

Kickoff Concert Delights Fans



Photo Left: Alexandra Demetree (right) and Band Leader Mark Thomas knock out a killer song during the Kickoff Concert, August 6. (*Chris Frost / Lamar Ledger*)

The Kickoff Concert at the Sand and Sage Fair was a great musical event on Saturday August 6. The event had a brief battle with rain before the show, but the storm passed and the show went off without a hitch

delivering two outstanding shows.

The concert opened up with Nashville Country Music Star Alexandra Demetree who delivered a rock-solid performance that thrilled the crowd. When it comes to performing, she is always excited. "I am thinking about my set list and then you meet new fans and that is always exciting," she said. "It kind of gets you pumped up for what you are about to do."

There was no real discussion about the set between band members while traveling to the show. "We were just listening to music and getting pumped up," Demetree said. The music depends on her mood, "It's a little bit of everything."

Tammy Demetree, Alexandra's mom, was enjoying her first trip to Lamar. "She [Alexandra] is a joy to watch," she said. "She's so young and she's been singing since she was little." Both Mom, Tammy, and Dad, Jay, said it is fun to travel with Alexandra. "It's fun to be able to see her," Jay agreed. We live in Jacksonville and any opportunity to be around her is a blessing." He observed, "As many times as I've seen her, it always amazes me to watch her."

Adam Cohlma, Alexandra's husband, also made the trip. "To get the chance to see her do this is amazing," he remarked. He is not much of a singer and doesn't offer a lot input. "I played in a band in high school," he said, "It's always impressive when I get to hear her new songs early in the process."

Nicholas Demetree, Alexandra's brother, said he would go anywhere to see his sister sing. "All through high school and college I was there and she was always unbelievable."

Band leader Mark Thomas said he and Demetree collaborate when it comes to the set list. "There's a lot that goes into it in terms of fine tuning in order to make the transitions seamless for the audience." He said it is important to get the crowd going right from the start. "You have to have something high energy for her to run out on stage to," he said. "Tonight we have a really fun one." He called Alexandra's original material the "meat" of the set, "so we can introduce the world to her." When it comes to music, Thomas called her a cool artist, noting that most performers want songs played note-for-note, "She trusts her band to make the performance great saying, "You guys know what you're doing!"

In comments after the show, Alexandra said the show was really fun and it will take some time before she comes down from performing. "Probably a few hours, for sure," she said. She loved the crowd and cannot wait to come back to Lamar to entertain her fans!

Original article by Chris Frost, General Manager of The Lamar Ledger. This article has been edited for content and format.