



## **America's #1 Tribute Band, Lone Star Skynyrd, Honors their Idols**

*By Jim Haurylko from Meteorite Marketing*

There's a new #1 Tribute Band in the USA for 2023, according to industry judges of the rigorous competition known as the *Annual Josie Music Awards*.

**Lone Star Skynyrd** received the award live on stage at the legendary Ryman Auditorium in Nashville. I spoke with lead vocalist Steven Naylor to learn what drives this hot band to replicate Lynyrd Skynyrd's legendary music. Here's what he told me.

**Meteorite Marketing:** "As a serious lifetime fan of Lynyrd Skynyrd going back to '74, I want to congratulate you guys first on the Josie Music Awards. This was no have-your-friends-vote-on-their-phone kind of contest, right?"

**Lone Star Skynyrd:** "Thank you. I gotta say, when we went onstage to accept the award at the historic Ryman Auditorium... I mean that was unlike anything else we ever experienced. Surely one of the greatest nights of my life. The Josie Awards are really a deep-dive examination of the nominated acts. It was rigorous. It's the largest, all-genre, privately-owned independent music awards show on the globe, man. Josie and Tinamarie Passatino are doing such great work in the music industry and beyond."

*Meteorite Marketing:* "Your band smokes the stage with your phenomenal renditions of Skynyrd rock & roll. I mean, anybody can attempt to play "Sweet Home Alabama" on an electric guitar, even me. I had the band at my wedding reception attempt 'Free Bird.' I've tried to forget that. But Lone Star Skynyrd, you're such an amazing recreation of the Skynyrd sound, it's startling. Why focus on this band? Doesn't the world need one more Led Zep tribute?"

**Lone Star Skynyrd:** "Thanks for the kind words. Our band felt like we could go on doing our own original music and hope one day we might get some traction. But hundreds of thousands, maybe millions of bands, have had the same hope. We're all from the great state of Texas, so as southern boys, we got a mad respect for what the late Ronnie Van Zant and Lynyrd Skynyrd accomplished in such a short four-year time frame. Besides, you don't wanna hear Led Zep with a Texas accent, do ya?"

*Meteorite Marketing:* “What do you see in the crowd when you’re up on stage playing these songs?”

**Lone Star Skynyrd:** “You mean what we can talk about here? (Laughs) The crowd knows it’s gonna be a good time party with our band playing Skynyrd’s biggest classics. So they’re ready to sing along and sip a little and dance around. When we play “Saturday Night Special” or “Simple Man” or “You Got That Right,” it’s a profound honor for us. We’re paying homage to some of the greatest and most original rock & roll ever created. We play this music because audiences still want to hear it done right. The crowds are cheering us on, singing along, havin’ a good ol’ time. And so are we.”

*Meteorite Marketing:* “Fans may not realize it, but Lynyrd Skynyrd’s music had seven down-home near-virtuosos ripping into it and playing tight. How hard is it to play these songs and do them justice?”

**Lone Star Skynyrd:** “You’re right. These classics of Lynyrd Skynyrd are really very intricate. They deserve a band to play them like they oughta be played. Man, the overarching goal in Lone Star Skynyrd is this simple: ‘Exactly like the records.’ That’s the rule we rely on. We’re dedicated to blazing every elaborate riff, thumping every drum fill, nailing every note Ronnie hit—just making it exactly like the record. And the audiences and the promoters see that.”

*Meteorite Marketing:* “What makes promoters and booking agencies bring you to their stages?”

**Lone Star Skynyrd:** “First, it’s the timeless Skynyrd music we all know and love. ‘Sweet Home Alabama’ and ‘What’s Your Name’ and ‘Free Bird’ and other Skynyrd tunes are still played all over on radio and satellite radio because they’re timeless classics. Secondly, promoters say we play it right and tight and we turn the place into a giant party that keeps the crowd buying ‘beverages,’ if you dig what I’m saying. That helps push up the numbers for the festival or casino. Thirdly, we play like the veteran dedicated musicians we are onstage. But we operate like business partners offstage with booking agencies. We make contracts and riders simple, treat everybody right. We show up for walkthroughs and sound checks. We’re punctual. And we all dig seein’ the crowds singin’ along and dancin’ in the aisles to these awesome Skynyrd tracks we tear into.”

*Meteorite Marketing:* “Why do you say this is the year of Lone Star Skynyrd?”

***Lone Star Skynyrd:*** “It’s because our band has so much talent and we’re even more dedicated to driving crowds wild with note-for-note Skynyrd recreations. We’re out to give each audience a performance they can’t ever forget. We work with excellent promoters. Our calendar is fillin’ up real quick, faster this year than the past five years since we started. The buzz we’re gettin’ from fairs and festivals and casinos we played is really strong. No doubt, this is our best year yet. That’s why I wanna thank everyone we’ve worked with, past and present. And we’re looking forward to rockin’ some cool new venues we got cookin’ for this year, too. Check out our videos on our new website: [www.LoneStarSkynyrd.com](http://www.LoneStarSkynyrd.com).”