



## PAUL BRANDT BIOGRAPHY

Paul Brandt is the most awarded male Canadian Country Music artist in history. Since his million-selling debut album “Calm Before The Storm”, his has been an unlikely journey of humble beginnings and big dreams to fame and stardom. It is an engaging story of a young man who followed his passion to make a difference in the lives of others using his musical ability. It has been a twisting road that has given him an audience with music legends, global leaders, royalty, and placed him on the world’s largest stages.

A former pediatric registered nurse, Brandt had a passion for words and poetry early in life, and began to write music at the age of 13. Greatly inspired by both the Gospel music he heard at the church his family attended, and by the Western heritage, tradition, and culture of 1980s Alberta, the music that he created immediately skewed towards a Singer/Songwriter style, and towards Country Music.

For as long as he can remember, Paul loved to sing and write poetry and music. He also had the goal of one day becoming a doctor. While reaching for his medical dreams during his college years, he started entering and winning talent competitions, one of which was the Youth Talent Showdown at the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. Brandt credits these contests as events that altered the course of his life. Label executives began to take notice, and by the age of 21, Brandt had been signed to a seven-album deal with Warner/Reprise Records Nashville, alongside label-mates Faith Hill, Randy Travis, and more.

By 1996, Brandt had become the first Canadian male country artist to reach the Billboard Top Ten in the US since Hank Snow in 1974, and a string of number one hits and gold and platinum albums followed.

Spurred on by an independent, entrepreneurial spirit, and his non-compromising artistic vision, in 2001 Brandt petitioned to be released from his contract, which was eventually granted by Reprise, and he formed an independent label called Brand-T Records. The move proved to be the right one for Brandt creatively and commercially. Each of the five albums released from 2002 onwards have been recognized by industry leaders with Album of the Year awards.

The split from the label opened doors for Paul and his wife Elizabeth (whom he has been married to since 1997), to help realize the dream of putting down roots back in Alberta. Carried by the popularity of songs like “Leavin’”, “Alberta Bound”, “Didn’t Even See The Dust”, and his remake of the C.W. McCall classic “Convoy”, Paul’s life imitated his own music as the lines of his song “Alberta Bound” seemingly carried him from Nashville, Tennessee back to his birthplace of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Paul’s career came full circle in July 2012 in that once in a lifetime moment, reuniting him with The Calgary Exhibition and Stampede. Paul was proud to headline the sold-out Centennial Grandstand show called “Century” for all 10 days.

Paul continues to chart his career forward with new music. *Just As I Am*, his 11<sup>th</sup> studio album (released October 2012), features well-known Gospel songs. The album includes collaborations with artists including Patty Loveless, Ricky Skaggs, Dan Tyminski, John Anderson, The Whites, The Isaacs, Jon Randall Stewart and High Valley.

In addition to his many industry accolades and awards, Paul has an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Lethbridge and an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Briercrest College and Seminary. Along with his wife Liz and their two children Joseph and Lily, Paul is committed using his music as a platform to create a positive impact on the lives of people in communities around the world through the charitable Build It Forward Foundation he has established. Paul and his family are also active with a number of international organizations close to their hearts.



## PHILANTHROPIC HIGHLIGHTS



Through the Build It Forward Foundation, founded by Paul Brandt, money and awareness are being raised to help people around the world in practical ways. Build It Forward's focus is on issues facing widows and orphans, the poorest of the poor, marginalized people groups, and people in emergency need in North America and abroad. We encourage neighbours to help neighbours, and facilitate service opportunities and education about issues facing the world's poor. These activities are done in the example of Jesus Christ, and in the spirit of loving our neighbours as ourselves.

Portions of proceeds from all of Paul's business activities flow to his Foundation.

Other causes and charities that Paul has supported through the years include, but are not limited to:

- Turn on the Tap (Samaritan's Purse)
- Operation Christmas Child (Samaritan's Purse)
- Alberta Children's Hospital Foundation
- Country 105 Cares For Kids Radiothon
- World Vision (Ethiopia, Malawi, Tour Partner)
- Ratanak Foundation (Cambodia)
- Place of Rescue (Cambodia)



