

Episode Title: Chapel Hart's Musical Family

Episode Summary:

Chapel Hart joins Sid Evans on the latest edition of Biscuits & Jam to talk about their upbringing in Poplarville Mississippi, their large family gatherings (their Grandma had 108 grandchildren), busking in New Orleans, and their album *The Girls are Back in Town*.

Episode Transcript:

Danica Hart: They're saying, when you open your eyes, there are black people who are making great country music. Why are we not letting them in? Why are, what is the hold up? But it's an excitingly strange time in country music right now, but we're super, super glad and honored to be a part of the conversation.

(Biscuits and Jam Theme begins - Fiddler's Barn on Epidemic Sound - plays for 9 seconds before Sid's voice comes in)

Voice over from Sid Evans: Welcome to another Summer Tour edition of Biscuits and Jam from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, editor-in-chief of Southern Living Magazine, and today I'm joined by the country vocal trio, Chapel Hart. Named to CMT's Next Women of Country in 2021, sisters Danica Hart, Devin Hart, and their cousin Trea Swindle have made serious waves in Nashville with fun songs like "Jesus and Alcohol" and "You Can Have Him, Jolene." These women know how to have a good time, whether they're hanging out with their 108 cousins or doing a podcast. The group sat down with me to talk about their childhood in Poplarville, Mississippi, busking in New Orleans, their latest album, *The Girls are Back in Town*, and much much more.

Biscuits & Jam theme music ends

Sid Evans: Well, Chapel Hart, welcome to biscuits and jam.

Trea Swindle: Hello.

Devynn Hart: Hey.

Sid Evans: So, Chapel Hart is made up of three, very talented people. Danica Hart, Devynn Hart and Trea Swindle. So, why don't each of y'all say hi and tell me what your favorite Southern dessert is. (laughs)

Devynn Hart: Ooh, I'll go first. I'm Devynn. And my favorite Southern dessert has to be pecan pie.

Danica Hart: Oh. I'm Danica and I feel like my favorite dessert and it's probably 'cause I had it the other day but strawberry shortcake and it was incredible. So I'm gonna go with strawberry shortcake. (laughs)

Trea Swindle: I'm Trea and I have to say my favorite Southern dessert. I don't think it's just a dessert that's so constricting. 'Cause you can just eat it as a meal but it has to be bread pudding.

Sid Evans: Ooh. (laughs)

Danica Hart: The rum sauce.

Trea Swindle: The rum sauce.

Danica Hart: It's gotta be a rum sauce.

Trea Swindle: Have you tried to put the whiskey sauce?

Danica Hart: Ooh, no.

Devynn Hart: Well, you just trying to get a sauce. (laughs)

Sid Evans: Well, y'all it's always a good idea to start with dessert. So I think we're off to a-

Devynn Hart: Yes.

Sid Evans: ... good start. (Laughs)

Danica Hart: Yes. It's literally the method of my life.

Sid Evans: (laughs) So where am I reaching y'all right now?

Danica Hart: Right now we are home in New Orleans. We've been home for a couple of days and we'll head out tomorrow to get back on the road.

Sid Evans: That must be nice. (laughs)

Danica Hart: Trying to take a breather before we have to run again.

Sid Evans: So Danica, what is it that y'all love the most about New Orleans?

Danica Hart: I think Mississippi and New Orleans hands down is the food. And we travel so much and we go so many places. And when we are gone too long, (laughs) we start asking our tour manager, "Okay. So how long till we get home? We gotta count out." And it's nothing like the food back at home. And we thought Mississippi's food was amazing. And then we got to Louisiana was like, "Bam, bam, bam." Spice and the Cajun food was like, woo.

Devynn Hart: My favorite part about New Orleans is the people. It's a melting pot. There's so many different kinds of kinds of people and you get to meet so many interesting characters along the way. And everybody, for the most part is

Danica Hart: crazy like us. (laughs)

Devynn Hart: Yeah. Like, I love that.

Sid Evans: What about you Trea?

Trea Swindle: Well, I was actually over here contemplating whether I was gonna say the food or the people. I just like the people and the food and the people who make the food especially.

Danica Hart: There you go. (laughs) Her real favorite people, the chefs here. (laughs)

Sid Evans: So, I don't talk to a lot of country artists in New Orleans. And I don't really think of New Orleans as a country town, but y'all seem to have found a home there. Do you feel inspired by the music scene in New Orleans, even though most of it isn't country?

Danica Hart: I think that New Orleans has something that's so unique I don't think you can find anywhere else in the world. And so even though it's not country music, it's just the fact the type of music that it is, is so inspiring. And it helps you. I mean, like you can go downtown and listen to music and come back home and write. It just kind of opens you up. And it's the vibe, it's the people, it's the flavor of the music, if I can call it that, I always say Nashville probably has a gabillion more dollars worth of equipment. and it looks nice and it has the aesthetic. And New Orleans is a little more grittier, but it's got the heart and soul and flavor and culture and that you just can't pay for that anywhere.

Sid Evans: Yeah. You just walk down to Frenchmen Street at two o'clock in the morning and it's still going. (laughs) So y'all grew up in a town called Poplarville, Mississippi, tell me a little bit about life as a kid in Poplarville?

Devynn Hart: Life as a kid in Poplarville is very interesting yet very boring. There isn't much to do in Poplarville. So very young, we had to learn how to be creative. And I think that our childhood probably woke up our creative genes and stuff, because like I said, there wasn't anything to really do, so we had to find ways to entertain ourselves. So whether that would mean we do a makeshift baseball game, kickball game in our grandma's backyard, there was always something that we would just have to find ourselves getting into, 'cause that was the only way you were really gonna have fun, but looking back, I thank God that we grew up in a small town like that.

Danica Hart: It's funny because I was literally just talking to our manager and his mom and I said, "Growing up was hard 'cause I used to always get whippings. I feel like 'cause of Trea." Trea was always into everything. Like she was a little too adventurous but growing up was fun. I think I didn't realize like how fun and like Dev said how creative it was and that we had to be, and it was like, we'd take like paper plates and make bases and t-shirts and you had a broomstick and that was it.

Sid Evans: Well, y'all have a song called American Pride, that has this line, "we played outside and that's where we came alive." Were y'all talking about Mississippi and Poplarville-

Devynn Hart: Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Sid Evans: ... with that song?

Danica Hart: Oh yeah. It's crazy in the line, right before that, I think it says, "we take the back roads to the bottom and that's where they called Harts Chapel. They say we're going down to the bottom." And

so we go down there and everybody would bring their kids. That's where it all happened. And so, ultimately how we even got our name, Chapel Hart.

Sid Evans: So your name came from Harts Chapel. Was that a road or was that an actual chapel?

Devynn Hart: So that's like the community that our family lives at. Our home church is called Hart's Chapel Baptist Church. My grandma had 17 kids. There's 108 grandchildren. So literally we're all-

Sid Evans: Wow.

Devynn Hart: ... just our own little community down there.

Sid Evans: (laughs) So I gotta ask y'all with that many cousins, and that big of family. What did your family gatherings look like?

Trea Swindle: Well, like I didn't realize this until I was an adult, but our family gatherings were almost like musicals. Everybody either sings or plays an instrument or something that has to do with music. And you know, we grew up in the church and so every time we got together, be it for a barbecue, a birthday, a funeral, anything like eventually everybody would start singing. Our aunt would, pull a piano out of her trunk and then we'd all gather around and we'd just start singing. It doesn't matter what- (laughs)

Danica Hart: And those who cannot sing cook. Once we finish singing, we eating. And then we were able to go so, like, a musical I think is a great way to describe it.

Sid Evans: Wow. All right. Well y'all gotta invite me down for one of those sometime.

Danica Hart: Yes. Oh, man. Look, we'll have to get you for one of the big events, like mother's day or Christmas or something like

Sid Evans: Yeah.

Danica Hart: ... like one of those.

Trea Swindle: Listen, no, warm him up with something like light.

Danica Hart: So, so to start you in, like this is all them people is, it can be a little overwhelming. (laughs)

Sid Evans: So I gotta ask who was the cook or who were the cooks, in your family?

Trea Swindle: Oh, my gosh. Aunt Merle. I, well I say Merle. Her, her name is Marilyn.

