



AUSTIN CITY LIMITS CELEBRATES MODERN AMERICANA MUSIC WITH THE AVETT BROTHERS AND NICKEL CREEK

New Episode Premieres January 3, 2015

Austin, TX—December 30, 2014—[Austin City Limits](#) (ACL) ushers in the new year with seven brand new shows airing beginning January 2015 as part of the program's fourteen-episode season. ACL returns on **Saturday, January 3rd at 9pm ET/8pm CT** with a stellar double-bill featuring music from the heart and soul of America: Americana rockers [The Avett Brothers](#) and Grammy Award-winning bluegrass trio [Nickel Creek](#). The upcoming new episodes feature many recent 2015 Grammy nominees, including **Sam Smith, Ryan Adams, The Black Keys** and **Nickel Creek**. ACL airs weekly on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings for times) and full episodes are made available online for a limited time at <http://video.pbs.org/program/austin-city-limits/> immediately following the initial broadcast. The show's official hashtag is [#acltv40](#).

North Carolina's Avett Brothers are one of the biggest draws in live music today, becoming sought-after headliners over the course of their decade-plus career. Fronted by siblings Scott and Seth Avett, they made their ACL debut as a trio in Season 35 and return for ACL's milestone Season 40 as a seven-piece, including the addition of a fiddler, drummer and keyboardist. Together they deliver a standout performance — the band's onstage energy is undeniably entertaining as they perform with unbridled joy. Turning the catchy fan-favorite “Kick Drum Heart” into a rock anthem, the ACL audience handclaps along in time. Seth Avett admits performing on ACL is an especially poignant experience for the brothers. “We grew up watching this show,” he tells the Austin crowd. “To us, this is what music looks like on television.” Their ACL appearance is a victory lap of musicianship and revelry, illustrating why they are one of music's best live acts.

“An Avett Brothers show today is worlds apart from five years ago,” says ACL executive producer Terry Lickona. “More energy, more excitement, bigger sound. But what has not changed is that down-to-earth quality that connects with fans now more than ever.”

Bluegrass innovators Nickel Creek celebrated their 25th anniversary with their first new release in nine years, 2014's *A Dotted Line*, recently nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Americana Album. Their highly-anticipated reunion brings them back to the ACL stage for their third appearance together. The remarkably talented collective—mandolin ace Chris Thile, fiddler Sara Watkins and guitarist Sean Watkins (Sara's brother), along with accompanying bassist Mark Schatz—showcase their virtuoso musicianship and tight harmonies in their ACL return. Performing a mix of old and new crowd pleasers, the Southern Californian group take turns on vocals and licks. Sara sings lead on the breakout single "Destination", also a 2015 Grammy nominee for Best American Roots Performance. Sean Watkins handles vocals on the *faux* end of the world ode "21st of May", while Thile dazzles with his mandolin skills on the instrumental "The Elephant in the Corn". A gorgeous rendition of Fleetwood Mac's "The Ledge" follows, with the three childhood friends delighting in each other's company and talents for an exquisitely fun performance.

"The members of Nickel Creek grew up with each other – literally, and musically," says executive producer Lickona. Their individual talents merge into something much bigger. The old saying 'the whole is greater than the sum of its parts' has never been truer."

Avett Brothers Setlist:

Down With the Shine
Head Full of Doubt/Road Full of Promise
Kick Drum Heart
In the Garden
Morning Song

Nickel Creek Setlist:

Rest Of My Life
Destination
21st of May
The Elephant in the Corn
The Ledge
You Don't Know What's Going On

Season 40 | 2015 Broadcast Schedule

January 3, 2015 | The Avett Brothers / Nickel Creek
January 10, 2015 | Spoon / White Denim
January 17, 2015 | Sam Smith / Future Islands
January 24, 2015 | Ryan Adams / Jenny Lewis
January 31, 2015 | The Black Keys / J. Roddy Walston & The Business
February 7, 2015 | Foo Fighters
February 14, 2015 | Austin City Limits Hall of Fame Special

About Austin City Limits

ACL offers viewers unparalleled access to featured acts in an intimate setting that provides a platform for artists to deliver inspired, memorable, full-length performances. The program is taped live before a concert audience from The Moody Theater in downtown Austin. Austin City Limits is the longest-running music series in American television history and remains the only TV series to ever be awarded the National Medal of Arts. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the pilot episode taped in 1974 with Willie Nelson. Since its inception, the groundbreaking music series has become an institution that's helped secure Austin's reputation as the Live Music Capital of the World. The historic KLRU Studio 6A, home to 36 years of ACL concerts, has been designated an official Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Landmark. In 2011, ACL moved to the new venue ACL Live at The Moody Theater in downtown Austin. ACL received a rare institutional Peabody Award for excellence and outstanding achievement in 2012.

ACL is produced by KLRU-TV and funding is provided in part by Budweiser, the Austin Convention Center Department, Dell and HomeAway. Additional funding is provided by the Friends of Austin City Limits. Learn more about Austin City Limits, programming and history at acltv.com.

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