



Birthplace of Country Music

101 Country Music Way, Bristol, VA 24201 | (423) 573-1927 | www.birthplaceofcountrymusic.org



The Birthplace of Country Music

Bristol, Virginia/Tennessee is heralded as the birthplace of country music, home to the 1927 Bristol Sessions recordings. The 1927 Bristol Sessions featured the first recordings of both Jimmie Rodgers, and the Carter Family. Jimmy Rodgers is now referred to as the “Father of Country Music” and was the first person inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame. The Carter Family,

featuring A.P., Sara, and Maybelle Carter, is now known as “The First Family of Country Music” and are also in the Hall of Fame. The 1927 Bristol Sessions not only initiated the careers of these superstar performers but initiated the broad commercialization of country music. For these reasons, in 1998 the United States Congress officially designated Bristol TN/VA as the “Birthplace of Country Music.”

To celebrate and promote Bristol’s music legacy, the Birthplace of Country Music (BCM) organization was formed, and serves as the parent organization to the Birthplace of Country Music Museum, the annual Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion music festival, and WBCM Radio Bristol, which broadcasts from the museum. BCM’s mission is to perpetuate, promote, and celebrate Bristol’s rich music heritage; to educate and engage audiences worldwide regarding the history, impact, and legacy of the 1927 Bristol Sessions; and to create recognition, opportunities, and economic benefit for BCM’s local and regional communities.

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum

The Birthplace of Country Music Museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, explores the history of the 1927 Bristol Sessions and their lasting impact on our music heritage. The Museum is highly interactive and hosts rotating exhibitions from other organizations and institutions, including the Smithsonian, are featured throughout the year in the Special Exhibits Gallery.

Radio Bristol

Radio Bristol showcases the diversity of American roots music from the early recording era to today. Reaching the world through their online media center, Radio Bristol produces original programming through recordings and live sessions from the Birthplace of Country Music Museum and the Bristol, Tennessee-Virginia region. Radio Bristol broadcasts on 100.1 FM in the Bristol area, online at ListenRadioBristol.org, and through the station’s free mobile app.



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Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion

The award-winning Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion is a celebration of that great legacy and is renowned for its diverse headliners, established touring acts, up-and-coming artists, and some of the Appalachian region's finest music across a wide variety of roots genres. It is also noted for its unique downtown setting along State

Street, where Virginia and Tennessee meet to form the twin cities of Bristol.

The festival hosts an estimated 40,000 attendees across 13 outdoor stages and indoor venues with more than 100 acts of live music over the course of the three-day weekend. For more information about Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion, visit BristolRhythm.com.

Other Heritage Sites to Visit

Carter Family Fold

3449 A P Carter Hwy., Hiltons, VA 24258
(276) 594-0676 | www.carterfamilyfold.org

Where to Stay

The Bristol Hotel

510 Birthplace Of Country Music Way, Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 696-3535 | www.bristolhotelva.com

The Sessions Hotel, a Tribute Portfolio Hotel

833 State St., Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 285-5040
www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/tritx-the-sessions-hotel-bristol-a-tribute-portfolio-hotel

Where to Dine

Burger Bar

8 Piedmont Ave., Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 466-6200

Eatz on Moore Street

17 Moore St., Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 591-4755

Vivian's Table at The Hotel Bristol

510 Birthplace of Country Music Way, Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 696-3535

Southern Craft BBQ

15 Commonwealth Ave., Bristol, VA 24201
(276) 285-5044