

For immediate release
Wednesday, June 11, 1975

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary to Mrs. Ford

The President and Mrs. Ford have invited the Opryland singers to entertain at the State Dinner honoring the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Scheel.

The Opryland singers, from Opryland USA in Nashville, Tennessee, will be performing at the White House for the first time. Tennessee Ernie Ford and Sandi Burnett along with 14 performers and seven musicians will provide the entertainment. They will be performing excerpts from their show, "Country Music, USA" -- the show they performed on their tour of the Soviet Union in the fall of 1974.

"Country Music, USA" was written by George Mabry. The excerpts from this show that they are performing at the White House will be: "Raise A Ruckus," "Shenandoah" -- sung by Tennessee Ernie Ford, a dance production of old country fiddle tunes -- "Sally Goodin," "Cripple Creek" and "Fireball Mail," Sandi Burnett will sing "Jolene," a medly of American railroad songs, "16 Tons" by Tennessee Ernie Ford and a medly of "I Believe in Music" and "Everything is Beautiful."

Opryland, a musical theme park with ten live shows, is in its fourth season. It is an entertainment park that provides the visitor with an opportunity to see and hear American music from jazz, dixieland and bluegrass to Broadway and folk.

Tennessee Ernie Ford first performed at Opryland in two television specials which were filmed for the opening of the park. He toured with the group on their trip to the Soviet Union in 1974. Although he is not considered an official member of the Opryland singers, he has appeared on four television specials with the group since the park opened. All of his appearances have been with Sandi Burnett.

Twenty-four year old Sandi Burnett is a member of the Opryland singers. She was in their presentation show, "I Hear America Singing." and was later asked to appear on a variety of radio and television shows. She has also written the song, "Love You Gotta Give," and performed it twice on the nationally televised show, "Music Country USA."

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