



## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT**

Mary Riker: (850) 484-1211

**WSRE, Nashville Public Television and others to celebrate Hank Locklin's  
Grand Ole Opry 60th anniversary with broadcasts of new documentary**

# **HANK LOCKLIN**

**Country Music's Timeless Tenor**

*"Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor" release commemorates 60 years  
of "Please Help Me, I'm Falling" and the country crooner's Nov. 12, 1960 Opry induction*

*Film is scheduled for November premieres on public television channels in 13 states*

PENSACOLA, Fla., November 4, 2020 — Following the success of "Please Help Me, I'm Falling," country crooner Hank Locklin became a member of the Grand Ole Opry on Nov. 12, 1960. In celebration of his 60th Grand Ole Opry anniversary, a new documentary about his music and career will air Thursday, Nov. 12, at 8 p.m. CST on WSRE in Pensacola and Nashville Public Television.

"Hank Locklin: Country Music's Timeless Tenor" recalls the unquestionable talent, unorthodox career path and notable contributions of the prolific songwriter, Grammy-nominated recording artist and international country star. The story is told by his youngest son, Hank Adam Locklin, with help from music industry friends and admirers: Bill Anderson, Jimmy Capps, Dave Cobb, Ralph Emery, Crystal Gayle, Vince Gill, William Lee Golden, Buddy Kalb, Dolly Parton, Charley Pride, Jeannie Seely, Ray Stevens, Alan Stoker, Marty Stuart, Jesse Wells and Dwight Yoakam.

Produced by WSRE, the film is also scheduled to premiere this month on WEDU in Tampa; WFSU in Tallahassee; WFCU in Fort Myers; Alabama Public Television; Houston Public Media; Mississippi Public Broadcasting; Rocky Mountain PBS in Denver; UNC-TV in North Carolina; WCFE Mountain Lake PBS and WMHT Albany in New York; WCMU in Central Michigan; WCTE in Central Tennessee and East Tennessee PBS; WPBA in Atlanta; WQPT PBS in Illinois; Southern Oregon PBS; and PBS SoCal in Southern California. Check local listings.

For viewers everywhere, starting at 8 p.m. on Locklin's Grand Ole Opry anniversary date of Nov. 12, WSRE will offer a limited-time streaming of the film at [wsre.org/HankLocklinFilm](http://wsre.org/HankLocklinFilm).

###



**Credit:** Image courtesy of Grand Ole Opry Archives. Photo by Les Leverett.

### **About Hank Locklin**

Born Lawrence Hankins Locklin in McLellan, Fla. on Feb. 15, 1918, Hank Locklin began his career singing in roadhouses along the Gulf Coast and performing on WCOA radio in Pensacola. He went on to perform on the Big D Jamboree and Louisiana Hayride and was signed to 4 Star Records before being lured to record with Chet Atkins at RCA Victor, where he recorded in Nashville from 1955 to 1974 and helped establish the Nashville sound. In 1960, he joined the Grand Ole Opry, of which he remained a member for 49 years. Locklin is known for his role in introducing concept albums; for being hugely popular overseas, especially in Ireland; and for the longevity of his high tenor voice, recording well into his 80s. With six No. 1 hits, 70 chart singles and more than 15 million albums sold, Locklin received numerous industry awards, including two Grammy nominations. He was inducted into the Florida Artists Hall of Fame in 2007 and into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 2014. He died at his home in Brewton, Ala. on Mar. 8, 2009.

### **About WSRE**

WSRE is a PBS member station, licensed to the Pensacola State College District Board of Trustees. Since 1967, WSRE has served Northwest Florida and South Alabama with educational and entertaining programs and community engagement activities. WSRE produces, acquires and distributes programs that address local interests and reflect the diverse characteristics of the coverage area and connects local schools and families to PBS educational resources.

### **Funding for “Hank Locklin: Country Music’s Timeless Tenor”**

Original funding for “Hank Locklin: Country Music’s Timeless Tenor” was provided by a “Country Music” Community Engagement Grant and The Bear Family Foundation. Other major funders: Jacque Falzone; McKenzie Buick GMC; Patricia R. Dyehouse; Bobby and Karen Emmons; Flora-Bama Lounge, Package & Oyster Bar and the Frank Brown International Songwriters’ Festival; Tom and Jane McMillan; Michael V. Riesberg, M.D.; Pam and Harry Schwartz; Videau Family Charitable Trust; and Pat Windham.

“Country Music” is a production of Florentine Films and WETA, Washington, D.C., and is directed by Ken Burns. Funding for “Country Music” was provided by Bank of America, the Annenberg Foundation, the Arthur Vining Davis Foundations, Belmont University, Tennessee Department of Tourist Development, the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, Rosalind P. Walter and by members of “The Better Angels Society,” including: The Blavatnik Family Foundation, the Schwartz/Reisman Foundation, the Pfeil Foundation, Diane and Hal Brierley, John and Catherine Debs, the Fullerton Family Charitable Fund, the Perry and Donna Golkin Family Foundation, Jay Alix and Una Jackman, Mercedes T. Bass, Fred and Donna Seigel, Gilchrist and Amy Berg, James R. Berdell Foundation, David Bonderman, Deborah P. and Jonathan T. Dawson, Senator Bill and Tracy Frist, Susan and David Kreisman, Rocco and Debby Landesman, Lillian Lovelace, John and Leslie McQuown, Mindy’s Hope Foundation, the Segal Family Foundation, Michelle Smith. Major funding was provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and PBS.