their parents, Barny and Carter Robertson, who toured and recorded with Waylon Jennings during the height of the Outlaw movement. Now Carter's Chord are poised to take the music they grew up on and the music they create into the future with a sisterly blend of talent, charm and voices that is sure to soon be known and loved by music fans in country and beyond.

Signed by superstar Toby Keith to his Show Dog Nashville label, Carter's Chord is the real deal as well as the full package, multiplied times three. And it takes but a listen to their self-titled debut album, coproduced by Keith and their Grammy-winning father Barny Robertson, to know that something special if not magical has arrived on the scene.

About Steel Magnolia

Steel Magnolia blossomed one late night in March in Nashville's famous Printer's Alley. It was a bit like magic when Meghan Linsey and Joshua Scott Jones took the stage and sang together for the first time. Who knew that a chance meeting in a karaoke bar and an impromptu performance of Air Supply's "I'm All Out of Love" would bloom into something so musically refreshing.

Since the forming of the dynamic, singing, songwriting duo in 2006, record labels and publishers are starting to catch wind and are asking a lot of questions. The sound is soulful, the songs undeniable, and the music is taking people by storm.

For more information on the parade, please visit: www.nashvillechristmasparade.com or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/nashvillechristmasparade.

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About Piedmont Natural Gas

Piedmont Natural Gas is an energy services company primarily engaged in the distribution of natural gas to more than one million residential, commercial and industrial energy customers in North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee, including 61,000 customers served by municipalities who are wholesale customers. Our subsidiaries are invested in joint venture, energy-related businesses, including unregulated retail natural gas marketing, interstate natural gas storage and intrastate natural gas transportation. Additional information about Piedmont is available on the Internet at www.piedmontng.com.

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