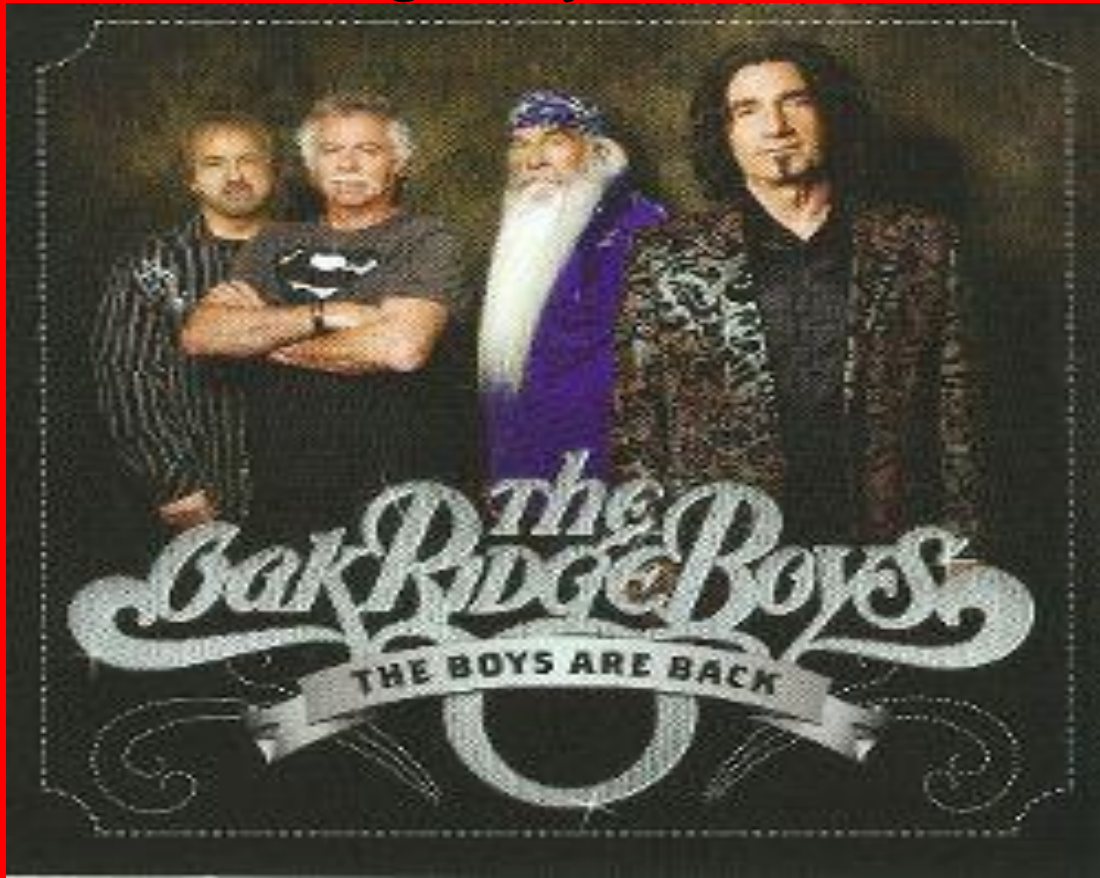


# Oak Ridge Boys in Concert



*One of  
the  
longest  
running  
groups  
in  
Country  
Music*

Honeywell Center at Wabash, IN

**Saturday**

**Dec 14**

**2019**

**\$179**

per person

For Credit Card Payments Add \$4  
cancellation insurance available

Your Tour Includes:

- Motorcoach Transportation
- Delicious Dinner at Back 40
- Reserved Seating for Oak Ridge Boys Live
- JB Tours Escort & Gift Certificate Drawing

- 1:30 pm Depart Fostoria Shopping Plaza
- 2:00 pm Depart Tiffin Wal-Mart Lot
- 2:30 pm Depart Findlay Wal-Mart (Tiffin Ave)
- 4:00 pm Dinner at Back 40
- 5:30 pm Depart for Show
- 7:30 pm Oak Ridge Boys Show
- 12:30 am Approximate Return time

**A \$10 DEPOSIT WILL GUARANTEE YOUR RESERVATION**

\*\*\*\*\*FINAL PAYMENT IS DUE 45 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTURE \*\*\*\*\*

In case of cancellation all monies will be refunded, except for any expenses incurred that cannot be recovered.  
(NO SHOWS WILL FORFEIT ALL MONIES PAID)

**JB Tours of Ohio**

PO Box 150  
Fostoria OH 44830

**We Keep the Cost Down & the Excitement up!**

419 435-8165

[www.jbtours.net](http://www.jbtours.net)



One of the longest-running groups in country music, **the Oak Ridge Boys** started life as a gospel quartet before gradually modernizing their style and moving into secular country-pop. Yet even at the height of their popularity in the late '70s and early '80s -- when they were big enough to cross over to the pop charts -- their sound always remained deeply rooted in country gospel harmony. Their existence dates all the way back to World War II, circa 1942-1943, when a Knoxville, Tennessee group began performing gospel songs in nearby Oak Ridge, the home of an atomic bomb research facility. The group's members also performed in a larger aggregation called **Wally Fowler & the Georgia Clodhoppers**, which recorded for Capitol. However, lead singer **Fowler** decided to focus on gospel music in 1945. Dubbed **the Oak Ridge Quartet**, the group first appeared at the Grand Ole Opry that year and made their first recordings in 1947 with a lineup of **Fowler**, **Lon "Deacon" Freeman**, **Curly Kinsey**, and **Johnny New**.