Danica Hart: Aunt Marilyn. Well, I mean, if I could, I could probably safely say so, of the 17 children, I think there's 10 girls and And seven boys, I think.

Trea Swindle: ... and seven boys.

Danica Hart: And so I don't think there is not a cook in the family. Like all the women had to have that skill. And a lot of the aunts have certain things that they cook that, you know what I mean? That they are, that they're bringing to the cook like Trea's mom.

Devynn Hart: Potato salad.

Danica Hart: Potato salad.

Trea Swindle: Potato salad.

Danica Hart: All day, every day. And [inaudible] got it.

Trea Swindle: And I hate it because that means the day or two days before the cookout she's got me peeling, giant things of potatoes, like how my peeling, all these potatoes.

Danica Hart: So Trea is a singer, but she's really a potato peeler. (laughs) and I mean like just different people have aunt Marliyn. Like you-

Devynn Hart: Like dessert.

Trea Swindle: Like Merlyn.

Danica Hart: She would make pistolettes, shrimp pistols. Oh my gosh. She'll forever be the person to bring those, GG will like, you know-

Trea Swindle: She has a variety.

Danica Hart: Yeah. Devil egg. Like she's a, oh my gosh, she's a devil egg queen.

Trea Swindle: I think she's the hors d'oeuvres, her yeast rolls.

Danica Hart: Oh man.

Devynn Hart: Her rolls and her fried chicken.

Danica Hart: Every aunt can do something well. And so we just put those all together. Everyone just brings one, you already have 10 dishes. So it's full of food and fun.

Sid Evans: It was a community effort. (laughs)

Danica Hart: Oh, yeah.

Sid Evans: So y'all are so close to New Orleans, did you grow up with a bunch of Cajun food or was it more traditional Southern?

Devynn Hart: Definitely traditional Southern.

Danica Hart: Yeah.

Trea Swindle: A lot.

Sid Evans: Okay.

Devynn Hart: Deer.

Trea Swindle: Like coon, rabbit.

Danica Hart: Coon, rabbits.

Trea Swindle: ... dear, boar. You know, if it's in the woods, we ate it squirrels and all.

Danica Hart: I probably am half deer because oh, my gosh.

Sid Evans: Oh, venison is good.

Trea Swindle: I was forced to eat a lot of squirrel 'cause we used to shoot them out the window and mama had a rule. If you kill it, you cook it. And so I was forced to eat a lot of stuff that I didn't really want to start now. (laughs)

Danica Hart: As you should have.

Sid Evans: So y'all go an hour, hour and a half down the road. And you've got gumbo and Po boys and everything just changes.

Trea Swindle: Uh-huh (affirmative).

Sid Evans: So it's totally different.

Trea Swindle: Yes.

Devynn Hart: Yes and no.

Danica Hart: Yes and no. To me it felt like an elevated version of Mississippi. and in certain ways of it -

Devynn Hart: It was like an extension of it.

Danica Hart: An extension is a great word. So I felt like an extension of Mississippi, it just kind of opened up to this world of like food and, like, people will tell me now they're like, you gotta tell me where to go in New Orleans to eat. I was like, you probably aren't gonna wanna go to the gas station that I'm about to send you to. (laughs) But they have the best chicken in the world. (laughs) And so they're like, "What? the gas station?"

Trea Swindle: But it's true.

Danica Hart: And so it's, but New Orleans has literally food pouring out of sometimes the strangest places that you can think of.

Trea Swindle: One of the best.

Devynn Hart: One of the best places to get steak in New Orleans. It's like this dive bar looking. And it's like tucked away in the middle of the - it's like, if you're walking in, you don't know where it is, you're gonna miss it.

Danica Hart: You'll pass it up for sure.

Sid Evans: Yeah. Those are the secrets. Those are the Southern secrets.

Devynn Hart: Oh, yeah.

Trea Swindle: But then we started going down to Cajun country

Danica Hart: Chicken cracklin changed my life. Okay.

Devynn Hart: I didn't even know you could make chicken cracklin.

