

## THE QUEEN, AS IMAGINED

# From punk rock to mystery novels

Queen Elizabeth II impacted pop culture in many different ways

HILLEL ITALIE  
Associated Press

In the spring of 2012, portrait artist Ralph Heimans stood on the Cosmati pavement of Westminster Abbey and awaited the subject of his latest commission, Queen Elizabeth II. When she approached, he says, it was an extraordinary moment.

"She was wearing her Robe of State, with four footmen holding it, and as she came down the long

corridor it was a very theatrical kind of entrance," Heimans said soon after he had learned that the queen had died Thursday at age 96.

After spending an hour the queen, "discussing niceties," he came away with "a sense of how thoughtful she was, almost a sense of shyness, an introspective quality." In his oil painting, which hangs in Westminster, he drew her as a solitary, even brooding figure, her eyes cast down, with the vastness of Westminster behind her like so much weight from the past — and present.

"I wanted to show her in this private moment, with a certain

gravity about her," he says.

Over the past 70 years, authors, filmmakers, playwrights, songwriters and painters have responded to the queen as both symbol and human being, whether commenting on the heights of her position or attempting to tease out the inner life of a woman who spoke infrequently in public and avoided personal revelations. The dual qualities, majesty and mystery, found her imagined in settings ranging from the sobriety of royal art to the rage of punk music to the varied characterizations of film and television.



NETFLIX, LEFT, AND AP PHOTOS

This combination of photos shows Olivia Colman portraying Queen Elizabeth II in a scene from the third season of "The Crown," left, and Queen Elizabeth II on Oct. 20, 1973, at the Sydney Opera House in Sydney, Australia.

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PROVIDED

Marion's Brice Williams snaps a drumkit selfie prior to playing at an outdoor country music festival.

# Cymbals of success

Marion native Brice Williams is living his dream as a drummer

LES O'DELL  
The Southern

There have been millions of drumbeats, thousands of miles and at least 25 years since Brice Williams first played drums at the Marion Cultural Civic Center.

In fact, Brice Williams was the last drummer to play the former venue before the landmark was destroyed by fire in 1997. Then, accompanying those on stage for Marion High School's performance of "Bye-Bye, Birdie," he was playing drums in the orchestra pit.

Next week, he'll be back at the Marion Cultural and Civic Center, this time on the stage, but still drumming, accompanying one of the biggest names in country music.

Williams is the drummer and tour manager for Mark Wills, who, along with Lorrie Morgan, will be in concert in Marion, on Thursday, Sept. 22.

"Basically, I'm doing my dream

job; it's all I ever wanted to do," Williams, told The Southern from his home in suburban Nashville. "I got bit by the drumming bug early and I was attracted to it."

He grew up with music all around. His father was a member of Jackson Junction, a popular Southern Illinois country band. Then, a 1992 concert at Southern Illinois University Carbondale sealed the young Williams' fate.

"Diamond Rio was opening for Alan Jackson and I became just absolutely enamored with Diamond Rio's drummer, Brian Prout, at that show. I loved his playing and wanted to emulate him," Williams recalled. "It was that concert in 1992 that just solidified that drumming is what I wanted to do."

He said since, not only has he become a professional country musician like Prout, but the two have become friends.

"This has become one of those things that 14 year-old

me never would have thought could happen," he added.

Plenty has happened since the concert at SIU and playing drums at Marion High School. Williams attended Belmont University in Nashville, studying music and learning from other musicians he idolized including drummer Chester Thompson, best known for his work with Genesis and Phil Collins. He said he learned a great deal from Thompson, as well as other drummers he has studied with including jazz drummer Dave Weckl and an award winning drummer known as Zoro.

While a student, Williams landed his first "real" country touring gig in 2002 with Kevin Sharp. A couple of years later, Williams started playing drums with then-brand-new country artist Luke Bryan, then filled in as a drummer for Sawyer Brown. In 2006,

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## MARION

# Mark Wills and Lorrie Morgan to perform

LES O'DELL  
The Southern

Mark Wills and Lorrie Morgan, two country music stars who are usually headliners in their own right, are coming together for a single show, on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Marion Cultural and Civic Center.

"These are both super-successful artists, either one who could headline a show, coming together for a great evening of country music," explained promoter Cody Dunbar.

Dunbar said each artist has their own following, but their styles complement one another.

"It's two different kinds of sounds, with some obvious country music similarities," he said. "I think everybody will appreciate being about to see two great artists in one show and each will perform full set lists."

Wills had 16 singles on the Billboard charts, including "Wish You Were Here" and "19 Somethin'," both of which reached No. 1. Morgan had her first single at the age of 13 and has since hit the Billboard Hot Country chart more than 40 times, including three No. 1 singles: "Five Minutes," "What Part of No" and "I Didn't Know My Own Strength." She is a three-time Grammy nominee.

"Anytime someone has Grammy nominations, they are definitely worth seeing," Dunbar said of Morgan. "She has been big in Nashville for multiple decades and had an influence on so many other artists."

Lorrie Morgan and Mark Wills' concert is set for Thursday, Sept. 22. Ticket prices range from \$39.99-\$129.99 and are available at [www.marionccc.com](http://www.marionccc.com).

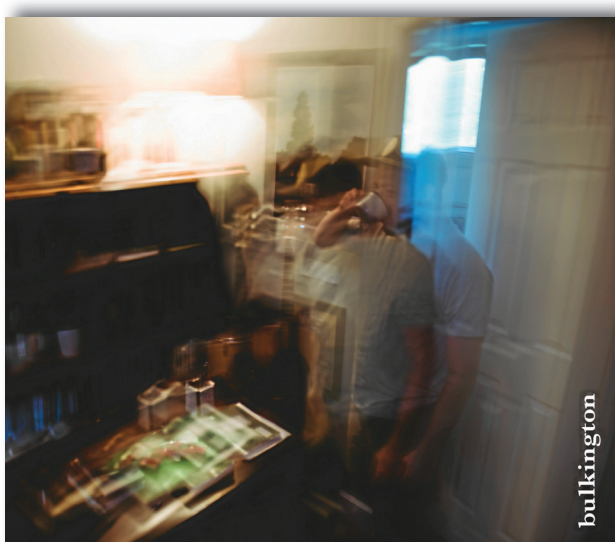
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PROVIDED

Mark Wills

Porcelain Country is the debut solo album from Marion native Max Martini, aka Bulkington. PROVIDED



## PORCELAIN COUNTRY

## MUSIC HISTORICITY

# Reviewing Porcelain Country

A solo release from Bulkington, a native of Southern Illinois

"Call me Ishmael" is the memorable first sentence of Herman Melville's 1851 literary epic "Moby Dick," possibly alluding to the narrator being a messenger as well as an outcast, same as the Old Testament biblical prophet.

And you can call Marion native Maximillian Martini by his similar one-word stage name,



GARY GIBULA

Bulkington, also taken from Moby Dick. Although hardly an outcast, his debut solo album, to be released this Friday, is his musical message.

As one of the River to River Community Records stable of artists, Sad Max Senteney labels the Bulkington sound and new album as 'crooked Country.' "It's a nine-song digital release titled 'Porcelain Country,'"

Bulkington said. "I had an uncle who called me and my musician brothers 'the porcelain boys' because we weren't quite country enough and we didn't hunt or fish. The word 'porcelain' implies so many things that I thought it was perfect for this album."

Similar to Katt Holiday's release, "Bruise," Bulkington's sound bridges waters and musical genres that go far from evoking traditional Country twang.

Holiday contributes

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