

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

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**THE BEACHES OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL ANNOUNCES EXCITING
LINE-UP**

Exclusive performances by more than 50 nationally-acclaimed songwriters in unique Southwest Florida island venues Sept. 17-27, 2015

LEE COUNTY, FL – The second annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest along The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel announces an illustrious line-up of talent.

The 10-day festival kicks off Sept. 17 with a special performance by Kristian Bush, who built his reputation as one half of the multi-platinum, Grammy-winning country duo Sugarland. Other talents include Parmalee, a country/rock group made famous by its No.1 smash, “Carolina” and single: “Musta Had A Good Time.” Jana Kramer, a country singer and actress on the TV show “One Tree Hill,” will perform her smash single, “Why Ya Wanna.”

The festival kicks off Sept. 17-20 in the Captiva Ballroom at South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island. New to the festival, downtown Fort Myers will feature midweek performances. The festival closes the weekend of Sept. 25-27 on Fort Myers Beach.

The event will feature mostly free performances from more than 50 hit-makers who have written songs for top country artists including Garth Brooks, Faith Hill, Rascal Flatts, Brad Paisley and Toby Keith.

“The second annual Island Hopper will be even more spectacular than the first,” said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB). “This is a great opportunity to meet the songwriters, hear their stories and enjoy our slice of paradise.”

Festival-goers can celebrate American roots music while getting a taste of the destination on Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach and downtown Fort Myers. Presented by BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S., along with partners iHeartMedia, and Cat Country 107.1, the second annual Songwriter Fest will take place at popular, and intimate island venues.

Visit www.islandhopperfest.com for more information, to book tickets and view the list of artists, performance schedules and venues. Most shows are free of charge. Special Island Hopper lodging packages are also available. Follow the festival hashtag #islandhopper on Twitter and other social channels.

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The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in Southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer Islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. For media assistance on the destination, please visit www.fortmyerssanibel.com/media. . Photos available on request.