

# ON THE TROPHY CASE

Broadcast Winners Discuss Their Big Week



Randy Price and Dave McKay

**Randy Price & Dave McKay**  
Major Market Personality, WQYK/Tampa

"It all started when Bucky Covington called us on-air," Price says. "He said WQYK had won Station of the Year, and we were excited, but with a slight twinge of disappointment as nominees. He was just about to hang up, and said, 'Oh, by the way, you guys got the Major Market Personality, as well.'" "My phone was blowing up during the show with messages from high school friends, people I knew before getting into radio – even teachers," McKay says. The suit I wore onstage was one that [the late, CMA Award-winning WQYK exec] Tom Rivers gave me. Wearing it was a tribute to Tom."



Richard Falklen, Al Voecks, Duncan Stewart and Mike Bohan wait for Gerry House, who says, "I was helping Shania into her dress."

**Gerry House And The House Foundation**  
Gerry House, Mike Bohan, Duncan Stewart, Al Voecks, Richard Falklen  
Large Market Personality, WSIX/Nashville

"It was a whirlwind week," House says. "I inducted Michael McDonald into the Nashville Walk of Fame and worked with Brad Paisley on the CMA script. At the BMI Awards, I sat with Keith, Nicole, Tim and Faith. I have a room at home where my CMA Awards are. There's a spotlight on them, and heavenly music plays when you open the door, and then the oil painting of me comes down...but it's nothing special. After the awards, I wound up at Ronnie Dunn's house with Reese Witherspoon, Nicole Kidman, Keith Urban, Tony Brown, Loggins & Messina, George Strait, Reba, Martina, Rascal Flatts. I thought, 'What's wrong with this picture? I shouldn't be here. What a lucky dude.'"



Andy Ritchie, Alison West and Jimmy Holt

**Andy & Alison And The Morning Crew**  
Andy Ritchie, Alison West, Jimmy Holt  
Medium Market Personality, WIVK/Knoxville

"Sugarland's Kristian Bush told us he could remember being 10 years old listening to WIVK at his grandfather's house," Ritchie says. "Right now, I'm driving home with the Award, so if I get pulled over I can tell the officer, 'Let me check, I think my license is in this box with ... oh, look! There's a CMA! Where did that come from?'"

"We went to James Stroud's studio to preview some music he's working on for Richie McDonald, Darryl Worley and others," West says. "I walked into a sports bar and saw Little Richard, and I got to hear Kevin Costner talk about why he got into country music. I was the only woman in the winners group, there in my green dress among all the black suits and tuxedos. It was awesome."



Brian Gary and Todd Harding

**The Good Morning Guys**  
Brian Gary, Todd Harding  
Small Market Personality, KUAD/Ft. Collins, CO

"Sitting amongst your heroes is surreal," Gary says. "Two rows back, there's George Strait! At the end of my row is Kid Rock. I'm thinking, 'You know, if they had a radio show, they'd probably be up closer!' We slept with the Award between us last night."

"We got to meet Heidi Newfield and thank her for being on our *28 Hours of Hope* for child abuse prevention," Harding says. "I told Jennifer Nettles, 'I voted for you in a bunch of categories. This is going to be your night.' She said, 'Me? How about you? You just won an Award!'"



Lon Helton

**CMT Country Countdown USA With Lon Helton**  
National Personality

"The reality of actually having won set in a couple of hours before the telecast when all the radio station reps and personalities gathered for photos. Being among all these great talents and programmers produced a huge sense of pride in being part of the best radio format there is. A very special moment for me came right after the on-air announcement of the award. I was sitting two rows behind Keith Urban, who turned around, pointed at me, and said, 'Congratulations, Lon!' (Or 'Lawn,' as he says), 'Very well deserved.' There are no words to describe that feeling."



Beecher Martin and Mike Culotta

**WQYK/Tampa**  
Major Market Station

"Although everyone was excited when we found out we won, actually walking out on that stage felt just as if you didn't know," says PD Mike Culotta. "That night I wore a blazer Tom Rivers had his tailor make for me. It was kind of like Tom was with us. To stand onstage and see people you work with who are friends in the industry, cheering, yelling, making faces at you, sort of brought it all home. It's a team effort at WQYK, and if we really were to do it properly, we should all be standing there."

**WFMS/Indianapolis**  
Large Market Station

"It's fun to be there knowing you've already won, unlike an artist who has to either graciously lose on national television or go up there and be emotional," says PD Bob Richards. "When you see Gerry House, Mike Hammond, Mike Culotta and all the other station and personality winners, it's an honor to be part of a group whose teams are passionate about radio. It recharges and re-energizes you. And the CMA really pampers the winners. I looked a few rows back and thought, 'OK, we've got better seats than Rascal Flatts.'"

**WIVK/Knoxville**  
Medium Market Station

"For Kenny Chesney to win Entertainer for the fourth time, being a hometown boy; to see Kristian Bush, who's also from this area, win a CMA; and for Andy and Alison to be there – it was special for me," PD Mike Hammond says. "We have a nice trophy case in the lobby where listeners can see the awards because we feel like they play as much a part as we do. New artists will come in and say, 'Man, I want one of those.'"

**WGSQ/Cookeville, TN**  
Small Market Station

"I got to share an elevator with Kevin Costner," says PD Gator Harrison. "I'm glad he didn't mind when I belted out 'I Will Always Love You.' Getting a thumbs-up from Marc Chase and John Ivey – guys who gave you a shot when nobody knew or cared about you – made it more worthwhile than anything. Every person at our station earned this Award. Standing onstage – where George Strait, Kenny, Keith, Brad and Carrie are going to be – like this big goober, next to heritage call letters like WIVK and WQYK, getting the same award as Gerry freaking House, you're thinking, 'What the heck am I doing here?'"

CAC



Robby Greene and Bob Richards



Mike Hammond



Gator Harrison and Phillip Gibbons