

**"We spent  
every waking  
moment together,"**  
Scott says of the  
band's early days.  
**"Charles and  
Dave are like my  
brothers."**



**LADY ANTEBELLUM**

# COUNTRY'S HOTTEST BAND

THE NASHVILLE HITMAKERS DISH ON BEING BFFS, HAVING FAMOUS RELATIVES AND THE MUSIC THAT MOVES THEM **BY EILEEN FINAN**

HAIR & MAKEUP: DEBBIE DOVER/REVOLUTION ARTISTS; STYLIST: LEE MOORE



"Our songs push the country envelope," says Scott.

Sometimes you're better off *not* getting the girl. Just ask Dave Haywood and Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum. Both guys had eyes for bandmate Hillary Scott when they met in Nashville in 2006. But instead of "pulling a Fleetwood Mac" ("Love triangles probably broke up one of the world's greatest bands," says Kelley), they focused on musical chemistry.

Score one for restraint. Lady A sold

480,000 copies of their new album, *Need You Now*, this past week. On Jan. 31 they won their first Grammy. And at the last Country Music Association Awards, they ended Rascal Flatts' six-year reign as top group. "Our year," says Scott, 23, "has been fantastic."

Celebrity fans include Keith Urban and Taylor Swift, but Lady A doesn't have to go far to find famous connections: Haywood's dad, Dr. Van B.

Haywood, helped invent at-home teeth whitening. ("He's an innovator, like the Lady Gaga of dentistry, minus the Saturn rings and hair wigs," jokes Haywood, 27.) Scott's mom, Linda Davis, won a Grammy for "Does He Love You," a 1993 duet with Reba McEntire; and Kelley's older brother is singer Josh Kelley, husband to actress Katherine Heigl. Not that the trio was always ready for stardom. "Josh and I had a middle-school band called the Sporks," says Kelley, 28, who grew up with Haywood in Augusta, Ga. "We wore those spoon/fork things around our necks. That's how cool we were."

Their friendship—despite those spork phases—still yields plenty of inspiration. "I know their whole lives and can tell you the names of every girl Charles has dated," says Haywood. "Writing is a chance to dive into that." The band also bonds over music like Paramore before shows and "Islands in the Stream" on karaoke night. (For more favorites, see box.) Next up? A big tour with Tim McGraw. "The first time we wrote a song, we felt we had something special," says Kelley. "We didn't want to jeopardize that. Now we're living our dream." ●

FROM TOP: ©KATHERINE BOMBOY/ABC/CORBIS; LESTER COHEN/WIREIMAGE

## THE SOUNDTRACK OF OUR LIVES

### FIRST CD YOU BOUGHT

**Scott:** *II* by Boyz II Men, when I was 10. I did every vocal inflection singing in the mirror with my brush.

**Haywood:** *Regulate . . . G Funk Era* by Warren G at 14. It had a parental advisory sticker. I said, "Mom, that doesn't mean anything. There are no bad words." Turns out, [the lyrics] were awful. But I loved it. I can almost rap every word.

**Kelley:** Pearl Jam's *Ten* changed my life when I was 10. And I was obsessed with Nirvana.

### SONG YOU DANCE TO

**Haywood:** "Good Times" by Chic—it gets me up!

**Scott:** Hands down, "Blame It" by Jamie Foxx.

**Kelley:** Phoenix's "Everything is Everything."

**Haywood:** That makes him do the Charles Kelley dance. That dance has a lot of snaps.

### SONG YOU CRY TO

**Haywood:** "The Dance" by Garth Brooks. It takes me down.



**Kelley:** "The House That Built Me" by Miranda Lambert. It's the most relatable song. I sent it to my brother Josh and he cried. He played it for his wife and she cried.

### SHOWER SONG

**Scott:** I am so Beyoncé in there. "Diva" puts you in a good mood like, "Yeah, I'm sexy."

### MAKE-OUT MUSIC

**Haywood:** I have a "Mmmakeout" iPod mix.

**Kelley:** I haven't done one since school. But Dave has.

**Haywood:** It's not cheesy!

It's slow songs: Boyz II Men's "I'll Make Love to You," Bryan Adams' "[Everything I Do] I Do It for You," Tim and Faith's "Let's Make Love." You can make out for hours!

