

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau**

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**LEE COUNTY VCB AND iHEARTMEDIA CONFIRM 60  
SONGWRITERS FOR ISLAND HOPPER SONGWRITER  
FEST AND FIRST HEADLINER ARTIST**

**LEE COUNTY, FL** – The third annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest now has 60 confirmed songwriters, bringing more talent, more free performances and more venues to music fans along the Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Southwest Florida.

The first major headliner for the 10-day festival is Maren Morris. The Nashville songwriter has soared to the top of the Billboard Country Albums chart with her debut album, HERO. Morris has joined Keith Urban's ripCORD tour and will be performing her smash hit "My Church" at the Island Hopper Songwriter Fest on Fort Myers Beach, Oct. 2.

The free festival will take place on Southwest Florida's most beautiful barrier islands and offers a range of star-studded performances. The festival kicks off on Captiva Island, Sept. 23-25 and wraps up Sept. 30-Oct. 2 on Fort Myers Beach. Historic downtown Fort Myers will once again feature midweek performances. There will be a limited number of ticketed events for special performances.

The festival brings back fan favorites Bob DiPiero ("Southern Voice") recorded by Tim McGraw, Even Stevens ("I love a Rainy Night") recorded by Eddie Rabbit and Frank Myers ("I Swear") recorded by John Michael Montgomery. New artists include Helen Darling ("Bring on the Rain") recorded by Jo Dee Messina and Tim McGraw.

"We're very excited having such impressive songwriters," said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. "This festival gives audiences a unique opportunity to learn the stories behind the songs from the most talented songwriters in the business. Music lovers can hear and meet their favorite songwriters."

Also, 2016 brings uncommon songwriter experiences, including house parties, sunset cruises, pool parties, a dinner and wine pairing and a songwriting workshop.

"We have tremendous talent this year and expect to announce more high-profile acts," said Louis Kaplan, iHeartMedia Sr. VP Programming. "The Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is one of our favorite events of the year."

Attendees will enjoy some of their favorite songs while getting a taste of the destination at live music venues on Captiva Island including, The Crow's Nest at 'Tween Waters Inn, Key Lime Bistro, Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille Captiva, and South Seas Island Resort. In downtown Fort Myers, don't miss

shows at the brand new Barrel Room at the Twisted Vine Bistro, City Tavern and Hotel Indigo. Favorites on Fort Myers Beach include Matanzas on the Bay, Cabanas Beach Bar at DiamondHead Beach Resort, and poolside shows at the Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina.

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*Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is presented by Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, iHeartMedia, Cat Country 107.1 and BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S. For more information visit [www.islandhopperfest.com](http://www.islandhopperfest.com). Follow the festival hashtag #islandhopper on Twitter and other social channels. Photos available upon request.*