



**ANNUAL GALA COMES HOME TO THE HERMITAGE SEPT. 30
WITH CHART-TOPPING SINGER-SONGWRITER PHIL VASSAR**

***Black-tie fundraiser to be held on grounds of
National Historic Landmark for the first time***

NASHVILLE (Aug. 15, 2023) – On Saturday evening, Sept. 30, the grounds of [Andrew Jackson’s Hermitage](#) will come alive with music, glamour and philanthropy as the annual Hermitage Gala is hosted in a tented ballroom at the National Historic Landmark property for the first time.

One of the most highly anticipated fundraisers of Nashville’s social season, The Hermitage Gala is a black-tie soiree of cocktails, dinner, auction and entertainment. The event benefits the Andrew Jackson Foundation and its mission to preserve the homeplace of President Andrew Jackson, create learning opportunities through education and public programming and inspire civic engagement and citizenship.

Award-winning country singer and songwriter Phil Vassar will headline the gala, taking the stage after a performance by the critically acclaimed Nashville trio, The Howlin Brothers. Vassar, who has written hits for Tim McGraw, Alan Jackson and others, was named ASCAP Country Songwriter of the Year in 1999 and charted two No. 1 country singles on Billboard.

The Hermitage, Jackson’s residence before and after his term as president from 1829 to 1837, is one of the oldest, largest and most popular presidential homesites in the U.S. The annual gala, which has been held off-site in Nashville since its debut in the mid-2000s, will be staged this year in an expansive tented ballroom on the lawn of Jackson’s historic mansion. The event will be attended by more than 400 prominent Southeastern, national and international guests, reviving one of Jackson’s favorite traditions of hosting formal social occasions at his home.

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 production of the gala.

“The return of formal celebrations to The Hermitage is a historic occasion,” said Howard J. Kittell, president and CEO of the Andrew Jackson Foundation. “Thanks to our dedicated co-chairs, our honorary chair and the outstanding line-up of entertainment with Phil Vassar and The Howlin Brothers, this will be a very special evening in a beautiful and iconic setting and will raise money needed to further the mission of our organization.”

A live auction will feature bidding on exclusive packages including dinner for 10 on The Hermitage porch and a behind-the-glass tour; a Mediterranean cruise; luxury trips to Egypt, Jackson Hole, Wyoming and Washington, D.C.; and an oil portrait from artist Michael Shane Neal, including dinner for six at his Nashville studio. Silent auctions will feature a variety of travel and dining experiences along with art, fashion, jewelry, giftware and wine packages.

In addition, the Lewis R. Donelson Award, named after the great-grandson of Andrew Jackson Donelson and longtime supporter of The Hermitage, will be presented to an individual who has demonstrated outstanding support for The Hermitage and its preservation and education initiatives.

Leading underwriters for The Hermitage Gala include John L. Nau III, Denise Cummins, The Ayers Foundation, The Horatio B. and Willie D. Buntin Foundation, CoreCivic (Damon and Carrie Hininger), Airtech (Jeff and Wendy Dahlgren), Alberta and Robert Doochin, CedarStone Bank (Susan and Bob McDonald), Cumberland Trust, Equitable Trust, First Horizon Foundation, Frederic and Lynn Scarola, Hewlett Spencer, Pinnacle Financial Partners and Senator Bill and Tracy Frist Foundation.

Tickets for The Hermitage Gala are now on sale, starting at \$500. For more information, visit thehermitage.com/gala. Andrew Jackson's Hermitage is located at 4580 Rachel's Lane in Nashville, Tenn.

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 experiences of more than 230,000 annual visitors. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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