

# Sports & Entertainment

## Usher to headline the Apple Music Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show on Super Bowl Sunday Feb. 11 on CBS

NEW YORK, NY (September 24, 2023) – Apple Music, the NFL and Roc Nation announced one of the most influential artists of a generation, USHER will perform during the APPLE MUSIC SUPER BOWL LVIII HALFTIME SHOW at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, NV. on Sunday, February 11, 2024, airing on CBS.

“It’s an honor of a lifetime to finally check a Super Bowl performance off my bucket list. I can’t wait to bring the world a show unlike anything else they’ve seen from me before,” said USHER. “Thank you to the fans and everyone who made this opportunity happen. I’ll see you real soon.”

“Usher is an icon whose music has left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape throughout his career, we couldn’t be more excited to have him headline this year’s Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show,” said Seth Dowsky, NFL Head of Music. “We look forward to working with Usher, Roc Nation and Apple Music to bring fans another Halftime Show for the history books.”



Usher

“Usher is the ultimate artist and showman. Ever since his debut at the age of 15, he’s been charting his own unique course. Beyond his flawless singing and exceptional choreography, Usher bares his soul,” said JAY-Z. “His remarkable journey has propelled him to one of the grandest stages in the world. I can’t wait to see the magic.”

“The Apple Music Super Bowl Halftime Show is one of the most highly anticipated music events of the year and we’re excited to

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bring this legendary show to fans all over the world in Spatial Audio, along with tons of exclusive videos, interviews, playlists and so much more across Apple Music,” said Oliver Schusser, Apple’s Vice President of Apple Music, Apple TV+, Sports, and Beats. “We are so proud of what we were able to accomplish together with the NFL and Roc Nation last year and now with the insanely talented Usher set to take the stage we’re looking forward to another incredible Halftime Show from one of the world’s all-time greatest performers.”

Apple Music hosts **Zane Lowe, Ebro Darden, Nadeska Alexis** and more are live across Apple Music Radio worldwide discussing today’s exciting news. Tune in now at [apple.co/applemusichalftime](https://apple.co/applemusichalftime). Apple Music’s multiyear partnership with the NFL and Roc Nation brings together the Super Bowl Halftime Show — the most-watched musical performance of the year — with Apple Music, which celebrates musicians, songwriters, producers, and fans, and offers the world’s best music listening experience with a catalog of over 100 million songs and immersive sound powered by Spatial Audio. Apple revolutionized the music experience with iPod and iTunes and continues the award-winning tradition with Apple Music. Follow @AppleMusic on TikTok, Instagram, YouTube, and Twitter.

Usher has changed music, culture, and countless lives. The multiple GRAMMY Award-winning diamond-selling international megastar, actor, dancer, entrepreneur, and philanthropist inspires change yet again in 2023 and beyond.

Beyond selling over 80 million records worldwide and collecting dozens of awards, he has simultaneously lit up the small screen on NBC’s *The Voice* and the big screen in blockbusters such as *Hustlers*. He has also tirelessly distinguished himself as a devout humanitarian, raising tens of millions of dollars for various causes and uplifting youth via his New Look Foundation. Since 1999 he has been providing opportunities for young people in underserved communities and enabling them to flourish and achieve seemingly impossible dreams. A longtime supporter and Global Citizen Ambassador, Usher has performed at events since 2015 raising awareness to defeat poverty, defend the planet and demand equity. A true outlier, he is equally at home on the stage of his sold out *My Way* Las Vegas residency as he was on a 2016 government cultural mission to Cuba as part of President Barack Obama’s Presidential Committee for Arts and Humanities.

The Apple Music Super Bowl LVIII Halftime Show telecast will be produced by DPS with Roc Nation and Jesse Collins

serving as executive producers, and Hamish Hamilton serving as director. Roc Nation also serving as the strategic entertainment advisors of the live performance.

Viewers can expect unprecedented behind the scenes access leading to a historic performance on music’s biggest stage.

Earlier this year, the Apple Music Super Bowl LVII Halftime Show Starring Rihanna became the most-watched halftime performance of all time. The performance garnered five Creative Arts Emmy nominations, including Outstanding Variety Special (LIVE). In 2022, Super Bowl LVI Halftime Show Starring Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem, Mary J. Blige and Kendrick Lamar garnered five Creative Arts Emmy nominations. The critically acclaimed performance won three Creative Arts Emmys, including Outstanding Variety Special (Live), a first ever for the show.

