



**Austin City Limits Hall of Fame New Year's Eve
Star-Studded Special Premieres December 31st on PBS**

***Hosted by Nick Offerman and Megan Mullally with Performances
Featuring Willie Nelson, Bonnie Raitt, Kris Kristofferson, Mavis Staples,
Gary Clark Jr., Rodney Crowell, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons, Taj Mahal,
B.B. King's Blues Band and more***

Austin, TX—December 15, 2016—[Austin City Limits](http://www.austincitylimits.com) (ACL) rings in the new year with a star-studded evening, hosted by comedy duo **Nick Offerman** and **Megan Mullally**, featuring one-of-a-kind performances and collaborations from the third annual **ACL Hall of Fame Inductions and Celebration**. ACL royalty **Willie Nelson, Mavis Staples, Gary Clark Jr., Rodney Crowell, ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons** and more share the stage for one epic night to perform in honor of the newest class of inductees: **Kris Kristofferson, Bonnie Raitt** and **B.B. King**. This special hour, taped October 12, 2016, honors the artists who've helped make the award-winning TV series an American music institution. The broadcast debuts **Saturday, December 31st at 8pm CT/9pm ET on PBS**. 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 [#accltv](https://twitter.com/accltv).

The special kicks off with a tribute to songwriting great Kris Kristofferson, who first appeared on the series in 1982, as Rodney Crowell honors the legend with a powerful reading of his classic "Help Me Make It Through the Night." Willie Nelson salutes his longtime friend and collaborator with a moving version of Kristofferson's signature "Me and Bobby McGee." Mavis Staples takes the stage to toast Bonnie Raitt, calling her "my sister," and the two icons perform a spirited duet of Bob Dylan's call for social change, "Well Well Well," before teaming with blues legend Taj Mahal for the Raitt smash "Thing Called Love." ZZ Top's Billy Gibbons honors his friend and mentor B.B. King with a fiery take on the blues giant's "You Upset Me, Baby" backed by King's longtime band. Blues-soul sensation Gary Clark Jr. then joins Raitt for an electrifying "The Thrill Is Gone," as the two guitar slingers trade verses and solos on the late, great bluesman's anthem, bringing the house down. "I know B.B. is smiling down on us," says Raitt. "This one's for him."

The entire cast takes the ACL stage for a grand finale featuring the blues classic, "Every Day I Have The Blues," a song B.B. King performed on his iconic 1983 *Austin City Limits* debut. The celebration of music comes to an epic close complete with fireworks, and the two-dozen strong ensemble ringing in the new year with the holiday classic "Auld Lang Syne."

“We created the Hall of Fame as a way to celebrate our 40th anniversary, and since then it’s really taken on a life of its own,” said ACL executive producer Terry Lickona. “The artists feel truly honored, and it gives us a chance to recognize their contributions to our legacy. And beyond that it’s a magical night of music and unique collaborations.”

Austin City Limits Hall of Fame New Year’s Eve Setlist:

RODNEY CROWELL - "HELP ME MAKE IT THROUGH THE NIGHT"

KRIS KRISTOFFERSON - "LOVIN' HER WAS EASIER"

WILLIE NELSON "ME & BOBBY MCGEE"

MAVIS STAPLES & BONNIE RAITT - "WELL WELL WELL"

BONNIE, MAVIS & TAJ MAHAL - "THING CALLED LOVE"

BILLY GIBBONS – “YOU UPSET ME BABY”

BONNIE RAITT & GARY CLARK JR - "THE THRILL IS GONE"

ALL: FINALE - "EVERY DAY I HAVE THE BLUES"

ALL: "AULD LANG SYNE"

The season continues January 7, 2017 with hip-hop/R&B trailblazer **Ms. Lauryn Hill** in a towering performance that previewed this summer to critical acclaim. Hitmaker **Cyndi Lauper** debuts on the ACL stage in an entertaining hour of classic hit songs and the stories behind them. The extended line-up features Nashville rebels **Margo Price** and **Hayes Carll** in a powerhouse double-bill that forecasts country’s future. Indie rockers **Band of Horses** return for their second appearance, sharing an episode with Americana breakout singer/songwriter **Parker Millsap**. Gospel legend **CeCe Winans** shines in a stunning ACL debut, paired with acclaimed soul sensations **St. Paul & The Broken Bones**. The season finale features U.K. alt-rock phenom **Foals** and the fifth appearance by rock troubadour **Alejandro Escovedo**, who first-appeared on the series in 1983 and is joined by R.E.M. guitarist Peter Buck.

Season 42 | 2017 Broadcast Schedule

January 7	Ms. Lauryn Hill
January 14	Cyndi Lauper
January 21	Margo Price Hayes Carll
January 28	Band of Horses Parker Millsap
February 4	CeCe Winans St. Paul & The Broken Bones
February 11	Foals Alejandro Escovedo

In what has become an ACL holiday tradition, the program will encore **Tom Waits** legendary December 1978 performance, one of the most requested episodes in ACL's 40+ year archive. Tune-in on December 24th to see this classic Christmas episode.

Viewers can visit acltv.com for news regarding future tapings, episode schedules and live stream updates. For images and episode information, visit Austin City Limits press room at <http://acltv.com/press-room/>.

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. ACL 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. Since its inception in 1974, 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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