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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rodney Atkins added to list of headliners for Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

[Download free festival app for ticket information](#)

LEE COUNTY, Fla. – Country music hit singer-songwriter **Rodney Atkins** brings his star power to round out the sixth annual [Island Hopper Songwriter Fest](#), Sept. 20-29.

Atkins will perform on the final night of the festival, Sept. 29, at Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Fort Myers Beach.

His fifth studio album, “Caught Up in the Country,” shows off what Atkins calls the most daring collection of his career. This follows six No. 1 singles, eight top five singles and more than 13 million units sold. Country Aircheck calls his 2006 single, “Watching You,” the No. 1 song of the decade. That same year, he was named the top new male vocalist at the ACM awards.

Other performers on Island Hopper’s already impressive lineup include **Gone West**, a new rock-country quartet featuring **Colbie Caillat**, in a show with special guest **Ryan Hurd** at Pinchers at The Marina at Edison Ford in downtown Fort Myers on Sept. 25.

Caillat, a two-time Grammy Award winner, has sold more than six million albums worldwide and more than 10 million singles. Hurd has written songs for Blake Shelton, Luke Bryan, Lady Antebellum, Tim McGraw and many others. Hurd has also penned songs for his wife, **Maren Morris**, who headlined Island Hopper in 2016.

Nashville-based Gone West consists of two couples, **Caillat** and her fiancé and singer-songwriter **Justin Young**, and married songwriters, multi-platinum singer-songwriter **Jason Reeves** and ACM and CMT nominated **Nelly Joy**.

Mark your calendar: Island Hopper Songwriter Fest, a 10-day festival, kicks off on Captiva Island, Sept. 20-22, then moves to historic downtown Fort Myers, Sept. 23-26, and wraps up on Fort Myers Beach, Sept. 27-29. Island Hopper is the largest songwriter festival in Southwest Florida and offers a unique experience to interact with songwriters. This year, more than 70 singer-songwriters from around the country will perform more than 100 shows.

A Fort Myers first: On Sept. 22, Florida Repertory Theatre in downtown Fort Myers will set the stage for a collaborative performance by **Kristian Bush**, half of the multi-platinum selling duo Sugarland, and **Gulf Coast Symphony**, celebrating its 25th anniversary.

Island Hopper app: Download for instant event and hotel information. While most of the festival performances are free, ticketed shows are available on the [Island Hopper app](#) under the schedule tab.

Island Hopper's a winner: The 2017 Island Hopper Fest received three SunSational Awards through the Florida Festival & Events Association and the Southeast Tourism Society named Island Hopper one of its Top 20 events.

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Note to media: If you would like to interview any of our singer-songwriters, do live shots or plan to attend, please contact [Miriam Dotson](mailto:mdotson@leegov.com), communications manager, at mdotson@leegov.com.

Island Hopper is produced by the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, iHeartMedia, Cat Country 107.1 and BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S. Visit IslandHopperFest.com or access the [media tool kit](#). Follow the festival hashtag [#islandhopperfest](#) as well as the event's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds.