



**Austin City Limits Announces Season Premiere October 3 Featuring
Salute to Songwriting Legend John Prine**

***Season 46 Premieres With New Installments featuring
Yola, Rufus Wainwright, The Mavericks & Jackie Venson;
Salutes to ACL Legends Stevie Ray Vaughan and Asleep at the Wheel and
Encores with John Legend and The Roots & Bonnie Raitt***

Austin, TX—September 17, 2020—Live music beacon [Austin City Limits](#) (ACL) proudly announces the fall return of the series and the initial **Season 46** broadcast line-up; new installments begin airing October 3 as part of the program's thirteen-episode season. With live music still on pause, ACL brings fans a full season filled with highly-anticipated debuts from some of today's most talked-about live acts, as well as deep dives featuring ACL legends. The program continues its extraordinary run as the longest-running music television show in history. ACL has been broadcast on PBS since the series' inception in 1974, and is proud to salute PBS as they celebrate a milestone 50 years on the air on October 4, 2020. Providing viewers a front-row seat to the best in live performance for a remarkable 46 years, ACL airs weekly on PBS stations nationwide ([check local listings](#)) and full episodes are made available online for a limited time at pbs.org/austincitylimits immediately following the initial broadcast. The show's official hashtag is [#acltv](#).

Austin City Limits returns this fall with a gem: a poignant season premiere featuring the best of late songwriting giant John Prine's eight appearances on the series, starting with his ACL debut in 1978. The legendary singer/songwriter appeared regularly on ACL throughout his celebrated five-decade career, and this hourlong tribute captures his evolution with twelve classics including his final appearance in 2018 during Season 44. The requiem showcases Prine's signature wit and wisdom, detailing the stories behind the songs and includes a never-before-aired 1987 performance of his classic "Sam Stone." Prine's singular talent was revered by generations of songwriters and the retrospective will feature a heartfelt introduction recorded by Americana star Jason Isbell.

The season continues with highly-anticipated debut appearances: UK country soul sensation Yola showcases her 2020 Grammy-nominated album *Walk Through Fire* in a dazzling hour. Acclaimed singer/songwriter Rufus Wainwright makes his ACL debut performing career highlights alongside selections from *Unfollow the Rules*, his first new pop album since 2012;

Wainwright is backed by members of North Texas bands Midlake and the Texas Gentleman in a stunning hour. Breakout blues, rock, R&B, soul singer/guitar-slinger, Austin's own Jackie Venson, makes her highly-anticipated ACL debut. Rock and country trailblazers The Mavericks make their third appearance on the ACL stage showcasing their chart-topping, all Spanish-language album, *En Español*.

ACL reprises a particularly timely and relevant installment: John Legend and The Roots: *Wake Up!* Inspired by the 2008 Presidential election, the 2011 hour features the giants of R&B and hip hop teaming up to perform a collection of socially-conscious cover songs from the 60s and 70s. ACL also encores one of the most-requested episodes in its canon: Ten-time Grammy winner Bonnie Raitt's stellar 2012 appearance, featuring a hit parade of classics.

Season 46 salutes a pair of ACL legends on the milestone anniversary of their iconic ACL appearances: *Stevie Ray Vaughan: 30 Years On*, an hourlong special, features highlights from the legendary bluesman's signature performances on ACL in 1983 and 1989, bookends of an incredible career from Austin's pride & joy, and two of the most-requested episodes in the history of ACL. Stevie Ray made his final performance on *Austin City Limits* on October 10, 1989, and thirty years after his tragic death on August 27, 1990, ACL showcases both performances in their entirety in a rare broadcast featuring back-to-back classics including "Texas Flood", "Voodoo Child" and "Crossfire" from the Austin legend and his band Double Trouble.

Also on deck is a special ACL Presents installment: *50 Years of Asleep at the Wheel*. This hour-long retrospective offers a fascinating look at the band's evolution from the 1970s to the present via highlights from their many appearances on ACL. For 50 years, founder Ray Benson & Asleep at the Wheel have been the chief practitioners, conspirators and caretakers of Western swing, carrying the genre's traditions well into the 21st century, reaching both their contemporaries and inspiring a new generation of artists.

"As we launch a brand new season in very uncertain times, ACL continues to break new ground," said longtime ACL executive producer Terry Lickona. "To begin, we celebrate the great John Prine, who was one of the early victims of the COVID pandemic. We'll also look back at Austin's pride and joy, Stevie Ray Vaughan, 3 decades since his passing. But, as always, we'll welcome some first-timers and spotlight the best of what's happening in Austin today."

Austin City Limits has created a new opening sequence <https://youtu.be/4ZPKRvbukoM> to mark these historic times, acknowledging the challenges local Austin and Texan acts have faced during the global pandemic. The opening features Austin's Black Pumas "Colors" and showcases many of Austin's own homegrown talents captured at their homes and front porches, including Ruthie Foster, Ray Wylie Hubbard, White Denim, Jackie Venson, Lyle Lovett, Shawn Colvin, Black Pumas and more.

Season 46 Broadcast Line-up (six new episodes to be announced):

October 3	The Best of John Prine (featuring Jason Isbell intro)
October 10	Yola
October 17	Stevie Ray Vaughan 30 Years On
October 24	Rufus Wainwright
October 31	ACL Presents: 50 Years of Asleep at the Wheel
November 7	John Legend & The Roots: Wake Up! (encore)
November 14	Bonnie Raitt (encore) Jackie Venson
November 21	The Mavericks

Tune-in, log on, and let ACL be a trusted sidekick for entertainment during these challenging days. The complete line-up for the full 13-week season will be announced at a later date. Viewers can visit acltv.com for news regarding live streams, future tapings and episode schedules or by following [ACL on Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [IG](#). Fans can also browse the [ACL YouTube channel](#) for exclusive songs, behind-the-scenes videos and full-length artist interviews.

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. Now in its 46th Season, 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 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 Austin PBS, KLRU-TV and funding is provided in part by Dell Technologies, RigUp, the Austin Convention Center Department and Cirrus Logic. 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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