

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**What:** Terry and Carmen Thompson Benefit

**When:** Tuesday, June 24

**Where:** The Factory at Franklin, Liberty Hall, 230 Franklin Road, Franklin, TN [www.factoryatfranklin.com](http://www.factoryatfranklin.com)

**Time:** 5:30 pm: Silent Auction begins; Meet, Greet, and Mingle with performers and guests

7:00 pm: Concert

**Admission:** \$75, 2 or more tickets \$50 ea.

**Tickets:** To charge by phone call Charlotte Reeves, 481-1910; or purchase online

**Website:** [www.terryandcarmen.com](http://www.terryandcarmen.com)

**Contact:** Michelle Prentice, 615-596-7279 (cell), [mitchprentice@yahoo.com](mailto:mitchprentice@yahoo.com)

Folks attending the **Terry and Carmen Thompson Benefit** at **The Factory at Franklin** on **Tuesday, June 24** will not only enjoy some of Nashville's best musical talent, including **Amy Grant**, **Ed Bruce** ("Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys") and **Marcus Hummon** ("Bless the Broken Road"), they'll also have a chance to bid on an impressive array of donated items, such as **breakfast with Dierks Bentley**, a **football autographed by Vince Young**, **paintings**, **gift certificates** and more.

Proceeds from this **concert and silent auction** will be used to help provide **Terry and Carmen Thompson** of Nashville with wheelchair-accessible housing and transportation, and financial assistance with medical bills. Carmen Thompson is recovering from a life-altering injury she sustained in 2007.

During the **silent auction beginning at 5:30 pm**, attendees may make their bids and enjoy refreshments with performers and guests. The **concert begins at 7:00 pm** and will showcase a variety of Nashville artists. Other scheduled performers include vocalist **Michelle Nicolo Prentice**, **Reverend Joe Rice** (of the Fairfield Four, heard on the "O Brother" soundtrack), **CC Miller** (of the Soul Searchers of Nashville), **J. David Sloan** and **Terry Thompson**.

Michelle Prentice, one of the event organizers, said, "the performers have all been personally moved by Terry and Carmen's journey, and will bring their gifts with love. Everyone will be lifted up by this amazing event!"

**For more information**, see [www.terryandcarmen.com](http://www.terryandcarmen.com) or call Michelle Prentice at 615-596-7279.

Those unable to attend may still **make tax-deductible donations** at any time through Clearview Baptist Church. They may **donate online via a link on the event website** or contact Terry Welborne at 615-794-5488.

### ***CARMEN'S STORY:***

Carmen was injured during a visit to the Louisiana farm owned by Terry's family. While she was mowing part of a field left in disarray by Hurricane Katrina, a two-ton A-frame hoist, the type used to lift heavy objects such as car engine blocks, was pulled down onto Carmen from behind. Her injuries were severe and initially life threatening. Her spine and vertebrae were severed. Most, if not all of her ribs were broken, some severely fractured. Her diaphragm was torn and there was bruising of her spleen and liver.

At the time of the accident, Carmen was uninsured. Having experienced melanoma, she had been dropped by her insurance carrier and was in a waiting period to be able to receive coverage.

Carmen spent five weeks at University Hospital in New Orleans, LA, where she had multiple surgeries for her injuries and resulting complications. She then spent seven weeks in a rehab program at the Frazier Institute in Louisville, KY.

The Thompsons returned home to Nashville in September 2007 and set about rebuilding their lives with the help and support of their family, church and many friends. Some modifications have been made to their home to make it more wheelchair-accessible, but the Thompsons continue to look for a home that is suitable to their needs, or possibly an appropriate plot of land on which Terry can build one. Carmen has also battled numerous infections and bouts of pain and nausea. Local spine specialists have indicated that the hardware inserted into her back is much too large for her small frame, thus causing continued issues with pain. Another major surgery in the near future seems likely.

The couple faces a staggering amount of medical bills. Terry has been acting as Carmen's primary caretaker and along with help from family and friends has kept the household running. Needless to say, it has been extremely difficult for both of them.

Prentice said, "Yet, in spite of their loss, and throughout the continued grieving process, Terry and Carmen remain committed to each other and their faith in God. They believe wholeheartedly that God has a plan for them and wants to see Him glorified through this tragedy. Carmen has recently led a women's retreat for a local church. She is also continuing to work her image consulting business part time. Terry is a general contractor and is looking to build the perfect home for his lovely wife."

