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**Michael Hearne's Annual Big Barn Dance Returns to Taos for 16<sup>th</sup> Year, Sept.6-8**  
*Three-day Americana music extravaganza to be held at Kit Carson Park*

(Taos, NM) More than 30 country, folk, Americana and bluegrass artists are set to perform at Michael Hearne's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Big Barn Dance Music Festival this year, September 6 – 8 at Kit Carson Park. Doors open on Thursday and Friday, September 6 and 7, at 12 p.m. and on Saturday, September 8 at 11 a.m. Ticket options for this event include individual day passes for \$49.30, a three-day pass for \$117.50 or a Barn Dance Only pass for \$19.82.

This year's festival will commence with the Taos Art Gallery Stroll with Michael Hearne and Friends on Wednesday, September 5. Beginning at 4:00 at David Anthony Fine Art on Kit Carson Road, music and art aficionados can join Michael and friends for an early evening of fine art and music. The gallery stroll is free and open to the public.

Tickets to the Big Barn Dance can be purchased here:  
<https://tickets.holdmyticket.com/tickets/310847> or at the door while supplies last.

Michael Hearne is a country, folk and Americana singer-songwriter who has made a great impression on the southwest with his unique sound, vast fan base and evocative songwriting. Hearne along with his band, South by Southwest, and Jimmy Stadler, will kick off the festival with the first performance on Thursday and will be followed by a range of artists including Jed Zimmerman, Chuck Cannon, Hayes Carll and Bill Kirchen. Day two will feature performances by Bob Livingston, John Fullbright, Walt Wilkins and The Mystiquero, and more.

Saturday, September 8 will feature a free dance lesson at the Big Barn Dance tent from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., as well as a songwriting workshop with Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Taos Center for the Arts. Festival ticket holders will be charged \$35 per person for the workshop and all others \$50 per person. Following the morning's event will be performances by Beat Root Revival, Warren Hood, hONEY house, and more, with South by Southwest and special guests closing the weekend. Saturday will also feature the Barn Dance, where all chairs are removed from the listening tents to create a dancing area at 7:30 p.m.

There will be multiple food vendors and a full bar present during the weekend. However, visitors should keep in mind that the bar is cash-only and there will be no on-site ATM.

For more information, visit <http://bigbardance.com/>.

***More about the Town of Taos...***

Located just 135 miles from Albuquerque's International Sunport and a short, 90-minute drive from Santa Fe, Taos is home to the country's oldest continuously-inhabited pueblo community, the state's newest national monument, and the highest peak in New Mexico. World-class skiing, hiking, camping, whitewater rafting, kayaking, fishing, and mountain biking can all be found nearby. Motorists enjoy the region's celebrated scenic drives, including the Enchanted Circle and the High Road from Santa Fe to Taos. The area also boasts ample four-wheeling and off road trails that crisscross the backcountry. Golf Digest's four-star-rated Taos Country Club championship golf course offers players spectacular scenery and panoramic mountain views. Other hidden Taos travel gems include cultural sites like the San Francisco de Asis Church, the downtown plaza, "El Corazon de Taos," as well as museums and galleries, weekend music and art festivals, and even llama trekking adventures. Finally, most Taos travelers find that their getaways are not complete without indulging in the local New Mexico cuisine and its famous red and green chile options that infiltrate everything from breakfast burritos to pizza. To learn more, go to [www.taos.org](http://www.taos.org).

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