



MusiCares Spotlight

LIONEL RICHIE

BLAKE SHELTON, NOMINATED FOR BEST COUNTRY DUO/GROUP PERFORMANCE, HONORS LIONEL RICHIE, THE 2016 MUSICARES PERSON OF THE YEAR

Your pal Lionel Richie is being honored for his creative accomplishments and charitable contributions over the years. What's he like as a friend?

There's the creative side of Lionel Richie, which is unmatched, but then there's the man. If you ever get the chance to just meet him and know who he is as a human being, that's the only thing that may actually trump just how brilliant he is. He's a great dude. I hope everybody gets a chance to meet him someday.

You two teamed up for the 2012 duet "You Are."



The pair took the stage together in 2012.

What is your favorite memory of working with him?

There was a moment where we were singing together in the studio. My verse was over, and he started his. I looked over, and it wasn't until that moment that I really realized who I was singing

with and had the chance to record with. It was kind of an out-of-body experience. I snuck a picture and sent it to my sister! We grew up being such big fans of his.

So what's your favorite Lionel Richie song?

Actually, it's ours—"You Are." It was so cool recording with him, and he was able to make that song country.



The couple took the Nashville spotlight on CMT's *Can You Duet* in 2008.

TRULY HONORED

Joey + Rory Feek

AS JOEY BATTLES TERMINAL CANCER, THE COUPLE EARN THEIR FIRST GRAMMY NOD



Joey Feek can't attend the Grammys—but she has "already won," her husband and music partner, Rory Feek, tells *People*. Learning their song "If I Needed You" was nominated for Best Country Duo/Group Performance made Joey, 40, cry tears of joy. Now, says Rory, 50, claiming Grammy gold "would be beyond our wildest dreams."



STAGE PRESENCE: HAMILTON

With slick raps and catchy hooks by writer and star Lin-Manuel Miranda, *Hamilton*—the hip-hop musical inspired by Ron Chernow's 2004 biography *Alexander Hamilton*—is reverberating beyond Broadway. The Grammy seal of approval might be next: The cast recording is up for Best Musical Theater Album.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: PAMELA LUTTY/GETTY IMAGES; ETHAN MILLER/GETTY IMAGES; SARA KUBIWIJCZ/THE NEW YORK TIMES/REXUS; RICK DIAMOND/GETTY IMAGES; COURTESY JOEY+RORY; INSET: VALERIE MACON/AFRIGETTY IMAGES