
THE 2ND ANNUAL DELTA SOUL CELEBRITY GOLF & CHARITY EVENT RAISES \$170,000 FOR THE STEVE AZAR ST. CECILIA FOUNDATION

Delta native Steve Azar has raised more than \$280,000 over past two years for various arts and children's organizations through his charity

Nashville, TN (October 2, 2013) -- Country-soul singer/songwriter and avid golfer Steve Azar has raised \$170,000 through his 2nd Annual Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event that took place in June in the heart of the Delta -- Greenville, Mississippi. All proceeds from the golf and music extravaganza will benefit the singer's non-profit charity organization, The Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation, which supports art programs at various local organizations throughout the Delta region.

Presented by *The Skin Institute, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Mississippi* and *The Hartness Foundation*, the 2013 Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event took place over three fun-filled days (June 6-8) throughout various locations in Greenville, Mississippi and the Delta region. Sponsors and celebrities attending the Delta Soul event represented over 21 different states from coast to coast, with approximately 500 total participants this year.

Among the many celebrities hitting the greens with Azar were Denver Broncos Head Coach *John Fox*, actor *Chris Rich* (The Reba Show, Murphy Brown), Baseball Hall of Fame great *Reggie Smith*, comedian *Gary Valentine* (King of Queens, Chelsea Lately), actors *Grant Show* (Devious Maids, Melrose Place) and *Richard Karn* (Home Improvement, Family Feud), and LPGA Tour and 2012 Delta Soul tournament winner *Kris Tschetter*.

Joining Azar for the concert portion of the event were famed jazz saxophonist, composer and bandleader *Branford Marsalis* (Branford Marsalis Quartet), bluegrass vocalist and instrumentalist *Dan Tyminski* (Alison Krauss & Union Station), as well as musicians *Mark Bryan* and *Dean Felber* (Hootie and the Blowfish).

The annual Delta Soul Celebrity Golf & Charity Event is always a crowd-pleaser, as it delivers a combination of comedy, music, fine foods and celebrating the Delta, all while raising funds to support various children's charities and arts within educational and cultural institutions throughout the Delta. The special event brings celebrities from all walks of life in sports, music, television and film to enjoy golf and other festivities that highlight the Delta and her rich musical history, fantastic southern food and superb southern hospitality. It has been called one of the best celebrity charity events in the U.S., according to many of the celebrity guests and sponsors who attend.

"My wife Gwen and I have always wanted to host an event such as this, but it wasn't until moving back to the Delta that we felt we could do something of this magnitude," notes Azar. "Our close friends -- some of whom I grew up with here -- make up our event committees, and they felt just as compelled to bring this event to the Delta. With their support, along with the spirited community, generous sponsors and my celebrity friends, it all came together. Although this event has much more to offer than just hittin' the little white ball, golf is a common ground that unites us all and gives us the stage for doing some good."

The Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation:

Named after St. Cecilia - The Patron Saint of Musicians and Composers, The Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation was founded in 2006 by Steve Azar and his wife, Gwen. The organization is a Mississippi 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable corporation. The focus of the foundation is to aid charitable organizations, particularly in the Delta region, that aid sick, disadvantaged and abused children of all denominations. The foundation also supports the arts and music within educational and cultural institutions. Proceeds from the Delta Soul Event have benefitted St. Joseph Catholic School Art & Music Programs, The Delta Music Institute (DMI) - Delta State University, Greenville Arts Council, Delta 180 Degrees, Delta Center Stage, Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Delta Children's Museum, Camp Looking Glass, Delta Symphony Association, DeSoto Family Theatre and funded the Steve Azar St. Cecilia Foundation Scholarship Fund.

About Steve Azar:

Steve Azar became a country music sensation with the release of his 2002 hit singles, "I Don't Have to Be Me ('Til Monday)" and "Waitin' on Joe." Throughout his career, Azar has scored multiple hits and has released eight studio albums, including his critically acclaimed *Waitin' on Joe*. In recent years, Azar has released two independent projects on his own Ride Records -- 2009's *Slide On Over Here*, which was featured in Oprah's *O Magazine's* "Favorite Things" to buy at Christmas and spawned the Top 20 hit single, "Sunshine," and 2011's *Delta Soul Volume One*. Additionally, Azar has had his music ("Doin' It Right - Delta Mix") featured in movies such as Sony Pictures' *Here Comes The Boom* and Hallmark's original TV movie *Norman Rockwell's Shuffleton's Barbershop* featuring *Danny Glover*. Coming up, Azar will co-host the first annual Mighty Mississippi Music Festival taking place Oct. 4-6 in Greenville, MS, as part of the Bridging the Blues project.

For more of the latest news and information on Steve Azar, visit www.steveazar.com

###