**James Carothers Short Bio:**

Mixing together Tennessee twang and southern storytelling, **James Carothers** makes throwback country music for modern times. His first full-length album, *Relapse*, released in May 2017, bears similarities to classic releases by George Jones, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard. Carothers wrote most of the songs between daily gigs at The George Jones in Nashville. Since its opening in 2015, he's performed hundreds of shows at the venue. George Jones' own widow, Nancy, personally hired Carothers for the gig, giving him the opportunity to make a living playing music. James now plays several shows at venues in downtown Nashville each week when he's not on the road. In 2018, James was nominated for an Ameripolitan Award in the "Outlaw Male" category. His hit song "Back to Hank" has received over 4.4 million views on Facebook and his Spotify and Apple Music artist profiles have been streamed over 1.5 million times combined. This September, James will be releasing his newest album, *Still Country, Still King: A Tribute to George Jones*. James will also be making his Grand Ole Opry debut this year. For more information about James Carothers, visit [jamescarothers.com](https://jamescarothers.com/).

**Talking Points:**

* New Album releasing September 7, Still Country, Still King: A Tribute to George Jones. Preview [here](https://jamescarothers.com/gj-tribute-press-preview)
* Two previous albums, [Relapse](http://smarturl.it/RelapseAlbum) and [Honky Tonk Land](http://smarturl.it/HonkyTonkLandAlbum)
* 2018 Ameripolitan Awards "Outlaw Male" Nominee
* "Back to Hank" Facebook video with over 4.4 million views. You can watch it [here](https://www.facebook.com/JamesCarothersOfficial/videos/1173973546040888/)
* Played 2018 Tumbleweed music festival
* Has opened for The Charlie Daniels Band, Cody Johnson, A Thousand Horses, William Michael Morgan, Ben Haggard, Joe Diffie & the Kentucky Headhunters. To open for Trace Adkins October 2018.
* Won 2018 WSM “Road Show,” allowing him the opportunity to perform at the Grand Ole Opry in conjunction with Alan Jackson
* Digital Statistics
  + Spotify - 900,000+ streams
  + Apple Music - 400,000+ streams
  + Pandora - 320,000+ streams
  + Youtube - 850,000+ views
  + Youtube - 1.8 million minutes watched
* For more information about James Carothers, visit [jamescarothers.com](https://jamescarothers.com/)
* EPK (Bio and other assets) available [here](https://jamescarothers.com/epk)

### ****James Carothers Long Bio:****

### **Mixing together Tennessee twang, southern storytelling, and a big, booming baritone, James Carothers makes throwback country music for modern times.**

It's an old-school sound that ignores the trends of contemporary radio. You won't find any bro-country songs here. No Auto Tuned vocals, either. Instead, Carothers dishes up a reminder of country music's golden years — a time filled with fiddle solos, analog production, and slyly simple songs about heartaches and hangovers. His first full-length album, Relapse, released in May 2017, offers plenty of all three.

If Relapse bears similarities to classic releases by George Jones, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard, it's because Carothers wrote most of the songs between daily gigs at The George Jones in Nashville. Since its opening in 2015, he's performed hundreds of shows at the venue, George Jones' own widow, Nancy, personally hired Carothers for the gig, giving him the opportunity to do something he’s thankful for and that so many aspiring artists moving to Nashville dream of doing – make a living playing music. James now plays several shows at venues in downtown Nashville each week when he's not on the road. James was nominated for a 2018 Ameripolitan Award in the "Outlaw Male" category. His hit song "Back to Hank" has over 4.4 Million views on Facebook & his Spotify & Apple Music artist profiles have been streamed over 1.5 Million times combined. This September, James will be releasing his newest album, *Still Country, Still King: A Tribute to George Jones*. James will also be making his Grand Ole Opry debut this year.

