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Wildflower!
richardson's arts & music festival

Wildflower! Festival Features Award-Winning and New Singer-Songwriters, Honors Festival's Roots With Tribute Concert, Award

Michael Terry Tribute Concert Honors Initial Supporter of Wildflower!'s Singer-Songwriter Stage; Festival Presents First Lifetime Achievement Award to Kerrville Folk Festival Founder

RICHARDSON, TX – May 1X, 2011 – Singers and songwriters will be a major point of emphasis for Richardson's 19th annual Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival, North Texas' largest music festival, this coming weekend, May 20-22 at the Galatyn Park Urban Center. The festival will feature performances throughout the weekend by 15 award-winning singer-songwriters, plus 10 new artists who are vying for prizes on Saturday in the Wildflower! Performing Songwriters Competition. The weekend culminates with the Michael Terry Tribute Concert on Sunday to honor the recent passing of the longtime Singer-Songwriter Stage supporter. Additionally, Rod Kennedy, founder of the Kerrville Folk Festival, on which Wildflower! is modeled, will receive the first Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival Lifetime Achievement Award.

The **award-winning singer-songwriters** scheduled to perform at the Galatyn Park Singer-Songwriter Stage, located in the Bank of America Theatre in the Eisemann Center for the Performing Arts, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday include: storyteller **Kate Campbell**; **Bill Ward**, a Singer-Songwriter Stage staple for 15 years, and his trio **2-Bit Palomino**; the newly formed **The New Agrarians**; the reigning Official State Musician of Texas **Sara Hickman**; folk singer **Joe Crookston**; three-time Woody Guthrie Award winner **KC Clifford**; **Tom Kimmel**, who has composed songs for Linda Ronstadt and Johnny Cash; previous Wildflower! Songwriter Contest winner **Beth Wood**; **Pierce Pettis**, who has composed songs for Joan Baez, Garth Brooks and Art Garfunkel; 14-time Boston Music Award winner **Ellis Paul**, who has composed songs for blockbuster films, TV shows, commercials and documentaries; the duo **Albert and Gage**; **Joe Ely**, who topped the Americana charts for nine weeks with *Tours Street of Sin*; and the trio composed of songwriter, recorder and producer **Billy Crockett**, his protégé **Grace Pettis** and cellist **Dirje Smith**.

The **Wildflower! Performing Songwriters Competition**, which takes place on Saturday at 11:30 a.m., encourages the growth of the art of independent performing singer-songwriters. The genres include Acoustic, Americana, Bluegrass, Blues, Celtic, Country and Folk. This year's finalists are John Batdorf (West Hills, Calif.); Ellen Cherry (Parkville, Md.); Steve Chizmadia (Peekskill, N.Y.); Suzanna Choffell (Austin, Texas); RJ Cowdery (Columbus, Ohio); Paula Held (Austin, Texas); Terry Holder (Olympia, Wash.); Cindy Kalmenson (Ojai, Calif.); Jay Ladd (Wendell, N.C.) and Bill Small (Austin, Texas). The contestants are competing for three \$500 cash prizes, the title of "The Michael Terry People's Choice Award" and an invitation to perform on the Bud Light stage.

The **Michael Terry Tribute Concert** will be held on Sunday at 6 p.m., with Sara Hickman, Tom Kimmel and Pierce Pettis performing in Terry's memory. When Wildflower! started the Singer-Songwriter Stage 15 years ago, Terry tirelessly supported



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the festival and brought volunteers from Uncle Calvin's Coffeehouse (which he voluntarily managed for 25 years) to help with artist check-in, the busing of tables, CD sales and managing the green room. For the last 10 years, Terry served on the festival's booking committee and screened talent for the songwriters competition. To further honor Terry's contributions, the festival will present the first Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival Memorial Award, which will be accepted by his wife, Kendra Kilgore Terry. The Wildflower! Performing Songwriters Competition will also award a Michael Terry People's Choice Award.

In addition, Rod Kennedy, who founded the Kerrville Folk Festival in 1972, will receive the **Wildflower! Arts and Music Festival Lifetime Achievement Award**. Wildflower! organizers modeled Richardson's festival on Kerrville's festival, which is internationally renowned as one of the top folk music festivals and places a strong emphasis on songwriting. An ongoing partnership gives both festivals the opportunity to learn from one another and work with each other to secure talent.

Single-day tickets are still available through www.wildflowerfestival.com, or can be purchased at the gate during the festival. Single-day adult tickets are \$20, tickets for kids age 5-12 are \$3, and kids 4 and under will be admitted free. *New this year* will be a "**Kidz in Free**" promotion on Sunday, May 22, when all kids under the age of 12 will get in free with a paid adult, courtesy of Bank of America.

