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CMA Fest 2016: Top 5 moments from first night

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Dierks Bentley introduces Elle King

Elle King is making country music shows a habit.

The pop singer, who is featured on Dierks Bentley's new single "Different for Girls," performed with Bentley on the 2016 CMT Music Awards Wednesday night and joined him for a surprise spot in his set.

"I want to introduce you to my new friend," Bentley told the 60,000 fans in the audience. "She can drink like Blake Shelton and play banjo like Earl Scruggs. You're going to love her."

King walked out and when Bentley asked her how she was, she replied with one word: "Drunk."

It was the right answer – fans roared their approval.

Bentley's set also included his recent No. 1 hit "Somewhere on a Beach," "Freedom," and "Say You Do."

"This day means so much to us as country singers," Bentley said. "I always compare this day to Thanksgiving – we have so much gratitude to you for letting us do what we do."

Later he told fans that when singers stopped feeling nervous when they walked on stage, it was time quit. However, playing Nissan Stadium made him "nervous as hell."

"It means so much to us," he said.

Bentley closed his set with two of his biggest hits "I Hold On" and "Drunk on a Plane" – both of which elicited sing alongs from fans.

"I've got to walk away," Bentley said at the end of "Drunk on a Plane" as fans cheered for more. "It's someone else's turn on the stage."