



Country stars Brooks & Dunn thrill Johnstown audience

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— Brooks & Dunn thrilled nearly 4,700 fans with their music in Johnstown on Wednesday night, but it was their autographs on a special guitar that will keep on singing.

Harry Carson of Butler told the country music stars before their appearance of his plans to donate the guitar to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tenn. The guitar is to be auctioned with proceeds aiding patients and their families.

Carson, whose 18-year-old son is doing well after battling a brain tumor, said he since has been on a mission to help the hospital.

Although the duo was not signing autographs, Carson said he was impressed that they made an exception to do so for the sake of others.

Many fans interviewed on their way into the Cambria County War Memorial Arena in downtown Johnstown said they came because Kix Brooks and Ronnie Dunn are nice people.

"I just think they are good family men," said Janet Keelan of Everett, who was at the sold-out show with her husband, Tom. "I love Brooks & Dunn."

Jadene Tarabrin of Johnstown and her friend, Patty Pongrac of Central City, took advantage of a night off from their jobs to see the concert. They work for The Bon-Ton at The Galleria in Richland Township.

"I like Brooks & Dunn," Tarabrin said. "They're just a real good, wholesome, fun act."

Pongrac said the duo's songs are great.

"They're fun," she said. "It's good music."

Kathy D'Agostino of Richland Township said it was nice to see big-name stars come to Johnstown.

"They're awesome," she said.

Dorothy Brooks of Johnstown has seen the duo perform live twice before and said they are fun to watch.

Debbie Mowrey traveled from DuBois to watch the show.

"I grew up country," she said. "I like the music."

Before Brooks & Dunn made their appearance to a standing ovation, a Windber band, George Lucas and Allegheny, thrilled the crowd.

Kristin Holler of Carrolltown said Lucas' band was great.

Holler was at the concert with her mother, Linda, and sister, Jenna.

Shane Valko of Sidman said he enjoys Lucas' style and that the performer is a good musician.

"He's funny. We have all of his CDs," Valko said.

Debbie Paxton of Johnstown likewise said Lucas' band was good.

"It was nice having someone from the Johnstown area (perform)," she said.

Ken Lubinsky, who was working security for the concert, said every fan that he spoke with was having a great time.

Ray Asfar, an usher, said the fans were excited.

"The crowd is having fun," he said. "This area loves country."

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Photos



Ronnie Dunn of Brooks & Dunn performs during a concert Wednesday night at the Cambria County War Memorial Arena in Johnstown. JohnTanish/The Tribune-DEMocrat