

PRESS RELEASE
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*The Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series Presents
Michael Martin Murphey's "Cowboy Christmas" coming to the GMA on
December 2nd*

The Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series concludes its eleventh season with Michael Martin Murphey's special "Cowboy Christmas" concert on Tuesday evening, December 2nd. The production will feature holiday music, cowboy poetry, stories and many of Murphey's hit songs.

The Series, which is named for Greenville native and Austin legend Kenneth Threadgill, is presented in Downtown Greenville at the historic Municipal Auditorium. The GMA was built in 1939 and is celebrating its 75th anniversary this year.

Tickets for the December 2nd concert are on sale now at the Auditorium box office. Tickets may also be purchased online through the Auditorium's website, www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com, or by calling 877-435-9849 or 903-457-2994

Michael Martin Murphey is the number one best-selling cowboy music singer in the world.

His popular Cowboy Christmas Ball has continued for 20 years straight, in the tradition of the famous Cowboy Christmas Ball that began in 1885 in Anson, Texas. An evergreen favorite, this innovative trademark brand spans some 20 cities per holiday season.

Murphey's immensely successful music career has spanned four decades and has included such musical genres as folk, country, rock, Western, and cowboy music. As a singer, songwriter, and producer, he has contributed some of the most beloved songs of his generation and beyond.

Murphey is a native Texan who is now in the Western Music Hall of Fame and has also been recognized and awarded by notable organizations such as the National Cowboy Hall of Fame, the Academy of Country Music, The Grammy Awards, the Country Music Association, and the Texas Music Awards.

Confirmed by BMI, his song "Wildfire" has been named one of the most played songs in radio history in all formats. He has made more than 35 albums over the span of his career, while also achieving success as a movie actor, script writer, and performer in films such as Lonesome Dove and Hard Country.

His newest release, *Red River Drifter*, is a return of sorts to his early days and is earning the iconic Murphey stacks of acclaim. Additionally, it landed in the Top 5 on the Billboard Magazine Bluegrass charts. Previous recent releases included *Tall Grass & Cool Water*, the third in a series as Murphey explored the similarities between bluegrass and American Cowboy Music. In 2010, he released the second, *Buckaroo Blue Grass II: Riding Song*, the follow up to his 2009 Grammy nominated *Buckaroo Blue Grass*.

His hits include "Wildfire," "Carolina In The Pines," "What's Forever For," "Geronimo's Cadillac"; "A Long Line of Love," "What She Wants," "Boy From The Country," "Shake It Off" "Secret Smile", "I'm Gonna Miss You Girl," "Don't Count The Rainy Days," and "Cowboy Logic".

According to BMI, Murphey has 5 million-performance songs ("Wildfire" - 3.9 million; "Cherokee Fiddle" - 1.92 million; "Carolina In The Pines" - 1.65 million; "Talkin' To The Wrong Man" - 1.21 million; and "Still Takin' Chances" - 1.2 million), and a total of 11 award winning BMI songs (6 in Country and 5 in Pop).

His songs recorded by multiple artists including John Denver, Kenny Rogers, Cher, Lyle Lovett, Flatt & Scruggs, Hoyt Axton, Roger Miller, Bobbie Gentry, and Michael Nesmith and The Monkees.

Murphey was inducted into the Texas Country Music Hall of Fame in 2009. He is also a member of the Nebraska Country Music Hall of Fame and the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame. He founded and trademarked Westfest, a Western Cultural festival in Colorado in 1987, called "the best festival in America" by many critics.

Murphey performed with over 100 symphonies around the world, including The National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, DC.

Proceeds from the Threadgill Series benefit Friends of Main Street, a non-profit organization supporting Downtown Greenville. One recent project commissioned by Friends of Main Street is the history of the Greenville Municipal Building, which was researched and written by local historian Carol Taylor. The effort to finance and build the Municipal Building and Auditorium took a number of years and was the result of a concerted community effort.

Violin students from local elementary schools will again perform at the December 2nd concert. The Greenville Suzuki Strings Association sells bottled water at the concerts, with all proceeds being used to purchase new violins for the students.

More information on the Kenneth Threadgill Concert Series can be found at www.ShowtimeAtTheGMA.com <http://www.greenville> and <http://www.greenville-texas.com>.