

★ ★ ★ ★ ★
**AMAZING
AMERICANS**
COUNTRY MUSIC STARS

BLAKE

SHELTON



by Jim Gigliotti

[Intentionally Left Blank]



BLAKE SHELTON

by Jim Gigliotti

Consultant: Starshine Roshell
Music and Entertainment Journalist
Santa Barbara, California

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

New York, New York

Credits

Cover, © Charles Sykes/Invision/AP Photo; 4, © jejim/Shutterstock; 5, © AP Photo/Mark Humphrey; 6, Courtesy Seth Poppel Yearbook Library; 7, © Richard McMillin/Dreamstime; 8, Courtesy Seth Poppel Yearbook Library; 9, © NIK Creative/Alamy Stock; 10, Courtesy SPG; 11, © AP Photo/Chillicothe Gazette/Robert J. Moorhead; 12, © Featureflash/Dreamstime; 13, © Laura Farr/ZUMA Press/Newscom; 14, © Splash News/Alamy Stock; 15, © AF Archive/Alamy Stock Photo; 16, © David Morris/Dreamstime; 17, © Kristin Callahan/ACE/Newscom; 19, © BG017/Bauergriffin.com/MEGA/Newscom; 20, Courtesy Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation; 21, © Derek Storm/Everett Collection/Alamy Stock Photo; 22T, © AF Archive/Alamy Stock Photo; 22B, © Olivier Le Queinec/Dreamstime; 23L, © Isselee/Dreamstime; 23R, © Isselee/Dreamstime.

Publisher: Kenn Goin

Creative Director: Spencer Brinker

Production and Photo Research: Shoreline Publishing Group LLC

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Names: Gigliotti, Jim, author. | Roshell, Starshine.

Title: Blake Shelton / by Jim Gigliotti ; consultant: Starshine Roshell.

Description: New York, New York : Bearport Publishing, 2019. | Series:

Amazing Americans: Country music stars | Includes bibliographical references and index.

Identifiers: LCCN 2018011084 (print) | LCCN 2018012370 (ebook) |

ISBN 9781684027286 (ebook) | ISBN 9781684026821 (library)

Subjects: LCSH: Shelton, Blake—Juvenile literature. | Country

musicians—United States—Biography—Juvenile literature.

Classification: LCC ML3930.S485 (ebook) | LCC ML3930.S485 G54 2019 (print) |

DDC 782.421642092 [B] —dc23

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2018011084>

Copyright © 2019 Bearport Publishing Company, Inc. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without written permission from the publisher.

For more information, write to Bearport Publishing Company, Inc., 45 West 21st Street, Suite 3B, New York, New York 10010. Printed in the United States of America.

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

CONTENTS

A Great Start	4
Outdoor Living	6
Getting Started	8
Hard Work	10
Remembering Richie	12
TV Star	14
Hit After Hit	16
A New Style	18
True to His Roots	20
Timeline	22
Glossary	23
Index	24
Read More	24
Learn More Online	24
About the Author	24

A Great Start

In May 2001, Blake Shelton stepped onstage at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tennessee. At the time, Blake was an unknown. He sang a heartfelt **ballad** called “Austin.” Claps and cheers rang out in the concert hall. The crowd loved it! Blake was on his way to becoming a huge country star.

The Grand Ole Opry opened in 1925. It's a place where country musicians perform.



