

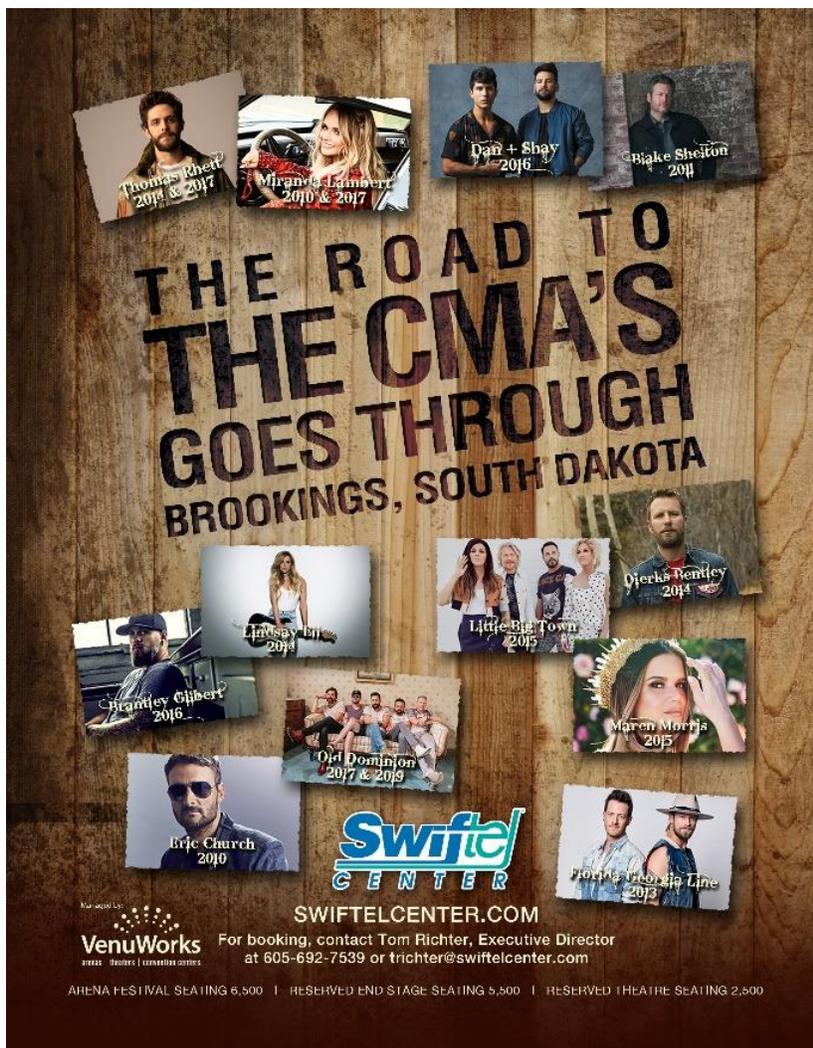
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# PRESS RELEASE

## The road to the CMAs goes through Brookings

*Twelve of the 2019 CMA Award nominees have performed at Swiftel Center*



Brookings, S.D. (10/16/2018) – Twelve of the 2019 Country Music Association (CMA) Award nominees have performed at the Swiftel Center, with some of the nominees performing multiple times at the Brookings arena. The Swiftel Center has made a name for itself as being a stop on the road to country music fame.

The earliest performer nominated for a 2019 CMA Award dates to November of 2010. Eric Church opened for Miranda Lambert on Lambert's arena headlining tour "Revolution." Church is nominated for Entertainer of the Year, Album of the Year for "Desperate Man" and Music Video of the Year for "Some Of It." In March of 2017, Lambert returned to the Swiftel Center on her arena headlining tour "Highway Vagabond." She is nominated for Female Vocalist of the Year.

In 2011, Blake Shelton brought his arena headlining tour "All About Tonight" to the Swiftel Center. Shelton is nominated for Single of the Year and Music Video of the Year for "God's Country" as well as Musical Event of the Year for "Dive Bar" featuring Garth Brooks.

In 2013, Florida Georgia Line kicked-off their first ever arena headlining tour at the Swiftel Center – “Here’s to the Good Times” – which sold out in less than 2.5 minutes. The duo is nominated for a seventh consecutive year for Vocal Duo of the Year.

