

Holiday Events

Michael Martin Murphey to Perform his 'Cowboy Christmas' Show in Grand Junction

by Sharon Sullivan

Best known for such top hits as *Wildfire*, *Carolina in the Pines*, and *What's Forever For*, Michael Martin Murphey returns to Grand Junction in November and December to perform his Michael Martin Murphey Cowboy Christmas – a multimedia production featuring his Rio Grande Band, dramatic lighting and video, Western art and cowboy poetry.

The Grammy Award-nominated musician will perform his Cowboy Christmas show – a blend of songs from his numerous Christmas albums, along with country and pop hits – at the Avalon Theatre, 645 Main St. in Grand Junction, Thursday, November 30, 8 – 9:30 p.m.

Murphey's recordings have topped pop, country, western, and bluegrass charts, and his songs have been recorded by The Monkees, Kenny Rogers, the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, John Denver, Hoyt Axton, Johnny Cash, Lyle Lovett, Jerry Jeff Walker, Dolly Parton, Johnny Rivers, Billy Rae Cyrus, and many others.

During the 1970s in Austin, Texas, Murphey helped give rise to the "cosmic cowboy" movement, along with Walker, and Gary P. Nunn, which helped birth the "outlaw country" genre.

In 1985, Murphey performed with the New Mexico Symphony a show titled "A Night in the American West" – which led to hundreds of performances with American and Canadian symphonies, including the National Symphony Orchestra in Washington, D.C.

Murphy celebrates his early days as a pioneer of the 1970s Austin music scene with the 2018 release of *Austinology: Alleys of Austin*, which includes guest artists Willie Nelson, Steve Earle, Lyle Lovett, Amy Grant, Tracy Byrd, Jerry Jeff Walker, Kelly Willis, Bruce Robison and more.

The Texas native was awarded Gold albums for *Cowboy Songs, Vol. 1*; *Blue Sky Night Thunder*, and a Platinum single for *Wildfire*. He is a five-time recipient of the Wrangler Award from the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum and Cowboy Hall of Fame, has won the prestigious Charlie Russell Award for Western

Heritage, and has garnered awards from the Academy of Country Music. He's also received rock music awards, Academy of Western Music awards, the Governor of New Mexico's Outstanding Achievement award, plus more.

Murphey was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Association Hall of Fame in April, 2019, where he joined friends Willie Nelson, Guy Clark and Allen Shamblin. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 59th Annual Western Heritage Awards.

For tickets visit: www.avalontheatregj.com/contactus, or call the main office, 970-263-5700, Mon.–Fri. 9 a.m.–3 p.m.; or the box office: 970-263-5757, Thurs.–Sat. noon–6 p.m.



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