## QUICK FACTS

- Paul Brandt is the most awarded male Canadian country artist in history.
- Paul has played at the legendary Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee twice, including a performance in March 2013 alongside Grammy Award<sup>®</sup> winning artists Ricky Skaggs and The Whites.
- Paul released his 11<sup>th</sup> studio album (October 2012), *Just As I Am*, featuring well-loved Gospel songs. Released by Brand-T Records, *Just As I Am* features amazing vocal contributions from Patty Loveless, Ricky Skaggs, Dan Tyminski, John Anderson, The Whites, The Isaacs, Jon Randall Stewart and High Valley.
- From July 6-15, 2012, Paul Brandt was the first-ever headline act for all 10 performances of the Calgary Stampede's sold-out Centennial Grandstand Show, aptly called "Century". This was a "full circle" moment for Paul, as he had the first big start for his career at the Stampede when he won the 1992 Calgary Stampede Talent Search, formerly known as Youth Talent Showdown.
- Paul's 10<sup>th</sup> studio album *Give It Away* and the *NOW* Box Set were released in 2011 on his label Brand-T Records. *Give It Away* was named the Canadian Country Album of the Year 2011 from iTunes Rewind and features revisited versions of Paul's smash hits "I Do" and "My Heart Has A History".
- Paul performed "Give It Away" for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their 2011 Canadian Tour. "Give It Away" was also the theme song for Paul Brandt's BUILD IT FORWARD, which premiered in 2011 on CMT (Canada).
- Paul was honoured to have the song "For You" (written by Brandt and Steve Rosen) chosen for a duet between the legendary Johnny Cash and Dave Matthews.
- Each of the Brand-T catalogue albums (*Small Towns & Big Dreams*, *This Time Around*, *Risk, A Gift*, *Give It Away*, *Just As I Am*) have been recognized with Top Country Album or Album of the Year awards.
- Paul's first-ever Box Set entitled *NOW* features all of Paul's award-winning Brand-T albums, *Give It Away*, a full size colour book and a retrospective DVD.
- Paul Brandt's *NOW* tour crossed Canada in late 2011 and early 2012. The tour was a resounding success and got fans talking, generating a remarkable 5.2 million impressions through his @paulbrandt twitter account.
- In 2011 Paul Brandt's "Up from the Ashes" benefit concert raised more than \$170,000 to benefit victims of the fires that devastated Slave Lake, Alberta in May 2011. The money raised was used to rebuild the Slave Lake Regional Library and the City decided to donate 25 per cent of the proceeds raised to those in need in a developing country.
- "I Was There", the theme song for the 2012 World Junior Hockey Championships was written and recorded by Paul Brandt.



## DISCOGRAPHY

### ***Just As I Am*** (Brand-T Records, 2012)

*Just As I Am* is a Gospel album of some of Paul's favourite Hymns. *Just As I Am* is produced by Gordon Mote, who for years was the pianist for legendary songwriters Bill and Gloria Gaither. Guest artists include Patty Loveless, Ricky Skaggs, John Anderson, Dan Tyminski, The Isaacs, The Whites, Jon Randall Stewart, High Valley, and Elizabeth Brandt.

### ***Give It Away*** (Brand-T Records, 2011) – Canadian Country Album of the Year, iTunes Rewind

Arguably his most diverse collection of songs, Paul's refined and enriched songwriting and singing capabilities are highlighted on this album, including "Give It Away", the theme song for the television documentary series, 'Paul Brandt's BUILD IT FORWARD.

### ***Risk*** (Brand-T Records, 2007) – 2008 Juno Award for Country Recording of the Year

In the short span of a decade, his name has become synonymous with Alberta, independence, and quality, but these accolades haven't come without a few twists and turns along the way. Ask Paul and he'll tell you they've been the product of years of give and take, faith, and grace, all words from the first single, "Didn't Even See The Dust", off of the album *Risk*.

### ***A Gift*** (Brand-T Records, 2007) – GMA Seasonal Recording of the Year

The follow up to the Platinum selling studio album *This Time Around* is Paul Brandt's second Christmas project, *A Gift*. It is his first Christmas album on Brand-T Records, and is a stunning set of traditional, contemporary, and original music.

### ***This Time Around*** (Brand-T Records, 2004) – 2004 CCMA Album of the Year

With the smash hits "Leavin'" featuring the guitar playing of Keith Urban, the anthem "Alberta Bound", and the C.W. McCall trucking classic remake "Convoy", this platinum album produced hit after hit. It was recorded at The Orchard Studio near Nashville, TN and produced by Steve Rosen and Paul Brandt.

### ***Small Towns and Big Dreams*** (Brand-T Records, 2001) – 2002 CCMA Album of the Year

Produced by Steve Rosen and Paul Brandt, this is one of Paul's most unique albums. Not long after leaving Warner/Reprise Records, Paul set out to record a live album of previously unrecorded songs, a shaky proposition at best. The fans and Canadian Radio, along with CMT Canada, all rallied to make it huge success and incredible landmark for Paul's career and his label, Brand-T Records.