Headliners for 2011 include: **Jerry Lee Lewis; REO Speedwagon; Whitesnake; The Guess Who; Fuel; Roger Creager; Jack Ingram; Better Than Ezra; Sister Hazel; Seven Mary Three; Lit; Cracker; Little River Band; Joe Ely; Sara Hickman; Frontiers - the Journey Tribute Band; Night Fever - the Bee Gees Tribute; Rotel and The Hot Tomatoes; Ellis Paul; Pierce Pettis;** and **Hard Night's Day**.

Named "**Best of the Fests**" by *D Magazine*, **Wildflower!** is the area's premier arts and music festival, drawing local and national acts performing the best in classic rock, reggae, R&B, Texas blues, funk, pop, alt-rock, folk and Americana. The festival also features: three outdoor performance stages; the Market Place featuring arts and crafts; the Guitar Art Auction; the Kidz Korner featuring children's games and activities; street performers, buskers, acrobats and entertainers; City of Richardson Petting Zoo; the Taste of Texas Food Garden, offering a mix of regional cuisine and festival favorites; an award-winning singer-songwriter contest and workshop; Battle of the Bands Competition; Friday night street dance featuring Austin's very own Rotel and The Hot Tomatoes; and the 8th annual "Wild Ride"—a 16-, 40- and 64-mile bike race to benefit the Lance Armstrong Shaped Beam Surgery Program at Methodist Richardson Medical Center.

New this year, Wildflower! also rolls out the **Game Haven Game Zone** – a fun, interactive gaming area with 10-12 video screens featuring the latest video games.

Wildflower! takes place in the Galatyn Park Urban Center at 2351 Performance Drive in Richardson, just off US 75 at the Galatyn Parkway exit. For complete, up-to-date event information including a festival map, performance schedules, festival dos and don'ts, lodging options, driving directions, parking information and festival hours, visit www.wildflowerfestival.com or call 972-744-4580, or follow Wildflower! on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/wildflowerfestival>.

2011 Primary Sponsors include ViewPoint Bank, Methodist Richardson Medical Center, MetroPCS, Bud Light and the City of Richardson. Additional sponsors include Coca-

Cola, Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Texas, AT&T, Coleman American Moving Services, Interstate Batteries, Atmos Energy, Argo Data, Reliable Chevrolet, The Renaissance Hotel Richardson, Hilton Garden Inn Dallas/Richardson, The Hyatt Hotel Richardson, Pan-American Benefits Solutions, Green Mountain Coffee, American Ice, The Velvet Snout, Willhoites Restaurant, TriQuint Semiconductor, Kona Guitars, Oncor, HiTone Guitars, Sunbelt Pools, Kyocera, Tom Thumb, *The Dallas Morning News*, CBS 11, Jack FM, Star Community Newspapers, KSCS, *Collin County Business Press* and *The Dallas Observer*. **Sponsorships are still available by contacting Robbie Hazelbaker at 972.744.4316 or robbie.hazelbaker@cor.gov.**

Media Note: For more information, please contact Geoff Fairchild, special events manager for the City of Richardson, at 972-744-4583 or geoff.fairchild@cor.gov.

About Wildflower!

The Wildflower! Arts & Music Festival began as a small community event in 1993 held in a local park in northeast Richardson, Texas. Nineteen years later the festival has become the premier music event in the area. Originally a community event designed to celebrate the acres of wild flowers planted throughout the city each spring, Wildflower! quickly “blossomed” when national headlining entertainment was added after only the second year. Growing crowds and subsequent logistical challenges lead the event to its first move to the Greenway Corporate Office Park at US 75 and Campbell Rd. Here the event was able to expand with multiple stages, over 30 acres of arts, music, and family activities.

In 1998, the Wildflower Nights! Program was added, bringing an additional weekend of concert-style entertainment to the event. Wildflower Nights! featured evening concerts in an amphitheater setting and the program quickly gained popularity as bigger and better artists were added to the lineup each year. In 2010, over 60,000 attendees, ranging primarily from ages 25 to 54, and from 17 different states, attended the event.

About the City of Richardson

With over 99,200 residents, the City of Richardson is widely recognized for its commitment to excellence, its rich history and its bright future, all of which make Richardson a smart choice for residents and businesses. Known globally for its high-tech business leadership, the City of Richardson also offers a high quality of life, diverse array of neighborhoods, convenient Metroplex location, multi-modal transportation infrastructure and outstanding City services. Richardson has been repeatedly recognized as one of the top places to live and work by the national media, and the City remains dedicated to continuous improvement, as well as to the principles of open government and two-way communications with residents. To learn more, visit www.cor.net.

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