Danica Hart: Right. We always say music allows us to travel, but we really do this for the food. We gotta do. We try the food everywhere and we love it, but it's like, and we get to sing part-time. (laughs)

Sid Evans: So y'all grew up, spending a lot of time in church. I'm wondering if that really helped shape y'all as musicians and performers.

Trea Swindle: I'd have to say definitely. Because like you say, we went to church a lot, but we went to church literally seven days a week growing up, you had on Monday, you had senior mission on Tuesday. You had like the men's meeting and brotherhood, Wednesday, you got choir rehearsal and Bible study Thursday, you have prayer meeting Fri- like every day there's something.

Danica Hart: Friday, Saturday was Starlight. I mean like the Starlight men. Yeah.

Trea Swindle: And the children's choir. And on Sunday you didn't just go to church once, you went to Sunday school, 11 o'clock service. And then usually o'clock three o'clock service and maybe somebody else's church afterwards for their evening program.

Danica Hart: Yeah. So we ultimately, we went to school part-time and we're full time churchers. Yeah. (laughs)

Sid Evans: Wow.

Danica Hart: Full time Baptist church kids.

Sid Evans: What were some of your favorite songs to sing in church?

Trea Swindle: When we were in the choir, there is a song we sang called "I Will Sing" and it was something about and like it started with like all the kids rocking, acapella, stomping and acapella. And it's something about that song.

Danica Hart: So if you can picture like 80 to 100, youth kids singing in three part harmony, it was amazing. That definitely by far I think is at least on the top three of all of our.

Devynn Hart: Oh yeah.

Danica Hart: All of our [inaudible].

Devynn Hart: Like I'm getting chills.

Sid Evans: How did that song go?

Danica Hart: Start it out. Start it out. You ready? Do you remember?

Devynn Hart: Yeah.

Danica Hart: She was so young.

Trea Swindle: I know!

Danica Hart: She's like.

Trea Swindle: I think she was the youngest person in the choir.

Danica Hart: She ain't for like 10 now. So I dunno.

Devynn Hart: That's quite enough.

Danica Hart: One, two, three.

(singing and harmonizing)

I will sing, "Hallelujah"/ I will sing, "Oh Lord"/ I will sing, "Hallelujah, oh Lord"/ For you are the source of my supply/ Lord I will praise I will lift you high./ I will sing, "Hallelujah, oh Lord"

Sid Evans: Oh, wow.

Danica Hart: Man. That's been forever, but-

Sid Evans: Y'all, I got chills. I got chills from that. (laughs)

Danica Hart: It's long and it's Baptist long. So it's about a 15 minutes song. So it's got parts and stuff. So it just, but it was-

Trea Swindle: It had a lot going.

Danica Hart: As a kid, it was definitely one of those. I was excited when they called it to sing.

Trea Swindle: I think it was the stomping that did.

Devynn Hart: It was definitely the stomp. We did like an acapella stomp at the beginning.

Danica Hart: Oh, yeah.

Devynn Hart: Yeah.

Sid Evans: Well y'all might need to do a gospel album at some point.

Danica Hart: Come on. People, our fans always ask us that and I'm like, at some point we have to like.

Devynn Hart: I gotta work on my cousin though.

Danica Hart: Oh, Lord. (laughs) This one here. (laughs)

Trea Swindle: It still work.

Danica Hart: We're gonna have to run all of Trea's gospel songs through the song filter to make sure it's good to go.

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme)

Sid Evans Voice Over: I'll be back with more from Chapel Hart after the break.

(AD BREAK)

(Instrumental music break of Biscuits and Jam theme)

Sid Voice Over: Welcome back to Biscuits & Jam, from Southern Living. I'm Sid Evans, and today I'm talking with the country vocal trio Chapel Hart.

Sid Evans: So I know y'all spent some time in a very different place busking on the streets in New Orleans and there had to be a lot of highs and lows of doing that. What were some of the moments where you could tell that the crowd was really getting into it and it felt like something special is happening here.

Trea Swindle: I think there were a lot more highs than lows. I think the only lows was whenever we'd have to like lug the piano across town to get to the street to busk. But like one of those, oh my goodness moments was like, you'd see lots of buskers on the street, there'd be like, you know, a handful of people watching 'em. But it got to a point where the police would literally have to come and like usher people out of the street from blocking traffic and blocking the walkways. People would come, "We heard you five blocks over. And we had to like follow the music and see where it was coming from."