Numerous personnel shifts ensued over the next few years, particularly in 1949, when the entire group split from **Fowler**; at that point, he hired a completely different band, the **Bob Weber**-led **Calvary Quartet**, to assume the **Oak Ridge** name. With a core of **Fowler** and **Weber**, plus a revolving-door cast of supporting vocalists, the group became one of the top draws on the Southern gospel circuit, continuing up to the end of 1956. At that point, **Fowler** disbanded the quartet and sold the name to group member **Smitty Gatlin**, who organized a new lineup in early 1957. In 1961, **Gatlin** changed their name to **the Oak Ridge Boys**, made them a full-time professional act, and started to modernize their sound on record with fuller arrangements and elements of country and folk. Future mainstay **William Lee Golden** joined as the group's baritone vocalist in 1964, and when **Gatlin** retired to become a full-time minister two years later, the group, acting on **Golden's** recommendation, hired ex-**Southernaires** singer **Duane Allen** as his replacement on lead vocals.

With bass singer **Noel Fox** and tenor singer **Willie Wynn**, **the Oak Ridge Boys** continued to broaden their appeal by adapting their sound to the times, adding a drummer to their backing band and incorporating bits of pop and even rock into their country gospel style. As a result, they grew into one of the most popular gospel acts of the late '60s, despite purist criticism over their secular influences and increasingly long-haired image. They even won their first Grammy in 1970 for "Talk About the Good Times." **Fox** and **Wynn** were replaced by **Richard Sterban** (ex-**Keystone Quartet**) and Philadelphia native **Joe Bonsall** in 1972 and 1973, respectively, and this lineup would remain intact for the next decade-and-a-half. In 1973, they recorded a single with **Johnny Cash** and **the Carter Family** called "Praise the Lord and Pass the Soup," which brought them their first appearance on the country charts. In 1975, they opened a series of tour dates for **Roy Clark**, whose manager was highly impressed and encouraged them to try their hands at secular country.

The Oak Ridge Boys signed with Columbia later that year but found the initial transition a rough one: they split their time between country and gospel, and without a strong identity their sales dropped. The resulting financial problems nearly forced them to disband, and a discouraged Columbia gave up on them after the 1976 single, "Family Reunion," barely charted, even though labelmate **Paul Simon** had tapped them to sing backup on his hit "Slip Slidin' Away." Fortunately, they got another chance with MCA and scored a breakout Top Five hit in 1977 with "Y'all Come Back Saloon," the title song from their label debut. The follow-up, "You're the One," reached number two, and their next album, 1978's **Room Service**, gave them their first number one hit in "I'll Be True to You" as well as two more Top Five hits in "Cryin' Again" and "Come on In."

Thus established as country hitmakers, **the Oak Ridge Boys** embarked on a run of chart success that would last through the '80s. **Golden** stopped cutting his hair and beard altogether, giving the group a hugely recognizable visual signature, as well. They hit number one again in 1980 with "Trying to Love Two Women," but it was the following year that would make them a genuine phenomenon. Their recording of "Elvira," an obscure, doo wop-style novelty song from the '60s, became a major, Grammy-winning crossover smash. Not only did it hit number one on the country charts, but its infectious "oom-pop-a-mow-mow" bass vocal hook boosted it into the Top Five on the pop charts. Its accompanying album, **Fancy Free**, became their first to top the country charts, not to mention their biggest seller to date. The title cut of their chart-topping 1982 follow-up, **Bobbie Sue**, also went number one country and nearly made the pop Top Ten as well. **American Made's** title track also topped the charts in 1983, as did its follow-up, "Love Song." In early 1984, **Deliver** became their third number one country album and landed two more number one singles that year with "Everyday" and "I Guess It Never Hurts to Hurt Sometimes." 1985 brought three number ones: "Little Things," "Make My Life with You," and "Touch a Hand, Make a Friend."

The Oak Ridge Boys' sales began to slow a bit in the latter half of the '80s, but they still produced big hits with regularity. They hit number one in 1987 ("It Takes a Little Rain," "This Crazy Love"), 1988 ("Gonna Take a Lot of River"), and 1990 ("No Matter How High"), giving them a total of 16 career country chart-toppers (and 29 Top Ten hits). However, by that point, the group's longtime lineup had split -- **Golden**, whose mountain-man appearance was increasingly supported by his rugged lifestyle, was given the boot in 1987 in an attempt to remake the group's image. He was replaced by longtime backing-band guitarist **Steve Sanders** and sued his former bandmates, eventually settling out of court. In 1991, **the Oak Ridge Boys** parted ways with MCA and signed with RCA, but after just two albums, it was apparent that their commercial prime had passed, and the relationship ended. The group returned to traditional-style country gospel on occasion during the '90s and continued to tour.

The Oak Ridge Boys were inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 2015. Early 2018 saw the release of the single "Brand New Star" ahead of the arrival of the **Dave Cobb**-produced full-length **17th Avenue Revival**, which dropped later that March.