

Chad Brownlee headlines Hoedown's Friday night

Award-winning country singer Chad Brownlee will headline the first night of Magna's annual Wild, Wild West Hoedown. Brownlee, an award-winning singer, songwriter, philanthropist and former NHL draft pick, will open York Region's biggest two-night party, starting with a rollicking show Sept. 15.

With over a billion radio impressions to date, his singles have rapidly climbed the country music charts, observed Erin Cerenzia, coordinator of Magna for the Community and Neighbourhood Network. Most recently, he garnered a highly coveted 2017 Juno Award nomination for Country Album of the Year, earned Gold certification for his single, I Hate You For It, celebrated his first video on CMT, and achieved his third consecutive Top 10 hit with the single Somethin' We Shouldn't Do.

Brownlee's story is a unique one on the country music scene.

Few emerging country stars can boast about making the NHL draft, nor his philanthropic work with the Tim Horton Children's Foundation, but he says he lives by the credence that opportunity lies along the path created by the choices you make.

Since embarking on his country music career, he has racked up more than one billion radio impressions so far and has also received recognition on the road with his Hearts on Fire Tour, launched in January, which he co-headlined in some venues with fellow country star Tim Hicks.

(I Hate You For It) is my favourite song on the new album, he said of Hearts on Fire. It's got an edge that is slightly softened by an underlying addictive love. We can become entangled in one another. A conscious knowing of the intoxicating power one person can have over our emotions. We lay prisoner to the chains of infatuation. Like the lyrics say, one is literally 'punch drunk crazy'! Hearts on Fire is his fourth studio album. It is characterized as reflective, conveying a philosophical honesty regarding his musical journey.

(It is) quite surreal actually, he said. I'm starting to grow to accept how incomprehensible time is. I really didn't know what to expect when I started down this music road. It's like watching a bucket of water fill up one drop at a time. In the moment it may seem slow, but before you know it, the drops have filled the entire bucket.

At the beginning of my journey, and still to this day, I just want to write the best song in each moment of creativity and sing the best I can sing each time I perform.