Danica Hart: And I feel like maybe it had some lows, but like I think we were so... maybe naive is the word, but we were just so grateful that people were coming to our little section of the street to come listen. And we'd sing Islands In The Stream.

Trea Swindle: Yes.

Danica Hart: And people were like, "Oh my gosh, it's country music." It was our first dose of watching people, experience music and watching people-

Trea Swindle: Yes.

Danica Hart: Genuinely and joyfully, like having the time of their lives, listening to us, you know, saying to a piano and cut up with 'em and have a good time. for me, for sure, it was that moment where I was like, if this makes people this happy, I could do this for the rest of my life. And so-

Devynn Hart: Here we are. And I, I've always felt like whenever we were busking, like I feel like busking is almost like one of the purest audiences you'll ever have because 100% of the people are going somewhere else. No one is going specifically to see you, but you manage to stop them. Whether they're on their way to a meeting or on their way to dinner to meet a friend, they put their plans on hold and sometimes for hours. And like, and just stand there and enjoy the music. And I'm like, "This is nice. Don't you have somewhere to be."

Danica Hart: Right.

Sid Evans: (laughs) It's New Orleans. everybody's ready to cancel their plans in New Orleans for some music.

Danica Hart: The best thing to do is to come without a plan because it will tell you what your plans are.

Sid Evans: (laughs) So I wanna ask y'all about your relatively new album. Y'all came out with this album called The Girls Are Back in Town. It's so great. and there's a song on there that I love one of many, um, called I Will Follow. what was it about that song that resonated with you and how did that end up on the album?

Danica Hart: We've been in Nashville for probably about three years now, but we're now just kind of starting to get with bigger writers and kind of getting into that Nashville circuit where you write with people who've had hits and stuff like that. but we heard this song, I Will Follow. And when we heard it, it was literally like three lines in and we were like, "We, we'll take it." We were like, we don't even know how it works. I don't know if you have to type up the paperwork, if we have to thumb wrestle. And it's one of the very first songs that we heard and instantly, it spoke to our journey and it was how we felt and it was crazy because the guy who did this song, what, what was his name?

Trea Swindle: Nick Brophy and Jennifer Hanson.

Danica Hart: Nick Brophy. And they were like, "You know, we wrote this song 10 years ago." "But I, I saw you guys. And he was like, it made me think of it. Maybe it's nothing to you." He was like, "But just take a

listen." and the instant, from the moment that we heard it, we were like, we fell in love with it. It was a song of our journey.

Trea Swindle: I think it's so interesting that they wrote it 10 years ago, but yet it is so relevant to exactly where we are right now.

Sid Evans: There's that line, "you can't change the weather and you can't change where you're from, the color of the skin or the beat of your own drum." It seems very, very timely and very powerful right now. And, what has it been like for y'all as black artists in country music in this moment right now?

Danica Hart: It's been a journey. I feel like the industry's kind of split right now. I feel like there's still those in the industry who feel like this has worked for the last 300 years. And if it's worked then, it works now. So we don't need nothing new. We don't need to try nothing new. We ain't taking a chance on nobody new. So there's that, but there's also a breeze and a wind of people in Nashville going, "Listen to these girls, listen at this, close your eyes and listen at this. I don't care if they're black, this music is..." and they're saying, when you open your eyes, there are black people who are making great country music. Why are we not letting them in? Why are, what is the hold up? But it's a excitingly strange time in country music right now, but we're super, super glad and honored to be a part of the conversation.

Chapel Hart's song "I Will Follow" comes in and we hear the following at full volume then fades out:

Mama always told me don't be afraid to shine/
Don't you try to please no one except the one inside/
No, you can't change the weather/
And you can't change where you're from/
The color of your skin nor the beat of your own drum/

Sid Evans: It's a great song. And it does feel like it, really is talking about your journey, and it's wonderful.

Danica Hart: It's crazy 'cause I think even when our managers, I think they heard them and was like, "Okay." And just kind of the business side of it was like, "Well, you girls are writing great songs. Like let's not get so excited." But once we kind of heard it out in production, they were like, "No, this is it." Like, you know what I mean? And th- it was just like, "This is y'all song."

