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News Release

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The Songwriters Tour with Lyle Lovett will appear at Wildhorse Resort & Casino March 8. The tour includes, from left, Lovett, John Hiatt, Guy Clark and Joe Ely.

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The *Songwriters Tour with Lyle Lovett*, featuring Guy Clark, Joe Ely, John Hiatt and Lovett comes to Wildhorse Resort & Casino at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 8. The 33-city tour of the U.S. and Canada, which kicked off January 13 and wraps up March 19, features four of country music's most non-traditional writers and performers, swapping songs and stories on stage.

Wildhorse recommends advance purchase of tickets, \$25 general and \$35 preferred seating, by calling 1-800-654-9453, Ext. 1128 or online at www.wildhorseresort.com.

In fact, it's a stretch to call them just country music performers, since the genres covered by all of them, especially Lovett, range wide. The best known of the quartet, Lovett rambled into Nashville over 20 years ago and made a name in country music. But then he wandered out into the bigger world of blues, western swing, honky tonk and folk. He's also known for his various movie roles, including his two-year marriage to actress Julia Roberts.

Like most of the others in the group, Lovett grew up in Texas, on land settled by an ancestor in the 1840's. Since leaving home for college, where as a student he began to perform professionally, Lovett has recorded 12 albums, sold 4 million records, and won a Grammy for 1996's gold-certified album, *The Road to Ensenada*. His most recent release is *My Baby Don't Tolerate*.

Fellow Texan Guy Clark joined the "folk scare" of the 1960s, leaving Rockport, Texas for Houston to play traditional folk tunes on the Austin-Houston circuit. Later in the '60s he moved to San Francisco, then to LA, where he signed a contract with RCA's Sunbury Music before relocating to Nashville in 1971.

In 1972 Jerry Jeff Walker made a hit of Clark's composition, *L.A. Freeway*. Then in 1973 Walker released an album with another Clark hit, *Desperados Waiting for a Train*. Finally, in 1975, Clark made his recording debut on RCA Records with *Old No. 2*, performing ten critically applauded originals including the two hits first recorded by Walker. He continued to record albums, ten of them through 2002, performing collaborations with such friends as Rodney Crowell, Emmylou Harris, Vince Gill, Albert Lee and Rosanne Cash. Another Cash, Johnny, began to pick up Clark's songs from his albums and turn them into hits, including *Texas, 1947*, *The Last Gunfighter Ballad* and *Let Him Roll*. Ricky Skaggs turned Clark's *Heartbroke* into a number one hit.

In 2004 the Nashville Songwriters Foundation inducted him into its Songwriters Hall of Fame and in 2006 the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum named Clark as its prestigious Artist-in-Residence. His latest CD, *Workbench Songs* (2006), was nominated for the 2007 Grammy as Best Contemporary Folk/Americana Album.

Born in Amarillo, Joe Ely not only writes and performs songs, he has also published a book (University of Texas Press), *Bonfire of Roadmaps*, a collection of his road journals and sketches. Leaving his then hometown of Lubbock, Ely took to the road at 16 and for more than 30 years has performed in thousands of cities in scores of countries. He has, says his bio, "crossed hundreds of borders, frequently with incident and travails beyond his control. He has stowed away on freight trains and ferries, hitchhiked with poets, hoboes, outlaws and hard-luck saints, and he has cruised in limos and toured in jet planes with the Rolling Stones, Bruce Springsteen, Bob Dylan, and the Clash."

On February 9, 2007, Ely turns 60, and in typical Ely fashion, he's celebrating in a big way. Joe began playing music when he was nine, so he's first celebrating the fact that he's been writing and performing music for over half a century. On his birthday he is also releasing his first solo album in more than four years, *Happy Songs from Rattlesnake Gulch*.

John Hiatt was not born or raised in Texas. However, like the other songwriters/performers in this tour, he did migrate to Nashville at an early age, 18, after growing up in Indiana. His work, which he wrote and recorded in his gruff voice with his slashing guitar style, was quickly covered by such people as the Neville Brothers, Ronnie Milsap, Bonnie Raitt, Bob Dylan, Bruce Springsteen, Willie Nelson and many others.

Soon he was gaining recognition in his own right as a performer, with four critically acclaimed albums between 1987 and 1995. More recently he has recorded four albums, including the self-descriptive *Beneath This Gruff Exterior*. The latest is *Master of Disaster*, released in 2005 and recorded with the venerable producer and impresario Jim Dickinson and his sons Cody and Luther, two-thirds of the radical roots-blues/rockers, the North Mississippi Allstars.

"I was trying to cover the great American musical experience with the songs on this album," Hiatt said, his words offering the perfect overview. "We were influenced by the blues, by country music, by ragtime,

jazz, everything. But we were also reflecting the sense of the frontier, the whole Southern experience of different cultures and sounds bumping up against the Mississippi River.”

That could be an apt description of the Songwriters Tour, coming to Wildhorse on March 8.

Wildhorse Resort & Casino is the Pacific Northwest's highest paying casino, with a record \$9.3 million slot jackpot. The Resort includes a 24-hour casino, hotel, RV Park, 18-hole golf course and Tribal museum. It is located just minutes off I-84 at Exit 216, four miles east of Pendleton. For more information: 1-800-654-9453 or www.wildhorseresort.com . Wildhorse is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

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