

# FUNDRAISING TOURS TO SUPPORT THE MUSICAL SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS PROGRAM

## 40<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY WINTER DANCE PARTY

In 1999, a group of devout Buddy Holly fans commemorated the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1959 Winter Dance Party by organising a recreated Tour, playing each of the 11 cities played in 1959 exactly 40 years to the day. Six of the original venues were played, including the legendary Surf Ballroom in Clear Lake, Iowa.

Featured musicians included John Mueller, Ernie Valens and Paul Kruse portraying Buddy Holly, Ritchie Valens and The Big Bopper respectively. Guest artists included Niki Sullivan, an original member of The Crickets, and Robert Reynolds of The Mavericks.

All profits were used to establish Musical Scholarships and Awards in memory of Ritchie Valens, Buddy Holly and J P (The Big Bopper) Richardson, and also the pilot of the plane, Roger Peterson, and a former manager of the Surf Ballroom, Darrel Hein.



In 2002, a six venue Tour was played in Minnesota and Iowa, again finishing at the Surf Ballroom, Clear Lake. This time the theme was 'contemporaries of Buddy Holly', and the artists included Tommy Allsup and Carl Bunch from the 1959 Winter Dance Party.

Bassist Larry Welborn and back-up singers Gary and Ramona Tollett, performers from 'That'll Be The Day' recorded in 1957, were along as well as George Tomsco (of The Fireballs), David Bigham (of The Roses), Ernie Valens and the legendary Peggy Sue. The Shackshakers, performed on this Tour, and provided back-up for all the artists. 11 year old Richie Lee performed at one show and has appeared many times since with many of the artists listed above.

## 50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY of THE LAST TOUR

In 2009, around the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1959 Winter Dance Party, a commemorative Tour will play five shows including three at \* original venues. Show dates are:

Thu January 22	Medina Entertainment Center, Medina, Minnesota
Fri January 23	* Eagles Ballroom, The Rave, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Sat January 24	* Capitol Theatre, Davenport, Iowa
Sun January 25	* Kato Ballroom, Mankato, Minnesota
Fri January 30	Electric Park Ballroom, Waterloo, Iowa

Starring Tommy Allsup, Grammy Award winner and veteran of the 1959 Winter Dance Party, the shows will also feature Chicago's Johnny Rogers, Richie Lee from Des Moines, Iowa and The Shackshakers from Duluth, Minnesota.