NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS HALL OF FAME · 1994

ELECTRONIC PRESS KIT

Jerry Foster

SONGWRITER · ROCKABILLY SINGER · PUBLISHER

Photo: Barbara Potter Photography

CHARLEY PRIDE ★ JERRY LEE LEWIS ★ MEL TILLIS ★ HANK WILLIAMS JR. ★ MICKEY GILLEY ★ MARK CHESNUTT

1994
Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame, with Bill Rice

10
ASCAP Country Awards in one night, 1972

11
Foster & Rice songs on the chart at once, 1974

No. 1
"I'll Think of Something," Mark Chesnutt, 1992

Biography

Jerry Foster grew up poor on his father's farm in Missouri, where his father gave him his first guitar. After high school he joined the U.S. Marines and formed a band, then played on WSAV television in Savannah and KFVS in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

In 1966 he moved to Nashville as a DJ at WENO radio and soon teamed with Bill Rice. Charley Pride charted with "The Day the World Stood Still" and "The Easy Part's Over" in 1968. Jeannie C. Riley's "The Back Side of Dallas" earned a Grammy nomination in 1969, and in 1970 Mel Tillis hit the top 10 with "Heaven Everyday" while Pride went to No. 1 with "Wonder Could I Live There Anymore."

At the 1972 ASCAP Country Awards, Foster & Rice won ten trophies and hauled them off in a wheelbarrow. By 1974 they had eleven songs on the chart at once, including Mickey Gilley's Grammy-nominated "Here Comes the Hurt Again" and Hank Williams Jr.'s "I'll Think of Something," a No. 1 for Mark Chesnutt in 1992.

A performer at heart, Foster recorded for Back Beat, Mercury, Cinnamon, Hitsville and Monument, and played Wembley in 1982 during the British rockabilly revival. Foster & Rice entered the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame in 1994, and his memoir *An Ol' Rebel Still Rockin'* followed in 2015. He turned 90 in November 2025, and his life is the subject of the upcoming TV series *Blue Collar Holler*.

Selected songs

YEAR	SONG	ARTIST
1968	**The Day the World Stood Still**	Charley Pride
1968	**The Easy Part's Over**	Charley Pride
1969	**The Back Side of Dallas**	Jeannie C. Riley
1970	**Wonder Could I Live There Anymore**	Charley Pride
1970	**Heaven Everyday**	Mel Tillis
1971	**Would You Take Another Chance on Me**	Jerry Lee Lewis
1974	**I'll Think of Something**	Hank Williams Jr.
1970s	**Here Comes the Hurt Again**	Mickey Gilley
1981	**Thirty-Nine and Holding**	Jerry Lee Lewis
—	**Annie**	Dickey Lee
1992	**I'll Think of Something**	Mark Chesnutt

Short bio

Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame member Jerry Foster wrote dozens of country hits with partner Bill Rice, recorded by Charley Pride, Jerry Lee Lewis, Mel Tillis, Hank Williams Jr., Mickey Gilley and Mark Chesnutt. A Missouri native and former Marine, he came to Nashville in 1966 as a radio DJ. Foster & Rice won ten ASCAP awards in a single night in 1972. Now 90, Jerry is the subject of the upcoming TV series *Blue Collar Holler*.

In his words

"I'm a rock'n'roller. For me the music never got out of the fifties."

Jerry Foster, Country Music People, 1982

"I was raised on music and a lot of love."

Jerry Foster, Country Music People, 1982

`Add 2–3 press or artist quotes`

Records as an artist

- "Your Love," "Lonely One" · Back Beat
- "Love Is for Everyone," "Don't Take It So Hard" · Mercury, 1972
- "Copperhead" (charted) and *Looking Back* LP · Cinnamon, 1973
- "I Knew You When" (charted) · Hitsville, 1976
- "I Want to Love You" · Monument, 1978, with Tennessee Tornado
- "Don't Let Go" · A-Side/Sonet (UK)

Latest news

Honoring a Songwriting Legend: Jerry Foster's 90th Birthday Celebration. On November 19, 2025, nearly 35 artists, including Deborah Allen, Donna Frost and Don Cromwell, packed Nashville's Commodore Grille for Jerry's 90th. Cast and crew of *Blue Collar Holler*, the upcoming series about his life, joined in, among them Charlene Tilton, Connie Taylor and producer Myron Nash.

Watch & listen

- **The Art of Songwriting** · PBS
  `pbs.org/video/jerry-foster-the-art-of-songwriting-qma7ky`
- **Poets and Prophets, 2011** · Country Music Hall of Fame
  `watch.countrymusichalloffame.org`
- **Oral History, 2015** · NAMM
  `namm.org/library/oral-history/jerry-foster`
- **An Alternative View, 2020** · with Deb Bishop
  `bingenetworks.tv`

On screen (IMDb)

Hannah Montana: The Movie (2009, Elderly Gentleman) · **Management** (2008, Homeless Man #2) · **Civil Brand** (2002, Doctor) · **Acquitted by Faith** (2020, Mr. Hash) · **Green Corn** (2014, Asa Greencorn) · **Junkyard Dog** (2010) · **Sparkle & Tooter** (2009) · **Billy: The Early Years** (2008) · **A Good Baby** (1999) · Carrie Underwood videos "Temporary Home" (2010) and "Two Black Cadillacs" (2013) · *Nashville's Next Best* (2021, TV).
Songs on screen: *Urban Cowboy*, *The Porter Wagoner Show*, *The Marty Stuart Show*.

Appearances

Every Sunday night: Jerry Foster live at The Commodore Grille, Nashville

Past: 90th Birthday Celebration, Commodore Grille, Nashville, Nov. 19, 2025 · International Festival of Country Music, Wembley, London, 1982

Press photos

See page 3. Photographers: Barbara Potter Photography, Lyn Stevens Photography, Keeli Kelly.

Contact

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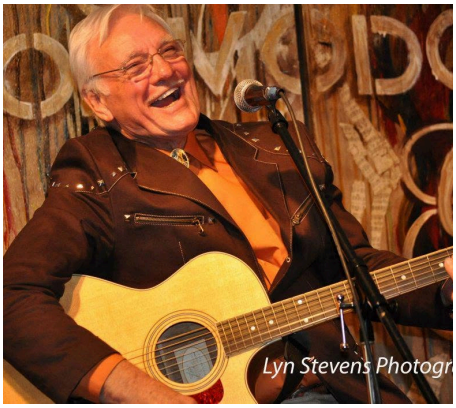
Press photos

Portrait with guitar

Photo: Barbara Potter Photography

On stage

Photo: Lyn Stevens Photography



At the Commodore Grille

Photo: Lyn Stevens Photography

Poets and Prophets, Country Music Hall of Fame, 2011

Photo: © 2011 Keeli Kelly

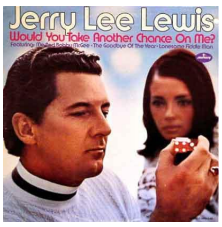
Live

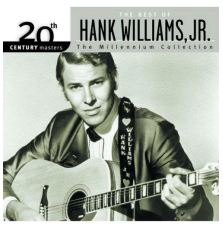
Credit to come

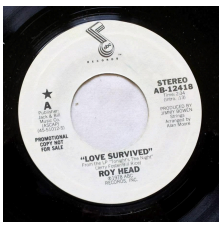
At his desk

Credit to come

On record







Back Beat 45 · *Looking Back* LP · Jerry Lee Lewis · Hank Williams Jr. · Dave & Sugar · Roy Head

Full-size image files are available from Krys Midgett, GAL PR · krysm@gal-pr.com · 615-476-1616