



Country star Dave Russell sings original music and covers other country songs.

## Good ol' country music by "good ol' southern boy"

*Country star Dave Russell performs original, cover songs*

**By Katie Freeman**  
Lifestyle & Arts Reporter

"I'm a good ol' southern boy from North Carolina," said country musician Dave Russell, who will be performing at the Elk Grove Western Festival on May 2.

Russell grew-up the youngest of seven children in rural North Carolina. He always wanted to perform country music at a professional level.

Russell has never had any formal

training. He taught himself to play many instruments including guitar, drums, percussion, keys and harmonica.

His musical skills have been aided by some of the talented musicians he's played with.

"I always feel like I've been lucky enough to play with a lot of great musicians," he said.

Now, he is the most booked country act in Northern California, with more than 200 shows each year.

He will perform with three other band members, one who is from Elk Grove.

Rick Noring plays drums; George Pfeifer is the lead guitarist, and music director and bass player Maury Rosas

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## Russell

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is from Elk Grove.

"It's always good to get in front of a crowd that's one of our hometowns," Russell said.

The group plays a lot of original songs and covers popular country music too.

He likes to write songs about a spectrum of life occurrences that every person can relate too.

Russell said his songs are about his kids, Southern life, partying and a variety of events.

"When we write, we write about our own experiences," he said.

Russell has traveled the country playing at numerous county fairs, casinos, rodeos, country music events and on cruise ships.

"We do a lot of what we call one-offs," he said. One-offs are when they perform at a venue and move to another venue the next night.

Currently, he performs around California.

"We travel as far north as Oregon and as far south as San Diego," he said.

The country singer and entertainer came with numerous recommendations and enthusiastic reviews from former event managers and newspapers.

After all, he has been performing in various venues for some time.

From his first appearance on the television show "Star Search," to his work in movies, print ads, live production shows, music videos and his own sold-out shows, Russell is a seasoned entertainer.

He has also enjoyed success as an actor, model and recently, doing voice-overs.

Russell said he's looking forward to playing at the Elk Grove Western Festival for the first time.

"It doesn't matter where you're from or what you do, there's a little of country in everybody and that's what we try to bring out," he said.

Performance times are 1:30 p.m. to 2:20 p.m. and 3:55 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. at the Strauss Island Amphitheatre.

