



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Ali Putnam  
Ali.Putnam@circuitoftheamericas.com

## **County music star Clay Walker and Irish Tenor Ronan Tynan to perform during Opening Ceremonies for 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX**

**AUSTIN, Texas (Nov. 17, 2012)** – Circuit of The Americas™ today announced that American country music artist and native Texan Clay Walker and the famed Irish Tenor, Dr. Ronan Tynan will perform during the opening ceremonies of the inaugural **2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX**, which continues through Nov. 18 at the brand new, purpose-built Grand Prix facility in Central Texas.

Walker, who hails from Beaumont, Texas, will perform the National Anthem prior to the start of the race. The 43-year-old made his debut in 1993 with the single "What's It to You," which reached No. 1 on the *Billboard Hot Country Singles & Tracks* (now Hot Country Songs) charts, as did its follow-up, 1994's "Live Until I Die." Walker has released a total of 11 albums, and received platinum certification for his first four studio albums. He has charted 30 singles on the country charts, including four more No. 1 hits for a total of six: "Dreaming with My Eyes Open," "If I Could Make a Living," "This Woman and This Man" and "Rumor Has It." His most recent album, *She Won't Be Lonely Long*, was released in mid-2010.

Dr. Ronan Tynan first gained fame as a member of The Irish Tenors, but may be best known in the United States for his stirring renditions of "God Bless America" at National League Baseball games, including regular performances with the New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox. The 52-year-old native of Dublin, Ireland, enjoyed singing as a boy, but did not seriously consider formal voice study until he was 33 when he was well into his residency as a physician, specializing in orthopedic sports injuries. Born with lower limb disability that threatened to sideline him throughout his childhood, both of Tynan's legs had to be amputated below the knee after an auto accident caused serious complications when he was just 20. Just weeks after the operation, Tynan was climbing up the steps of his college dorm, and within a year, he was winning gold medals in the Paralympics as a multitasking athlete. Between 1981 and 1984, Tynan amassed eighteen gold medals and fourteen world records of which he still holds nine.

The FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX will be carried live on the SPEED network with live coverage of the third and final practice session beginning Saturday, Nov. 17, at 9 a.m. CST, following by three rounds of knock-out qualifying at noon. Live race coverage continues on Sunday, Nov. 18, with pre-race activities beginning at 12:30 p.m.

### **About Circuit of The Americas**

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for performance, education and business. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the 2012 FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX™ set for Nov. 16-18. Racing series joining the Circuit's 2013 line-up include MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™ and GRAND-AM Road Racing™. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include an expansive outdoor live music space, an iconic 251-foot tower with observation deck, an events and conference center, a banquet hall as well as a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: [www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com](http://www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com).

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