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**SUPERSTAR JASON ALDEAN AND RED-HOT NEWCOMER
KELSEA BALLERINI
TO PERFORM AT THE 6TH ANNUAL CMC MUSIC AWARDS**

For the first time, an exclusive allocation of tickets will be available to purchase for Foxtel's CMC Channel subscribers and CMC Rocks QLD festival ticket holders

Hosted by MORGAN EVANS, the CMC Music Awards will be heading back to Queensland and will be broadcast LIVE on Foxtel's Country Music Channel

The annual **CMC Music Awards** are back for a sixth year and today **Foxtel, CMC (Country Music Channel)**, Australia's only destination for country music, and **CMC Rocks QLD** announced international guests, country music superstar **Jason Aldean** and rising country star **Kelsea Ballerini**, who will both make their first trip to Australia to perform on the show.

Face of the channel, **Morgan Evans**, will host country music's night of nights and will be joined by some of country music's finest international and local artists who will all be announced in the coming weeks.

The 6th Annual CMC Music Awards will take place at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre (QPAC) on **Thursday March 10, 2016** and will be broadcast live on Foxtel's Country Music Channel (CMC) and encored on FOX8.

For the first time, CMC fans and CMC Rocks QLD ticket holders will be able to purchase, **from today Wednesday November 25**, an exclusive allocation of tickets to attend the live event.

Information on how to purchase tickets will be available on **cmcmusicchannel.com.au** and **cmcrocks.com**

Reigning three-time Academy of Country Music Awards (ACM) Male Vocalist of the Year, four-time Grammy nominee and one of the biggest superstar acts in American music, **Jason Aldean** will make his first trip to Australia and will perform at The 6th Annual CMC Music Awards.

Aldean is the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) top digital country male of all time and has sold more than 10 million albums, with each release being certified platinum or better. His Country Music Association (CMA) and ACM nominated "most ambitious album to date" (*Associated Press*) '*Old Boots New Dirt*' was the first country album released and certified platinum in 2014 and has yielded three consecutive # 1's marking 16 career chart-toppers. He recently wrapped his "game-changing" 2015 tour before adding to the

momentum in January for his *We Were Here 2016* tour, as he “ushers in the era of the new country star” (*Billboard*). Capacity crowds and triumphant stadium shows lead into the new tour which will precede Aldean’s first-ever shows in Australia next April.

Kelsea Ballerini launched to stardom with the release of her # 1, Gold-certified debut “Love Me Like You Mean It.” Ballerini is the first solo female artist in nine years to hit # 1 with her debut Country single and is one of only 11 women to have ever hit the top of the charts with a debut release. She has been touted by *Billboard* magazine as “Country’s Next Queen,” and is currently on the road playing major festivals, headline club dates and select shows with Alan Jackson, Lady Antebellum, Tim McGraw, Carrie Underwood, and Keith Urban.

Kelsea will be honoured with the Rising Star award at *Billboard’s* Women in Music event, which will take place in December in New York and will also perform at the event. The Rising Star award is presented to an artist whose success on the *Billboard* charts and talent demonstrate a clear path to success. Last year’s honour was awarded to Ariana Grande.

The 6th Annual CMC Music Awards are the only viewer voted country music awards in the southern hemisphere, giving fans the opportunity to vote for their favourite Australian and International country artists.

The 6th Annual CMC Music Awards kick off a star studded week in country music in Australia with **CMC Rocks QLD 2016**, country and roots biggest music event, to follow. Now in its ninth year CMC Rocks is the largest international country music festival in the southern hemisphere and will also feature performances by **Jason Aldean** and **Kelsea Ballerini**. CMC Rocks QLD 2016 will be held over three days and nights, **March 11, 12 and 13** at Willowbank near Ipswich and will telecast on CMC.

Tickets for CMC Rocks QLD 2016 are available at: cmcrocks.com

Foxtel and CMC are proud to partner with **Tourism and Events Queensland** to bring the CMC Music Awards to Queensland. CMC Music Awards and CMC Rocks QLD are part of the *It’s Live! in Queensland* events calendar, showcasing Australia’s best live events in spectacular destinations.

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