

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bridges Taps Ty Bentli and Elaina Smith as Celebrity Jockeys for Music City Derby Day!

Tickets on sale now for Nashville's signature celebration of the Kentucky Derby on May 6th

Nashville, Tennessee - (April 24, 2017) – Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing announced today that radio personality Ty Bentli of the nationally syndicated “Ty, Kelly and Chuck” show and fellow NASH brand radio host Elaina Smith of the “Nash Nights Live” show will be Celebrity Jockeys for [Music City Derby Day!](#) Presented by LifePoint Health, Nashville's signature celebration of the Kentucky Derby will be held at The Cordelle on Saturday, May 6th from 3:30-7:00 and will feature live Derby coverage, a Silent Auction, the hilarious Stick Horse Races, local fare and Mint Juleps—the official drink of the Kentucky Derby. This colorful fundraiser is open to the public, and proceeds support Bridges’ programs to empower more than 207,000 Middle Tennesseans with any level of hearing loss.

“We are excited to have Ty and Elaina on board for our fourth, annual Music City Derby Day during our 90th year,” said Nancy Denning-Martin, President & CEO at Bridges. “Both have a natural warmth and humor that is a perfect match for this important but fun event. Ty and Elaina also have a wonderful understanding of and appreciation for Bridges’ work to build a more inclusive, barrier-free community, and we’re thankful they are sharing our mission with their national audiences.”

Each year, Celebrity Jockeys at Music City Derby Day compete with guests and each other in Bridges’ Stick Horse Races, a croquet-inspired embodiment of the Derby races. With two-person teams using a mallet and a stick horse to beat each other down the track, the races raise funds while providing hilarious entertainment.

“Clearly we are both a perfect fit for this role, as we’ll jump at any chance to embrace child-like absurdity and take our radio show antics to the field,” said Bentli. “You never know who will be showing up as our fellow jockeys and partners, so come out and cheer us on to victory while supporting a great cause!”

Ty Bentli is joined by co-hosts Kelly Ford and Chuck Wicks every weekday on NASH Country’s high-energy morning show [“Ty, Kelly & Chuck.”](#) In addition to hosting the show, Bentli reports from high-profile Westwood One Backstage red carpet events, including the GRAMMYS, the American Music Awards, the Billboard Music Awards, and recently presented Thomas Rhett with his Male Vocalist award on the ACMs. His friendship and rapport with celebrities and industry professionals have created many memorable moments on air, online, and backstage.

Elaina D. Smith joins Shawn Parr in the evenings as co-host for the nationally syndicated [“Nash Nights Live”](#) radio show. During her short but high-profile radio career, she has already interviewed more artists and performers than most broadcasters do in their entire career. Elaina has become a go-to industry professional for social media and event speaking, including at the Country Music Seminar, NAB Show, and universities. Known for her bubbly personality, her hard work was recognized in 2016 by the Alliance for Women in Media with a prestigious National “Gracie Award.”

Music City Derby Day guests will enjoy fabulous fare from Bacon & Caviar, beer from Black Abbey Brewing, wines from Midtown Cork Dorks, bourbon courtesy of Woodford Reserve and, of course, Old Forester Mint Juleps...the signature cocktail of the Kentucky Derby! The all-inclusive tickets are \$90 and can be purchased at www.musiccityderbyday.org. Prepare to don your hats, fascinators, and best Derby duds!

Bridges has partnered with Lyft to offer safe ride discounts for Music City Derby Day. New Lyft users can get two free rides (up to \$10 each) at <http://lyft.com/i/mcderby> or download the app and enter code MCDERBY. Existing users can save 15% off two rides with code MCDERBY15. The event is 21 and up.

Bridges thanks the aforementioned and these generous sponsors for making Music City Derby Day possible: Pinnacle Financial Partners, Bridgestone, Frost Arnett, Nashville Lifestyles, DVL Seigenthaler, Southern Bank of Tennessee, Regions Bank, Fanny & June, SunnyBand, Zeitgeist Gallery, and MedCycle Management.

About Bridges for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Bridges is a nonprofit organization that unites the Deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing communities through education, services, and support. Since 1927, the agency has provided a wide range of programs and services to the Middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky areas. These include after school programs, wellness classes, case management services, American Sign Language interpreters, community education and outreach, and other programs for children and adults who face communication barriers in the hearing world. Bridges helps remove those barriers, empowering individuals to achieve their full potential. For more information, visit <https://www.bridgesfordeafandhh.org/>.

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