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## Hit Singer-Songwriters Jimmie Allen and Michael Ray Headline Island Hopper Songwriter Fest

*Download free festival app for tickets*

LEE COUNTY, Fla. – [Island Hopper Songwriter Fest](#) kicks off its seventh year with an impressive lineup of talented singer-songwriters including Jimmie Allen and Michael Ray.

Allen, who won this year’s Academy of Country Music Award for New Male Artist of the Year, will perform at the highly anticipated pool party at Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Sept. 26. The Delaware native made history as the first Black artist to launch a career with two consecutive No. 1 songs on country radio. His hit, “Best Shot,” claimed the No. 1 spot for three weeks and his second single, “Make Me Want To,” climbed the charts in March 2020. He recently released an album featuring collaborations with Little Big Town, Keith Urban and Mickey Guyton.

Ray, a Florida native, joins Island Hopper Songwriter Fest with three No. 1 songs, including “Kiss You in the Morning,” “Think a Little Less” and “One That Got Away.” He performs at Pinchers at The Marina at Edison Ford in downtown Fort Myers on Sept. 23. Ray kicks off his summer tour in June with country star Luke Combs.

**Tickets are available exclusively in the [official festival app](#).**

“BMI is thrilled to partner once again with Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau and iHeartMedia for the 2021 Island Hopper Songwriters Fest,” said Dan Spears, BMI vice president of industry relations. “After the challenging year we’ve had, this festival offers the perfect opportunity to bring people back down to Southwest Florida and celebrate with great food, drinks and music. Thank you to all of the participating BMI-licensed restaurants, bars and hotels for giving our songwriters a platform to showcase their music and share the stories behind some of their most popular songs.”

**Mark your calendar:** Island Hopper Songwriter Fest, a free 10-day music festival - except for a few ticketed events - runs from Sept. 17-26. It kicks off on Captiva Island, Sept. 17-19, then moves to historic downtown Fort Myers, Sept. 20-23, and wraps up on Fort Myers Beach, Sept. 24-26. The event is the largest songwriter festival in Southwest Florida and offers a unique experience to interact with songwriters at pool parties and beachside venues. This year, more than 60 singer-songwriters from around the country will perform more than 100 shows.

This year's Island Hopper Songwriter Fest promises a [unique lineup](#). In addition to hit-making headliners, other award-winning performers include Jay Allen, Dylan Altman, Aaron Barker, Hannah Ellis, Frank Myers, Dave Pahanish, along with Fort Myers native Sheena Brook and more.

Since May 2020, festival organizers have produced a virtual concert series, *Songs from the Sofa* and *Songs from the Sand*, in preparation for the Island Hopper Songwriter Fest. The monthly concerts have featured a preview of songwriters who will perform at this year's festival. [View the recordings here](#).

**Island Hopper Songwriter Fest app:** While most of the festival performances are free, a few exclusive ticketed shows are available on [the official festival app](#) under the schedule tab. You can download the app in the [App Store](#) or on [Google Play](#) free of charge.

**Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is a winner:** The 2019 Island Hopper Fest received four SunSational Awards through the Florida Festival & Events Association and the Southeast Tourism Society named Island Hopper one of its Top 20 events.

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**Note to media:** If you would like to interview singer-songwriters, arrange for live shots or make plans to attend, please contact [Miriam Dotson](#), communications manager, at [mdotson@leegov.com](mailto:mdotson@leegov.com).

*Island Hopper Songwriter Fest is produced by the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, iHeartMedia, Cat Country 107.1 and BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S. Visit [IslandHopperFest.com](#) or access the [media tool kit](#). Follow the festival hashtag [#islandhopperfest](#) as well as the event's [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds.*