

## **SONS OF THE PIONEERS CHARITY BENEFIT CONCERT**

The legendary Sons of the Pioneers will be appearing in concert on Saturday evening, November 3, at 6:30 p.m. at the Victor Valley College Performing Arts Center, in Victorville, California. This special charity performance will benefit the abused children served by the Happy Trails Children's Foundation in Apple Valley, California.

For decades, the Sons of the Pioneers have musically painted unforgettable images of the West; horses, cattle, cowboys, trails, tall timber, canyons and prairies. Their original songs like "Tumbling Tumbleweeds" and "Cool Water" are classics forever entwined into the lore and mystique of the American West. Both songs have been inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame. The Sons of the Pioneers are the most highly awarded singing group of all time. Among their many prestigious awards, they have been inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Western Music Association Hall of Fame, the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame and the National Cowboy Hall of Fame – Hall of Great Western Performers, for their legacy of works in literature, music, film and television that reflect the significant stories of the American West. The Smithsonian Institute named them as "National Treasures."

The Sons of the Pioneers history began in the fall of 1933 when a young man from Duck Run, Ohio, Leonard Slye, then only 22 years of age and living in Southern California, contacted two of his friends, Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer, to form a musical group. They worked long and hard to develop a unique close harmony sound that has had an enduring influence on American music to this day. These three men became the Pioneer Trio and soon started performing on radio shows in the Los Angeles area. A radio announcer thinking they looked too young to be pioneers, introduced them as the Sons of the Pioneers!

Finding success on the radio, followed by recordings and public appearances, the next logical step was the movies. The Pioneers appeared in productions starring Bing Crosby, Dick Foran, Gene Autry and Charles Starrett. In October 1937, Len Slye left the group to sign a contract with Republic Pictures, where he became Roy Rogers, *King of the Cowboys!* After their contract with Columbia Pictures expired, the group joined Roy at Republic. Roy and Trigger along with sidekick Gabby Hayes, leading lady Dale Evans and the Sons of the Pioneers, formed one of the greatest movie teams of all-time.

Bob Nolan and Tim Spencer were both prolific songwriters and wrote some of the most memorable western songs of all time including "Tumbling Tumbleweeds," "Cool Water," "Timber Trail," "The Everlasting Hills of Oklahoma," and countless others. Through the years, the group has recorded thousands of songs and sold millions of albums, appeared in almost 100 movies, plus hundreds of radio programs, tv shows, fairs, rodeos, and concerts.

In the continuous and unprecedented 84-year history of the group, only 46 talented musicians have been on the roster, a few for a short time and some for decades. Joining the group this year are Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr. as the lead singer and MC of the show along with John Fullerton and ace fiddler, Paul Elliott. They join long-time members Ken Lattimore (20 years) and "Trail Boss" Tommy Nallie, who first joined the group in 1983.

Seats are limited. Tickets are available now and expected to sell out fast. For tickets and more information, call the Happy Trails Children's Foundation, (760) 240-3330. For more information about the foundation, go to: [www.happytrails.org](http://www.happytrails.org)

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