



Wells Fargo Center for the Arts
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Historic Concert Featuring Merle Haggard and Kris Kristofferson Wows Santa Rosa Audience Pop Music Icon, Cher in Attendance

Santa Rosa, CA (April 2, 2009) – In their first-ever concert together and the first of only three concerts nationwide, the grandfather of Country music Merle Haggard and singer-songwriter, musician, actor Kris Kristofferson took the stage together Wednesday night, April 1 in Santa Rosa for a historic evening of swapping songs and stories. The rare concert event featured Haggard and Kristofferson performing music from their legendary careers, each now nearing the half-century mark.

“Tonight's show was the best show I've seen, maybe ever,” said Lisa Kristofferson, Kris Kristofferson’s wife. “Both men were spontaneous and affectionately generous with each other and the audience and it worked. The warmth and humor onstage was amazing. ”

Though Haggard and Kristofferson have been legends in the music world for nearly 50 years, the two had never before shared the stage and, in fact, had not made music together prior to a rehearsal Tuesday night in Santa Rosa. The result was a concert called “warm,” “funny,” and “wise,” with audience members, including Pop music icon, Cher greeting the two legendary musicians with repeated applause and a five-minute standing ovation. Cher’s attendance at the performance was unpublicized and occurred, for the most part, without public awareness.

Haggard and Kristofferson will perform together at only two additional concerts: Tonight, April 2 in Portland and tomorrow night April 3 in Seattle.

About Wells Fargo Center for the Arts

A non-profit community arts center, Wells Fargo Center for the Arts is home to world-class performances, nationally recognized education programs, contemporary sculpture, and many popular events. The Arts Center is located in the heart of the Sonoma wine country and ranked among California’s top performing arts presenters. Together with its resident companies, the Center presents more than 100 performances each year in music, dance, theater, renowned speakers, and comedy; and education programs serving 30,000 children and adults annually. Owned and operated by the Luther Burbank Memorial Foundation, the Center relies on charitable community donations to achieve its mission – to enrich, educate, and entertain.

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