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Music Fills the Streets at Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival

A Two Day Festival Featuring Over 20 Artists on Six Stages!

ALPHARETTA, GEORGIA (August 29, 2017) – The *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* returns to Alpharetta, Georgia for its fifth year on October 6-7, 2017. Music will flow through the streets as talented artists perform with soulful melodies, magnificent vocals and expressive lyrics while interacting with the audience. Listeners will get a unique opportunity to learn the stories behind each song and may recognize some of the tunes that are played by their favorite musicians.

Selected as one of the Top 20 Events in October 2015 by the Southeast Tourism Society, this two-day festival begins Friday, October 6 with free kick-off concerts in both Downtown Alpharetta from 7-10 p.m. and Avalon from 6-8 p.m., Alpharetta's resort-inspired retail community. The festival continues Saturday, October 7 in the heart of downtown with music starting at 5 p.m., boasting big names like **Shawn Mullins, Matthew Sweet, Allen Stone, and James McMurtry** who are this year's festival headliners.

Other festival performers include: **Gary Nicholson, Amy LaVere, Michelle Malone, Ross Newell** (of the Mulligan Brothers), **AJ Ghent Band, Seth Walker, Randall Bramblett, Bill Sheffield, Robby Hecht, Tommy Talton, Alex Guthrie, Jessie Albright & Foster Blues, Jennifer Simpson, Davin McCoy, Chasing Lovely, Carly Burruss, The Mosleys and ESOEBO.**



Emily Saliers (of Indigo Girls and Kristian Bush performing last year at the 2016 *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival*)

“Since its debut in 2013, the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* has become a regionally recognized event, putting Alpharetta on the map as a music destination,” said Janet Rodgers, President and CEO of the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau. “We are very excited to bring this spectacular event to Alpharetta where nationally recognized singer-songwriters can connect with the community and share the stories behind the music.” Russell Carter Artist Management produced the festival in conjunction with the City of Alpharetta and the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau. “Our line-up is varied musically by intent,” says producer Russell Carter. “We have Southern rock, power pop, blues, Americana, soul, and country. What is consistent is that all of the performers are original and supremely talented songwriters.”

Tickets for Saturday, October 7 are \$40 in advance and can be purchased by visiting www.wireandwoodalpharetta.com, or can be purchased at the gate for \$45. Avoid the last minute long lines at the gate and purchase Early Bird tickets now! For a limited time, patrons can buy one weekend pass for \$40 and a second one for half price (\$20). We want to encourage you to buy tickets in advance! For the first time ever, we are offering a limited number of VIP passes for the Saturday performances at a cost of \$125 each. A VIP pass includes: exclusive premier seating in the front rows of The Main Stage and The Street Stage, reserved parking, and three drink tickets. Please share this limited-time offer with your friends, family, and music enthusiasts. This is a rain or shine event, and there is no admission charge for children ages 12 and under.

With five unique shopping districts, more than 200 restaurants and one-of-a-kind attractions, it is easy to hit the right note with a weekend getaway to the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival*. For the complete weekend experience, many Alpharetta hotels are offering special rates for the events, which can be found at www.awesomealpharetta.com

October 2017 Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival Artist Lineup

Headliners:



Shawn Mullins

Shawn Mullins returns to the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* with a full band to perform on the headline stage after overwhelmingly being voted the most popular act of last year's event. Shawn has been in the studio working on a new album and will preview some new music as well as playing his classic, signature songs.



Matthew Sweet

Matthew Sweet will appear in Alpharetta for the first time, touring in support of his critically acclaimed new album *Tomorrow Forever*. Considered to be the leading proponent of modern power pop, Sweet rose

to fame on the success of three platinum plus records *Girlfriend*, *Altered Beast* and *100% Fun* - songs which he plays with precision and inspiration backed by his rock band.



