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Music Row and "Wake Up Nashville!" Join Together to Raise Awareness and Research Funds for Narcolepsy

- ❖ *Songwriting contest / fundraising event brings together Nashville's music legends to benefit people living with debilitating sleep disorder.*
- ❖ *Songwriting artists encouraged to submit entries by September 12 for review by Music Row's Savannah Music Group.*
- ❖ *Winner invited to perform alongside industry greats on September 21 event at Nashville's Marathon Music Works.*
- ❖ *Nashville singer-songwriter Jimmy Wayne to headline talent-studded evening.*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – August 29, 2012 – Musical artists and songwriting winners from across North America will soon get the chance-of-a-lifetime to connect with [Music Row](#) legends. It's all part of the second annual "[Wake Up Nashville!](#)" not-for-profit fundraising event for the autoimmune disorder narcolepsy. The event takes place at 7 PM on September 21 at Nashville's [Marathon Music Works](#). Professional performers and publishers at Nashville's [Savannah Music Group](#) will review the songs submitted by the aspiring artists.

The winning artist will have the opportunity to perform his or her original work on stage at the event alongside industry legends and today's stars, including Nashville's [Jimmy Wayne](#), singer, songwriter, advocate and activist. The Top 10 submissions will be recorded on a CD created for the event.

[Wake Up Narcolepsy](#) (WUN), which sponsors "Wake Up Nashville!" is a national non-profit dedicated to building awareness of narcolepsy and raising funds to find a cure for this debilitating,



lifelong condition. Narcolepsy affects some 200,000 Americans and 3 million people worldwide – about one child in each school.

In exchange for each \$25 tax-deductible donation to Wake Up Narcolepsy, artists are encouraged to submit an original song for the competition. Submission deadline is September 12, 2012.

Current and legendary artists, including [Dave Gibson](#) (six number 1 hits), [Bobby Wood](#) (writer/artist for Garth Brooks and Elvis), [Mark Wayne Glasmire](#) (two number 1 hits), and others are expected to be on hand for the September 21 event. The Savannah Music Group has published hits by Montgomery Gentry, The Blind Boys of Alabama, Brad Paisley, The Randy Rogers Band, Tommy Steele, The Mulch Brothers, Kristina Cornell, The Dirt Drifters, and many others. Its music is also featured in the motion pictures “Country Strong” and “Sucker,” and in the upcoming TV series “Good Christian Belles.”

Opportunity to Shine and Help Others

Again this year, the “Wake Up Nashville!” finale promises to be distinctly different from conventional fundraisers. The event provides an informal atmosphere to enable personal connections with Music Row executives and performers, renowned sleep-disorder medical experts, and families representing those with narcolepsy, who will benefit from the event proceeds.

Tabitha Crawford, Bob Saporiti, and Denise Fussell blended their passion and creative talents in launching Wake Up Nashville in 2011. Crawford is the parent of a child with narcolepsy and a member of the Board of Directors of Wake Up Narcolepsy. Saporiti is General Manager at Savannah Music Group and a former top executive at Warner Bros. Records. Fussell is the owner of Fussell Graphics, a longtime supporter of the music industry.

"Music Row can be a challenging environment for aspiring artists to get a fair hearing," Saporiti observed. "Wake Up Nashville offers these artists a one-of-a-kind ‘audition,’ and at the same time raises much needed awareness and funds for a very worthy cause. And the chance to perform their song alongside successful songwriters and artists, as well as being exposed to the other industry elite in attendance – well, this is something really special!"



"We are proud to be part of such a special project, said Kelly Carden, M.D., of Saint Thomas Health, of Nashville, a sponsor of Wake Up Nashville. She is also a member of the Wake Up Narcolepsy Medical Advisory Board. "Raising awareness about narcolepsy and the importance of sleep health is important to our wellness mission. Saint Thomas wanted to play a role in bringing together an important and underserved cause with local music industry expertise.

"Everybody wins by working together—we can help those with narcolepsy while leveraging what Nashville does best—music," she adds.

To enter the songwriting contest, or purchase a ticket for the event, visit:

www.WakeUpNarcolepsy.org.

Sponsors of Wake Up Nashville! include [Jazz Pharmaceuticals](#), [Saint Thomas Health](#), of Nashville, and [Balfour Beatty Communities](#).



Singer, songwriter, activist Jimmy Wayne headlines the Wake Up Nashville! celebration on September 23 at Marathon Music Works in Nashville, to benefit Wake Up Nacolepsy.