



## Brooks & Dunn playing to sold-out audience

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— Tickets for Johnstown's Brooks & Dunn concert sold out in less than two days.

Country music's biggest duo will appear at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena, 326 Napoleon St.

"We had 3,100 tickets for the public and they were gone in a day and a half," said Jim Vautar, arena manager.

"Prices ranged from \$40 to \$60 and we could have sold more and we are still getting calls."

Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn are juggernauts in country music and the duo are holding nothing back in bringing the show to Johnstown.

"They have six tractor-trailer loads of equipment and they are bringing it all," Vautar said.

"One of the fastest-selling shows was last year's Brad Paisley concert. Tickets were gone in one day."

Brooks & Dunn have the distinction of being the biggest-selling duo in country music history.

Known for their rambunctious honky-tonk and the ability to produce touchy ballads, the duo teamed up Jan. 29 to open for arguably the greatest rock 'n' roll band in the world, the Rolling Stones, in a sold-out Quest Center concert in Omaha, Neb.

The Johnstown show is being produced by McAneny Bros., an Ebensburg-based produce and wholesale business.

The company is hosting its annual trade show Wednesday at the Pasquerilla Conference Center, which is across the street from the arena.

Stephen McAneny, president of McAneny Bros., said the company retained 1,500 tickets to distribute to trade-show customers.

"The response from our customers has been fantastic," McAneny said.

The Brooks & Dunn concert exceeded his expectations.

"The key to getting them in Johnstown is having them perform on a weekday," McAneny said.

"If we wanted a weekend date, that would have been virtually impossible."

McAneny's co-sponsored the Martina McBride concert in March 2005 as part of its spring trade show.

Arena gates open at 6:30 p.m. with a local band, George Lucas and the Allegheny, taking the stage at 7:30.

Vautar expects Brooks & Dunn to be introduced at 8:30.

Lucas, 41, of Richland Township, who has been toiling in the music business for more than a decade, sees this performance as an opportunity for his band to make a "big splash."

"I'm told there will be 4,600 people at the concert and that is by far our biggest audience," said Lucas, who is no stranger to opening for a nationally known country group.

In early February, the band opened for Diamond Rio at the Pepsi Road House in Burgettstown, Washington County.

"Opening for Brooks & Dunn is exciting and we are confident that the audience will enjoy our music," he said.

The group is scheduled to perform six songs, four of which were written and arranged by Lucas.

Brooks & Dunn have performed at the Olympics, several presidential inaugurations and Farm Aid, as well as appearing on the Corn Flakes box.

The duo released its debut album, "Brand New Man," in 1991, and it was a smash, selling more than 5 million copies.

The title track, "My Next Broken Heart," "Neon Moon" and "Boot Scootin' Boogie" all hit No. 1 on the country

charts.

In 1996, Brooks & Dunn produced another double-platinum success which yielded more chart-toppers in "My Maria," "A Man This Lonely" and "I Am That Man."

The duo's success continues with its 2005 release of the rowdy "Hillbilly Deluxe" album.

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Photos



Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn, country music's biggest duo, will play for a soldout audience Wednesday at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena, According to Jim Vautar, arena manager; tickets for the concert soldout in two days. Submitted Photo, The Tribune-Democrat, Johnstown, PA. The Tribune-Democrat