

Country as they come

Nashville recording star lives the life he sings about



Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand

Stretching musical genres to their limits, Ryan Shupe & the RubberBand will be performing at Timpview High School on Saturday.

The Utah natives, who play fiddles, violins and ukuleles in their songs, along with more traditional instruments, will be accompanied by local indie favorite Good Morning Maxfield.

Tickets to see the band are \$12 and can be purchased by calling 669-7373 or visiting www.timpviewband.com. The show will be at the Timpview High School Auditorium at Timpview High School, 3750 Timpview Drive, Provo.

Richard Marx

Hitmaker of the '80s and '90s, singer Richard Marx will present "An Evening With Richard Marx" at the Sandy Amphitheater on Saturday.

Marx's repertoire of hit singles includes such ditties as "Hold On to the Nights," "Right Here Waiting" and "Don't Mean Nothing."

The performance will begin at 8 p.m. at the Sandy Amphitheater, 9400 S. 1300 East, Sandy. Tickets can be purchased for \$18-\$28 at www.smithtix.com. For more information, visit www.sandyarts.com.

Bob Dylan

Bob Dylan is arguably one of the most influential American musicians in the shaping of rock and roll.

With a legacy to rival that of Elvis Presley himself, Dylan will bring his '60s tunes to Utah in August.

Dylan was recently awarded a Pulitzer Price Special Citation for his singing, songwriting and poetic abilities, making him the first rock and roll artist to be honored with a Pulitzer. Tickets for his Utah show are certain to go quickly.

The show will be on Aug. 31 at Deer Valley Resort, P.O. Box 889. Tickets are \$49.50 and go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m. at all Smith's Tix Outlets, and can also be purchased by calling 467-TIXX or visiting www.smithstix.com.

— Brooke Brown

Amber Foote
HERALD CORRESPONDENT

When it comes to singing, country star Joe Nichols is just telling stories — stories about "Real Things." That's what his latest album is titled, and what keeps the Arkansas native churning out hits. Well, that and the lazy southern drawl that flows through and typifies his musical sound.

Influenced by country legends like Merle Haggard and Hank Williams Jr., Nichols has stayed close to traditional country while developing a style of his own. And with chart toppers like "Another Side of You," "Brokenheartsville,"

"She Only Smokes When She Drinks" and "I'll Wait For You," the award-winning singer, who has prizes from both the Country Music Association and Academy of Country Music, has proved he'll be sticking around for a while.

Next Monday night, fans will have the chance to enjoy to Nichols's talent firsthand when he comes to town with country peers Collin Raye and Josh Gracin to perform a concert at Brent Brown Ballpark in Orem. The concert, in addition to a variety of other activities on Monday, is in celebration of the changeover and renaming of Utah Valley State College to Utah Valley University.

Cameron Martin, assistant to the president at UVSC, commented on the concert and activities marking the school's changeover, which officially occurs on July 1.

"It's all about celebrating with the community the heritage, history and future of UVU," Martin said. "We're so appreciative to the community, to the faculty, staff, students and alumni of this institution."

And how does Joe Nichols feel about stopping off in the Valley? "I love Utah," Nichols drawled. "I think it's one of the better states to play country music. It has a huge country fan base there, and I just love the atmosphere. It's always been a

If you go

Joe Nichols, Collin Raye and Josh Gracin

Where: Brent Brown Ballpark, UVU Campus

When: Monday at 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$10/UVU community, \$15/public, \$5/children

Info: www.uvu.edu/marketing/uvuphoria/



Joe Nichols

Country star Joe Nichols will perform Monday as part of UVU Uphoria.

great place for me to go."

Whether you attend the concert Monday night or pop Nichols's latest CD into your car stereo, you're sure to get a country-size dose of down-home lyrics.

Whether he's singing about the good life, love that lasts, broken hearts, or — it wouldn't be country without it — neon moons and honkytonks, Nichols knows how to spin a story while keeping it real.

"I think the stories are [what's] great in country music, the 'real' aspect of it," Nichols said. "People have really done these things. It's not always pretty, but it is for sure always a personal experience. I think that's great about country because

we talk about real life."

Nichols is quick to acknowledge that his own life and personal experiences have influenced his music and choice of songs.

"A song has to be believable," he said. "Therefore I have to either have lived it, or experienced it somehow personally, before I can sink my teeth into it."

And just for curiosity's sake, what does Nichols do when he isn't chasing across the country entertaining and relating to fans? Playing golf and riding horses top the list. Oh, and one other thing. "I like to shoot my gun," Nichols revealed.

It doesn't get more country than that.