

WILLIAMS RILEY WINS THE TITLE OF AMERICAN COUNTRY COUNTDOWN SUPERSTAR

HOSTED BY MUSIC DISCOVERY DESTINATION OURSTAGE.COM

Nashville, TN --- January 28, 2009 --- ABC Radio Networks' *American Country Countdown with Kix Brooks* is proud to announce Williams Riley as The ACC Superstar 2009 for their song, "I'm Still Me." More than 1,100 artists submitted songs for the competition and were first judged by the most discerning critics of all, the ACC listeners and OurStage fans, who selected the Top 20 contestants. After making it into the Top 20, Williams Riley was unanimously selected by a panel of *American Country Countdown* judges as the winner.

Winning the competition was both a thrill and a shock for Steve Williams, founding member and lead singer of Williams Riley, who entered the competition on a bet with a friend. As Williams told Kix Brooks during a recent interview for *American Country Countdown*, *"I didn't know I was in the contest at first. Another artist, who's like a brother to me, told me he was #5 in this online contest and I just knew that I wanted to beat him! Then I got an email from OurStage saying 'you are #1 in the ACC Superstar 2009 competition' and I realized it was the contest I'd heard about on the American Country Countdown radio show. I didn't even know what the prize was but I knew I wanted to win! I like to win!"*

Williams Riley is turning heads as of late. After garnering attention in his home state of Louisiana, acclaimed industry veteran Noel Golden (matchbox twenty, Edwin McCain, Tom Cochrane, Willie Nelson) signed on to produce Williams Riley. While in the studio Williams jokingly said, "why don't we get Slash to play on the album?" Golden made the phone call, and after listening to a few songs Slash was onboard to play on the album. Proof that it's just that easy when the music is right. In addition to Slash, Edwin McCain and Bryan White also leant their skills to the album. Further proof that the ACC listeners and Our Stage fans are onto something special.

"This year's ACC Superstar competition brought us some great talent," said Kix Brooks, host of *American Country Countdown*. *"Williams Riley's CD is on par with the major label releases coming out of Nashville, and their song sounds great on the radio. They've got an exciting future in front of them. We're proud our competition was helpful in getting them out the gate."*

The second annual ACC Superstar competition, which allows aspiring Country music artists to submit their original material, ran from September through November 2008. The competition was hosted online by music discovery specialists OurStage (whose partners include AOL Music, Bonnaroo, Bumbershoot and CMJ). This year's contest drew more than 1,100 artists who competed in 150,000 judging battles with 400,000 unique online visitors voting for their favorite bands.

"This partnership with American Country Countdown has been a huge success for OurStage," said Ben Campbell, CEO, OurStage. *"We are proud to work with such top-notch programs and personalities who graciously offer insight and professional opportunities to deserving OurStage artists like Williams Riley."*

Williams Riley will perform at the 40th annual Country Radio Seminar, held each spring in Nashville. CRS attendees include radio programmers and tastemakers from across the country, and Williams Riley is one of only a handful of artists garnering a coveted performance spot at the seminar. Others performing during CRS include Lady Antebellum, Jake Owen, Kellie Pickler, Darius Rucker, Miranda Lambert, Little Big Town, James Otto, and Tim McGraw. If the ACC panel of judges and listeners are right, program directors from coast to coast may be talking about Williams Riley before the seminar comes to a close.

About ABC Radio Networks

ABC Radio Networks has 4,400 affiliate radio stations reaching more than 105 million listeners in the 12+ demographic each week. Programs and services include ABC News Radio, *Paul Harvey News and Comment*, *The Mark Levin Show*, *The Michael Baisden Show*, *The Tom Joyner Morning Show*, *Big Boy's Neighborhood*, *The Ride with Doug and DeDe*, *Kidd Kraddick in the Morning*, *Imus in the Morning*, *Radio Perez* with Perez Hilton, *MoneyTalk with Bob Brinker*, *The Ric Edelman Show*, *The Huckabee Report*, *The Joe Scarborough Show* and *American Country Countdown with Kix*

Brooks. Other ABC services include advanced digital media platforms with online interactive advertising, streaming audio and podcasts, ABC Sports Radio, syndicated music and talk programs including Flashback, format-specific ePREP, production libraries, nine 24-Hour Formats, including Scott Shannon's True Oldies Channel and ESPN Radio. ABC Radio Networks en Español includes leading Spanish-language programming such as *Conexión Thalia*, *Tu Vida Es Mi Vida con Maria Marín*, *Celebrating the Healthy Life with Maria Celeste*, and ESPN Deportes Radio.

About OurStage, Inc.

OurStage is a music discovery destination dedicated to new artist and new music discovery. On OurStage, artists, fans and industry professionals all come together – to discover, judge, & enjoy the best new music and the best new artists online – as ranked by the fans - using the company's proprietary, game-proof judging engine. Users are able to discover top ranked, categorized music without having to search through thousands of songs. Top-ranked artists receive significant career-building promotion and support from famous artists, fans, industry professionals and a broad assortment of partners, including ABC Radio, Radio-One, AOL Music, Bonnaroo, Bumbershoot, PLUG Awards, Newport Folk Festival, JVC Jazz Festival Newport, Paste Magazine, CMJ, Noise Pop, and many others. OurStage also offers music research services to artists and record labels through its recently launched Track Validation Services, TRAViS, currently in beta. Founded in 2007, OurStage delivers music and related content to more than 2 million fans in 140 countries each month - and has over 400,000 registered users.

About Golden Music

Golden Music is an independent record company based out of Greenville, SC founded in late 2007 by music industry veteran Noel Golden. Golden has more than 20 years of experience in the music industry and has worked with artists such as matchbox twenty, Edwin McCain, Tom Cochrane, Sister Hazel, Sammy Hagar, Willie Nelson and Lee Ann Womack just to name a few. Golden Music is home to Williams Riley and Benton Blount.

For more information about ACC Superstar and to listen to the winning song, visit www.acctop40.com

For more information on Williams Riley, visit www.williamsriley.com