



**NEWS RELEASE**  
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For Event Information:  
707-543-0100  
info@countrysummer.com

**Country Summer Announces the Fender Contender Challenge**

*-- Talent Competition Winner Opens Show on June 3, Takes \$5,000 Grand Prize --*

SANTA ROSA, Calif. -- Producers of Country Summer, Northern California's biggest country music festival June 3-5 at Sonoma County Event Center at the Fairgrounds, today announced the Fender Contender Challenge, a worldwide talent competition to open the show on June 3.

For the second year in a row, Fender Musical Instruments Company (FMIC) is the title sponsor of the global talent contest, supporting all artists in their musical pursuit. The Fender Contender Challenge is a great opportunity for the fans' favorite country music act to open the show and make it big on the Chevy Silverado Stage, Country Summer's main stage.

Is your country music act ready for a big break? The challenge is open to all country music acts over age 18. Submissions, including a specially recorded Country Summer video no longer than 5 minutes in length, must be received no later than April 6, 2016. Visit [www.countrysummer.com](http://www.countrysummer.com) for the entry form and guidelines.

The Country Summer judging panel will select the Top 10 finalists. Public voting at [www.countrysummer.com](http://www.countrysummer.com) will be from April 11 through April 28. The winner will be announced on April 29, 2016.

In addition to recognition as a Country Summer superstar opening the show, the grand prize winner will receive \$5,000. Last year, Jared Porter, an Australian country music artist, made history as the first Fender Contender Challenge winner.

"We encourage aspiring country music acts from around the globe to participate," Country Summer Executive Producer Alan Jacoby, said.

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The Fender Contender Challenge winner will join a lineup including Lady Antebellum, Craig Morgan, Chris Janson and Chase Bryant on Friday, June 3. Saturday, June 4, artists include The Band Perry, Kip Moore, Chase Rice, Kristian Bush of Sugarland and McKenna Faith. Sunday, June 5, artists include Billy Currington, Josh Turner, Frankie Ballard and Old Dominion.

Gates open at noon, and music begins at 1:30 p.m. each day of the Country Summer festival.

General admission tickets are \$79 per day. Three-day general admission passes are \$209. Single-day reserved seats start from \$99. Three-day reserved seats start from \$279.

Country Summer tickets are on sale now. Visit [www.countrysummer.com](http://www.countrysummer.com) or call 800-514-3849 to order by phone.

Event sponsors include Fender, Chevrolet, Bud Light, Friedman's Home Improvement, Les Schwab Tire Centers, Kendall-Jackson, River Rock Casino, Jack Daniel's, Mary's Pizza Shack, American AgCredit, Montgomery Village, Tito's Handmade Vodka, Harris Ranch, Cattlemens, Creams, Papé Material Handling, Xfinity, Visit Santa Rosa, the City of Santa Rosa, and Froggy 92.9.

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