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Conner Smith Returns to Stage with Heartfelt Performance After Tragic Crash

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Country music artist Conner Smith has returned to performing, taking the stage at the Grand Ole Opry for the first time since a fatal car crash in June that left a 77-year-old woman dead. His appearance marked an emotional milestone as he opened up about his healing process, leaning on faith and community in the wake of the tragedy.

Smith, 24, known for country hits like *Take It Slow* and *Creek Will Rise*, canceled several performances following the crash. The incident, which occurred in Nashville, resulted in

Smith receiving a misdemeanor citation for failure to yield, leading to a fatality. The woman killed in the accident was later identified as Dorothy Dobbins.

Addressing the audience at the Opry, Smith expressed deep emotion and spiritual reflection. “I’ve found in the darkest of moments, the Lord is so much closer than ever before,” he told the crowd, as seen in a video shared with *Fox News Digital*. “He was kinder than I could ever imagine. He was more of a defender than I could ever imagine in my heart.”

Smith also shared a personal blog post titled *The First Step* on Substack, where he spoke about the difficult weeks following the accident. “The moment tragedy came, I knew that my heart had no way to process it,” he wrote. He described taking 30 days to step away from public life, spending time in prayer and reflection with close friends, his wife, and pastors, while avoiding the outside world and media.

During the Opry performance, fellow Christian musician Steven Curtis Chapman introduced Smith, who performed a set filled with spiritual and emotional songs. Among them was a new track titled *Songs of David*, which Smith described as a prayer he had been writing over the past two months.

The singer explained that while music and performing are typically healing outlets for him, he felt it necessary to pause his career temporarily. “Out of respect for everyone involved and to give space for grieving, I made the decision to step away from shows these past few weeks,” he wrote. “But for this moment, it was important for me to take time away.”

In a statement shared on Instagram on July 11, Smith broke his silence about the crash. “Four weeks ago, I was involved in a tragic vehicle accident that resulted in the loss of a life. Not a day has gone by that I haven’t grieved, prayed, and mourned for Ms. Dobbins and her family,” he said.

Smith’s return signals what he describes as a “second chance” both in music and in life as he moves forward while honoring the gravity of the loss. His journey back to the spotlight is underscored by a message of faith, personal accountability, and the healing power of community.