

The
**NASHVILLE
TAKEOVER™**

EST. 2025

STRATFORD ★ APRIL 10-12

The Nashville Takeover

Stratford • April 10–12 - Official Schedule - 2026

For three days, Stratford transforms into a Nashville-style songwriter town. Multiple venues across the city come alive with some of the most exciting songwriters from Nashville and Canada, performing their original songs and sharing the stories behind them.

This is not a traditional festival.
There are no big stages and no published lineups.

Instead, you will move from room to room, discovering artists in real time, just like you would in Nashville.

Every set is different. Every room has its own energy.
The best moments are the ones you don't see coming.

How the Weekend Works

Events take place across multiple venues at the same time.

You are free to move between venues throughout the day and night. Some performances are intimate listening-room style, while others are more social and energetic.

Artists rotate between venues, so each room offers a completely different experience.

If a venue reaches capacity, simply head to another nearby location. There is always something happening.

Some events are exclusive to specific pass types. Please refer to your pass for access.

Friday – Opening Night Kickoff

Festival Check-In

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM | Grayson Mills

All guests must check in to receive their wristband or VIP lanyard. Simply present your QR code at registration.

If you have a Saturday or Sunday-only pass, you are welcome to check in during this time to pick up your wristband early. Someone may also check in on your behalf if needed.

VIP Founders Pre-Party

4:00 - 6PM | The Starlight | No live music

VIP Founders Pass holders are invited to a private kickoff gathering with the artists and our team.

Enjoy light appetizers, drinks, and an opportunity to meet some of the songwriters before the weekend officially begins.

Opening Night Showcase

Doors: 6:00 PM | Music: 7:00 PM – 9:15 PM

The Takeover officially begins with two simultaneous venues.

Guests will experience both venues during the evening.

7:00 PM – 7:45 PM

First round

7:45 PM – 8:15 PM

Intermission – guests rotate venues. Please rotate to the next venue to allow others to experience another room.

8:15 PM – 9:15 PM

Second round

Before the music begins, arrive early to enjoy Nashville-themed cocktails and food.

Participating Venues:

Grayson Mills (Both Floors)

A traditional Nashville-style listening room. Seated, intimate, and focused on the stories behind the songs. In one room the artists will be in the center of the room, just like The Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, and the other will be a mixture of theatre style seating and standing room, with the artists at the front of the room.

(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)

Chuck's Roadhouse

A more lively and social writers round where guests can enjoy drinks, conversation, and incredible songwriting performances.

(Food and beverage available for purchase)

Multiple songwriters will perform in the round at each venue. You are not required to move, however we highly encourage you to rotate during intermission in order to give other guests the opportunity to experience each room.

Late Night After Party

10:00 PM – Late | Grayson Mills - Main Floor

Full Weekend PLUS & VIP pass holders only

The night continues with a high energy acoustic showcase featuring some of the weekend's artists performing original songs and joining in a spontaneous late-night jam.

This is one of the most special parts of the weekend artists trading songs, jumping on stage together, and letting the night unfold naturally.

Please email us to reserve your spot at the after party. This helps us manage capacity and ensure we have enough food for everyone.

PLUS AND VIP PASS HOLDERS ONLY

support@backyardmusiccompany.com

Saturday

Saturday Registration

11 AM – 1:00 PM | Registration Desk | Grayson Mills

All guests must check in and receive their wristband or VIP lanyard before attending any events.

To register, simply present your QR code at the registration desk. Once scanned, you will receive the appropriate wristband or VIP lanyard, which grants access to the takeover venues.

Important:

- Registration is required before entering any venues
- Your wristband or lanyard must be worn and visible at all times
- You will not be able to access any events without checking in first

If you are unable to attend registration yourself, someone may check in on your behalf using your QR code and collect your wristband or lanyard for you.

