In the rich musical heritage of West Texas, Davis shines brightest as Lubbock’s cultural ambassador. With his half a century career dedicated to entertainment, he took a bit of Lubbock wherever he went and did so with great pride in his roots. His special connection reaches back to 1951, when he witnessed the Lubbock Lights – an unusual formation of lights in the sky – with his own eyes as a young boy. We are proud to pay tribute to the legendary Mac Davis through our Lubbock Lights series and to honor his many contributions to our community.

Dóri Bosnyák | PLPS Lead Administrator
Lubbock native country-pop singer, songwriter and actor Mac Davis was a true Lubbock Light. His early career saw success through Nancy Sinatra’s Boot’s Publishing, Inc., and achieved international recognition when Elvis Presley recorded his songs “Memories” and “In the Ghetto.” Davis also pursued his own successful solo career producing many hits including “Baby, Don’t Get Hooked on Me,” “Stop and Smell the Roses,” and “It’s Hard to Be Humble;” but a local fan favorite is “Texas in My Rear View Mirror. He was a Grammy nominated artist, and named the Academy of Country Music Entertainer of the Year in 1974. As an actor, he hosted The Mac Davis Show on NBC, appeared on The Muppet Show and was cast in numerous films. His debut film cast him in a co-starring role opposite of Nick Nolte in North Dallas Forty.

Let’s celebrate Mac Davis’s music and legacy together by remembering him through an evening of some of his best-known tunes. This Texas Tech University Presidential Lecture & Performance Series Lubbock Lights special event will feature many local musicians covering his songs to honor Mac Davis’s contribution to the world of entertainment.

featuring | Blackwater Draw | Craig Elliott | Sheena Fadeyi
Jason Fellers | Brandon Gwinn | Hannah Jackson | Gypsy Jayne
Jenni Dale Lord | Kenny Maines | Jeff McCreight | Jake Pyett
Junior Vasquez

background vocals | Avery Guyer | Sheena Fadeyi | Kassidy King
Cameron Caldwell | Collective Gospel Choir - Michael Conner, Mary Evans, Avery Guyer, Brandon Gwinn, Loretta Hall, Gerald Jones, Tawana Jones, Kassidy King, Jeff McCreight, Madalyne Mitchell, Garrett Nelson, Ashley Smith.

band | Toby Caldwell | Ross Raedeke | Devin Collins
Jonny Verbeten | Joy Harris | John Sprott | Steve Williams
Don Caldwell

About Lubbock Lights
In the spring of 2015, regional artists Wade Bowen, Butch Hancock, Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines paired up with Texas Tech University to launch an event series called “Lubbock Lights: Celebrating the Musical Heritage of the South Plains.” The event, sponsored by the Office of the President and conducted by the Presidential Lecture & Performance Series, features discussions and performances by local and regional musical artists and gives attendees an inside look at the creative processes and inspirations that go into each artist’s work. The weeklong festival consists of the participating artists visiting dozens of classrooms to discuss their process and offer insights to students within and outside TTU and culminates in a concert accessible to all on the Allen Theatre stage in the TTU Student Union Building on campus.

The Presidential Lecture & Performance Series would like to thank Lubbock Lights Artistic Producer Curtis Peoples and Producer Don Caldwell for their diligent contributions and effort with the 8th Lubbock Lights event.

We are especially grateful to have Mrs. Lisë Davis’ support. Mac Davis often referred to his wife as “the best thing to like about me” and we would like to thank her for her blessing for tonight’s production & generous participation in the festival at large.

thank you