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Brantley Gilbert Announces The Ones That Like Me 2018 Tour Winter Tour Comes to SMG-managed Van Andel Arena® May 11

Grand Rapids — [Brantley Gilbert](#) spent all of 2017 taking his music to the people. Working the Rust Belt, the Heartland, the mid-South, the deep South and the Northeast, Gilbert *knows* it's the people who make – and keep – the music strong. As *Billboard* said of the Georgia born'n'raised songwriter, "Brantley Gilbert knows his audience. With a pair of platinum albums and nine of his singles being certified gold, platinum or multi-platinum, Gilbert's music strikes a chord with people."

And *that's* exactly why he's calling this year's tour **The Ones That Like Me 2018**. The tour stops in Grand Rapids on **Friday, May 11, 2018 at 7:00 PM at [Van Andel Arena](#)**.

Tickets go on sale to the general public beginning Friday, December 1 at 10:00 AM. Ticket prices are \$35.25, \$45.50, and \$60.25 and will be available at the Van Andel Arena and DeVos Place box offices, online at Ticketmaster.com, and charge by phone at 1-800-745-3000. A purchase limit of eight (8) tickets will apply to every order and prices are subject to change.

"People tell you all kinds of things about marketing," Gilbert says of his tour's name. "But I want to call it something that speaks to *what* this tour is: a chance for me to get together with all the people out there who get this music, who believe in these songs and live their lives just like the people back home do. We are all proud Americans, who try to stand up and do the right thing. That isn't marketing, that's *life* – and *that's* what my music is made of."

Having spent the summer playing – and selling out -- hard ticket dates in amphitheaters, as well as handful of festivals as headliner, Gilbert got to look the BG Nation in the eye. As he's home waiting for the birth of his first child, he's reflected on the power and the heart of those people, and he's even more determined to give them a show that gives back everything they are!

"I say every album is a chapter of my life," Gilbert explains, as the first 19 dates of his tour go on sale. "It's real, even when it's simple – because life is pretty simple, even when it's rough. 'One Hell of an Amen' looks some tough stuff in the eye, and stands tall. It's how I was raised, and I think everyone in the BG Nation feels it the same way. So these aren't just my songs, they're the songs of *all* of our lives. When I get back out there, man, we're gonna have even more life to lift up and celebrate."

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The Ones That Like Me 2018 kicks off February 1 at DCU Center in Worcester, MA. The initial leg of what promises to be Gilbert's most gauntlet-throwing live experience yet – one that dials back the pyro and turns up the musical intensity – is slated for 36 concerts. Joining the hard-hitting songwriter is Staind's Aaron Lewis, who's been making country albums with iconic Nashville producer Buddy Cannon (Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Alison Krauss, Jamey Johnson).

With *The Devil Don't Sleep* debuting at #1 for physical sales and *Just As I Am* winning the 2014 American Music Awards Favorite Country Album, Gilbert connects with the flyover. When Rolling Stone assessed the Best of Country and Americana so far this year, Gilbert's soul-scraping album – written completely by the Georgia native – made it on the list alongside progressive truth tellers Willie Nelson, Chris Stapleton, Jason Isbell, Allison Krauss and Nikki Lane.

Deeming it “the soundtrack to Friday night in small towns everywhere,” critic Jon Freeman wrote, “Where the majority of bro-country's standard bearers switched up their approaches upon Chris Stapleton's coronation as country's new king – softening their sound with boy band-flavored pop or moving away from the party vibe to more adult songwriting – Gilbert stuck to his guns and released his best album yet with *The Devil Don't Sleep*.”

Entertainment Weekly concurred declaring, “With swaggering guitars, catchy hooks, and a DGAF attitude, Devil promises to keep the ‘One Hell of an Amen’ singer at the top of the country charts.” NPR offered, “the tough guy tentatively wading into introspective territory...Gilbert is acutely aware of what keeps his audience feeling connected to him — that his fans, branded the BG Nation, identify with his bellicose tone, his defiant posture, the contempt he aims at any hint of condescension, the slight suggestion of softness behind the sneer.”

About SMG

Celebrating its 40th anniversary and founded in 1977, SMG provides management services to more than 230 public assembly facilities including convention and exhibition centers, arenas, stadiums, theaters, performing arts centers, amphitheaters, equestrian facilities, science centers and a variety of other venues. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 15 million square feet of exhibition space and more than 1.5 million sports and entertainment seats. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides venue management, sales, marketing, event booking and programming; construction and design consulting; and pre-opening services for such landmark facilities as McCormick Place & Soldier Field in Chicago, Moscone Convention Center in San Francisco, Houston's NRG Park and the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through its concessions and catering companies, currently serving more than 140 accounts worldwide. For more information visit www.smgworld.com.

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