



## 2018 Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival

### THURSDAY, MAY 3

**Nashville Songwriters' Salute! to Jimmie Rodgers  
with Paul Overstreet, Jim McBride, Wynn Varble, and Paul Burch**

Temple Theatre of the Performing Arts - 7:00pm

Tickets: [www.ardenland.net](http://www.ardenland.net), Citizens National Bank Downtown Banking Centre,  
and Meridian Underground Music

### FRIDAY, MAY 4

**Clay Parker and Jodi James**

Dumont Plaza - 5:30pm

Free outdoor concert

**Old Crow Medicine Show**

MSU Riley Center - 7:30pm

Tickets: [www.msurileycenter.com](http://www.msurileycenter.com) and MSU Riley Center Box Office

**Scott McQuaig & The Tomcats**

Dumont Plaza - 9:00pm

Free outdoor concert

### SATURDAY, MAY 5

**Paul Thorn in Concert**

The MAX Amphitheater - 7:00pm

Tickets: <https://www.msarts.org/event/the-max-presents-paul-thorn-in-concert/>

**The MAX and JRMF Afterparty with Bishop Gunn in Concert**

The Hive Bar and Grill - 10:00pm

Tickets: \$10 at the door with free admission for Paul Thorn ticketholders

## 2018 JIMMIE RODGERS MUSIC FESTIVAL PLANS ANNOUNCED

Meridian, Mississippi (March 28, 2018) – The Jimmie Rodgers Foundation is pleased to announce details for the 2018 Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival. Celebrating its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the three-day festival begins Thursday, May 3 and will be hosted at a variety of downtown venues thanks to partnerships with multiple downtown Meridian organizations, including the Temple Theatre for the Performing Arts, the MSU Riley Center, The MAX, the City of Meridian, and The Hive Bar and Grill.

The much-revered songwriters' night returns to the stage of the Temple Theatre to revitalize the tradition of the many years of festival performances hosted at the theatre.

“Due to the resurgence of strong singer-songwriter talent in recent years through the Americana music movement, there has been much demand for the return of a songwriters' night to the Jimmie Rodgers festival lineup,” says Jimmie Rodgers Foundation board president Ed Snodgrass. “We are really excited to be able to present the caliber of songwriters being featured this year.”

The festival kicks off Thursday, May 3 with Nashville songwriter Paul Burch on the Temple Theatre stage. Burch's recent album, *Meridian Rising*, tells the story of Jimmie Rodgers as an imagined autobiography. Joining Burch will be multi-instrumentalist Fats Kaplin, known for his collaborations with many artists including Jack White and John Prine.

The evening features a very special songwriters' round with Hall of Fame songwriters Paul Overstreet and Jim McBride with hit-maker Wynn Varble spotlighting their many hits.

Mississippi native Paul Overstreet is one of the most successful songwriters in contemporary country music, penning hits for artists like George Jones, Randy Travis, Tanya Tucker, and Marie Osmond, as well as scoring hits on his own. Overstreet wrote Forever and Ever Amen, On the Other Hand, Same Ole Me, and When You Say Nothing at All.

Wynn Varble has penned numerous number one and chart-topping hits for artists like Brad Paisley, Kellie Pickler, Easton Corbin, and Darryl Worley. Varble co-wrote the hit songs Have You Forgotten, Waitin' on a Woman, Things That Never Cross a Man's Mind and A Little More Country Than That.

Jim McBride is a CMA Award winning, Grammy nominated songwriter and former President of the Nashville Songwriters Association International. McBride has written hits for artists like Alan Jackson, Waylon Jennings, George Jones, and Conway Twitty. He wrote the hit songs Chattahoochee, Chasin' that Neon Rainbow, Rose in Paradise, and Someday.

The Nashville Songwriters' Salute to Jimmie Rodgers is scheduled Thursday, May 3 at the Temple Theatre for the Performing Arts. Tickets go on sale the first week of April online at [www.ardenland.net](http://www.ardenland.net) and at Citizens National Bank Downtown Banking Centre and Meridian Underground Music.

The festival has partnered with the MSU Riley Center for Old Crow Medicine Show in concert on Friday, May 4. Members of the Grand Ole-Opry, the multi-Grammy winning band will appeal to a broad audience with its retro "old time country string band" sound. Tickets are on sale at [www.msurileycenter.com](http://www.msurileycenter.com) and at the MSU Riley Center Box Office.

In conjunction with Old Crow Medicine Show on Friday, May 4, The Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival presents pre-show and post-show concerts at Dumont Plaza adjacent to the MSU Riley Center. In addition to celebrated regional talent, there will be food and beverage concessions. The Dumont Plaza celebration is free to the public.

The May 4 celebration begins at 5:30pm with Baton Rouge acoustic duo Clay Parker and Jodi James. The pair's use of dense harmony-singing and subtle musical arrangements indelibly binds them to the tradition of singer-songwriters and positions them well in the folk roots and Americana strains of country music.

Following the Old Crow Medicine Show concert, Meridian native Scott McQuaig and his band The Tomcats will resume the Dumont Plaza festivities. McQuaig is a former MCA and Capitol Records recording artist and has a third album out this April 14.

"The City of Meridian is proud to be a longstanding partner with the Jimmie Rodgers Festival," said Laura Carmichael, Director of Community Development. "We are committed to providing the resources and venue space needed to bring the rich heritage and culture of the festival to life in downtown Meridian."

On Saturday, May 5 the Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival joins The MAX in their opening week for a concert by Tupelo native singer-songwriter Paul Thorn. Paul Thorn has established an impressive career, pleasing crowds with his muscular brand of roots music – bluesy, rocking and thoroughly Southern American, yet also speaking universal truths. Tickets may be purchased at [www.msarts.org](http://www.msarts.org).

Following Paul Thorn in Concert is The MAX and JRMF Afterparty at The Hive Bar and Grill presented by the Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival. The event wraps up the 2018 Jimmie Rodgers Music Festival with the band Bishop Gunn of Natchez, Mississippi, whose music is rooted in the history and sounds of their home and the surrounding Delta, and features a blend of rock and roll, soul and blues. Tickets are \$10 at the door with free admission for Paul Thorn ticketholders.