

# BIOGRAPHY

## Darius Rucker

Darius Rucker signed with Capitol Records Nashville in 2007 and released his country debut, *Learn to Live*, in 2008 which landed at No. 1 on the *Billboard* Country Albums Chart. His first record garnered three consecutive No. 1 singles and earned him the CMA New Artist of the Year Award. When Rucker returned to the studio with Frank Rogers to record his sophomore release, he penned 77 songs for the album with the last song written becoming the lead single, "Come Back Song." The result was the chart-topping October 2010 release, *Charleston, SC 1966*, which has produced two No. 1's with "Come Back Song" and "This." *USA Today* raved, "Rucker has made a fine-sounding country album, full of singable choruses, bittersweet fiddle and steel, and guitars with bottomless twang," and *Rolling Stone* said, "On his Nashville debut, Rucker's rich baritone, sentimental ballads and bright hooks made him the most successful African-American country singer since Charley Pride. Rucker amps up that formula on album number two."

Rucker's shows center around the music found on his country albums, but occasionally he will embrace his Hootie & The Blowfish heritage by turning "Let Her Cry" into a very sad, slow country tune or rely on the acoustic intro to "Hold My Hand" to really rile up the crowd before the sultry lyrics pour out. As many times as we've all heard those hits, the renditions he has created with his country band, The Carolina Grey Boys, create virtually unrecognizable versions of the monster hits. With country chart-toppers peppering the set, it's raunchy crowd hits like "Family Tradition" and "Purple Rain" that truly showcase Rucker's vocal prowess and remind you of just how deep his southern roots run.

In addition to country music, Darius offers much of his time to charitable efforts benefiting St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, the Hootie & The Blowfish Foundation, Vanderbilt's Kennedy Center, Pattison's Academy, and many others.