

PRESS RELEASE....

**CAN'T GO TO THE GRAND OLE OPRY?**  
**THE GIBSON CENTRE IS BRINGING THE OPRY TO YOU!**  
**Celebrate the Opry's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!**

**Opry Gold is a toe-tappin', roof-raisin' salute to the greatest music in Country Music history!**

To share the Opry's history is to share the story of Country Music. Canadian songbird **Leisa Way** and her all-star Canadian cast of award-winning musicians are guaranteed to give audiences a show to remember. Under the musical direction of **Bruce Ley**, composer of the Academy Award nominated film, *The Painted Door*, **Opry Gold** raises the roof, celebrating revered country legends and the contemporary artists who have topped the charts, and followed in their footsteps. You can see **Opry Gold** with **Leisa Way & The Wayward Wind Band** live at the Gibson Centre on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.

The Grand Ole Opry began as a simple radio broadcast in 1925, and is now a live entertainment phenomenon, celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this fall. **Opry Gold** takes the audience on that journey, from Nashville's radio station becoming the first all country music station with stars like **Bill Monroe**, and **The Carter Family**, through the rise of stars like **Dolly Parton**, **Hank Williams**, **Patsy Cline**, **Willie Nelson**, **George Jones** and **Tammy Wynette**, to today's country greats like **Shania Twain**, **Keith Urban**, **Taylor Swift**, **Garth Brooks**, **Lady A**, **Chris Stapleton**, **Kenny Chesney**, **Billy Ray Cyrus**, and **The Zac Brown Band**.

Show creator, Canada's Songbird **Leisa Way**, was recently awarded **Toronto Musician of the Year**, and graced the cover of *International Musician Magazine*. Way, who lives in Orangeville, has created 12 critically acclaimed concerts, and with **Opry Gold**, she returns to her 'country' roots. As a child, born in Kitchener, and raised in Sudbury, Leisa remembers tuning in to shows like **The Tommy Hunter Show** and **Ronnie Prophet Show** – both TV shows that her musical arranger and pianist, Mulmur resident, **Bruce Ley**, happened to be the piano player on! Bruce Ley is 'authentic' country. Ley worked with **Dolly Parton**, **Chet Atkins & Brenda Lee**, amongst hundreds of others.

Way's multi-talented band includes vocalist/guitarist **Brant Garratt** (Duke Street Turnaround); bassist-singer **Mark Dunn** (Jim Galloway's Wee Big Band); **Don Reid** on drums (Orchestra London & Pauly and the Goodfellas), **Alex George**, fiddle (**Natalie McMaster**), who are all exciting and rising stars in the Canadian music scene. New to the show this fall is **Matt Ballagh** on lead vocals and bass, an up-and-coming young star who has performed for **Drayton Entertainment** in *Fiddler on the Loose*, *Sorry I'm Canadian*. Matt also designed sound this season for Drayton's *Jesus Christ Superstar* & *Shrek: The Musical*, and his family band, *The Ballagh Bunch*, appeared on Canada's *Family Fued*. When these talented fellas vocalize, the audience is treated to world-class harmonies and solos.

Way and her band have brought Canada many great concerts, including last years sold-out **Early Morning Rain (The Legend of Gordon Lightfoot)**. Way's *Canada 150* concert toured to 44 cities across the country, and her concerts, *Sweet Dreams (Patsy Cline)*, and *Rhinestone Cowgirl (Dolly Parton)*, and *Across the Pond: The British Invasion* are critically acclaimed and well-loved by audiences everywhere. And now, Way celebrates the legendary stars of the Grand Ole Opry by raising the roof with the hottest country songs in history.

Leisa Way's **Opry Gold** delivers audiences some of the very best of classic and new wave country, with a heapin' of good-natured fun!

***Opry Gold is one-of-a-kind entertainment experience for the whole family!***

***Opry Gold plays at the Gibson Centre on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm.***

For tickets contact: <https://gibsoncentre.com/our-events/opry-gold-sep-11-2025> or call 705-435-2828.

## ***Don't Miss The Grand Ole Opry Live!***

### **Quote from reviews – London Free Press & Morrisburg Leader**

***“Leisa Way’s Opry Gold brings audiences some of the very best of classic and new wave country music. When this band vocalizes, the audience is treated to first class harmonies and solos. And whether she is soaring in Dolly’s stunning “I Will Always Love You,” or country playful in Shania’s “Whose Bed Have Your Boots Been Under?”, there is only one Leisa Way. What a voice.***

***Toes were tapping all night, and the audience regularly and loudly joined in on their favourites. And it doesn’t hurt that this is also a show bursting with a good-natured sense of humour.***

***If you are in the area, grab a friend, a couple of tickets and go. You will have a toe tappin’, hand clappin’ good time at Leisa Way’s Opry Gold”***