Sid Evans: So I know y'all been out on the road a lot. I think y'all were on tour most of last year. but what does it mean to you to come back and play a show, back at home in Poplarville or back in New Orleans?

Devynn Hart: It means the world to us because it's kind of different whenever you travel somewhere and you know, people who don't necessarily know you, they hear the music it's like a first impression. But when you come back and you see people that you grew up with, or you see your neighbors at the shows, and having that personal connection with the people and seeing how our music touches their lives just as much, it's kind of incredible.

Danica Hart: it's a feeling that you really can't describe. And I just wanna share this it was the most amazingly like hilarious and humbling story ever. So we got this message from, she graduated a little bit before us, she's a teacher now. And she was like, "Is there any way that y'all could jump on a FaceTime call with me real quick?" We were like, "What?" So like we're on the road and like trying to figure out

how we're gonna do it. So we just like pull over and we were like, "Hey, is everything okay?" And she was like, "I'm a Mississippi studies teacher. And today we were talking about famous people in Mississippi and she said, first thing outta their mouth was Chapel Hart." And I was like, "What?" (laughs). So I was like, "If we have fans, nowhere else in the world, we've got some fourth grade fans that will go hard for us." Okay?

Sid Evans: (laughs) That's great, well I wanna ask y'all about one more song on the album called Jackie's song and, and it's a beautiful song. And it sounds like it comes from a real emotional place. What's the story behind that song?

Danica Hart: We were playing in New Orleans, we were just a cover band and we had a keyboard player named Jake, Jake Gold. Jake's girlfriend was Jacqui Stavis and she was like all things golden. And she was about five one. Maybe I'll give her five, three, maybe.

Devynn Hart: No.

Danica Hart: So she's about five, between five one and five three. And she was small, but she was mighty. Like, in my mind I could only imagine if I had that much courage, the person I would be. she's one of those people, like you don't wanna talk to before seven o'clock in the morning, 'cause she's just like, "Hey, how are y'all." Like bring it on down. Okay. Not all of us are morning people. (laughs) but she was just golden. And at 28 years old, she worked for the musicians clinic and she went down to south Louisiana to work a festival. And it started to rain at the festival and the weather got bad and uh, their tent got struck by lightning and she passed away at the age of 28 from lightning strike.

Sid Evans: Hmm.

Danica Hart: But to know, Jackie was like, you know, was like of like, of co- of course she goes out in the most like, you know.

Devynn Hart: A big way.

Trea Swindle: I feel way like in a... I will - never mind I say go out in a blaze of glory, but that's how she lived.

Danica Hart: She would've, she would've described it. She would've described it that way. And um, but ultimately kind of the thing for us was that life doesn't have a respect of person. you could be here today and gone tomorrow. And it doesn't matter if your-

Devynn Hart: You could be here today and be gone today.

Trea Swindle: Yeah.

Danica Hart: Here today and gone today. and it was one of those places, especially for me, I had to say like, if that were me and I had to stand before God, and he said, did you give it all you got? I, I would've honestly had to say no, we were just letting music happen to us. Like, you know what I mean? it'll happen, when it happens and the truth is if you wanna fulfill your dreams, you gotta get up and chase them. That was what Jackie taught us and her death gave us life to truly live. 'Cause I, I mean, I think we

were just kind of existing and we got to New Orleans and we were like, we're trying to put together a country band that were like, nobody plays country music here. What are you doing? And so we just kind of settled. We were like, well, look, we'll just start a band and play all the music we like to hear on the radio. And we finally woke up and said, if we're ever gonna do this thing seriously, if we're ever gonna be taken serious as artists, we have to sit down and write the music that's in our heart. Then we have to write the music that's in our soul. And if people here don't get it, we'll go somewhere else. worst case. We can just go back to being a cover band. We know we're good at that. (laughs) So, but um, we took that leap and hadn't looked back and, thanks to Jackie in a sense, it worked out for us and here we are.

Sid Evans: Well, you can't hear that song and not get it. Even if you don't know the story, which I didn't, it's really something. It's a beautiful song.

