

By: [David Mcgee](#) | Bristol Herald Courier
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BRISTOL --

WDVX Blue Plate Special

Paramount Center
518 State St.
[Bristol](#), Tenn.
Saturday, 7 p.m.
Tickets [\\$15](#) in advance; [\\$20](#) at the door

[Shawn Camp](#) and his band mates in [the World](#) Famous Headliners will make their first performance outside [Nashville](#) Saturday in the Twin City, but the former Osborne Brothers sideman said don't expect a bluegrass or country performance.

"This is the closest thing to a rock and roll band I've been involved with," Camp said in a Wednesday phone interview with [the Bristol Herald Courier](#).

"[Bristol](#) is a special town to all of us in country music," Camp said. "It's always neat to be there. We'll just be a little bit louder than the Carter Family and [Jimmie Rodgers](#) were."

Camp, who has penned hit singles for [Brooks & Dunn](#), [Garth Brooks](#), [Blake Shelton](#), [George Strait](#) and [Josh Turner](#), is teaming with two equally heralded country songwriters – [Al Anderson](#) and [Pat McLaughlin](#) – to step out of the songwriting shadows and into the spotlight as [the World](#) Famous Headliners.

"We got together about a year-and-a-half ago and started writing. And all the songs seemed to fit into this bag – all with the same central storylines and characters. When we got done we had a lot of songs," Camp said. "We did our first show about this time last year and we've done a dozen others around town, but this is our first road gig and we're real excited to get to [Bristol](#)."

The new group recently finished recording its first CD, which is expected to be available later this year, he said.

The Nashville-based group is scheduled to headline Saturday night's edition of the [WDVX](#) Blue Plate Special, presented live from the [Paramount Center](#) for the Arts. The show will be carried on the Knoxville radio station on 89.9 FM and [102.9 FM](#), plus on the Internet. Last year, the Society for the Preservation of Bluegrass Music of [America](#) named [WDVX](#) the nation's premier bluegrass music station.

"WDVX has been great to me. I always stop by every time I go through and they always play great music. I've played the Blue Plate Special several times. That whole area is such a hotbed for music and [WDVX](#) is always so supportive," Camp said.

Saturday's show marks the second time [WDVX](#) has broadcast live from the Paramount. Last fall, the station did a show during the Rhythm & Roots Reunion, which is presenting the Saturday night program.

"WDVX is a perfect fit for Bristol Rhythm & Roots Reunion," [festival Executive Director Leah Ross](#) said in a written statement. "Their playlist reads like our lineup of artists each year. They work hard to bring our region's best and brightest players to the forefront and are wonderful to work with. It's a great partnership we plan to foster for years to come."

The program also includes The Hackensaw Boys -- an Americana group originally formed in [Charlottesville, Va.](#), that has gained international acclaim -- along with Tri-Cities area favorites Duty Free and [Wise Old River](#).

Camp, whose songs have also been recorded by the likes of [Kenny Chesney](#), [Randy Travis](#), [Ricky Skaggs](#), [Patty Loveless](#), [Joe Nichols](#), [Jim Lauderdale](#) and [Del McCoury](#), said getting that first foot in the door is the greatest challenge for songwriters.

“The first one is the toughest because you work so hard to prove yourself. Once you’ve had a hit, people know you can have a hit and they trust you a little bit more,” Camp said, adding that the task is compounded by the nation’s poor economy.

“The market is in such bad shape, you’ve really got to get a hit on the radio to make a living,” Camp said. “Nobody sells records anymore, so you’ve got to have a hit in order to make a living.”

Camp said performing live helps relieve the stress of trying to create something designed to be commercially successful.

“It’s a great diversion [for us all](#). It gets you away from the pressure of trying to come up with something that will be successful in the mainstream commercial country world,” Camp said. “What we’re doing definitely isn’t patterned for that. This gives us a chance to get a little rock and roll out of our systems. It relieves the stress of trying to come up with something commercial.”

Camp, who has taken a couple of swings at a solo singing career, said his new group would enjoy returning in September to play the festival.

“It’s a great festival and a great town,” Camp said. “I’ve asked, but haven’t heard anything. That would be a great place for [the World Famous Headliners](#) to play.”

Festival organizers are expected to announce the 2011 lineup later this month.

Tickets for Saturday are available at the Paramount box office and the music festival office, 416 State St.

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