Allen Stone

We are very pleased to announce that **Allen Stone** will play at the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival*, hot off his tour with Hall & Oates this summer. His show will be a one-man performance of his unique blend of original soul and R&B, though with the magic of looped mics. You will be hearing many sounds emanating from the stage; his performance is not to be missed!



James McMurtry

When **James McMurtry** appears on stage at a festival, the quality of the event simply rises to the highest level. *The Washington Post* has noted, “much attention has been paid to James McMurtry's lyrics and rightfully so - he creates a novel's worth of emotion and experience in four minutes - he is also an accomplished guitarist.” His father, novelist and screenwriter Larry McMurtry (*Lonesome Dove*, *Terms of Endearment*, *Last Picture Show*) gave him a guitar when he was seven, and twelve albums and multiple Americana Music Song and Record of the Year awards later, he is still going strong.



Amy LaVere, *30A Songwriters Festival's* favorite upright bass player and chanteuse, will appear with her combo. There's something quite transfixing about watching Amy LaVere perform. At 5 feet 2 inches, she's easily dwarfed by the towering upright bass she stands behind and there's an undeniable novelty to the sight. As her fingers pluck out that first groove, the novelty ends and the musicianship begins, and then she opens her mouth and begins to sing.

The 2017 lineup is rich with talent as **Gary Nicholson** joins us; Nicholson is one of the elite writers in Nashville having penned songs for Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings, Garth Brooks, George Strait, Ringo Star, Fleetwood Mac and George Strait. **Michelle Malone** is bringing a full band to introduce her brand new self-produced album out this Fall entitled *Slings & Arrows*, engineered by Jeff Bakos and mixed by Gerry Hanson. **Ross Newell**, lead singer/writer from the Mulligan Brothers will perform a rare solo songwriters set. **AJ Ghent** will bring his spirited lap and pedal steel virtuoso guitar to the stage for a high energy performance! **Seth Walker** is a blues, jazz, Americana player/writer and above all a musical entertainer of the highest order.

Rounding out the lineup is **Eliot Bronson** touring behind his new album entitled *James* produced by Dave Cobb (Jason Isbell, Chris Stapleton) in addition to performances from **Randall Bramblett**, **Bill Sheffield**, **Robby Hecht**, **Tommy Talton**, **Alex Guthrie**, **Jessie Albright & Foster Blues**, **Jennifer Simpson**, **Davin McCoy**, **Chasing Lovely**, **Carly Burruss**, **The Mosleys** and **ESOEBO**.

Friday, October 6:

Enjoy free performances at these locations across Alpharetta:

Avalon, 6 – 8 p.m.

Downtown Alpharetta, 7 – 10 p.m.

Downtown venues include the Main Stage in Brooke Street Park, South Main Alley Stage, Smokejack Attack Stage and Ceviche Stage.

Saturday, October 7

This is the ticketed day of the event.

Multiple stages throughout Downtown Alpharetta, 5 – 10:30 p.m.

Downtown venues include: the Main Stage in Brooke Street Park, South Main Alley Stage, Smokejack Attic Stage, Ceviche Stage, Street Stage on Milton Avenue and Acoustic Stage in the Corner Park.

For more information about the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* coming to Alpharetta on October 6-7, 2017, visit awesomealpharetta.com. The *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* is

sponsored by City of Alpharetta, Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau and Russell Carter Artist Management.

To view additional photos from past *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival* visit:
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/awesomealpharetta/albums/72157637607608393>

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About the Alpharetta Convention & Visitors Bureau

The Alpharetta Convention and Visitors Bureau serves as the official destination marketing organization for the city of Alpharetta, promoting tourism and attracting visitors to all 23 of Alpharetta's upscale and modern hotels. Visit awesomealpharetta.com for more information.

Russell Carter Artist Management, Ltd.

Russell Carter Artist Management, Ltd. is a full service artist management firm based in Atlanta and is the booker and co-producer of both the *30A Songwriters Festival* in Northwest Florida and the *Wire & Wood Alpharetta Songwriters Festival*.

