

Concert kicks off Opry art exhibit

By [Dave Lavender](#)
The Herald-Dispatch

HUNTINGTON -- Move on over, Brie and wine, and hello cornbread and beans.

Or better yet, "Hooowwdyyyy," as Ritch Collins said heartily as he welcomed the Saturday night crowd at the Huntington Museum of Art in his best Minnie Pearl imitation.

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Down to the red checkered tablecloths and some classic country served up in the Daywood Gallery by Collins' swinging trio 3-0, the Museum of Art rolled out the welcome mat for hundreds of people who came to see the new exhibit, "Grand Ole Opry," a powerful 60-photo exhibit that captures the vitality, humor and family feel of WSM's Grand Ole Opry.

The Gordon Gillingham photography exhibit, which features photos from 1952 to 1960, is on display through Jan. 15. The museum is open noon to 5 p.m. today.

A string of stars from WTCR's Highway 23 Jamboree including Samantha Dawn, Jennifer Clark, Tony Ramey, Rob McNurlin, Katie Owens, Ritch Collins and 3-0 and the Midway Cloggers, got the opening cooking with a free concert that featured songs by such Opry greats as Patsy Cline, Johnny Cash and Marty Robbins, as well as songs from The Country Music Highway.

"This was a great way to kick it off, and now we just encourage people to come up and see the photos," said Judy Eaton, the concert's emcee and station manager for WTCR-FM. "There are a lot of photos here that you would never get to see, so if you love country music and the heritage, you've got to see it."

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Matt Hempel/The Herald-Dispatch

Ritch Collins of the Ritch Collins 3-0 performs Saturday at the Huntington Museum of Art showcase of stars from the WTCR's Highway 23 Jamboree. The showcase opened a new exhibit at the museum featuring 60 photographs taken by commercial photographer Gordon Gillingham between 1952 and 1960, featuring some of the biggest stars of the Grand Ole Opry.

Photo Galleries

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