

Mandrell Brings Holiday Joy to Music City

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Louise Mandrell's "Joy to the World" Christmas Dinner & Show (All ages)

Nov. 15 - Dec. 25

Opryland Hotel's Delta Ballroom A

2800 Opryland Drive, Nashville

christmasatgaylordopryland.com

Remaining Show Times: Nov. 22 - 23, Nov. 26 - Dec. 6, Dec. 12 - 13, Dec. 15 - 25 at 5 p.m. (additional 8 p.m. shows take place Saturday, Dec. 6 and Friday, Dec. 12)

Tickets: \$65 adults, \$32.50 ages 4 - 11, free ages 3 and younger (tax inclusive)



Gaylord Opryland celebrates 25 years of its annual "A Country Christmas" celebration this season, and it pulls out all the stops by adding one of country music's most seasoned entertainers to its mix of holiday attractions — Louise Mandrell.

Mandrell's "Joy to the World" Christmas Dinner & Show is a festive, fabulous, family experience. A hearty, three-course family-style meal kicks things off. You won't leave hungry here. First up is a wonderful offering of tossed salad, palate-pleasing Waldorf salad, seasoned cheeses, fresh fruit and cranberry rolls. The main course features an exquisite beef tenderloin pot pie, chicken and dressing, green beans with red peppers, scalloped potatoes and a to-die-for sweet potato casserole. But leave room for dessert! Sate your sweet tooth with a country-style bread pudding, complete with an eggnog English cream topping on the side, or dive into a slice of cheesecake with chocolate shavings and an optional cherry sauce. If you have finicky little eaters, never fear. The folks in the kitchen are happy to serve up kid-friendly fare in the form of chicken strips and French fries.

The true highlight of the evening, of course, is Mandrell herself. Backed by the eight-member Rick King Orchestra and four back-up singers, the 54-year-old, multi-talented entertainer takes the audience on a delightful, one-hour musical journey of holiday favorites including "Joy to the World," "Silent Night," "O Holy Night," "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," "Angels we Have Heard on High" and more.

Mandrell's voice is triumphant as she belts the songs of the season, putting her signature touch on them along the way. She also delivers a bit of sketch comedy in the form of "Lou the Mailman." In true showmanship style, Mandrell saves the best for last when she gives the audience a taste of her impeccable musical talent on a variety of instruments including a snare drum, steel drums, an accordion, electric bass and fiddle. She deftly masters each one while infusing the sounds of other lands in more holiday fare like "The Little Drummer Boy," "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Feliz Navidad," "Merry Christmas Polka" and "Silver Bells."

Ending the evening on a truly energetic note, Mandrell showcases her fancy footwork as she high kicks, twirls and flips her way through “Winter Wonderland” before heading to the lobby for a meet-and-greet with her fans.

The show is a pure delight, and a perfect way to get into the cheerful spirit of the Christmas season with your family. There aren’t many entertainers of Mandrell’s caliber around these days, and it was fun to see the awestruck looks on the faces of the children in the audience as they experienced her immense talent. Mandrell is a true inspiration, and isn’t that what the magic of this season is really all about?