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10 years, eight guys, one special night: Woody Guthrie Folk Festival icons jam for kick-off concert

It's the 10th annual Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, and to celebrate a decade of family folk fun the fest is kicking off with a benefit hootenanny filled with the festival's own stars — artists who've performed at the festival every or nearly every year. The Woodyfest 10-Year Jam will open the five-day festival at 8 p.m. Wednesday, July 11, 2007, at the historic Crystal Theater in Okemah, Okla.

Performers at the Woodyfest 10-Year Jam include Oklahoma native and Red Dirt music prophet Jimmy LaFave; festival icon and revered singer-songwriter Joel Rafael; the spiritual center of the festival, Don Conoscenti, Stillwater's own Red Dirt Rangers trio, the godfather of Red Dirt music, Bob Childers; and the backbone of countless backing bands throughout the festival's history, guitarist extraordinaire Terry "Buffalo" Ware. There's no set list, no rehearsal, no plan — just like these same artists used to do in the late-night jams that were part of the Woody Guthrie Folk Festival in its first few years. Expect many inspired moments, several funny stories and a lot of good music.

Proceeds from this opening-night concert benefit the Woody Guthrie Coalition, which organizes the remaining days of free concerts and events. Tickets for the Woodyfest 10-Year Jam are \$10 for general admission and \$25 for limited Gold Circle seating (which includes admission to an after-show reception with the performers). General admission tickets are available at www.GetTix.net and (866) 443-8849 beginning Friday, June 15, 2007.

These performers and others — including Arlo Guthrie, Kevin Welch, Sara Hickman, Ellis Paul and more — continue playing through Sunday, July 15, 2007, at free concerts and events throughout the annual festival in Woody Guthrie's hometown. For more information and a complete schedule of the week's events, see www.woodyguthrie.com.

The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival is organized and produced by the Woody Guthrie Coalition, a 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation, and the event is made possible in part by grants provided by the Oklahoma Arts Council and the Viersen Family Foundation. Other sponsors of the 2005 festival include New Dominion LLC, Grape Ranch, Taylor Guitars, Intellitouch

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For more information about the artists, schedules and events,
please visit our Web site, www.woodyguthrie.com or call (918)
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