

**BROWN,**

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celebration.

"I cannot wait to play Lakefest in Jamestown!" Brown said from his Simpson County home last week.

Marty and his wife, Shellie, live in Franklin - the same, small Kentucky town where Johnny and June Carter Cash married 54 years ago.

It's not unusual for Marty to be mentioned among names like Cash, Hank Williams, or to go back even further, "The Singing Brakeman" Jimmy Rodgers.

Brown is among the tried and true "neotraditional" county artists with a distinctive style and voice rooted in classic elements.

His rise to respect among his peers and the admiration of his fans is an oft-repeated story of perseverance.

The Daviess County native made well over 100 trips to Nashville hoping to bend an ear of a music executive, but found himself sleeping in the alleys of Music City before being "discovered" in 1991.

A little "divine intervention" set Brown on the path to success.

Dejected after repeatedly "knocking on doors," and ready to have his mother come pick him up and take him "back home

to Kentucky," Marty saw the words "Trust Jesus" scrawled on a sidewalk in front of a firm which represented songwriters.

"I looked up at the sky, and just took me a deep breath, and I went in there," Brown told USA Today.

An agent listened to him perform eight songs and agreed to try to help him get a recording contract.

Ironically, Brown also found himself the subject of a CBS-TV news documentary on country music which allowed him to not only demonstrate his songwriting talent, but also showed his affable, down-home personality.

Before long, the lanky, soon-to-be-legend in the beat up cowboy hat was the subject of a bidding war among Nashville's biggest record companies.

With his star on the rise, Brown found himself achieving a pinnacle of performers - performing at "The Mother Church of Country Music."

"When I played the Ryman Auditorium, it was the best sound system I had ever sang through, and it was one proud moment for this ol' country boy from Maceo, KY.," Marty said.

One of his biggest

claims to fame was his involvement in writing "I'm from the Country" - a top hit for fellow artist Tracy Byrd.

Brown is also known as a semifinalist on "America's Got Talent."

"I couldn't believe it when my performance on 'America's Got Talent' went viral to over 20 million people all over the world," he said.

Adding to his accolades, later this year, Brown will receive one of the highest honors for a musician in the Bluegrass State.

"I'm so proud to be from Kentucky," he said, "and I'm so proud to be going into the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame as part of the Class of 2022."

But before then, Marty said he is eager and excited to visit Russell County and make some new friends and fans.

"It's gonna be one heck of a great time!" he promises. "I'm Marty Brown, and I'm from the country and I like it that way - just like the hit song I wrote."

Marty Brown will perform a FREE live show at 7 p.m. this Saturday during Lakefest in Jamestown - just prior to Craig Morgan, and a fireworks display.

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