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These Georgia natives are all quick to credit other local acts from James Brown to Alan Jackson to Outkast with making the state's reputation as a cradle for American music of all stripes. "Just in my hometown" of Macon, says Jason Aldean, "you had the Allman Brothers, Otis Redding and Little Richard, plus bands like The Black Crowes."

These days, country artists represent as fiercely as anyone for their home state. The list of stars hailing from Georgia runs long: Beyond those pictured above, there's Zac Brown, Jennifer Nettles, Sam Hunt, Billy Currington, Brantley Gilbert, Colt Ford, Lauren Alaina and Lady Antebellum's Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley. "It was a big melting pot," says Trisha Yearwood, "and we've all got a little piece of it."

Kip Moore, 35

Hometown: Tifton

Big Boi or Andre 3000? "Andre 3000 for sure. He's a creative genius, a chameleon with a lot of colors."