

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 30, 2019

For artist images and bios go to: <https://pasadenasympphony-pops.org/press-release-dwight-yoakam/>

**L.A. County Supervisor Kathryn Barger Presents “Live at the Arboretum”
With Grammy-Award Winning Country Star Dwight Yoakam, June 15**

PASADENA, CA – Los Angeles County Supervisor **Kathryn Barger** proudly presents the third annual summer concert festival “Live at the Arboretum” with legendary country star **Dwight Yoakam** on **Saturday, June 15 at 7:00pm** at the **Los Angeles County Arboretum and Botanical Gardens**. Supporting act **Desure** will open the show at **6:00pm**.

Tickets start at \$15 and gates open for picnic dining at **5:30pm**. This summer’s Live at the Arboretum concert continues the success of previous acts Trace Adkins and the inaugural debut of the festival in 2017 with LeAnn Rimes. The concert is presented by Supervisor Barger, the Los Angeles County Department of Parks & Recreation, the Los Angeles Arboretum Foundation and the Pasadena POPS.

A multiple Grammy Award-winner, Dwight Yoakam has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide with 14 hits peaking on the Billboard Top 10, including “Streets of Bakersfield,” “Fast As You,” “Honky Tonk Man,” “Guitars, Cadillacs” and many more. Yoakam’s Honky Tonk brand of Country carries on the tradition of the Bakersfield Sound developed by Buck Owens and Merle Haggard. He currently hosts *The Bakersfield Beat* on his self-titled SiriusXM Channel, and has achieved a formidable acting career, having appeared in over 40 feature films, including *Sling Blade* and *Panic Room*.

Spacious circular table seating with linens and lawn seating are both available for picnicking. The venue also features a variety of food trucks and two beverage centers serving fine wines, beer, coffee and soft drinks.

Tickets are available for \$15, \$25, \$35, and \$55 and are available by calling the box office at (626) 793-7172, online at PasadenaSymphony-Pops.org, or at the Arboretum on the day of the concert.

- **What:** “Live at the Arboretum” with Dwight Yoakam
- **When:** June 15, 2019. Gates open at 5:30pm. Concert begins at 6:00pm with supporting act Desure opening. Dwight Yoakam performs at 7:00pm.
- **Where:** The Los Angeles County Arboretum - 301 N Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
- **Cost:** Lawn tickets start at \$15, with table seating at \$25, \$35, and \$55.
- **Dining:** Gates open at 5:30pm for picnicking. Guests are welcome to bring their own food and drink or visit one of the many onsite food vendors.
- **Parking:** Onsite Arboretum parking available.

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ABOUT DWIGHT YOAKAM

Dwight Yoakam has sold more than 25 million albums worldwide, and he is a 21-time nominated, multiple GRAMMY Award winner. He has 12 gold albums and 9 platinum or multi-platinum albums, with five of those albums topping Billboard's Country Albums chart and another 14 landing in the Top 10. Nearly 40 of Yoakam's singles have charted on Billboard, with 14 peaking in the Top 10.

The LSD Tour, featuring Lucinda Williams, Steve Earle, and Dwight, unites three of music's most celebrated and iconic voices on one epic cross-country package for the very first time. Kicking off June 12, 2018 at Blue Hills Bank Pavilion in Boston, MA and rolling through iconic amphitheaters and theaters in major markets across the country, the LSD Tour concludes on August 18, 2018 at Farm Bureau Insurance Lawn in Indianapolis, IN. Support will come from Los Angeles rock outlier King Leg.

Yoakam's self-curated SiriusXM channel, titled Dwight Yoakam and The Bakersfield Beat 'Where Country Went Mod', will launch in late April. The channel celebrates the Bakersfield sound and those whom it has inspired, including Buck Owens, Merle Haggard, Wynn Stewart, Tommy Collins, The Byrds, The Flying Burrito Brothers, Eagles, The Blasters, Lucinda Williams, and more. It encompasses all that is California country and country rock, in all of its various and varietal hybrid forms, from Ricky Nelson to Emmylou Harris and Linda Ronstadt. The channel includes artists from the movement in LA in the early to middle '80s that Yoakam broke out of and features bands as diverse as X, Lone Justice and Los Lobos. This movement was encapsulated on the series of albums titled *A Town South of Bakersfield* and has led variations over time to the current continuing country scene in LA, all of which Yoakam has dubbed as a segment for his channel entitled "That Town South of Bakersfield: From Cow Punks to Now Punks".

