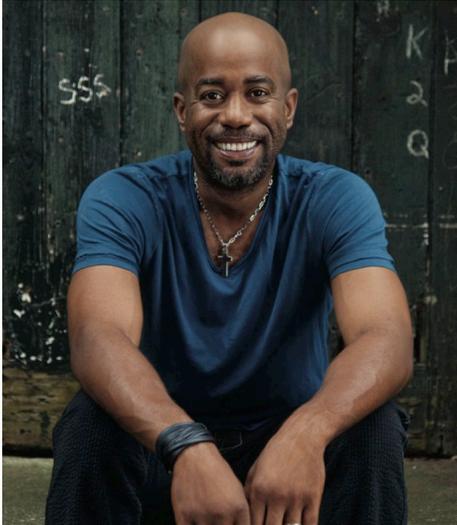


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DARIUS RUCKER TO 'ENCORE' STEADMAN PHILIPPON RESEARCH INSTITUTE 2011 ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

Tickets on sale now for highly anticipated benefit concert



VAIL, Colo.—June 20, 2011—Capitol recording artist, country star, and friend of the **Steadman Philippon Research Institute (SPRI)**, **Darius Rucker** returns for his second year as headliner of the Institute's annual summer fundraising show. The event, aptly titled "**Encore**" in consideration of Rucker's return, takes place July 5th at the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater in Vail, CO. All proceeds from the concert will aid continued exploration and study into new treatments for orthopedic injuries and conditions—most notably in the area of arthritis.

Tickets, ranging in price from \$20 to \$50 each, are on sale now. Attendees may choose to attend the concert only or they may purchase a special VIP ticket package for \$225 per person. This includes the concert at the amphitheater followed by a sit down dinner and auction at the Four Seasons resort.

"We are absolutely thrilled that Darius will be performing again this summer," says Director of Special Events for SPRI, Sheri Wharton. "Darius understands the importance of advanced sports medicine and breakthroughs in orthopedic research. He represents a small glimpse of our patients who are active individuals wanting an opportunity to overcome their injury and move on toward a pain-free and continued dynamic life."

"As a former patient of Dr. Steadman, I try to keep up with sports medicine and what they [SPRI] are doing is always on the cutting-edge of orthopedic technology and surgery," shares Rucker. "I respect everyone associated with The Steadman Philippon Research Institute and I support what they do. It's an honor to play for them and for everyone who will be attending this special event."

This summer's fundraising event will offer exceptional packages from local businesses in Vail and beyond. "We have secured some outstanding items for the silent and live auctions including deluxe trips, services from reputable providers and much more," adds Wharton.

To purchase pavilion and lawn seats, please call the Gerald R. Ford Amphitheater box office (888.920.2787). For those interested in a VIP experience, please contact Sheri Wharton (swarton@sprivail.org / 970-479-5788.) The event is graciously underwritten in part by KSL Capital Partners, Messner & Reeves, LLC Attorneys at Law and Howard Head Sports Medicine Center.

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About Steadman Philippon Research Institute:

The Steadman Philippon Research Institute is a nonprofit charitable organization based in Vail, Colo. The Institute seeks to keep people physically active late into life through pioneering orthopedic research and education. For more information about The Steadman Philippon Research Institute visit www.sprivail.org.

About Darius Rucker:

Darius Rucker is riding high with the release of his sophomore country album, *Charleston, SC 1966*, on Capitol Records Nashville. *USA Today* raved, "Rucker has made a fine-sounding country album, full of singable choruses, bittersweet fiddle and steel, and guitars with bottomless twang," and *Rolling Stone* said, "On his Nashville debut, Rucker's rich baritone, sentimental ballads and bright hooks made him the most successful African-American country singer since Charley Pride. Rucker amps up that formula on album number two." The debut in referral is his chart-topping 2008 release, *Learn To Live* – an album that produced three consecutive No. 1 singles and Top 5 smash, "History In The Making," Rucker's success in the country music format was recently recognized at the 43rd Annual CMA Awards when he received the Top New Artist title and again with ACM, Teen Choice, and AMA Award nominations. *Charleston, SC 1966*--a title which pays tribute to one of Rucker's biggest influences, Radney Foster--includes the multiple-week #1 hit single, "Come Back Song," and fifth overall #1 single, "This." For more information, please visit www.dariusrucker.com.