

**Alan Jackson**

“You think about people like Hank Williams, who stood on that spot of wood, and Mr. Acuff, and, of course, George Jones. And just about anybody you can think of who has *made* country music has been on that stage. That’s what makes you so nervous – to think about the historical part of the Opry and how it’s played such a part in country music.”

“The ultimate dream when you’re in country music is to be asked to join the Grand Ole Opry. It’s the cornerstone of country music. I don’t know if Nashville or country music would exist if it wasn’t for this foundation, and I’m proud to be a part of it.”



**Garth Brooks**

“I’ve said it for the record a thousand times. I’ll state it again a thousand times. This is the pinnacle of what I do. Nothing has ever touched being a member of the Grand Ole Opry.”

**Joe Diffie**

“As a little boy, I used to listen to the Grand Ole Opry on the radio and dream of belonging. All other achievements pale in comparison and for the first time I feel like I really belong to the country music family. I’m so overwhelmed with the emotion of that little boy’s dream becoming reality.”

**Hal Ketchum**

“Until I started playing the Opry, I didn’t realize how powerful it is. The first time I played it I felt a real power – the power of heritage, of tradition, of the written word. It’s a great forum.”

**Martina  
McBride**

“Becoming a member of the Grand Ole Opry is something I’ve wanted since I was a little girl.”

**Brad Paisley**

“Pilgrims travel to Jerusalem to see the Holy Land, and the foundations of their faith. People go to Washington, D.C. to see the workings of government, and the foundation of our country. And fans flock to Nashville to see the foundation of country music, the Grand Ole Opry.”

**Eddie  
Montgomery**

My dad always said, “you know, no matter what awards you win, you haven’t made it until you get to play the Opry and you’re a part of the Opry.”

**Chris Young**

“You know, I don’t think if I played it a million times it would be any less special than the first time I played.”

**Darius Rucker**

“When I was asked if I wanted to perform on the Grand Ole Opry, I yelled, ‘Are you kidding me?’ I’ve been waiting for that my whole life. To be invited where so many of the greatest country artists have performed is an honor, and I still can’t believe it has been bestowed on me. Just to stand in the circle where so many greats have stood-- Hank Williams, Kitty Wells, I just couldn’t believe it.”

