

PRESS RELEASE  
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Country Music Legend Don Williams set to Return to  
Threadgill Series in March

Don Williams, a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame, will return to Greenville as a part of the Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series at the historic Greenville Municipal Auditorium on Wednesday night, March 11<sup>th</sup>. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets for the concert are on sale now and range in price from \$36 to \$56. Tickets are available in downtown Greenville at the Auditorium box office. Tickets may be purchased online through the GMA website, which is [www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com](http://www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com), or by calling 903-457-2994.

Series coordinator Larry Green, Jr., reports that tickets are selling well. He expects Williams to draw another large crowd.

“When Don Williams performed at the GMA in 2012 he drew the largest audience in the history of the Threadgill Series since we began in 2003. The audience knew the words to every song and sang along. His baritone voice is as good as ever and his songs are timeless classics.”

Born in Floydada, Texas in 1939 and growing up near Corpus Christi, Williams was playing guitar by age twelve, taught by his mother, and performed in folk, country and rock bands as a teenager. He first gained musical attention as a member of the pop folk trio The Pozo Seco Singers, which had six pop chart hits in 1966-'67, then was signed as a songwriter by Nashville's Cowboy Jack Clement in 1971.

They came to call Don Williams “the Gentle Giant” in the decades he was a dominating country hit maker because of his unique blend of commanding presence and that laid-back, easy style that has appealed to adult men and women alike—cutting across national and genre boundaries. If those personal and musical qualities stood out strongly across the 1970s, '80s and '90s, they are all the more distinctive in 2012, when so many country and pop records seem to work as check off lists of somebody's idea of how to be a man, or hard-sell attempts to indicate affection for a woman. Don Williams has never sounded like he felt the need to sell somebody something, or to prove anything.

Between 1974 and 1991, Williams had at least one major hit every year, including such country standards as “ Good Ole Boys Like Me,” “Till the Rivers All Run Dry,” “It Must Be Love,” “I'm Just a Country Boy,” “Amanda”, “Some Broken Hearts Never Mend” and “I Believe in You.” He also had a hit duet with Emmylou Harris on Townes Van Zandt's

“If I Needed You”. Williams was the CMA Male Vocalist of the Year in 1978; his “Tulsa Time” was the ACM Record of the Year for 1979.

Riding and crossing the line between country and pop, and all the more distinctive for doing it, Williams brought a sound and sensibility to the country charts that proved a smash—a development that was initially a surprise even to him.

“When I was just a wee lad,” he recalls, “I really appreciated people like Johnny Horton, Johnny Cash and Jim Reeves; all of those guys back then meant a lot to me, but at the same time, I really loved Brook Benton, and the Platters and all of those people. But even when I was ‘in pop’ myself, with everything that I wrote, the only people who really seemed to appreciate it were country fans. That has to tell you a little bit about where your heart’s at, whether your head agrees with it or not!”

On *And So It Goes*, available from Sugar Hill on June 19th, that winning, self-assured ease is again front and center, and the musical style that has made Don Williams a ballad vocal model for performers ranging from Eric Clapton (with whom he’d traded songs—“Tulsa Time,” “Lay Down Sally”) to Keith Urban (who guests on this release). One listen to the characteristically right-on-target vocals on this first Don Williams recording in eight years and his admirers will be wondering what he’s done to maintain that strength over the hiatus.

Williams can still fill an auditorium or stadium across the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Africa; his special role as an international ambassador for American country and pop music is ongoing and his musical appeal, he has long since been astonished to find, is about the same from the Central Time Zone to central Africa.

“The weird thing about that is—no; I don’t change my show to go play England or Nairobi. I can pretty much choose anything from my repertoire and it works wherever I am, and that still amazes me, because you’re talking about different cultures, sometimes different languages, and the whole nine yards.”

The hundreds of memorable songs in that repertoire—over fifty of them major hits—whether contemplative ballads, affecting love songs or change-up rhythm numbers, have always been a core Don Williams strength and focus.

In 2010, Williams received country music’s highest honor, with his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. He was still surprised: “I never really thought that I was viewed in that manner by the powers that be. It’s an incredible honor, to be added to the caliber of people that are on that roster. It’s pretty overwhelming, actually.”

Irish singer Colm Kirwan is traveling on the road with Williams this year and will perform the opening set at the Greenville concert.

Violin students from local elementary schools will again perform at the June concert. The Greenville Suzuki Strings Association will sell bottled water and concessions at the concert, with all proceeds being used to purchase new violins for the students.

The Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series is produced by Friends of Main Street, a non-profit organization dedicated to historic Downtown Greenville. Inquiries concerning sponsorship opportunities for the 2015 season can be directed to Larry Green, Jr. by calling 903-455-1876.

More information on the Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series can be found at [www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com](http://www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com) and [www.greenville-texas.com](http://www.greenville-texas.com).

For more information on Don Williams, please visit [www.don-williams.com](http://www.don-williams.com).