Danica Hart: Thank you so much Sid.

Sid Evans: And now y'all are playing songs with Billy Gibbons too. From ZZ top. (laughs)

Devynn Hart: Yeah. that is still kind of unreal to think about. I got a call at five in the morning the other day and I, I thought it was my alarm. I was like, why is it so early? And I looked and it said, Billy Gi- Uncle Billy. And I was like, "Oh, hello?" What?

Danica Hart: What are you doing up this early Uncle?

Devynn Hart: Well, he was getting ready to go to bed.

Danica Hart: Okay. Which makes it.

Devynn Hart: But like kind of like what Danica said, like if you just close your eyes and listen to the music, you'll just fall in love with the, purity of it. And that's kind of how he got on board. our booking agent sent him one of our songs and he didn't send a picture or anything. He just sent the song and he said that Billy usually never texts back. And if he does, it's like three months later, forgot the conversation. Don't know what it's in reference to. But he said, he text him back immediately and said, this is some of the freshest stuff I've heard in over a decade who were these ladies. And then he sent him more music and then he sent him a picture and then he turned around and called him immediately. And he was like, you gotta be pulling my leg.

Danica Hart: What? (laughs) Who was that? What you told me?

Sid Evans: And y'all recorded that song called Jesus and alcohol, uh, which is just about as country as it gets.

Danica Hart: I tell people I was a Baptist, but I was a rebel Baptist. So I did a little drink and a little praying, all kind of the Lord was very gracious with me. (laughs) Met somewhere in the middle. (laughs)

Sid Evans: Well, listen, y'all I just have one more question I'll ask, each one of you what does it mean to you to be Southern? Devynn? Why don't I start with you?

Devynn Hart: Oh, dang. I was hoping you started on the other. (laughs) Um, To me a true Southerner we are proud people. We are kind people. We are giving people. especially getting to see the world, it makes you miss being in the south because there is a certain hospitality that you legit will not find anywhere else in the world.

Sid Evans: Trea, what about you?

Trea Swindle: Dev said a lot, but I don't know. I think it's like just the-

Devynn Hart: I have them speechless. (laughs)

Trea Swindle: It's, it's, it's the community. It's the love. there are no strangers, there are only friends you haven't met yet. people from the south are generally thought of as like less than, or they don't have as much or don't know as much. And it makes it that much easier for us to be accepting of other people and knowing that there's more to someone that meets the eye.

Sid Evans: Yeah. What about you Danica?

Danica Hart: First of all, being Southern is the highest honor of on the badge chart to me. And it's because like, you know what I mean? it's the warmheartedness, and like Trea said, you don't meet a stranger and we go places and, we're there for literally sometimes less than a minute people go, "Okay, where y'all from? Like, okay, just tell us where y'all are from." And there's a there's um, I don't know. I feel like especially being from the south gives you like a, a spark for life. It makes you appreciate the things that you've never seen. it's Friday night at the football games, it's you know, you went to high school with the, with the circuit court judge and the lady, the, the head banker is your mom's best friend. There's nothing like that in the whole entire world. and I get why people are running to get to New Orleans, running to get to Mississippi. And, um, we were in Austria and, uh, this lady came to our, our signing our CD signing. And she said, "this place called Poplarville, I must go." she was referring to the song made for me. And girl you better come during blueberry Jubilee. You ain't gonna get to see much. You ain't gonna get to see much else. Ain't too much going on, but.

Sid Evans: (laughs) That's great. Well, y'all couldn't have said it better. Devynn and Trea and Danica of Chapel Hart. Thank y'all for being on Biscuits & Jam

Trea Swindle: Thank you.

Danica Hart: Thank you so much.

Devynn Hart: Thank you for having us.

Danica Hart: We hope y'all have us back, hope we weren't too much. (laughs)

Sid Evans: Y'all come back anytime.

Sid Evans Voice Over: Thanks for listening to my conversation with Chapel Hart. You can listen to Chapel Hart's latest album, The Girls Are Back In Town, wherever you get music, and you can visit ChapelHart.com for summer tour dates, social media and more. Be sure to follow Biscuits & Jam on

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