

# Press Release

## For Immediate Release

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## Duane Allen is Honorary Chair of HolidayFest 2019

**Hendersonville, TN (February 18, 2019)** ... The Board of HolidayFest announced today that Duane Allen, a member of The Oak Ridge Boys, will be the Honorary Chair for this year's HolidayFest Events, which begin in September. Duane ("Ace") Allen had formal training in both operatic and quartet singing before becoming the lead singer of the Oaks in 1966. Over the past twenty years, he has also co-produced a number of The Oak Ridge Boys' award-winning Spring Hill/Gaither Music, Cleopatra Records, and Cracker Barrel music projects. He is the executive producer of "The Boys Are Back" CD, produced by Dave Cobb.

Duane and his family have lived in Hendersonville for more than 40 years, where he enjoys spending time on his 72-acre farm, which has been the home to a menagerie of animals, from beef cattle to horses, burros, and Canada geese. A native of Taylortown, Texas, Duane graduated from Paris Junior College, and then Texas A&M University at Commerce, Texas. He received a B.S. in Music from Texas A&M, studying with Metropolitan Opera stars Richard Webb and William Abbott. For his classical music degree, Duane concentrated on voice, piano, and composition. He received the Distinguished Alumni Award from both Paris Junior College and Texas A&M in 2017. Duane and his wife, Norah Lee, underwrite a scholarship fund for Texas A&M University Department of Music students.

Duane and Norah Lee raised two children, Jamie and Dee, and now enjoy spending time with their two grandsons, March and Kell, and two granddaughters, Texas LeeAnna and Tallant. The Allen's children, as well as their grandchildren, are also gifted in music. Daughter, Jamie, son-in-law, Paul, and their four children tour as "Rockland Road," which has been the headliner for the Annual Tree Lighting in Hendersonville. The Allen's son, Dee, performs and records as lead singer for Tall Dark Stranger.

HolidayFest, in its 13<sup>th</sup> year, brings together over 24 events for Sumner County, all benefiting local charities. This past year, cumulative, the events raised over 80K for our charities, which included COMPASS, Make-A-Wish, SALVUS Center, Sumner Museum, Veterans, After Breast Cancer Program, and many others. The Annual Santa Breakfast benefitted Bows and Ballcaps and will be the same again this year, and the Annual St. Nicholas Ball benefitted Make-A-Wish of Middle Tennessee. These are only a few of the charities who benefitted this past year from the many events. All can be found at [www.Holidayfesttn.org](http://www.Holidayfesttn.org).

President of HolidayFest, Larry Phillips said, "Having such a legendary man as Duane Allen as our Honorary Chair, and the possibility of having him serve as our Grand Marshall for the Annual Christmas Parade, is very exciting. We hope, with his support, we will raise the most money ever with our many events. Be sure to buy your tickets by visiting our website at [www.holidayfesttn.org](http://www.holidayfesttn.org)."

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## About HolidayFest

HolidayFest is an annual festival that brings together the entire community – its people, businesses, government, the arts, and service organizations - to celebrate the spirit of the season and to benefit local charities of Sumner County. Officially launched in 2007, HolidayFest builds on 10 years of bringing Holiday spirit to the community with events. The Events begin in November and go until January, and Sumner County plays host to thousands of visitors

at each year's festivities. Visitors enjoy an abundance of entertainment, shops, restaurants, light displays, and holiday cheer. [www.HolidayFestTN.org](http://www.HolidayFestTN.org)