

# Austin City Limits: A History of the Longest-Running Music Television Series

Austin City Limits (ACL) is the longest-running music television series in American history. Since its debut in 1974, ACL has showcased a wide range of musical genres, from country and folk to rock and roll and hip hop. The series has featured some of the biggest names in music, including Willie Nelson, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, and Beyoncé. ACL has also helped launch the careers of many up-and-coming artists, such as Lyle Lovett, Lucinda Williams, and John Mayer.



## Austin City Limits: A History by Tracey E. W. Laird

★★★★☆ 4.2 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 13866 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Lending	: Enabled
Print length	: 248 pages



## The Early Years

ACL was created by Bill Arhos, a producer for KLRU-TV, the PBS station in Austin, Texas. Arhos's goal was to create a show that would showcase the city's vibrant music scene. The first episode of ACL aired on October 11, 1974, and featured performances by Willie Nelson, Townes Van Zandt, and Guy Clark.

ACL quickly became a hit with viewers, and it was soon picked up by PBS stations across the country. The show's success was due in part to its unique format. ACL was one of the first music television shows to feature live performances, and it also gave artists the opportunity to perform extended sets. This allowed artists to showcase their full range of talents, and it helped to create a more intimate connection between the performers and the audience.

### **The 1980s and 1990s**

ACL continued to grow in popularity throughout the 1980s and 1990s. The show's lineup became more diverse, and it began to feature more international artists. ACL also began to produce more specials, including concerts by Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and the Rolling Stones.

In 1990, ACL moved to a new home at the Austin Music Hall. The new venue gave the show a more modern look and feel, and it also allowed for larger audiences. ACL continued to thrive in the 1990s, and it became one of the most popular music television shows in the world.

### **The 2000s and Beyond**

ACL entered the 21st century as a vital part of the Austin music scene. The show continued to feature a diverse range of artists, and it also began to embrace new technologies. In 2001, ACL launched its own website, and it began to stream episodes online. In 2005, ACL launched its own record label, and it began to release albums by artists who had appeared on the show.

ACL celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2014. The show continues to be one of the most popular music television shows in the world, and it remains an

important part of the Austin music scene. ACL has helped to launch the careers of countless artists, and it has played a vital role in the development of American music.

## The Impact of ACL

ACL has had a profound impact on American music. The show has helped to popularize new genres of music, and it has helped to launch the careers of countless artists. ACL has also helped to create a more positive image of Austin, Texas, and it has made the city a major destination for music fans.

ACL is more than just a television show. It is a cultural institution that has played a vital role in the development of American music. The show has helped to shape the sound of American music, and it continues to inspire and entertain audiences around the world.

ACL is a testament to the power of music. The show has been a part of the Austin music scene for over 40 years, and it continues to be one of the most popular music television shows in the world. ACL has helped to launch the careers of countless artists, and it has played a vital role in the development of American music. The show is a cultural institution that has had a profound impact on American culture.



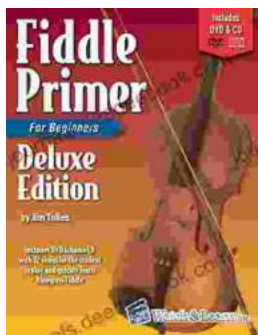
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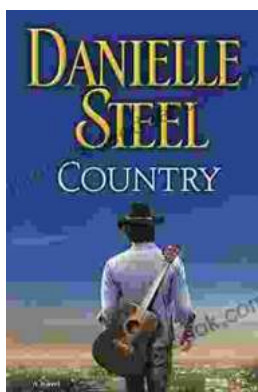
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