

# Summer Sounds Ends Season With Record Crowd



## In the Fast Lane and On Stage

### **Levi Riggs: How It Started - Part 2**

By Allen Kiger

The square in Danville came alive Saturday evening with performance by local country singer Levi Riggs. The final concert in the Summer Sounds on the Square Concert Series broke a new record in attendance of more than a 1,000 people!

Before the start of the show, Town Council member Dennis Wynn and Hendricks County Sheriff Brett Clark presented Ben Comer with an award for his dedication in promoting Summer Sounds on the Square over the past 10 years.

Levi was introduced then and immediately launched into a song called "Hillbilly" followed by "Homegrown," then played into an old Johnny Cash song "Ring of Fire."

A few songs later he was asking the audience where they went on summer vacation. One kid shouted, "Kentucky Kingdom," another said, "Kings Island" and someone else said, "Paris." This led Levi into the song, "Tahiti Tennessee," about vacationing at home.

Levi talked about teachers and farmers leading up to his next song, "We Provide." Levi played many more songs, stopping to tell stories along the way.

Watching Levi you could see the passion he has for performing and song writing by his stories and stage presence. Many of the songs he performed were original songs he's written, including several songs from his new album. Levi also played his own rendition of songs from other artists. I think the two best of those were "Tennessee Whiskey," an old David Alan Coe song also recently performed by Chris Stapleton. The other song, "Meet Me in the Middle," was a big hit for Diamond Rio. According to Levi this is one of his favorite songs and recently he had the opportunity to co-write a song with that songwriter. Levi says he knows God puts him in the places he needs to be and opens opportunities such as this.

Levi performed so many songs during his two-and-a-half-hour show that it would be a very long story to tell about all of them. He only stopped for a one song break while his band continued playing an instrumental song.

Before Levi returned to the stage, buckets were passed to raise money for a Danville Community High School Senior, Kyley Kline, who was recently in a serious automobile accident. It was an amazing gesture demonstrating how Danville takes care of its own.

Then, it was back to music and storytelling. Levi is great at getting the audience into the music with his enthusiasm. His talented band members include his sister Lauren Riggs on vocals, his brother-in-law Joey Baugh on lead guitar, Derek Maish AKA "Derek Llama" on drums, a very talented Bethany Smith on keyboards and fiddle, and a new bass player Niko Abanese.

Close to the end of the show, Levi told a story about eating lunch in Danville on September 11th, and a conversation he overheard. A woman recognized a man several tables down eating his lunch and asked him what he was doing on September 11th. The man replied 17 years earlier he was in a dentist chair getting dental work done. She said, "I know. I was the person working on you that day." Levi thought how cool it was to see two people meet again who had not seen each other in 17 years. September 11th is a day we all have a story of what we were doing. Levi's story led to singing the Lee Greenwood song, "God Bless the U.S.A." Halfway through the song everyone in attendance was on their feet singing along. What a feeling it was to bring a crowd together. Levi knows the value of small town living and he proved it by telling a story about how two people met who had not seen each other for 17 years and then getting a crowd of over a 1,000 to help him sing about our great country.

I think I speak for everyone in attendance - we were treated to great weather, great friends, and great music. It's nice to be able to listen to a great band on the town square with Danville Rotary selling pizza, other food vendors, and a local craft beer vendor. All of this was enjoyed by every walk of life in Danville from your neighbors and your teachers at school, to the police and firefighters that keep us safe.

As Levi's fame and success continues to rise, how many more years will we get to see him perform on the Square? I believe no matter how successful Levi becomes, he will always have a special place for his home town of Danville and thinks, "There's Still A Place For That"!



**BEN COMER**



Levi blends his voice with his sister and band member, Lauren.



Even the youngest fans couldn't resist dancing while the band played.



Like Levi, lead guitarist Joey Baugh is a Danville native. He's also married to Levi's sister, Lauren.



Levi's fans line up for CDs, T-shirts, and autographs after the concert ends.