For more information about Super Bowl LVIII, visit [SuperBowl.com](https://SuperBowl.com).

*The Oak Ridge Boys announce historic American Made: Farewell Tour...see sports-Ent. page 6*

## Mississippi Arts Commission announces 2024 Governor’s Arts Awards recipients; Earl Poole Ball gets ‘Lifetime Achievement’

JACKSON, MS – The Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2024 Governor’s Arts Awards.

**The 2024 recipients and awards are as follows:**

**Earl Poole Ball** Lifetime Achievement

**Cedric Burnside** Excellence in Music

**Brent Funderburk** Excellence in Visual Arts and Education

**Peter Zapletal** Excellence in Performing Arts

**100 Men Hall** Arts in Community

For 36 years, the Mississippi Arts Commission has partnered with the Governor’s Office to host the Governor’s Arts Awards, the state’s most prestigious award for living artists. MAC is

pleased to partner with Governor Reeves’ office again to honor those who have shown excellence in the arts or within the arts community.

Two Mississippi Museums in downtown Jackson on Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6 p.m. A public reception at 4:30 p.m. will precede the ceremony. MAC and Mississippi Public Broadcasting (MPB) partner to record and broadcast the award ceremony. The program will air on MPB Television and MPB Think Radio later in February 2024.

In recent years, MAC has created a poster featuring either artwork from a recipient or featuring a recipient of the awards. This year, MAC is pleased to announce the poster will feature the artwork of 2024 recipient Brent Funderburk. The artwork is titled “Blood Moon” and was created by Funderburk in 2020 using watercolor on paper. It is from his series titled “Re-Inflouescence” and is in the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Tibar and Olga Pechan. The painting shows vibrant colors and a striking scenery with a Magnolia flower in the forefront.

“As a former Bulldog, I was thrilled when our committee selected Brent Funderburk as a recipient,” said Lewis. “His work inspired me during my time at Mississippi State University, and I am delighted he is being recognized this year. There was no question about using one of his pieces for our coveted poster design.”

The poster also features the incredible sponsors of the awards. MAC could not honor these artists without the support of the businesses, couples, and individuals who contribute each year. If you are interested in sponsoring the awards this year to help honor these incredible recipients, please contact [communications@arts.ms.gov](mailto:communications@arts.ms.gov) or visit [arts.ms.gov/gaa](https://arts.ms.gov/gaa).

**About the Recipients**

**EARL POOLE BALL** (of Columbia, MS, currently resides in Austin, TX) Earl Poole Ball (JR) (March 12, 1941) is a pianist, singer-songwriter, music producer, and actor. His musical work spans the Americana, Country, Gospel, and Rockabilly genres. He has

recorded and/or performed with Buck Owens & the Buckaroos, Gram Parsons’ International Submarine Band, Merle Haggard, Carl Perkins, Marty Stuart, Freddie Hart, Phil Ochs, Michael Nesmith, Marty Robbins, Wynn Stewart, the Flying Burrito Brothers and on the Byrds iconic album *Sweetheart of the Rodeo*. He is best known for the 20 years he spent touring and recording

with Johnny Cash. Ball hails from Foxworth, Mississippi, where his aunt Kathryn Ball taught him how to play the piano at the Foxworth First Baptist Church. Later, he learned to play popular country and early rockabilly songs on the radio. Since 1999, Ball has continued to do studio work and to make music with his band Earl Poole Ball & The Fantabulous Friends. He

also performs with the Heybale band and is working on his autobiography. He currently resides in Austin, Texas.

**CEDRIC BURNSIDE** (of Memphis, TN, raised in Holly Springs, MS)

North Mississippi Hill Country blues musician Cedric Burnside was born in Memphis on August 26, 1978. For three decades,

Burnside gained rich experience performing in the Hill Country blues tradition, notably playing drums for many years with his grandfather, Hill Country blues legend RL Burnside (1926-2005). Cedric gained acclaim among blues fans for his powerful and enthusiastic drumming, as well as his off-stage charm and poise. Burnside later became

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Governor’s Arts Awards are given to individuals and organizations to recognize outstanding work in the artistic disciplines, arts-based community development, and/or arts patronage in Mississippi.

The 2024 recipients will be recognized at the 36th Governor’s Arts Awards ceremony at the