Mimosas & Songs — Founders Session

11:00 AM – 12:45 PM | The Bunker

Doors open at 10:30

Founders Pass holders (VIP) are invited to a **very intimate songwriter experience** to start the day.

This special session features **two songwriters performing in the round**, sharing their original songs and the stories behind them in a relaxed, listening-room style setting.

Guests will enjoy **complimentary mimosas** while experiencing the kind of close-up songwriting moments typically only found in Nashville's legendary listening rooms.

This is a **small, limited-capacity gathering** designed to feel personal and exclusive before the larger afternoon takeover begins.

You **MUST** reserve a seat for this experience as it has a very limited capacity. You can reserve your spot by emailing support@backyardmusiccompany.com.

The Afternoon Bar Hop

Nashville Writers Takeover

Afternoon Schedule:

Throughout the afternoon, multiple songwriter rounds will be happening **at the same time across different venues**, creating the feeling of discovering artists in Nashville's legendary listening rooms. You are free to roam, however we encourage you to settle into a venue for the first round, and switch to a different venue during intermission.

Cocktail Hour: 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM (Enjoy Nashville themed cocktails and food for purchase at each venue)

Round 1: 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Rotation Break (Intermission): 2:00 PM – 2:30 PM

Round 2: 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Same artists remain in each room for both rotations while guests rotate

Doors open at participating venues so you can grab a drink, explore the town, and choose your first stop.

Music begins at **1:00 PM**

How It Works

There are **TWO rounds of music** during the afternoon.

1. **Choose the venue you'd like to start at.**
Arrive early if you want a seat.
2. **Enjoy the first round of music.**
3. **During the rotation break, move to a different venue** so you can experience another writer's round and a different atmosphere. You are free to roam at any time, however please try to move along to the next venue during intermissions so that others can experience a different room.

If the venue you arrive at is full, **simply move to the next one and settle in there.** Music will be happening everywhere.

Participating venues include:

Grayson Mills – Upper & Lower Levels

Traditional seated songwriter circle where the artists are in the center of the room, as well as a theatre style seating room. The upper level will feature “The Pony Show” which is a popular writers round experience in Nashville which highlights the best emerging artists in country music. The room goes quiet and you hear the stories behind the songs, followed by a live Q&A. *(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)*

Chuck’s Roadhouse – Lower Level

A more lively, social writers round atmosphere where you can enjoy drinks, conversation, and incredible performances. *(Food and beverage available for purchase)*

The Bunker

A very intimate showcase featuring a special duo performance. Limited seating. *(Alcohol and limited appetizers available for purchase)*

Copperlight Sanctuary

Step inside Copperlight Sanctuary as it transforms into Stratford’s very own Opry for the day. This stunning historic church, known for its incredible acoustics, sets the stage for an intimate writer’s round experience highlighting some of Nashville’s best emerging artists, as they share the stories behind their songs in a raw, unforgettable setting. *(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)*

Copperlight - Listening Room - Lower Level

A cozy tucked-away theatre-style listening room built for those who want to really feel the songs. Quiet, intimate, and story-driven, this is where you sit back, lean in, and catch the moments that stay with you long after the weekend ends.

Every room features incredible artists, so there’s no wrong choice.

Artist Pop-Up Store & Meet + Greet

4:00 PM – 6:00 PM | Parlour Inn | Churchill Room

OPEN TO ALL GUESTS

A VIP AREA WILL BE AVAILABLE WHICH WILL INCLUDE LIGHT APPETIZERS - YOU MUST HAVE AN OFFICIAL FOUNDERS PASS TO GAIN ACCESS TO THIS.

Before the evening showcases begin, stop by The Parlour Inn Churchill Room for a special Nashville Takeover Artist Pop-Up Store.

This is your chance to browse exclusive merchandise from many of the weekend's featured artists, including items you won't find anywhere else.

Several artists will be dropping by to meet fans, sign merch, take photos, and hang out.