In 2016, Yoakam released his bluegrass album *Swimmin' Pools, Movie Stars...* on Sugar Hill Records. Featuring a band of bluegrass luminaries, this album boasts a collection of reinterpreted favorites from his catalogue, as well as a cover of Prince's "Purple Rain". Produced by nine-time GRAMMY winner Gary Paczosa (Alison Krauss, Dolly Parton), Jon Randall (songwriter of "Whiskey Lullaby"), and Yoakam himself, and mixed by Chris Lord-Alge, this album reflects the love for bluegrass music that Yoakam developed at an early age in Kentucky and that has inspired him for many years thereafter.

In addition to his musical career, Yoakam is a formidable film and television actor who has appeared in over 40 feature films, including *Sling Blade* and *Panic Room*. In 2016, he recurred in David E. Kelley's Amazon series *Goliath*. Recently, he appeared in director Steven Soderbergh's film *Logan Lucky* with Channing Tatum and Daniel Craig. Yoakam is capable of seamlessly melting into his roles and impressively standing toe-to-toe with some of the world's top thespians over the course of his storied and successful acting career, including Jodie Foster, Tommy Lee Jones, Jared Leto, Forest Whitaker, and Matthew McConaughey.

ABOUT DESURE

Straight shooters make a mark. They leave a lasting impression whose impact only grows over time. The picture might not always be pretty, but it remains powerful, nonetheless. Representing the missing link between sixties Laurel Canyon and desert dust bowl country right from the heart of Bakersfield, Desure traffics on his own road beset by unfiltered storytelling, evocative instrumentation, and soulful delivery.

Like candid dialogue befitting of a late-night cruise in the glow of headlights and nothing more, the bearded country-folk troubadour doesn't censor a thing. As a result, he steadily maintains pace on an upward rise highlighted by syncs on NETFLIX's *The Ranch*, sold out tours supporting Midland, and acclaim from the likes of Rolling Stone within a year since his emergence.

“To be honest, the music is a direct reflection of what I’m going through,” he affirms. “The songs are pretty literal. Everything I write comes from me. Music is therapy, straight up. I have to release it, or else I get in my head. It starts with a need to say what’s on my mind and what I’m feeling.”

Born and raised in the San Fernando Valley, he identified music’s power at a young age. A huge record player magnetically attracted Desure as he spun mom’s Rolling Stones and Beatles vinyl and dad’s Neil Young and Bob Dylan records. At the same time, he discovered hardcore and punk, attending underground shows with friends and becoming “hooked on the energy of people crowd surfing and singing along.” He picked up a guitar at twelve-years-old and learned by teaching himself Green Day. By 14, he performed regularly in high school bands. Two years later, he left his folks’ house and moved into his girlfriend’s Hollywood pad.

After “years of fucking around,” friends in Midland invited him to join them on the road as a tour manager. Relocating to Texas, he traversed the country with the boys and learned the ins and outs of the business. After opening for them last-minute at a show in Bakersfield, he hung up his management spurs and made a decision to “get serious about creating music again.”

In 2018, he unveiled his debut single “Stranded Son” and stirred up a growing buzz. In the aftermath of its release, Rolling Stone lauded him among “10 New Country Artists You Need to Know.” Between touring with Midland, the slick and swaggering send-off “Kick Rocks” followed as he continued to record the tracks that now comprise his 2019 debut EP. Blurring the lines between country, folk, indie, and rock, these six tracks formally introduce him. A clean lead and rustling acoustic guitar back his catchy confessional on the single “Los Angeles.” Rife with wailing slide guitar, a sunny spirit underscores the telling admission, “Los Angeles, you’re killing me. Lord, I can’t live on two hours sleep. With a daily dose put up my nose to the women we talk to after shows, it’s a simple reminder of what’s to come when I say I won’t—but wind up drunk.”

“It’s about me moving to Texas,” he explains. “During the time, I just needed to get the fuck out of L.A. My lifestyle was dangerous, because I was partying nonstop and not really doing shit. I didn’t have a care in the world. It’s therapeutic to tell this now. I wanted to finally do music like I was supposed to instead of just talking about it.”

On the EP, the nocturnal bliss of his cover of “Sailing Nights” by Bob Seger represents the cinematic side of his vocals with its robust piano and vivid production. Meanwhile, the stark acoustic “Stay Here A While” offers up a heartfelt ballad to his wife. “It’s a really important one,” he adds. “I just wanted to say thanks to her.”

By holding nothing back, Desure makes a mark of his own. “I hope people possibly feel inspired when they listen to me,” he leaves off. “If I can make one person feel this way, it’s beyond anything I could ever ask for. My songs are who I am. I’m giving you me.”

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