

BRELAND

Where did the concept of BRELAND & Friends come from?

The concept of BRELAND & Friends actually came to me from my publisher John Ozier and his childhood friend Mark Dunkerly who oversees the Oasis Center. They asked if I wanted to do a charitable concert with some of my collaborators for Oasis, and I was immediately on board.

Why do you find it important to support the Oasis Center?

The Oasis Center helps teens in crisis, and after looking more closely into all of what they do for the greater Nashville community, and some of their amazing success stories, I knew my mission statement as an artist was very much aligned with theirs.

What differences were there between this year and last year?

Last year's show, I mostly invited artists that I was friends with and had music out with (Nelly, Thomas Rhett, Dierks Bentley), which made the process very simple. But this year, I wanted to bring a completely new roster of artists, which meant performing more songs from artists that weren't in my discography (X Ambassadors, Lecrae, Nate Smith). It made for a very different experience, but one that I think offered more sonic diversity for the audience and created a unique challenge for me and my band to overcome. I thought once the show got going, the second year may have even been stronger overall.

What was your favorite memory from this year's show?

My favorite moment from this year's show was the surprise guest appearance from Keith Urban on our penultimate song. Keith has been such an integral part of my experience in Nashville and having him on that stage, especially as a surprise, was awesome.

How do you hope BRELAND & Friends grows over the years?

I would love to continue growing the show from a production and artist perspective, keep raising more money for the Oasis Center, and eventually get to a point where we start doing it at even bigger venues like Bridgestone Arena down the line. That would be incredible.