### ***What I Want to be Remembered For*** (Warner/Reprise, 2000)

Paul's first greatest hits collection, this album encompasses the Warner/Reprise years plus two new songs, "What I Want To Be Remembered For", and "There's Nothing I Wouldn't Do".

### ***That's the Truth*** (Warner/Reprise, 1999)

Paul's only album produced by Chris Farren (Deana Carter), this is an upbeat, fun album. Notable songs on this project are "The Sycamore Tree", "Scrap Piece of Paper", and Brian Setzer's "Let's Live it Up".

### ***PB Christmas: Shall I Play for You*** (Warner/Reprise, 1997)

Paul's first Christmas album is a must have for any Paul Brandt fan, and is just fun to sing along to during the Holidays. From Christmas standards to new rockers to self-penned efforts, this project has a bit of something for everyone, no matter what Christmas means to you.

### ***Outside the Frame*** (Warner/Reprise, 1997)

Possibly the most experimental of all of Paul's albums and his second Reprise release, *Outside* spawned hits such as "Yeah", "Dry Eye", and "A Little in Love". Beginnings of artistic growth and expression began to take shape on this project.

***Calm Before the Storm*** (Warner/Reprise, 1996) Featuring the quintessential Country wedding standard "I Do", and the 'warning with a wink' rocker, "My Heart Has A History", this CD was the one that got it all started and was the world's introduction to Paul Brandt.



## AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- 2012 Best Country Albums List: *Just As I Am* by iTunes Canada
- 2011 Canadian Country Album of the Year: *Give It Away* by iTunes Rewind
- 2011 Alberta Music Awards Lifetime Achievement Award
- 2011 Performed for the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge during their tour of Canada
- 2010 Received an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Briercrest College and Seminary
- 2009 Earned an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts from the University of Lethbridge
- 2008 Outstanding Country Recording: *Risk* - Western Canadian Music Awards
- 2005 Country Music Association - Global Artist Of The Year
- 2005 Best Music Video: *Convoy* - Alberta Film & Television Awards
- 2005 Best Musical or Variety Show: *A Room Full of Heroes* - Alberta Film & Television Award
- 2004 Gemini Award - Best Performance or Host in a Variety Program or Series: For the 2003 Canadian Country Music Awards
- 1997 SOCAN Song Of The Year: *I Do*
- 1996 SOCAN Song Of The Year: *My Heart Has A History*
- 1996 Nashville Songwriters Association International: *I Do*
- 1996 Top New Male Artist - Country Music Television (US)
- 1996 Male Rising Video Star of the Year - Country Music Television (US)
- 1993 SOCAN Best Original Canadian Country Song: *Calm Before The Storm*
- 1992 Calgary Stampede Youth Talent Showdown - First Place

### Canadian Country Music Awards

- 2005 CMT Video Of The Year: *Convoy*
- 2005 Album Of The Year: *This Time Around*
- 2002 Album Of The Year: *Small Towns and Big Dreams*
- 2002 Male Artist Of The Year
- 2000 Video Of The Year: *That's The Truth*
- 2000 Male Artist Of The Year
- 1999 Male Artist Of The Year
- 1998 Humanitarian Award
- 1998 Male Vocalist Of The Year
- 1997 Video Of The Year: *I Do*
- 1997 Single Of The Year: *I Do*
- 1997 Male Artist Of The Year

### Juno Awards

- 2008 Allan Waters Humanitarian Award
- 2008 Country Recording Of The Year: *Risk*
- 2001 Best Country Male Artist
- 2000 Best Country Male Artist
- 1999 Best Country Male Vocalist



- 1998 Country Male Vocalist Of The Year
- 1998 Male Vocalist Of The Year
- 1997 Country Male Vocalist Of The Year

#### GMA Canada Covenant Awards

- 2007 Seasonal Album Of The Year: A Gift
- 2007 Seasonal Song Of The Year: A Gift
- 2005 Country/Bluegrass Song Of The Year: "That's What I Love About Jesus"

#### RPM Big Country Awards

- 2000 Top Country Male Vocalist
- 1998 Top Male Vocalist
- 1997 Best Country Video: My Heart Has A History
- 1997 Best Country Album: Calm Before The Storm
- 1997 Top Country Song: My Heart Has A History
- 1997 Canadian Country Artist of the Year
- 1997 Top Country Male Vocalist

#### Other Awards

- 2012 Calgary Board of Education Distinguished Alumni
- 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal