



2015 Induction Class



Larry Cordle is one of the music industry's most respected and well loved singer-songwriters. Over the last four decades Larry has written or co-written a number of Bluegrass Music classics and hit songs for Country music's biggest stars, including Ricky Skaggs, Garth Brooks, Alison Krauss, George Strait, Trisha Yearwood, Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire and many more. Combined, Larry Cordle's songs have appeared on projects that have sold more than 55 million copies.

Larry Edwin Cordle was born November 16, 1949 in the small eastern Kentucky farming town of Louisa. From humble beginnings, Larry attended a one-room schoolhouse that employed one teacher for grades one through eight. His grandfather, Harry Bryant, ran a country store in the neighboring town of Cordell and introduced Larry to bluegrass, country and gospel music at a very young age. With his guitar in hand, Larry

spent many days listening, playing and joining in on family music sessions held any time day or night at the old country store.

After graduating high school, Larry spent four years serving his country in the United States Naval Academy. Upon returning to Kentucky, Larry enrolled at Morehead State University and earned his Bachelor's degree in Accounting. He worked for a CPA firm during the day and continued to pursue his love of music by writing songs and playing with various groups in local clubs at night.

One night, while driving home from an out-of-town show, Larry played a new melody over and over in his head. When his headlights shone bright on the State Route, Highway 40 road sign up ahead, words simply attached themselves to the tune. "Highway 40 Blues," was the result. In 1982 his childhood friend Ricky Skaggs heard the song and told Larry he wanted to record it. "Highway 40 Blues" would be the third release from Ricky Skaggs' "Highway and Heartaches" album. On July 9, 1983, "Highway 40 Blues" reached number 1 on the Country Billboard top 40 and helped skyrocket Larry Cordle's songwriting career.

Ricky encouraged Larry to join his song writing team in Nashville; in 1985, Larry accepted. He joined a group of songwriters including Jim Rushing, Carl Jackson, Lionel Delmore, Johnny Russel, Dicky Lee, Bob McDill and many others who collaborated on songs for years to follow.

Larry Cordle succeeded at the highest level in Nashville and enjoyed a prolific writing career. Through the decades of the 80's, 90's and 2000's his songs continuously made their way to the Billboard charts – including, Diamond Rio's, "Momma Don't Forget to Pray For Me," which rose all the way to number 9. Kathy Mattea remained on the charts for 12 weeks with "Lonesome Standard Time" and in 2000, George Strait recorded Larry's song, "Murder on Music Row:" which won the coveted CMA Song of the Year Award!

While writing hit songs for other artists, Larry maintained a career of his own with his Bluegrass Band, "Lonesome Standard Time." His self titled, debut album won a Grammy nomination in 1992. Along with Carl Jackson and Jerry Salley the group produced *Living, Lovin', Losin': Songs of the Louvin Brothers* that won the 2003 Grammy for Country Album Of The Year! The year-long project was also named the 2004 Event of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association!

Larry Cordle resides in the Nashville suburb of Hendersonville, Tennessee and lives there with his wife Wanda. The couple has been married for thirty-two years and their daughter, Kelvey Christine is married and teaches school in Hendersonville.

Larry Cordle now writes independently for his own company, Wandachord Music, BMI. His unique writing style and his rare ability to artfully blend Bluegrass, Country and Gospel themed music, endears Larry Cordle to his devoted fan base even as his incredible string of accomplishments continues to grow.