In addition to supporting his young family, performing downtown has helped Carothers build a large fan base of fiercely supportive followers — fans who are drawn through the doors by the booming voice echoing down Broadway or 2nd Avenue and his spot-on impressions of several of country music’s greatest icons. Playing so many shows over a relatively short time frame has also allowed him to sharpen his stage show — not to mention his rare ability to entertain and interact with fans in a way that leaves most people feeling like they’ve made a new friend.

"My whole life, I've always loved those legendary artists,” he says, "I've really learned how to sound like them, too. My Willie Nelson sounds like Willie Nelson. My Johnny Cash sounds like Johnny Cash. When I do the Highwaymen, it sounds like all of them. People really do want to hear all these old classic songs and I guess singing them is kind of what has made things happen for me here in Nashville. I see a lot of folks doing double takes when they first walk by – the impressions definitely get their attention. Then they stop and hang out with us for a show or two, buy a CD, and a lot of them keep coming back. It may sound cliché, but Jerry Lee and I really have made a bunch of lifelong friends just "sittin’ on a bar stool actin’ like a darn fool."

Raised in rural Tennessee, Carothers grew up leading acapella singing every Sunday in the Church of Christ. His father was a hobby songwriter who landed a song on the Grand Ole Opry and recorded a couple of studio albums in Nashville before moving the family out west for work while his son was still in grade school. Inspired by his dad, Carothers always toyed with songwriting and began playing his own shows in local honky tonks around New Mexico during his teenage years. Meanwhile, he got married, started a family, and paid the bills as a technician at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, working in the same place the atomic bomb was created.

Carothers visited Nashville in 2014 and recorded Honky Tonk Land (an EP released the same year) at Beaird Music Group. The EP garnered some attention from traditional country music fans and was even featured by MusicRow magazine’s Robert K. Oermann as a DISCovery Award Winner. But the music gig remained a side project until 2015, when he — encouraged by his wife — left the lab for good and returned to Tennessee, this time settling in the country music capital of Nashville. The opening lines of his previous project’s title track “Relapse,” although seemingly penned through a relationship lens, may also elude to the stone-cold country crooner’s true feelings about returning to the south.

*Relapse*

*Feels so good to be back home again*

*Runnin’ my old beat path*

*Don’t care if it’s the wrong track*

*Second chances blowin’ in the wind*

Joined by Combs and other all-stars like guitarist Phil Valdez, fiddle player Ross Holms, steel player Spencer Cullum Jr, mixer Andija Tokic, and multi-instrumentalist Jon Estes (who pulls triple duty as Relapse's producer and engineer, too), Carothers recorded the album over seven days. The goal was to keep things from sounding too polished. The band captured 12 songs during a handful of live takes at Nashville's Bomb Shelter Studio, bringing the music — fueled with lyrics that veered from booze to breakups, in classic country style — to life. Although steeped in the swagger of country music's greatest stars, most of the album was written by Carothers, from the topical "Can't You Feel That Spirit ("a song that tells a redneck's viewpoint on all the social divide in the country right now," he explains) to the Celtic-influenced, fiddle-driven "Frost." His father, James Carothers II, Jerry Lee Combs, Gerald Gallant, and J.R. Banks also have cuts and co-writes on the project.

A couple of well-chosen covers were tossed into the mix, too. There's a revised, fiddle-fueled version of George Jones' "Choices," a song Carothers once performed alongside its original writer, Billy Yates, while Nancy Jones sat in the front row. There's also an updated take on Waylon Jennings' "I've Always Been Crazy," which showcases Phil Valdez as one of Nashville's unsung guitar heroes.

On an album filled with the ghosts of country music's late legends and the sounds of Nashville's A-list players, though, it's James Carothers — singer, songwriter, and storyteller — who shines the brightest. He's a fresh cut from an old cloth. An old soul in a new world. A native Southerner with a wider perspective on the world. And when a Relapse sounds this appetizing, who would ever want to get back on the wagon again?

Originally written by Andrew Leahey March 2017, updated by team 6/30/18