



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MISSISSIPPI

GERTRUDE C.  
**FORD CENTER**  
*for the Performing Arts*

# THE AVETT BROTHERS



**Thursday, Sept. 11, 2025 • 7:30 p.m.**

# About Gertrude Castellow Ford



With an ever-inquisitive mind, Gertrude Castellow Ford fully embraced the arts. As a patron, an observer and a practitioner, Mrs. Ford engaged in a lifelong exploration of all things of beauty and inspiration. Exceedingly well-read in poetry and classic literature, Mrs. Ford was often at the center of spirited discussions about the merits of all manner of literary works. Always at the very foundation of her spirit was a great and sincere love of the arts and letters.

In keeping with a generations-old family tradition of philanthropy, Mrs. Ford established the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation in Jackson, Mississippi, with a very generous gift in 1991 to support the arts in Mississippi. In addition to the donation for the construction of the Ford Center, the Foundation supports the USA International Ballet Competition, the Mississippi Opera, Mississippi Museum of Art, University of Southern Mississippi Orchestra and many others.

Mrs. Ford died in September of 1996. She and her husband, Aaron Lane Ford, who was an Ackerman attorney and U.S. congressman representing what was Mississippi's 4th District, are buried in Cuthbert, a small town in southwest Georgia.

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## Gertrude Castellow Ford Center for the Performing Arts

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## The Avett Brothers

Four-time GRAMMY Award nominees The Avett Brothers made mainstream waves with their critically acclaimed 2009 major label debut, *I and Love and You*. In 2012, *The Carpenter* hit #4 on the Billboard 200, followed by *Magpie and the Dandelion* in 2013, which debuted at #5 on the Billboard 200. The 2017 documentary *May It Last: A Portrait of The Avett Brothers* (co-directed by Judd Apatow and Michael Bonfiglio) chronicles the process of writing 2016's *True Sadness*, which debuted at #1 on Billboard's Top Albums, #1 on Rock Albums, #3 on the Billboard 200, and scored two Grammy nominations. The film was released theatrically and on HBO to rave reviews and is available on DVD/BluRay/VOD.

In 2019, the band released their tenth studio album *Closer Than Together* featuring the single "High Steppin'" which reached #1 on the Americana Radio Singles Chart. *The Third Gleam* came out amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and debuted at #1 on Billboard's Americana/Folk Albums, #1 Rock Albums, #1 Vinyl Albums, and the single "Victory" hit #1 on the Americana Radio Singles Chart. This year saw the release of *The Avett Brothers*, an album that is as much untitled as it is self-titled: a collection of songs that revealed themselves naturally over time. *Swept Away* - a musical inspired by & featuring the music of The Avett Brothers - recently debuted on Broadway. The Avett Brothers have been inducted into the North Carolina Music Hall of Fame and have earned a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Americana Music Association. They are currently on tour throughout the U.S.

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