



2015 Induction Class



Montgomery Gentry

Over the last four decades, Montgomery Gentry has established themselves as one of Nashville's most successful Country Music Duos. Kentucky natives Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry have written, produced and performed a unique blend of Traditional Country and Southern Rock music, rooted in God, country and family that identifies with hard working, blue-collar folks. With over twenty top 40 chart singles, five number 1 hits, certified gold and platinum albums, numerous CMA and ACM awards, and a Grammy nomination, this group has made an indelible mark on the country music industry.

"Eddie" Montgomery, was born Gerald Edward Montgomery, on September 30, 1963, in Danville, Kentucky. By the age of 13, Eddie was playing full-time with the family band: Harold Montgomery and the Country River

Express. Eddie developed his country style at a young age while playing the classic songs of Country Music legends, Hank Williams, Jr., Charlie Daniels, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Merle Haggard. Eddie was also greatly influenced during this period of his life by listening to his favorite Southern Rock Group, Lynyrd Skynyrd.

Troy Gentry was born April 5, 1967, in Lexington, Kentucky. Troy's mother instilled the love of music in her son. She encouraged Troy to listen and learn from traditional country music legends, George Jones, Merle Haggard, Randy Travis and Hank Williams, Jr.

In 1994, Troy's talents were recognized on the national scene when he won the Jim Beam National Talent Contest – this recognition led to Troy touring on the road, opening for Patty Loveless and Tracy Byrd.

As separate acts both Troy and Eddie were considered outstanding musicians and developed loyal followings of their own, but, when these two Kentuckians perform on stage together, there is no doubt, the duo makes country music magic!

In the mid-nineties the two boys from working class backgrounds formed a duo and initially called themselves, "Deuce." {Interview} That name would change to "Montgomery Gentry" and in 1999, the group signed with the Nashville division of Columbia Records.

Later that year, Montgomery Gentry released their debut album, "Tattoos & Scars." The first single, "Hillbilly Shoes," climbed the charts and peaked at number 13 on the Country Billboard Top 40. A total of five songs from the duo's first album appeared on the Country Music top 40, including "All Night Long" and their first top 5 hit, "Lonely and "Gone."

In 2000, with the success of "Tattoos & Scars," Montgomery Gentry won the "Vocal Duo of the Year" honor at the Country Music Association Awards, the "Top New Vocal Duo Award" from the Academy of Country Music and the "Favorite New Country Artist Award," presented at the American Music Awards.

In 2001, The Recording Industry Association of America recognized Tattoos & Scars as certified platinum, signifying over one million copies sold.

The country duo's next album, "Carrying On," earned certified gold status. The album's first hit single, "She Couldn't Change Me," climbed all the way to the number two spot, where it remained for three weeks. The album also featured a remake of Waylon Jennings' "Ramblin' Man."

Montgomery Gentry teamed with producer Blake Chancy on their third album, "My Town." The album became the duo's second certified platinum album. The title track established itself as the anthem for small town pride across America and Critics proclaimed the song as the duo's finest release to date. "My Town" reached the top 5 on the Billboard Charts, as did the hits "Speed," "Hell Yeah."

In mid -2004, "You Do Your Thing" became Montgomery Gentry's third platinum album release. The first single, "If You Ever Stop Loving Me," climbed the charts and became the group's first # 1 hit song. This Album also produced the number 3 hit song, "Gone," 2005's most played single by a country music duo. Montgomery Gentry's second number 1 hit came with the album's final release, "Something to Be Proud Of."

Something to Be Proud Of, also served as the title for Montgomery Gentry's first, greatest Hits album. The album reached certified gold and rose to number five on the country music album charts.

The fifth album for Montgomery Gentry, "Some People Change," produced yet another number one hit, "Lucky Man" as well as the number three hit single, "What Do Ya Think About That." In 2008, "Lucky Man" was nominated for a Grammy Award for Best Country Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal – the group's first Grammy nomination.

In 2008, Montgomery Gentry released, "Back When I Knew It All" – the title track proved to be the duo's fastest climbing single ever and quickly rose to number 1! The follow up, "Roll With Me," also climbed the charts quickly and became the duo's fifth number 1 chart topper -- on June 23, 2009 Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry were bestowed Country Music's most prestigious honor when the two boys from Kentucky were inducted into the Grand Ole Opry.

In 2011, The Duo signed with Average Joes Entertainment and released the album "Rebels on the Run." In March of that year, the song, "Where I Come From," climbed to number eight on the charts.

With all the success Montgomery Gentry has enjoyed on stage and with millions of albums and singles sold to date, Eddie and Troy have always humbly shared their success.

As Ambassadors of Country Music they have both pledged to multiple charities and church organizations. At times through their career one or both has served on the boards of many charitable organizations such as the T.J. Martell Foundation, Make-A-wish Foundation, and Camp Horsin' Around.

Montgomery Gentry's unique mix of Country and Southern Rock music along with the duo's rare ability to tell a story within a song continue to endure Eddie Montgomery and Troy Gentry to millions of everyday folks and loyal country music fans around the world.