

CITY OF PEABODY

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P. 978-538-5700
F. 978-538-5980

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
July 18, 2016

COUNTRY MUSIC DUO TO PERFORM AT CENTENNIAL CONCERT

Batson Haines will open for U.S. Navy Band at City of Peabody's centennial concert and fireworks display

The people of Peabody will surely be entertained this July 23rd as an impressive lineup has been put together to celebrate the city's centennial anniversary at Peabody High School. Mayor Edward A. Bettencourt Jr., and the Peabody Centennial Committee are proud to announce the addition of country duo *Batson Haines* to the performance lineup at the City of Peabody's *Centennial Concert and Fireworks Spectacular featuring the United States Navy Band*. *Batson Haines* is comprised of veteran singer-songwriters Jeff Batson and Eric Haines.

Jeff Batson, a native of Cahokia, Illinois, quickly grew a regional following before relocating to the Nashville area in the late 1990's. Batson has opened for artists such as Hank Williams, Jr., Keith Urban, and the legendary, Gary U.S. Bonds. More recently, Batson was nominated for a Grammy Award for his title cut on Tracy Lawrence's CD *The Rock*. You may have heard his song *Hometown Heroes*, which was used by the Air National Guard in a series of national radio and television promotions. He has proudly performed for U.S. troops at military bases or installations in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, the U.A.E., and Diego Garcia. Jeff has had much success on the Texas Music Chart Top 10 in songwriting collaborations with Jamie Richards.

Eric Haines was born near Frederick, Maryland. At the age of 10, his mother made him take piano lessons and by 13 years-old he had switched to playing the guitar. Haines followed his love for music to South Florida and performed as a solo acoustic act in clubs from Fort Lauderdale to Key West. After a stint in the Atlanta area, he formed a band called New Attitude which led to a recorded album and a series of tours in mid-atlantic states. He made the move to Nashville in the early 2000's and formed a band called the Boondock Rockers. Eric also co-wrote seven of the songs on Jason Clutter's album *Raisin' Cain*.

Together Batson and Haines bring a distinctive sound reminiscent of legendary acts like *The Eagles* and *Simon & Garfunkel*. The pair co-wrote *Boston Stronger* with Peabody native Gary Leavitt in response to the 2013 Boston Marathon attacks. They have proven themselves as a formidable modern-country duo who possess a natural gift for songwriting and performance. To learn more about *Batson Haines* you can visit www.batsonhaines.com. For the latest information on Peabody's Centennial Celebrations you can visit peabody100.com or peabody-ma.gov.

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