



Jeannie Seely

Biography



Jeannie Seely's soul-inspired vocals were praised by music industry professionals early in her career, resulting in the title of "Miss Country Soul" which is still used today. Ken Burns of PBS called Jeannie's voice "emotion packed" in a biography of her music. In 2019 Jeannie added the title of "Doctor" to her name when she was awarded an honorary Doctor of Arts from Lincoln Memorial University for her many groundbreaking accomplishments in the music industry and her support and encouragement of new talent.

After moving from her home state of Pennsylvania to California, Jeannie received the "Most Promising Female Artist" award in 1964 from the Country and Western Academy (which became the Academy of Country Music). A year later Jeannie moved to Nashville where she signed with Monument Records. Her chart-topping hit "Don't Touch Me" resulted in the 1966 Grammy Award for "Best Country Vocal Performance by a Female." Jeannie's recording of "Don't Touch Me" was ranked at No. 97 among "Country Music's 500 Greatest Singles" published by the Country Music Foundation Press.

Jeannie received Most Promising New Artist awards from Cashbox, Record World, and Billboard, and went on to score records on Billboard's country singles chart for 13 consecutive years. More recently, Jeannie's single "If You Could Call It That," a song started by mentor and close friend Dottie West, returned Jeannie to the national music chart at age 80. Her recording of "So Far, So Good" also charted when Jeannie turned 82.

On September 16, 1967, Jeannie was inducted as a member of the world-famous Grand Ole Opry. She was the first Pennsylvania native to become an Opry member, and then later became the first female to regularly host Opry segments. Widely recognized for changing the image of female country performers, Jeannie made history when she became the first person to wear a mini skirt on the Opry stage. In 2022 she made history again by being named the artist to have performed the most times in the Opry's history – to date Jeannie has made over 5,360 Opry performances.

With fellow Opry member Jack Greene, Jeannie formed one of the most successful duets and road shows in country music history. The Grammy-nominated duo performed everywhere from New York City's Madison Square Garden to London's Wembley Arena, and they were considered forerunners in bringing country music to wider audiences around the world.

A BMI-awarded songwriter, Jeannie's songs have been recorded by numerous Country Music Hall of Fame members including Dottie West, Merle Haggard, Connie Smith, Ray Price, Willie Nelson, Faron Young, Ernest Tubbs, Little Jimmy Dickens, and Hank Williams Jr., as well as by other artists ranging from Irma Thomas, the "Soul Queen of New Orleans," to Rhonda Vincent, the "Queen of Bluegrass," and from Boys II Men to Seal. Jeannie's composition "Yours" was named "Song of the Year" at the 2022 Arkansas Country Music Awards.

The star of major stage productions including *Always, Patsy Cline*, *The Best Little Whorehouse In Texas*, *Could It Be Love*, *Takin' It Home* and *Everybody Loves Opal*, Jeannie also appeared in the movie *Changing Hearts* with Faye Dunaway and Lauren Holly. Jeannie has served as a radio disc jockey on her own Armed Forces Network, traveled on military tours throughout Europe and Asia, published her own book title *Pieces Of A Puzzled Mind*, and received her own "Star" in the Music City Walk of Fame which represents all genres of music.

Jeannie's recordings have spanned seven decades from her Top 10 Billboard album *The Seely Style* to her most recent Curb Records album *An American Classic* which includes a duet with Willie Nelson. Jeannie appeared in Willie's movie *Honeysuckle Rose* and sang on the platinum soundtrack album. In 2018 Jeannie began hosting her own weekly show "Sundays with Seely" on the Willie's Roadhouse channel of SiriusXM.

At the inaugural Influencing Women Awards Gala in 2019, Jeannie Seely was presented the first "Standing Ovation Award" – and then Jeannie's name was added to the award. Appropriately, Jeannie was bestowed the honor in the Opry House that she calls her second home and where she continues to entertain and receive standing ovations.

In 2022 Jeannie was a presenter on the nationally televised Country Music Association (CMA) awards show, and in 2023 she received the CMA's prestigious Joe Talbot Award.