



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau

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**THE BEACHES OF FORT MYERS & SANIBEL AND iHEARTMEDIA
ANNOUNCE FESTIVAL DATES**

The third annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest returns Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2016

LEE COUNTY, FL – The Island Hopper Songwriter Fest brings music back to the beach in 2016.

The free festival will take place over 10 days 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 also feature mid-week performances again.

“Each year the Island Hopper Songwriter Fest gets better and better in terms of audience experience,” said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. “This festival gives the audience a unique opportunity to hear the stories behind the songs in small, intimate venues. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event for music lovers.”

The last festival offered more than 70 artists who gave 136 performances at 23 venues.

“The caliber of talent that we’ve attracted to our festival in our first two years surpassed our dreams and year three is already shaping up to be even better,” said Sherri Griswold-Holladay, iHeartMedia, market president and regional market manager.

Attendees will hear some of their favorite songs while getting a taste of the destination at live music venues including The Crow’s Nest at Tween Waters Inn, Key Lime Bistro and Doc Ford’s at South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island; The Twisted Vine and The French Connection in downtown Fort Myers; as well as Matanzas on the Bay and Cabanas Beach Bar at DiamondHead Beach Resort and Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Fort Myers Beach.

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Island Hopper 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. Follow the festival hashtag #islandhopper on Twitter and other social channels.