

# Johnstown country artist set to take stage at fair

*George Lucas will perform songs from his new CD, 'Now, Then & Again.'*

BY CARLA DESTEFANO  
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The Christmas lights on his bedroom ceiling doubling as a stage show was a clear indication.

Even as a child, George Lucas, of Johnstown, dreamed of being a star.

Now, at the age of 45, Lucas' dream is very much alive as his country music career begins to take off.

Lucas said while in school he was selected as the narrator and became the unofficial star of every class play. He performed in many garage bands that he says never quite made it out of the garage. And he played in a number of wedding bands that never quite satisfied the hunger of making it to the bigtime.

But it wasn't until he spent 27 years in radio that Lucas' break finally came.

"I used to interview a lot of the artists who came through and once I had interviewed a woman by the name of Kippi Brannon, who had a song on the radio," he said. "She gave me the name of a producer and he hooked me up. I went to Nashville and cut a couple of sides. That's where it all started."

Lucas then retired from radio to concentrate on his country music career. Since then, the George Lucas Band has appeared at several venues in the area, and opened for country's popular Brooks and Dunn in 2006. They will perform Aug. 22 at the Westmoreland County Fair.

Lucas' band recently finished their first album titled, "Now, Then & Again," which includes more than a decade's worth of original music.

"The first tracks are songs that I had written in 1998. Then a couple years later I contacted some publishing companies to see if they had anything from songwriters that I could use. I recorded a couple of those and then in 2006, I hooked up with a producer and we got nine songs together. That stuff was the 'Then' part of the CD."

The 'Now' tracks of his CDs are the songs Lucas has recently written.

"On the CD, there is a song called, 'I didn't ask, she didn't say.' That was one of the ones I got from the publishing house. I recorded it then, but when making the CD, we rerecorded it to update it for the 2000s. So it is the 'Again' part of the CD, and there are actually two versions of it on there."

Lucas describes the band's sound as traditional country, with a little bit of rock flavor to



## Details

**George Lucas Band**  
**When:** 7 p.m. Aug. 22  
**Where:** Westmoreland County Fair  
**Admission:** Free  
**Information:**  
[www.georgecountry.com](http://www.georgecountry.com)

it. His favorite on the new CD is a song called 911, which was written by Lucas at the suggestion of a bandmate who was frustrated with the changing of street during the 911 reorganization. After hearing the complaints, Lucas went home, and wrote the song.

"It's the first song I wrote that I actually recorded. It's very tongue-and-cheek, sort of Brad Paisley style," he said. "It's the song we get the most comments about."

Lucas said his inspiration for his songs comes mostly from just living everyday life, which is why he's drawn to country music. With divorce behind him, and raising two teenagers, Brad, 16, and Caitlin, 14, he said he's finally got enough experience in life to write some good country songs.

Now that he is enjoying his

success in country music, he hasn't forgotten the long road of hard work it took him to get here.

"I have a passion, a love for it. But I've lost some relationships over it. It consumes you, but it was something I always wanted to do," he said. "I am realistic though. I have the little guy that jumps on your shoulder saying 'Go for it, don't give up.' But there's also that side when I realize, look dude you're 45, your not exactly 22."

"But I have that passion and drive to keep going. I know it sounds corny, but you never know if your big break is right around the corner. A lot of dreams don't come true. But you never know what's right around the corner."

Lucas said he gets the most thrill out of what he does when he's on stage and can see the reaction of his fans.

"I spent 27 years on the radio. When I would crack a joke, I would always wonder, 'Did anyone get it?'" he said. "But when you are singing in front of someone, you are getting that immediate feedback. I enjoy watching people smile. I enjoy making people happy. If I can make you forget about your bad day for 90 minutes, then I feel that's why God put me here."