It's a relaxed, come-and-go event where you can connect with the artists, pick up something special to remember the weekend, and soak up the excitement before the night's music begins.

Saturday Night

An Evening in Nashville – Bar Crawl

Doors: 6:00 PM | Music Begins: 7:00 PM

Saturday night transforms Stratford into a true Nashville-style music crawl. Multiple venues across town will be hosting songwriter rounds at the same time, giving you the chance to experience different rooms, different artists, and different atmospheres throughout the evening.

From lively social showcases to quiet listening rooms, each venue offers its own unique Nashville-style experience.

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Showcase Round 1

8:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Rotation Break

(Guests explore town and move to a different venue)

8:30 PM – 9:30 PM

Showcase Round 2

Take your time exploring, discovering new artists, and enjoying the atmosphere of each room.

This is your chance to experience the kind of songwriter culture that normally only exists in Nashville — right in the heart of Stratford.

How It Works

The evening is divided into two rounds of music.

1. Choose the venue you'd like to start at.
Grab a drink, find a spot, and settle in for the first round.
2. During the break between rounds, walk to another venue to experience a different writer's round and atmosphere.

This is designed to recreate the experience of hopping between Nashville's legendary songwriter bars.

If the venue you arrive at is full, simply head to the next one and settle in there. There will always be music happening somewhere.

Participating venues include:

Chuck's Roadhouse – Lower Level - Social Event

High-energy songwriter showcases in a lively social atmosphere where the crowd is buzzing and the songs keep coming. ***(Food and beverage available for purchase)***

Copperlight – Listening Room - Sanctuary

An Opry style showcase designed for a true listening-room experience. Live Q&A after the performances.

(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)

Copperlight - Listening Room - Lower Level

A cozy tucked away theatre style showcase designed for a true listening-room experience.

(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)

Grayson Mills - Social event - Main Floor

High-energy songwriter showcases in a lively social atmosphere where the crowd is buzzing and the songs keep coming.

(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)

Saturday Night After Party

10:00 PM – Late | Grayson Mills – Main Floor - PLUS AND VIP PASS HOLDERS ONLY

The energy rises as artists take the stage with full-band performances of their original songs.

Expect big moments, surprise appearances, and another late-night jam session as the artists collaborate and celebrate the weekend.

Please email us to reserve your spot at the after party. This helps us manage capacity and ensure we have enough food for everyone.

support@backyardmusiccompany.com

PLUS AND VIP PASS HOLDERS ONLY

VIP Founders section will be available

Sunday – The Finale

Sunday Honky Tonk

1:00 PM Doors | Music: 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Grayson Mills

Close out the weekend with a high-energy honky tonk party that feels like stepping straight onto Nashville's Broadway.

A **classic honky tonk band** will be playing **upbeat country classics all afternoon**, bringing the kind of sound that keeps the room moving and the drinks flowing.

This is a full band, boots-on-the-floor experience — loud, lively, and built for a good time. Expect dancing, a packed room, and nonstop energy.

Unlike the more intimate songwriter rounds, this one is all about **letting loose and celebrating the weekend in style.**

(Light appetizers and beverages available for purchase)

Chucks Roadhouse

A writer's round set in a lively honky tonk bar atmosphere.

Artists perform their original songs in the round, trading stories and songs while the room stays social, upbeat, and full of energy.

(Food and beverage available for purchase)

The Final Takeover Gathering

Doors: 6:00 PM | Music: 7:00 PM - Cafe Bouffon + Pazzo

One last evening of music as artists, crew, and VIP guests gather between Cafe Bouffon and Pazzo which are both in the same building.

This final event brings everyone together one last time to celebrate the weekend, share songs, and say goodbye until the next Takeover.

(Food and beverage available for purchase)

Important Tips for Guests

- Keep your wristband visible for entry into all venues
- If a room is full, simply head to another, music is happening at multiple venues
- Arrive early if you want guaranteed seating
- Be respectful of the listening room environments