

Barry Gibb Talks Country A Unique Fellow's Lecture



Music icon **Barry Gibb** traced the genealogy of the **Bee Gees** classic **"How Can You Mend a Broken Heart?"** for more than 900 fans and friends at USA's Middle Tennessee State University's (MTSU) Tucker Theatre.

Poignantly recalling his and his late brothers' love for **Country Music**

from their **Australian childhood**, the singer-songwriter-producer gently began picking out a **Hank Locklin** country classic on his acoustic guitar, while talking with Beverly Keel, chair of MTSU's Department of Recording Industry.

"The first **country song** I ever recall hearing was **Johnny Tillotson's** [cover of] **"Send Me the Pillow That You Dream On,"** Gibb said. "We only got the one radio station in **Australia**, and the **people we heard** classified as 'rock 'n' roll' were **Roy Orbison** and **Johnny Cash**."

"**"Crying"** was the first record I ever bought. ...

We loved country.

It all comes from the pathos... We always loved a sad story," he continued, smoothly sliding into **"How Can You Mend,"** the brothers Gibb's **first U.S. No. 1 single**.

The audience, which almost filled the 1,000-seat venue, rose and applauded Gibb for one of several standing ovations offered throughout the evening.

Many spent the pre-showtime singing along with **Bee Gees hits** on the PA system, and several called out happily to Gibb as he related family tales, career recollections, music history and played a handful of his hundreds of hits.

In a surprise announcement the university recognized **Barry Gibb** as the inaugural **Fellow of the Middle Tennessee State University Centre for Popular Music**.



See **Radio Adelaide's** new format website and listen to **Country Music Online** at <https://radio.adelaide.edu.au/>

Audrey's Comparison

With the rise of **Aussie** superstars such as **Keith Urban**, the country music scene down under still has loads of growth potential in Australia and in the wider market place.



It was for this reason that **Tasmania** native **Audrey Auld** made the move to **Nashville** a decade ago and finally found her niche.

"I've lived in **America** 10 years now, and I think **Country Music** has evolved in that time-frame.

There's a commercial country aspect in **Australia** that's popular, but I know that there are a lot of **Australians** living in **Nashville** because **it's the only place to come to start their music careers.**"

Audrey believes this is because of a fundamental difference between audiences. While **Australian audiences** tend to have more of a sit back and say, **"Alright, what have you got for us?"** attitude...; **Americans** are more willing to be emotionally connected to a performer.

"Americans just know that they're part of the performance... For me, playing music is an energetic thing, and there's a connection that occurs through songs with the audience. And Americans, on a subliminal level, understand that.

They're ready from the start of the show to engage and are open about their enthusiasm. It's playing music to people who enjoy it, listen to it and connect with it.

A good gig is due to a good audience, and Americans are a great audience."

Audrey added that what makes her songwriting different is she only writes when she has "something to say" instead of "just sitting down and making stuff up."



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