



## NEWS RELEASE

---

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## CITADEL ANNOUNCES WINNERS FOR 'RISING STAR CONTEST' TO PERFORM AT CITADEL COUNTRY SPIRIT USA

*Three Local Artists to Perform at Country Music Festival Featuring Nation's Top  
Country Artists*

**EXTON, Pa., July 31, 2017** — Citadel has announced the winners of the “Citadel Rising Star Contest”. Three local artists from the Greater Philadelphia Area will perform on the Citadel Rising Star stage at the first-ever [Citadel Country Spirit USA](#) August 24-26.

The three winners are:

- **Brian McConnell** of West Chester Pennsylvania
- **Stephanie Grace** of Douglasville, Pennsylvania
- **Derek Crider** of Hamilton, New Jersey

Brian McConnell's musical journey began in the summer of 1995. After spending a decade as a personal executive assistant to Van Halen frontman David Lee Roth, Brian decided to get back to writing and recording his own songs. Brian has shared the stage with Doors guitarist, Robby Krieger, and country music superstar, Garth Brooks. Currently, Brian splits his time between Nashville and Chester County Pennsylvania.

Stephanie Grace grew up in Douglassville, Pennsylvania and has been songwriting since she was 10 years old. After graduating from high school in 2015, Stephanie decided to pursue music as a full-time career. Stephanie has opened shows for platinum artists like Taylor Swift, Scotty McCreery, John Michael Montgomery, Josh Turner, and The Charlie Daniels Band.

Derek Crider is a singer/songwriter hailing from backwoods of Southern New Jersey where he started playing the guitar and writing songs at age 13. After graduating from Rowan University, Derek decided to pursue his love for playing and songwriting and released his first debut album “Lost & Found” in 2015. Derek has opened for artists like Tyler Farr, Brandy Clark, Dylan Scott, Joe Nichols, and Bret Michaels.

The three winners, determined by fan voting earlier this month, will perform at Citadel Country Spirit USA on August 24, 25, and 26. Each artist will perform two sets between acts on the Main Stage. One winner will perform on Friday, one on Saturday, and one on Sunday.

**“Citadel hosted the contest to recognize local talent from the Greater Philadelphia area. As a community-based organization, it is important to have these rising stars represented at Citadel Country Spirit USA,” said Jeff March, president and CEO, Citadel. “We look forward to seeing these local artists shine at this spectacular event.”**

Citadel Country Spirit USA, being held at Ludwig’s Corner Horse Show Grounds in Chester County’s Brandywine Valley, features more than 20 country music artists on two stages. The three-day country music festival features headliners [Alabama](#), [Toby Keith](#), and [Brad Paisley](#).

Citadel Country Spirit USA comes to Chester County from the producer of Country Summer, Northern California’s biggest country music festival. Hosted by the Chester County Conference and Visitors Bureau (CVB), thousands of fans from across the nation are projected to attend.

The Main Stage lineup and schedule is available at [CountrySpiritUSA.com](#).

Single-day tickets, priced from \$89, and Three-Day Passes, starting from \$249, are on sale now at [CountrySpiritUSA.com](#). A portion of ticket sales will be donated to Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP), a Children’s Miracle Network Hospital.

For more information about the Citadel Rising Star Local Band Contest, visit [CitadelBanking.com/RisingStar](#).

**CONTACT:**

Melissa Thompson

(610) 466-6983

[MelissaThompson@CitadelBanking.com](mailto:MelissaThompson@CitadelBanking.com)

###

*Citadel provides banking, investments, and insurance services to more than 200,000 customers and 250 companies. At over \$3 billion in assets, it is one of the area’s largest locally owned financial institutions, proudly serving residents of Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Lancaster, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties. Citadel ranked first in the 2016 Callahan & Associates Return of the Member scoring index among all credit unions in the nation, and was named one of the best performing credit unions in the nation by SNL Financial. For more information, visit [CitadelBanking.com](#).*