

Heart of Kentucky Band at GRL on Saturdays

By DALE CURRY
R-H WRITER

Heart of Kentucky, the house band that plays at Green River Live in Summersville, is filled with top-notch musicians and music industry personnel.

Nine performers make up the band that was formed just to play at Green River Live. The band plays every Saturday night with the shows beginning at 6:30 p.m. CT.

"Our goal is to have versatile, quality musicians," said Lannie Harden, one of the people involved in Green River Live.

Billy Keith, a very experienced emcee, is from Danville, Kentucky. He sings country and gospel and according to many people, sounds a lot like Vince Gill.

Eddie Dunlap, originally from Paducah but now resides in Nashville, has the skills to play several instruments. He has recorded with Luke Bryan and John Michael Montgomery. He is also a staff band member of the TV show, USA Real Country.

Eddie Anderson is another Paducah native but moved to Nashville as a teenager to play music. He has toured with Dolly Parton, Ricky Van Shelton, and Patty Loveless. In addition, he has recorded with Merle Haggard and Waylon Jennings, among many others.

Tommy Davenport is known to several people in south-central Kentucky. He has taught in the Campbellsville University School of Music as well as giving private guitar lessons. He has also performed regularly at the Lincoln Jamboree.

Rick Mann is another multi-talented musician who plays bass, drums, keyboard, harmonica and mandolin in addition to singing. He has worked professionally with Tim McGraw, Steve Wariner and Jefferson Starship.

Terry Wariner is another semi-local performer. He is from Russell Springs and is Steve Wariner's brother. He serves Heart of Kentucky as lead singer and also plays rhythm, lead and bass guitar as well as drums. He has played to several sold-out crowds at the Grand Ole Opry as well as other venues with the Steve Wariner Band.

Anita Stapleton is a lead singer for the Heart of Kentucky band. Another Grand Ole Opry performer, she has toured with Patty Loveless for about four years. She and Gene Watson have a song, "Just Someone I Used to Know" which was released in 2015. That song is available on Spotify and Apple Music.

Dirk and Gail Johnson are also part of the Heart of Kentucky Band. Gail began playing violin at five years old and now teaches group and private lessons. She has also written a book, "The Absolute Beginner's Guild to Fiddle." She toured with Bill Anderson for a while

and also recorded with BJ Thomas and John Conlee.

Dirk Johnson began playing piano at the tender of two, listening to his brother play who was taking piano lessons. He began touring with various gospel groups at nine years old and at the age of 15, he was hired by the Southern gospel group, The Hinsons. He has also played with The Crabb Family, Dottie Rambo and others such as The Gaither Vocal Band.

Green River Live appreciates people's patience as they continue to upgrade their facilities.

"Our construction is about 90% completed inside," Harden said, "but on the outside it is less than 50% done."

Some of the features which are still being worked on include the parking lot and restaurant as well as a more convenient way to access the venue.

In last week's edition of The Record Herald, there is a coupon for discounted ad-

mission to one of the Saturday night shows. With that coupon, the admission price is only \$10 per person and may be used by one person or by everyone in the group.

"For the quality of musicians we have," Harden said, "it's an exceptional price. We

want people to be financially able to attend as often as possible and this price will help with that."

More details are also available at Green River Live's website as well as on Facebook.



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