



**Austin City Limits Closes Out Season 43 with Country Sensation
Chris Stapleton & Turnpike Troubadours**

Season Finale Premieres February 17 on PBS

Austin, TX—February 15, 2018—Austin City Limits (ACL) closes out Season 43 with a scorcher: country superstar Chris Stapleton, riding country’s hottest hand with a trio of acclaimed, chart-topping albums and a trio of newly-minted 2018 Grammy Awards, sharing an episode with one of roots music’s most revered acts, red-dirt country-rockers Turnpike Troubadours. The season finale premieres **Saturday, February 17 at 8pm CT/9pm ET** closing out ACL’s Season 43. The program airs weekly on PBS stations nationwide (check local listings for times) and full episodes are made available online for a limited time at pbs.org/austincitylimits immediately following the initial broadcast. In the following weeks, the Peabody Award-winning series will continue to broadcast fan-favorite encore episodes until the new season premieres this fall. The first new tapings of Season 44 are announced and include acclaimed singer-songwriters Brandi Carlile and Mac DeMarco. Viewers can visit acltv.com for news regarding future tapings, episode schedules and select live stream updates. The show’s official hashtag is #acltv. Fans can catch more behind-the-scenes action from ACL favorites in the ACL: Backstage virtual reality series available on YouTube.

After years as a songwriter penning hits for some of Nashville’s biggest acts, singer, songwriter and guitarist Chris Stapleton took the country world by storm in 2015 with his multi-platinum, double Grammy-winning debut *Traveller*. Stapleton is now the reigning CMA Male Vocalist of the Year for the third consecutive year, and a five-time Grammy winner, taking a trio of top honors at this year’s ceremony including Album of the Year for *From A Room: Volume 1*. The Kentucky native delivers a powerhouse ACL debut with a blistering six-song set fueled by his show-stopping voice, searing guitar and stellar songwriting. Opening with “Hard Livin’,” from his latest, the companion album *From A Room: Volume 2*, Stapleton follows with an early hit, the crowd-favorite folk-rambler “Traveller.” Joined by wife Morgane on harmony vocals, the couple lock eyes and voices for the spellbinding gut-punch “Fire Away,” revealing a powerful onstage intimacy, and the pair dazzle on blowtorch stunner “Second One To Know.” Standing solo and acoustic for “Whiskey and You,” the country outlier brings the room to hushed silence pierced only by scattered whoops from the audience between verses. Stapleton closes out the masterful set with the breakout hit from his debut, Southern soul-burner “Tennessee Whiskey,” unleashing the full power of his scorching vocals and earning multiple standing ovations from the can’t-get-enough crowd.

Road-tested country rockers Turnpike Troubadours topped the red-dirt touring circuit this past decade, earning legions of fans the old-fashioned way, through word-of-mouth for their rousing live shows anchored by frontman Evan Felker's singular songwriting. Their acclaimed new release *A Long Way From Your Heart* has launched the hard-charging Oklahoma sextet onto the national stage, and the band opens their ACL debut with the album's lead song "The Housefire." The Troubadours perform a six-song, career-spanning set with Felker's trademark character-driven tunes exploding behind rowdy strings. Throughout their four albums, the band has used a running cast of characters to weave a narrative for their dedicated fans with songs that chronicle the highs, hangovers and heartbreaks of Middle America. "Tell everyone in Austin I love y'all to death" yells Felker during the blazing crowd-pleaser "Before the Devil Knows We're Dead." Steel guitarist Hank Early switches to a Dobro for an acoustic duet with Felker on "Diamonds and Gasoline." Felker calls out to bring the band back for set-closer "Something To Hold Onto," as the ace musicians ignite in a three-way solo blaze of glory with Early, lead guitarist Ryan Engleman and fiddler Kyle Nix.

"We take pride in bringing the best of the best of every genre to our audience, and Chris Stapleton is at the top of his game right now," said ACL executive producer, Terry Lickona. "Few bands on the scene, if any, deliver a better live experience than Turnpike Troubadours, and this show makes you feel like you're right on the front line."

Chris Stapleton setlist:

HARD LIVIN'
TRAVELLER
FIRE AWAY
SECOND ONE TO KNOW
WHISKEY AND YOU (SOLO ACOUSTIC)
TENNESSEE WHISKEY

Turnpike Troubadours setlist:

THE HOUSEFIRE
EVERY GIRL
A TORNADO WARNING
BEFORE THE DEVIL KNOWS WE'RE DEAD
DIAMONDS AND GASOLINE
SOMETHING TO HOLD ON TO

For images and episode information, visit *Austin City Limits* press room at <http://acltv.com/press-room/>.

About Austin City Limits

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 Austin, Texas. 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. 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.

Austin City Limits is produced by KLRU-TV and funding is provided in part by Dell, the Austin Convention Center Department, Shiner Beers and HomeAway.com. 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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