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People **country**

Dierks Bentley to Be Honored with Exhibit at Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum: 'It's Crazy to Be Considered for Something Like This'

He's gearing up to release a new album and go on tour, nabbed two ACM noms (and will cohost the show!) – and next Dierks Bentley will be honored with his own exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum.

"It's crazy to be considered for something like this," says Bentley, 40. "Just being in the building as a visitor is humbling, but to actually be featured in one of the museum's exhibits is something I never would have believed if you'd suggested it back when I started chasing this dream."

The display, "Dierks Bentley: Every Mile a Memory," opens at the Nashville museum on March 4. Then, on March 12, Bentley will appear in person at the museum's CMA Theater to discuss his career and perform an acoustic set, which is open to the public with admission and will be streamed live on the museum's site.

As for what memorabilia fans can expect to encounter at the exhibition? The museum's remaining mum on specifics (the famous captain's hat from Bentley's CMT Award-winning "Drunk on a Plane" video, maybe?) but ensure it will feature stagewear, guitars, song manuscripts, photos and other mementos from Bentley's personal collection.

Since rising to fame in 2003 with his breakout single "What Was I Thinkin'," Bentley has continued to top the charts and amass numerous Grammy, CMA and ACM nominations. His eighth album, *Black*, is available for preorder and expected to drop soon, and its lead single, "Somewhere on a Beach," is now being added to radio rotation.

On April 3, Bentley will take the stage with Luke Bryan to host the 51st ACM Awards, then the next month he'll launch his U.S. tour with Randy Houser, Cam and Tucker Beathard.

Running through Sept. 6, Bentley's exhibit at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum follows a slew of impressive contemporary artists who have also been honored by the organization since 2012, including Luke Bryan, Miranda Lambert, Taylor Swift, Carrie Underwood and Trisha Yearwood and Keith Urban.