



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**GEORGIA MUSIC PARTNERS AND THE RECORDING ACADEMY® ATLANTA CHAPTER
TO CELEBRATE “GEORGIA MUSIC DAY” AT THE CAPITOL
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016**

***Participating Artists To Include Ed Roland of Collective Soul, Brandon Bush, Katie Deal,
John Driskell Hopkins, Michelle Malone, Matt Still, Peter Stroud, The Whisky Gentry
and Yacht Rock Revue***

**PUBLIC INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN GEORGIA MUSIC DAY
*Show Support By Wearing Favorite Band T-Shirt to Work or School on March 2***

Atlanta, GA — It’s time to turn up the volume on music! On Wednesday, March 2, 2016, [Georgia Music Day](#) will be proclaimed by both the Georgia House of Representative and the State Senate, to identify the impact of Georgia’s music industry on the state. Throughout the morning, an array of musical artists will address the state government representatives, including **Brandon Bush** (songwriter, musician, producer — Sugarland, Train, Kristian Bush, John Mayer), **John Driskell Hopkins** (Zac Brown Band), **Michelle Malone** (singer-songwriter, guitarist, producer), **Matt Still** (producer, engineer, mixer — Outkast, Lady GaGa, Elton John), **Peter Stroud** (guitarist — Sheryl Crow, Don Henley, Sarah McLachlan) and **The Whisky Gentry**. The musicians will speak about key issues needed to create jobs and grow the music industry in Georgia, which generates \$3.7 billion in annual revenue.

At 12 p.m., the Georgia State Capitol’s rotunda will transform into a stage with musical performances including Atlanta Country Music Hall of Fame Inductee and singer/performer **Katie Deal** (daughter of Georgia Governor Nathan Deal), followed by two-time Georgia Music Hall of Fame inductee **Ed Roland of Collective Soul**. The day at the Capitol will conclude with a special performance from Georgia’s own **Yacht Rock Revue**.

“I am proud to be a part of Georgia’s rich musical heritage and am excited to be a part of this day as we continue to grow the music industry here in our state,” said Collective Soul’s Ed Roland.

On February 10, Representative Bert Reeves (District 34) introduced [House Bill 956](#), which is aimed at bolstering the Georgia music industry.

“For the first time ever, a music bill which aims to grow the music industry has been introduced in the Georgia legislature,” said Georgia Music Partners Co-President, Tammy Hurt. “The introduction of this bill allows us a long overdue dialogue with state leaders about the value of investing in music and music education. The goal of Georgia Music Day is to raise awareness on the importance of our industry, to support an explosive growth opportunity, and to celebrate the music makers and music businesses that call Georgia home.”

In addition to these public events, music lovers throughout Georgia are encouraged to support Georgia music by wearing their favorite band’s T-shirt to work/school, and by sharing photos/videos of their shirts on social media with the tag **#GeorgiaMusic**.

At 7 p.m., [Venkmans](#) — a restaurant and live music venue — will partner with Georgia Music Partners (GMP) to present **Georgia Music Night** featuring the **Georgia Mountain String Band**. A portion of the proceeds will go towards GMP's advocacy efforts.

Recently, on January 26, Governor Deal declared 2016 the "Year of Georgia Music" — a year-long initiative to promote the music industry in Georgia. Music will be featured on multiple marketing platforms including the ExploreGeorgia.org website, social media channels, marketing materials, advertising opportunities and special events.

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Partners for Georgia Music Day include **Georgia Music Partners**, the authority that grows and improves the music economy in Georgia, **The Recording Academy® Atlanta Chapter**.

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About Georgia Music Partners

[Georgia Music Partners](#) (GMP) is the authority that grows and improves the music economy in Georgia. GMP encourages the state's musicians, music professionals, educators and legislators to work together to further develop Georgia's music industry through creativity and innovation. GMP is actively engaged with educators, local and state governments, business organizations, and music business leaders in pursuit of cooperation that promotes growth for all stakeholders. Through these partnerships, the organization seeks to develop programs which enable the state to better market the music business in Georgia, and works to attract investment dollars for music technology companies to headquarter here. GMP seeks not only to sustain the music industry, but also holistically grow Georgia's economy.

About The Recording Academy

Established in 1957, The Recording Academy is an organization of musicians, producers, engineers and recording professionals that is dedicated to improving the cultural condition and quality of life for music and its makers. Internationally known for the GRAMMY Awards — the preeminent peer-recognized award for musical excellence and the most credible brand in music — The Recording Academy is responsible for groundbreaking professional development, cultural enrichment, advocacy, education and human services programs. The Academy continues to focus on its mission of recognizing musical excellence, advocating for the well-being of music makers and ensuring music remains an indelible part of our culture. For more information about The Academy, please visit grammy.com. For breaking news and exclusive content, follow @The GRAMMYs on Twitter, like "The GRAMMYs" on Facebook, and join The GRAMMYs' social communities on YouTube, Tumblr, Foursquare, GetGlue, and Instagram.

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