

USA WEEKEND

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More CMAs for country's hot trio?

With Wednesday's Country Music Association Awards coming up, we talk with **Lady Antebellum**.

BY DENNIS McCAFFERTY

THE LIST OF country stars who have been named the best new artist at the Country Music Association Awards reads like a Who's Who of Nashville: Garth Brooks, Brad Paisley, Keith Urban, Carrie Underwood and Taylor Swift are among them. Last year, Lady Antebellum claimed the honor — a sure sign that the trio of Hillary Scott, Charles Kelley and Dave Haywood had arrived. Their success continues with this week's awards, as the band has been nominated for Vocal Group of the Year and Single of the Year (for *I Run to You*). Their upcoming album's title track, *Need You Now*, was a recent smash.

With the CMAs airing on Wednesday (ABC, 8 p.m. ET), USA WEEKEND recently caught up with the group for a lively chat about road trips, tech toys and the oddest place to display a CMA award.

Did the CMA give you three awards, or do you all have to share one?

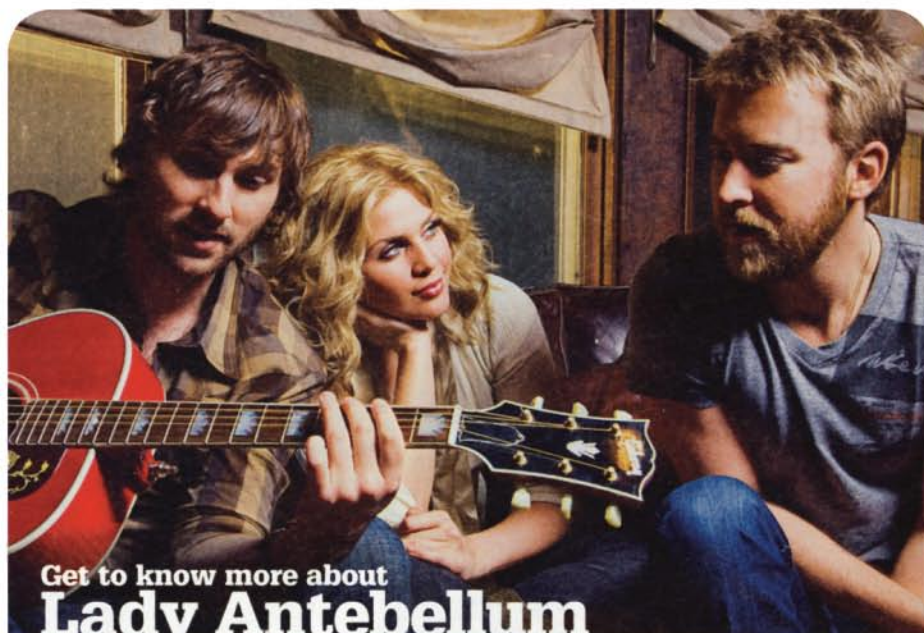
Hillary: That's funny! We were won-

Lady A. fans

For a chance to win a free Gibson guitar (an Epiphone Les Paul Special II) autographed by the band, fan our Facebook page at

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Get to know more about Lady Antebellum

Dave Haywood

Age: 27

Hometown: Augusta, Ga.

Group role: Vocals, writes songs, plays guitar and piano

Tech toy: His iPhone. He loves playing video golf on it.

Hillary Scott

Age: 23

Hometown: Nashville

Group role: Vocals, writes songs

Factoid: Her mom is the Grammy-winning country singer Linda Davis.

Charles Kelley

Age: 28

Hometown: Augusta, Ga.

Group role: Vocals, writes songs

Wants to meet: Kris Kristofferson at this week's CMAs

dering about that before the show.

Charles: Yeah, but we all get to have our own.

Dave keeps his on a mantle next to his bed.

Dave: No, I don't! I don't even have a bedroom mantle! It's on a towel rack in my bathroom. I have a very highly decorated towel rack.

You must be the tallest trio in recent memory, with Charles at 6-foot-6, Dave at 6-foot-1 and Hillary at just under 6 feet. Do you get a lot of comments about this?

Hillary: Sure, but I like being tall. I get to wear all the fun shoes with the big heels. I don't care how high they are.

Dave: We tower over many country stars — not Trace Adkins, though. He's huge.

What's the weirdest road experience you've had?

Charles: Just recently, we rode in our bus, and a van ran alongside us. Now, there's nothing at

all on our bus that would reveal who we were. But the people in this van were going crazy, hanging outside the windows and shouting to us. The driver was talking excitedly on his CB radio. One guy was literally hanging half of his body outside the van.

Like many music groups today, you're plugged in with a MySpace page and Twitter tweets. So who's the technophile and who's the technophobe here?

Charles: I'm the technophobe. I bought a touchscreen phone, and it boggled my mind. I returned it to the store for a more basic phone.

Dave: And I'm the technophile. One of my best friends in college did Web design, and I started doing it myself. That's how I was able to come up with our MySpace page. I'm obsessed with my iPhone, too. I love the games, especially golf. I'll sit in my bunk on the bus and play 36 holes before I go to sleep. **W**