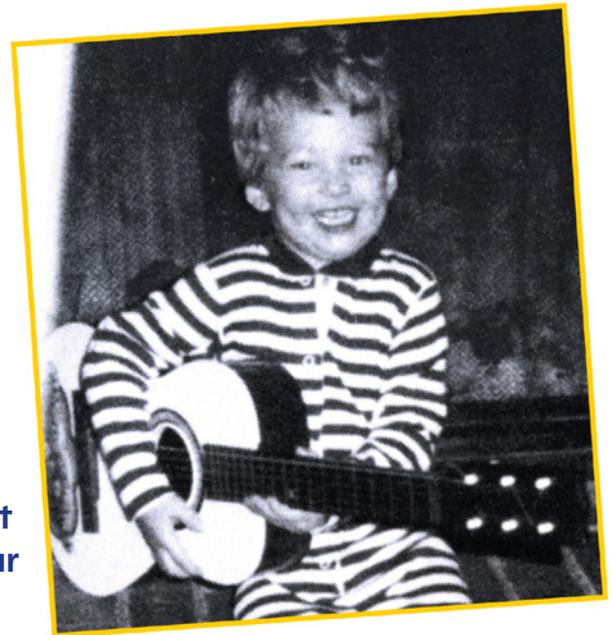


Blake Shelton
with his guitar
in 2001

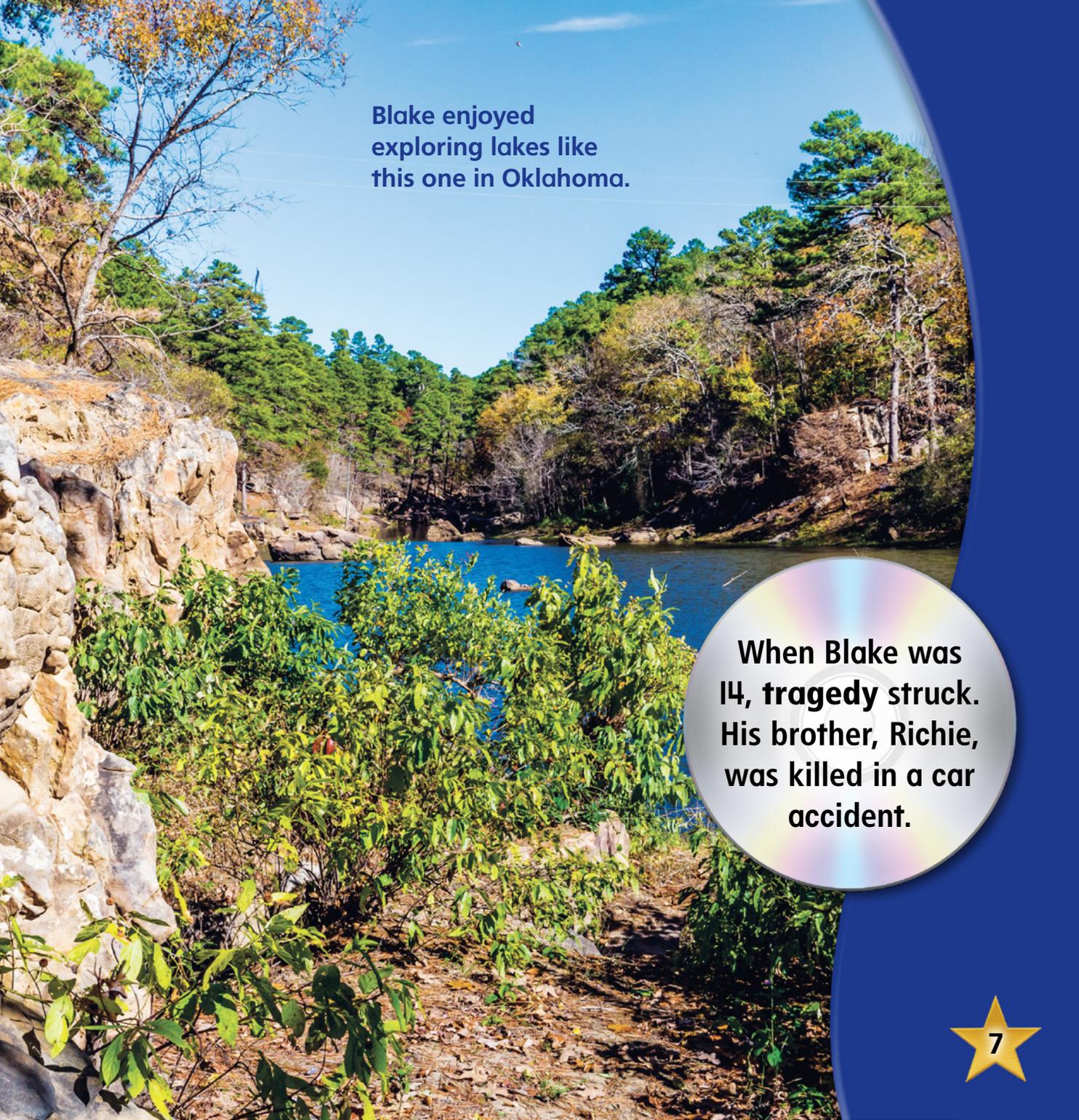
“Austin” was
Blake’s first single.
For five weeks,
it was the number one
song on *Billboard*
magazine’s country
music chart.

Outdoor Living

Blake Tollison Shelton was born in Ada, Oklahoma, on June 18, 1976. Blake's dad sold used cars for a living. His mom ran a beauty salon. Blake and his brother and sister spent a lot of time outdoors. "I didn't grow up playing video games," he says. Instead, he caught **minnows** in the creek. Blake loved life in the country.



Blake at
age four

A scenic view of a lake in Oklahoma, surrounded by trees and a rocky shore. The lake is a vibrant blue, and the surrounding forest is a mix of green and autumn-colored trees. A rocky cliffside is visible on the left side of the frame.

Blake enjoyed exploring lakes like this one in Oklahoma.

When Blake was 14, **tragedy** struck. His brother, Richie, was killed in a car accident.

Index

- "Austin" 4–5, 10, 22
"Baby, The" 12, 22
Based on a True Story...
16–17
Blake Shelton 10–11
bro-country 18
childhood 6, 8
Country Music Association
(CMA) 13, 14, 16, 22
Grand Ole Opry 4
Lambert, Miranda 12
Nashville 4, 8–9, 10, 22
Oklahoma 6–7, 20,
22
"Over You" 12–13
Shelton, Richie 6, 12
Voice, The 14–15,
22

Read More

Tieck, Sarah. *Blake Shelton: Country Music Star (Big Buddy Bios)*. Minneapolis, MN: ABDO (2013).

Tometch, Annabelle. *Today's Hottest Music Superstars (Today's Superstars)*. Minneapolis, MN: Lucent Books (2016).

Learn More Online

To learn more about Blake Shelton, visit
www.bearportpublishing.com/AmazingAmericans

About the Author

Jim Gigliotti is a former editor at the National Football League. He now writes books on a variety of topics for young readers.

[Intentionally Left Blank]

AMAZING
AMERICANS
COUNTRY MUSIC STARS

BLAKE SHELTON

Blake Shelton is a country music superstar. So how did this incredible talent rise to the top? Look inside to learn how an Oklahoma boy became a country music icon.

Luke Bryan

Blake Shelton

Miranda Lambert

Carrie Underwood

BEARPORT
PUBLISHING

www.bearportpublishing.com

THIS SERIES IS PART OF
BEARPORT'S LIBRARY OF
AMAZING
AMERICANS

ISBN-13: 978-1-68402-682-1

9 0000



9 781684 026821