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Private Concert by Willie Nelson Celebrates Autry Museum's 30th Anniversary

Saturday, October 13, 2018, 6:00 p.m



Los Angeles, CA (September 5, 2018) —To commemorate its founding in 1988 as a museum dedicated to telling the diverse stories of the American West, the Autry will hold its [30th Anniversary Celebration](#) on October 13, 2018 on its Griffith Park campus. The event honoring late museum founder **Gene Autry** will feature a private concert by Grammy-award-winning recording artist **Willie Nelson**. In addition to this special performance, festivities will include a cocktail reception, an elegant dinner, and dancing under the stars with **Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real**.

Gene Autry will receive a very special tribute as Founder of the museum. Autry founded the museum—then the Gene Autry Museum of Western Heritage—with wife **Jackie Autry** and dear friends **Joanne and Monte Hale**. With its opening, Autry realized his dream "to build a museum which would exhibit and interpret the heritage of the West and show how it influenced America and the world." Now attracting between 150,000 and 250,000 visitors each year, the Autry in Griffith Park presents a wide range of special exhibitions and public programs that explore the art, history, and cultures of the American West.

Known as "America's Favorite Singing Cowboy," Gene Autry was a legendary entertainer whose

career spanned over 60 years in the entertainment industry as a recording artist, actor and producer. He is the only entertainer to have five stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. He was also an astute businessman, chairman of the board of a broadcasting empire, and owner of the Angels Major League Baseball team.

“It is hard to believe that a little over thirty years ago, Joanne Hale and I were sitting in a dusty warehouse, in our overalls, embarking on the adventure of a lifetime helping the Cowboy realize his dream of a museum,” said Jackie Autry, Founding Chair of the Autry’s board of trustees. “In those early days we could not have envisioned the scope and expansion that is our now. Gene, Joanne, and Monte would be as thrilled as I am. I know it would be particularly meaningful to Gene having Willie and Lukas join us on this very special occasion.”

“The institution Gene Autry started 30 years ago bespoke a tremendous and creative vision of the West, and I am truly honored and privileged to lead the Autry Museum of the American West today,” said **W. Richard West, Jr.** (Southern Cheyenne), President and CEO of the Autry. “This will be a particularly joyous celebration of Gene’s legacy with his friends, family, and well-wishers, including musical performances by his good friend Willie Nelson and those representing the next generation of entertainers, Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real.”

World-renowned country music singer-songwriter Willie Nelson has won 11 Grammys, including the President’s Merit Award, Grammy Legend Award, and Lifetime Achievement Award. He was inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame and received a Kennedy Center Honor and the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song. He also co-founded Farm Aid, which raises money for family farmers in the U.S. After-party entertainment will be provided by Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real, an American rock group led by singer, songwriter, and guitarist Lukas Nelson. Their self-titled album, released in 2017, embodied cosmic country soul and hit #1 on the Americana Radio Charts and earned the band their first Americana Music Awards nomination for Duo/Group of the Year.

During the cocktail reception, attendees will enjoy exclusive access to see two current exhibitions, [LA RAZA](#) and [Rick Bartow: Things You Know But Cannot Explain](#). *LA RAZA* looks at the photography of the influential 1960s/70s bilingual newspaper *La Raza* which served as an important voice for the Chicano Rights Movement and documented key moments, members and symbols of the movement. *Rick Bartow: Things You Know But Cannot Explain* offers a comprehensive retrospective exhibition on this contemporary American artist and member of the Mad River Band Wiyot tribe. Two of the Autry’s core galleries, [Art of the West](#) and [Ted and Marian Craver Imagination Gallery](#), will also be open for the evening. *Art of the West* explores how the West inspires the works of artists from different cultures and times. Imagination Gallery shows how the Western genre has evolved in response to social and cultural changes taking place in America.

Schedule of Events

6:00 p.m. | Cocktail reception and Gallery Viewing

7:30 p.m. | Dinner

8:30 p.m. | Private Concert by **Willie Nelson**

9:30 p.m. | After-Party and Dancing Under the Stars with **Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real**

Sponsorship and Tickets

For sponsorship and ticket information, please call **323.495.4331** or visit

TheAutry.org/Celebrate. Proceeds from the 30th-Anniversary Celebration benefit the Autry's many on- and off-site educational programs, and research. The Autry's educational programs serve tens of thousands of children and their families and teachers each year.

IMAGES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

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About the Autry Museum of the American West

The Autry is a museum dedicated to exploring and sharing the stories, experiences, and perceptions of the diverse peoples of the American West, connecting the past to the present to inspire our shared future. The museum presents a wide range of exhibitions and public programs—including lectures, film, theatre, festivals, family events, and music—and performs scholarship, research, and educational outreach. The Autry's collection of more than 500,000 pieces of art and artifacts includes the Southwest Museum of the American Indian Collection, one of the largest and most significant of Native American materials in the United States.

Museum admission is \$14 for adults, \$10 for students and seniors 60+, \$6 for children ages 3–12, and free for Autry members, veterans, and children age 2 and under. Admission is free on the second Tuesday of every month.

HOURS

Museum and Autry Store:

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

Crossroads West Cafe:

Tuesday–Friday, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.

The museum, store, and cafe are closed on Mondays. Visit TheAutry.org for more information.

Image: (Left) Autry rope cutting ceremony with Los Angeles City Councilman John Ferraro (left), Gene Autry (middle), and Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley (right); (Right) Willie Nelson.