## ***SCHEDULED TO PERFORM***

### **Ed Bruce**

[www.edbrucemusic.com](http://www.edbrucemusic.com)

With a string of hits both as an artist and a writer, Ed Bruce has maintained a successful career for more than four decades. "Mamas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys," "After All," "Girls, Women and Ladies," "When You Fall In Love Everything's A Waltz," "My First Taste of Texas," "Ever, Never Loving You," "The Last Cowboy Song," and the "Theme from Bret Maverick" are just a few of the self-penned hit songs from this great artist. Bruce's career now spans both sides of the Atlantic and he has gained an enormous following in Europe. But Bruce says his heart is "to lead people to the Cross of Cavalry" wherever he has the opportunity to sing.

### **Marcus Hummon**

[www.marcushummon.com](http://www.marcushummon.com)

Marcus Hummon has a diverse career as a writer of theatrical works, as a recording artist, and as an award-winning songwriter. To date, he has created five musical productions that have been staged at the repertory theatre in Nashville and beyond. The Nashville Opera premiered his sixth and latest work, the opera "Surrender Road," in November 2007. Alongside his theatrical work, he has received Grammy, Tony, Academy of Country Music, and Country Music Association nominations for hits including Wynonna's "Only Love," Alabama's "The Cheap Seats," Sara Evans' "Born to Fly," Tim McGraw's "One of These Days," and the Dixie Chicks' "Ready to Run" and "Cowboy Take Me Away." His most recent smash, Rascal Flatt's "Bless the Broken Road," enjoyed 6 weeks at #1 and was named the Nashville Songwriter Association International's "Song of the Year" and won a Grammy for "Country Song of the Year." He has released six solo CDs on Velvet Armadillo Records and a CD with his Celtic band, The Raphaels.

### **Michelle Nicolo Prentice**

A singer of phenomenal range and talent, Michelle Nicolo Prentice began singing at age four and had her first professional engagements at age eight. Her extensive professional resume includes recording work with Bebe Winans, Dennis DeYoung, Wynonna Judd, Lari White, Russ Taff, and Mike Reid, and starring roles in the original cast productions of hit songwriter/playwright Marcus Hummon's "Francis Of Guernica" and "Warrior." The latter moved Evans Donnell of the Nashville Tennessean to write, "Michelle Nicolo Prentice provides some of the most exquisite singing moments you'll find on any stage." Michelle delivered a stirring performance of "Somewhere" on a recording of the original score of "West Side Story" with Kenneth Schermerhorn and the Nashville Symphony. She is a featured artist, along with Enrico Caruso and Leontyne Price, on the NEA's Great American Voices CD.

### **Reverend Joseph Rice**

Reverend Joseph Rice is a multi-Grammy winning singer, having joined the venerable Fairfield Four at age 23. Although still a young man, Reverend Rice has recorded and performed with Elvis Costello, John Fogerty, Charlie Daniels, Lee Roy Parnell, Steve Earle, the "O Brother Where Art Thou?" soundtrack and many others. Awards include: Nashville Music Award Lifetime Achievement Award, 1995, James Cleveland Stellar Award, 1996, Grammy Award, Best Traditional Gospel Recording, for "I Couldn't Hear Nobody Pray," 1997, Gospel Music Hall of Fame, inducted 1999. Reverend Rice is founder and pastor of the Higher Ground Missionary Baptist Church in Nashville.

### **CC Miller**

CC Miller is the consummate entertainer. His potent and powerful career spans nearly four decades, paying his dues with 35 years on the road, 250-300 days a year. CC has recorded five albums and was on Warner Brothers Records, both as a solo artist and with the World Famous Dynatones. Miller has performed with Big Joe Turner, James Brown, Steve Cropper, B.B. King, Albert Collins, Temptations, Four Tops, Spinners, Junior Walker, Billy Preston, Carla Thomas, Etta James, Mary Wells, Bonnie Raitt, Linda Ronstadt, Bruce Springsteen, Hall and Oates, Thunderbirds, and the Tower of Power. For the past seven years he has been the lead singer and "dancin' fool" with the Soul Searchers, a Nashville-based soul revue.

### **J. David Sloan**

Considered the "godfather" of the Phoenix country music scene, J. David Sloan has entertained hundreds of thousands of fans over his 40-year career. He was instrumental in launching the careers of Lyle Lovett and Ray Herndon (McBride and the Ride) and has mentored and inspired three generations of musicians. A 2007 inductee into the Arizona Music and Entertainment Hall Of Fame, Sloan's energy and spirit drive every performance.

### **Terry Thompson**

[www.terrythompson.net](http://www.terrythompson.net)

Terry Thompson is both a beneficiary of the event and a featured performer. Thompson is a versatile singer, actor and entertainer. He has had several songs published and recorded. Thompson has toured extensively across the United States, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Ukraine, Okinawa, Australia and Guam with such groups as America, Three Dog Night, and Charly McClain. He has also opened for the Everly Brothers, John Prine, Ray Price, the Kentucky Headhunters and Skip Ewing.