

THE TENNESSEAN

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Kip Moore, Dustin Lynch and company fire up the Guitar-B-Que

(8/4): <http://www.tennessean.com/story/entertainment/music/2016/08/04/kip-moore-dustin-lynch-and-company-fire-up-guitar-b-que/87967162/>



Don't let the name fool you.

At the Big 98's Guitar-B-Que set for Wednesday, pulled pork sandwiches may not even be on the menu. Instead, the event will serve up some of the most popular names in country music. The event is headlined by Kip Moore, and other acts on the bill are Dustin Lynch, Brandy Clark, Jon Pardi, Chris Lane and Bobby Bones + the Raging Idiots.

“You’re going to always get passion from us, every single time,” Moore said of his performance. “That’s why I think people keep coming back to see us play. We lay it all on the line every single night. We never go through the motions.”

The Guitar-B-Que is Moore’s largest headlining local show to date — a feat for the singer, who has spent years striving for the string of hits beside his name and the fan appreciation he has earned along the way. Moore charted his multiweek No. 1 breakthrough hit, “Somethin’ ‘Bout a Truck,” in 2012 and followed it up with consecutive No. 1 songs “Beer Money” and “Hey Pretty Girl.”

Moore’s follow-up album, “Wild Ones,” was less commercially successful but taught the Georgia native there’s more than one way to define victory. While “Wild Ones,” which is home to Moore’s current Top 15 hit, “Running for You,” has sold fewer copies than his debut, the album developed an underground following that continues to pull more and more people into the singer’s shows. And when Moore sings the album cuts, he said, fans know every word “top to bottom.”

“It’s such a true and genuine fan base,” he said. “For me, there for a little while when things weren’t working on radio, I had such a fear of losing what we’ve built. But this ‘Wild Ones’ record has shown me, ‘Just make the music you want to make and people like what you do and fans will continue to come and grow with you as long as you stay true to who you are.’ I realized I could have a career for years just playing music, and that’s all I ever wanted.”

The discovery landed Moore in a more confident head space that has changed the tone of his new music that will be released in the coming months.

“You’ll get a sense of a different mood on this record and my approach to writing in general,” he said. “I was always a confident writer, but I was second guessing everything I was doing. Now, if I believe something is good, I don’t question it. I do believe this is the best music that I’ve done.”

Like headlining the event at Ascend Amphitheater is a career milestone for Moore, the fact that Guitar-B-Que has grown to the point it can attract marquee artists and fill Nashville’s newest outdoor event space is a noted achievement for the fundraiser that humbly started as a guitar auction. Previously the event, which benefits St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, was held in the parking lot at Losers Bar.

“It’s a major deal for us,” said Michael Bryan, senior vice president of programming, Nashville iHeartMedia Markets Group. “I think this is the sixth Guitar-B-Que and it’s just grown and grown and grown. It was very clear halfway through the night last year that we had to move along and grow into a bigger venue. It’s a much bigger swing for us and it’s the potential to raise a lot more money for St. Jude. Kip Moore is a world-class entertainer ... and I think everyone understands that we want to make this a Nashville event.”

As for the lineup, Moore describes it as “killer.”

“These are guys who are really good at what they do and I think people will get a lot of variety, from artist to artist, everyone will be doing different things,” he explained.