



For Immediate Release

December 16, 2024

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Sister Cities of Nashville Announces 2025 “Nashville to Tamworth Cross Country Experience” Artist

Nashville, Tenn.- Sister Cities of Nashville (SCN) announces singer-songwriter Sam Hatmaker to participate as Nashville’s featured artist for the 2025 Nashville to Tamworth Cross Country Experience. The competition is sponsored by Visit Music City.

Hatmaker will travel to Tamworth, Australia in January to represent Nashville as an attendee at the 2025 Senior Singer-Songwriter Course at the Academy of Country Music, and will perform during the annual Tamworth Country Music Festival.

“We’re proud to send Sam as Nashville’s ambassador to Tamworth this year,” said Sister Cities Board Member, Mark O’Shea (half of the multi-CMAA award winning country duo, O’SHEA). “Her exceptional talent represents the best of Nashville’s world-class songwriting and musicianship, and this exchange will offer Australia a glimpse into our vibrant music scene while fostering lasting connections between our two cities.”

"Being part of an artist exchange between two music capitals is a chance to step outside my comfort zone and connect with artists from different backgrounds," says artist Sam Hatmaker. "I’m excited to see where this experience takes me—how it will inspire my music, spark new ideas, and deepen my understanding of the global music scene."

Tamworth is known as the “Country Music Capital of Australia” and became Nashville’s 7th Sister City in June 2013, with the common connection being music. Since the partnership began, the two cities have engaged in a number of music, student, and professional exchanges. This is the second year for this successful exchange, which is sponsored by Visit Music City, Nashville’s Convention and Visitors Corp, to promote Nashville abroad and share our culture with the world. Hatmaker is the 4th musician to participate since the exchange began in September 2023. Sister Cities of Nashville gives special thanks to the Country Music Association of Australia (CMAA), City of Tamworth, and the Academy of Country Music (Australia) for their partnerships.

“Music is a universal language that transcends barriers, connecting people across cultures,” said SCN Board President Mina Johnson. “From our experience running this program last year, we’ve seen how these exchanges not only foster mutual understanding and respect, but also create new opportunities for Nashville’s music scene—whether through creative collaborations, expanding networks, or strengthening Nashville’s reputation as a global music hub.”

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In an effort to form lasting connections between Nashville and Tamworth, the two cities collaborated to create this reciprocal, annual music exchange. Young musicians from Nashville were invited to apply for the very unique opportunity to collaborate and connect with their international counterparts while representing our city abroad. Participants committed to stay with a local family and immerse themselves in the culture of our partner city. Earlier this year, Nashville received musician Jenny Mitchell, winner of The CMAA Academy of Country Music's inaugural Nashville Exchange Program. Mitchell performed at the 2024 AmericanaFest, collaborated with local Nashville musicians, and stayed with families in the area.

The Academy of Country Music is a professional initiative of the Country Music Association of Australia developed to mentor, support, and contribute to the careers of young performers from Australia and New Zealand.

Founded in 1990, Sister Cities of Nashville (SCN) is a chapter of Sister Cities International, which is based in Washington D.C. SCN is a volunteer organization that connects Nashvillians with friends around the world through exchanges, cultural programs, and partnerships. For more information about Nashville's 10 Sister Cities, or to find out how to participate in Sister Cities of Nashville's events, student exchanges, adult exchanges, and other opportunities, please visit www.scnashville.org.

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