

NORRIS CENTER

FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

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**‘WINTER DANCE PARTY’ CONCERT RECREATES FINAL TOUR OF
ROCK LEGENDS BUDDY HOLLY, RICHIE VALENS AND THE BIG BOPPER**
Live concert features ‘50s era hits at Norris Theatre January 13-14

Rolling Hills Estates, CA (Nov. 28, 2011) – The Norris Theatre will rock to the sounds of music legends Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and the Big Bopper at the “Winter Dance Party” concert on January 13-14. The high-voltage live show authentically recreates all the excitement and hit songs from the final tour of the iconic trio, who have forever left their mark on rock and roll history.

The original “Winter Dance Party” was a popular concert tour that featured rock ‘n’ roll music pioneers Buddy Holly, J.P. “The Big Bopper” Richardson and Ritchie Valens. Following a performance in Iowa, they boarded a small plane which crashed on February 3, 1959, killing all three stars. The date was immortalized as “the day the music died” in the hit song “American Pie” by Don McLean, who wrote it as a tribute to his lost idols.

The Norris Theatre concert is the official recreation of the final tour and the only show endorsed by the Holly, Valens and Richardson estates. The concert includes over two hours of electrifying entertainment featuring the greatest hit rock ‘n’ roll songs of the ‘50s era, including “That’ll Be The Day,” “Peggy Sue,” “La Bamba,” “Chantilly Lace,” and many more - all accompanied by an energy-packed four-piece band. “Winter Dance Party” has been performed in front of over two million people on national television, and has toured extensively throughout the United States.

John Mueller, the critically acclaimed former star of the U.S. touring version of the London/Broadway hit musical “Buddy - The Buddy Holly Story,” performs as Buddy Holly and Jay P. Richardson, Jr. fills his legendary father's footsteps as the Big Bopper. Ray Anthony performs as Ritchie Valens and is also a renowned star of the “Legends of Rock and

Roll" show at the Imperial Palace in Las Vegas. The band includes Grammy award winning Mike Acosta on saxophone.

Buddy Holly has been recognized as the single most influential creative force in early rock and roll. He inspired and influenced such musicians as The Beatles, The Who, Bob Dylan and the Rolling Stones, and his music endures more than half-a century later. Holly received a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on September 7, 2011, which would have been the singer's 75th birthday, and PBS honored the rocker's birthday by premiering "Buddy Holly: Listen To Me/The Ultimate Buddy Party" on December 3. "We are thrilled to present 'Winter Dance Party' to pay tribute to Holly, Ritchie and The Big Bopper," said James Gruessing, executive director at the Norris Center for the Performing Arts. "It is by keeping their music alive that their legacies will live forever."

Performance dates for "Winter Dance Party" are January 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$42, and discounted group sales tickets are available. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the box office or call 310-544-0403 or visit www.norriscenter.com. Free, covered parking is available behind the theatre. The facility is wheelchair accessible and assisted listening devices are provided upon request. The Norris Theatre is located at 27570 Norris Center Drive in Rolling Hills Estates.

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Buddy Holly

Born Charles Hardin Holley in 1936, Buddy Holly was a rock pioneer who has influenced such icons as Bob Dylan, The Beatles and Elvis Costello. Holly formed the Crickets and later opened for a young Elvis Presley before the group's big hit, and number one single, "That'll be the Day" in 1957. Buddy Holly was one of the first inductees into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and in 2004, Rolling Stone magazine listed him as number 13 of the 100 greatest artists of all time.

Ritchie Valens

In the 17 short years of his life, Ritchie Valens became a rock and roll icon with his renowned songs "La Bamba" and "Donna." As one of the first Latino rockers, Valens has notably influenced such artists as Los Lobos and the Beach Boys. Valens was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2001.

J.P. Richardson "The Big Bopper"

While working as a deejay for a radio station in Beaumont, Texas, Jiles Perry "J.P." Richardson coined the name "The Big Bopper," an alias he would be known for the rest of his life. He was a singer, and songwriter whose big voice and exuberant personality made him an early rock and roll star. Richardson is best known for his recording of "Chantilly Lace".

About Norris Center for the Performing Arts

The Norris Center for the Performing Arts is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Center is comprised of two facilities, the 450-seat Norris Theatre and the Harlyne J. Norris Pavilion, a performing and special event venue, and the home for the Norris education department. These facilities have become cornerstones for the performing arts on the Palos Verdes Peninsula and the entire South Bay area of Los Angeles. Website: <http://www.norriscenter.com>.