



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHART-TOPPING SINGER, SONGWRITER PHIL VASSAR TO
HEADLINE REIMAGINED HERMITAGE GALA ON SEPTEMBER 30**

*The annual black-tie gala to be held on grounds of iconic National Historic Landmark for
the first time*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (February 22, 2023) – The Hermitage Gala, hosted by the Andrew Jackson Foundation, will be held on the grounds of Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage for the first time, and country singer and songwriter Phil Vassar will headline the event, scheduled for Sat., September 30, 2023. The plans for the reimagined black-tie event were unveiled at a launch party held last night.

The gala, which benefits the education programs and assists the ongoing preservation and restoration efforts at the home of the 7th president, will kick off with a live performance by country blues/string band The Howlin’ Brothers and include an art and travel auction with dinner before Vassar takes the stage.

Serving as co-chairs for the event are Marees Choppin, Irwin Fisher, Pam Koban and DeeDee Wade, with Mary Nelson Wade as the honorary chair. Amos Gott, of AmosEvents, is leading the design and execution of the event.

“We took the last year off from having the gala so that we could reimagine and reinvent this beloved event that began in the mid-2000s,” said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation. “Thanks to the tremendous team of dedicated co-chairs, and our honorary chair, this year’s Hermitage Gala will look and feel completely different. Set on the grounds of the beloved Hermitage Mansion, guests will not get a more iconic—or beautiful—backdrop, and having the stellar line-up of entertainment will certainly make this an evening to remember.”

Vassar, an award-winning songwriter, made his debut on the country music scene in the late 1990s, co-writing singles for several country artists, including Tim McGraw, Alan Jackson and Jo Dee Messina. He was named “Country Songwriter of the Year” by the American Society of Composers, Authors, and Publishers (ASCAP) in 1999. He released an album the next year, which generated five hits on the U.S. *Billboard* country singles charts and earned a gold certification. In all, he has charted 19 singles on *Billboard*’s Hot Country Songs, two of which peaked at No. 1.

In addition to the entertainment, the presentation of the Lewis R. Donelson Award, named after the great-grandson of Andrew Jackson Donelson and longtime supporter of The Hermitage, will be awarded.

Tickets for the Hermitage Gala start at \$500 for an individual guest and will be on sale this summer.

For more information, visit thehermitage.com/gala.

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage is located at 4580 Rachel's Lane in Nashville, Tenn. For more information on Andrew Jackson's Hermitage, email info@thehermitage.com or call 615-889-2941.

ABOUT ANDREW JACKSON'S HERMITAGE

Andrew Jackson's Hermitage: Home of the People's President is one of the largest, most well preserved and most visited presidential homes in the United States. Opened to the public in 1889, The Hermitage is one of America's first presidential museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 20 historic buildings, including Jackson's mansion and tomb, restored slave cabins, a church and gardens. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs, such as the history of slavery, have enhanced the experience of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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