Early in 2014, Lindsay Ell opened for The Band Perry on their arena headlining tour “We Are Pioneers.” Ell is nominated for Musical Event of the Year for “What Happens in a Small Town” along with Brantley Gilbert who is also nominated. Gilbert brought his arena headlining tour “The Blackout Tour” to the Swiftel Center in April of 2016.

Later in 2014, Dierks Bentley sold-out the Swiftel Center on his arena headlining tour “Riser.” Bentley is nominated for Male Vocalist of the Year as well as Single of the Year and Music Video of the Year for “Burning Man.”

In 2015, two of the 2019 CMA Award nominees hit the stage at the Swiftel Center for one epic night of country music. Little Big Town sold-out the Swiftel Center on their arena headlining tour “The Pain Killer,” bringing along special guest Maren Morris. Little Big Town is nominated for Vocal Group of the Year. Morris is nominated for a third consecutive year for Female Vocalist of the Year and second consecutive year for Musical Event of the Year for “All My Favorite People” featuring Brothers Osborne; Morris is also nominated for Album of the Year, Single of the Year, Song of the Year and Music Video of the Year with all nominations for her “GIRL.”

In 2016, Dan + Shay opened for Chris Young on Young’s arena headlining tour “I’m Comin’ Over.” Dan + Shay are nominated for Vocal Duo of the Year and Album of the Year as well as Single of the Year for “Speechless” and Song of the Year for “Tequila.”

In 2017, Swiftel Center hosted several sold-out concerts which featured three of the 2019 CMA Award Nominees. In March of 2017, Miranda Lambert rocked the Swiftel Center with over 4,900 in attendance. In December 2017, Thomas Rhett set the sold-out record for most concert attendees in Swiftel Center history with over 5,600. This was Rhett’s second time performing at the Swiftel Center; he opened for Jake Owen in 2014 on Owen’s first ever arena headlining tour “Days of Gold.” Rhett is nominated for Male Vocalist of the Year and Album of the Year for “Center Point Road.” Both Lambert and Rhett’s concerts were opened by Old Dominion who returned in 2019 on their own arena headlining tour “Make It Sweet.” Old Dominion is nominated for Vocal Group of the Year.

To learn more about the 2019 CMA Award Nominees who have performed at the Swiftel Center, visit [www.swiftelcenter.com/cma](http://www.swiftelcenter.com/cma). For more information on the Swiftel Center, visit [www.swiftelcenter.com](http://www.swiftelcenter.com), call (605) 692-7539 or follow us at [www.facebook.com/swiftelcenter](https://www.facebook.com/swiftelcenter).



### **53rd Annual Country Music Awards**

Country Music's biggest stars are coming together on one stage at "The 53rd Annual CMA Awards." Carrie Underwood will host Country Music's Biggest Night along with special guest hosts Reba McEntire and Dolly Parton, celebrating legendary women in Country Music. Watch as the Country Music industry reveals winners and honors its finest entertainers with unforgettable performances. Watch LIVE on November 13 at 7:00pm CST on ABC.

The CMA Awards nominees and winners are determined by the more than 7,400 industry professional members of the Country Music Association, which when established in 1958, became the first trade organization formed to promote an individual genre of music. The first CMA Awards Banquet and Show was held in 1967. The following year, the CMA Awards was broadcast on NBC Television for the first time - making it the longest running, annual music awards program on network television. The show began airing on the ABC Television Network in 2006 where it still airs today. To learn more about the CMA Awards visit [www.cmaawards.com](http://www.cmaawards.com).

### **About the Swiftel Center**

The Swiftel Center is a gathering place for cultural, recreational and educational events. With a 30,000 square foot arena, state-of-the-art banquet rooms, conference rooms and in-house catering, the Swiftel Center is an international award-winning venue of excellence and one of South Dakota's premiere event centers.

### **About VenuWorks**

VenuWorks provides customized management and consulting solutions for arenas, stadiums, theatres and convention centers throughout the country with services that include operations, catering, and concessions along with the booking and marketing of sports and entertainment events.

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