



Press Release - For Immediate Release

109 S 4th Street - St. Joseph, MO - 64503 - www.stjomo.com

For Immediate Release: Mar. 4, 2010

Media contact: Beth Conway, St. Joseph Convention & Visitor Bureau

(816) 233-6688 * (800) 785.0360 * boncway@stjomo.com * www.stjomo.com

Cowboy Singer Michael Martin Murphey To Headline Apr. 3 Concert Celebrating the Pony Express Sesquicentennial in St. Joseph, Mo.

St. Joseph, MO. – Singing Cowboy-Poet Michael Martin Murphey, the top-selling singer-songwriter of American cowboy music, will perform in concert during as part of St. Joseph, Mo.'s Pony Express Sesquicentennial Celebration, Saturday, April 3 at the historic Missouri Theatre. Tickets will be \$10-\$40 and are available through the Robidoux Resident Theatre, (816) 232-1778, or by visiting www.ponyexpress.net.

Best known for the hauntingly beautiful 1975 pop song, "Wildfire," about a mysterious dream horse on the open American prairie, Murphey recently received a Grammy award nomination for Best Bluegrass Album, "Buckaroo Blue Grass. He also has written songs for a variety of recording artists, from the Monkees to John Denver to Lyle Lovett. His classic "Geronimo's Cadillac" has been recorded by Hoyt Axton, Mary McCaslin, Cher and Johnny Rivers. Other Murphey hits include "Still Taking Chances," "A Long Line of Love," "From The Word Go," and "Cowboy Logic." His "Cowboy Songs" became the first gold album of cowboy music since those of Marty Robbins.

Murphey has received numerous honors for his accomplishments in western and cowboy music, including several awards from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. As the guest of honor and performer at virtually every important contemporary Western event and festival, it's no wonder he has been invited to perform at the 150th anniversary of the legendary Pony Express overland mail service, which began in 1860 in St. Joseph, Mo.

Additionally, Murphey's protégé Carin Mari and her group, the (coincidentally named) Pony Express, will perform Friday, April 2, at the Pony Express National Museum in St. Joseph. Tickets will be \$75 per person—and will include dinner plus VIP seating the at the Michael Martin Murphey concert the following night. For reservations, call (816) 279-5059 or (800) 530-5930.

The group, which features warm harmonies and pure yodeling, recently received the North America Country Music Association International's Entertainer of the Year award for Traditional Country, and also was named Colorado Country Music's Best Western Band. Singer-songwriter Carin is a national yodeling champion and accomplished guitarist; Pony Express features her older brother Colin on mandolin and younger brother Evan on Bass guitar. The group has performed with Michael Martin Murphey on numerous occasions.

The Pony Express National Museum will be the site of several other Pony Express Sesquicentennial events, starting on Thursday, April 1, with a Buffalo Bill Look-Alike Contest; the winner will receive \$500 in gold coins. The celebration will continue on Friday and Saturday, April 2-3, when visitors will enjoy re-enactments of James Gang train robberies (Jesse met his end in St. Joseph), stick horse races, exhibits, displays and demonstrations.

On Saturday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m., the Pony Express Bridle & Saddle Parade starring the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales will wind through the streets of St. Joseph to the Pony Express National Museum. The colorful parade will showcase Pony Express riders, period re-enactors, Native Americans, area officials and many others. And the first Pony Express rider, Johnny Fry—actually re-enactor Justin Rother, a direct descendant of an actual Pony Express rider—will dash out from the original Pony Express stables at 7:00 p.m., prior to the Michael Martin Murphey concert.

For more information about the Carin Mari and Michael Martin Murphey concerts, as well as other Pony Express Sesquicentennial events and lodging, dining, shopping and attractions in St. Joseph, MO, please contact the St. Joseph Convention & Visitors Bureau at (800) 785-0360 or visit www.stjomo.org.

####