

George Hamilton IV, Townes Van Zandt featured at Oak Grove

VERONA — The Tenth Annual Oak Grove Music Festival features George Hamilton IV, a longtime member of the Grand Ole Opry, and Townes Van Zandt, a frequently-recorded singer-songwriter. Theater Wagon of Staunton sponsors the festival to be held Aug. 5-7 at the Oak Grove Theatre here.

Festival artists also include The Southern Mountain Melody Makers, The Spring Gap Hellbenders, Tom Espinola and Lorraine Duisit, Ginny Hawker and Kay Justice with Ben Hawker, Bill Wellington, and Windfall. They represent a spectrum of styles from foot-stomping country hits to very traditional shape-note singing and a variety of formats: bands, harmony duos, solo artists, a storyteller and dance caller.

The weekend includes concerts Friday and Saturday nights and a

gospel sing featuring George Hamilton IV Sunday afternoon. Dancing in cooperation with Valley Country Dancers will follow on Friday night and Sunday afternoon. Audiences choose from a variety of workshops (mini-concerts) Saturday afternoon.

George Hamilton IV has appeared on three continents and recorded two gold records and more than 50 albums, the most recent all-gospel. His hits include "Abilene," "Early Morning Rain," "She's a Little Bit Country," and "Canadian Pacific."

Townes Van Zandt's songs range from No. 1 country hits to sensitive folk ballads. They are recorded by Willie Nelson and Emmy Lou Harris ("Pancho and Lefty"), Doc Watson ("If I Needed You"), Robin and Linda Williams ("None But the Rain"),

and Steve Young ("No Place to Fall").

Tom Espinola and Lorraine Duisit sing and perform on harp, mandolin, guitar, and percussion. Duisit appeared with Trapezoid around the world, while Espinola was a member of New Morning String Band and Nothin' Doin'.

Weekend tickets may be ordered from Theater Wagon, Route 1, Box 192, Staunton 24401. The festival has been sold out in advance for eight of its 10 years, and tickets for individual performances are not available. Call (703) 885-3008 for information.



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