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Rock and Roll Concert In Tipton Sept. 22

by [Krista Clark](#) · September 12, 2007

If you enjoy music from the 50's, 60's and 70's and like to dance, you won't want to miss the Iowa Rock n Roll Music Association's "Rock the Roof Roadshow" concert at the Mathews Building on the Cedar County Fairgrounds Sept. 22.

With the doors opening at 6:30 and the concert starting at 7:30, for \$10 you'll be entertained by 3 of the best rock and roll bands in Iowa until near midnight.

The concert and dance is part of this year's entertainment at the Cedarland Fall Festival.

Two of the featured bands are in the Iowa Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame: Milk and Honey and the Rock N' Flames. Jim and Sid Moore, who play for the Rock N' Flames, are also in the Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame.

The third band that's playing at the concert is a popular group called Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50's.

The Iowa Rock 'N Roll Music Association, headquartered at Arnolds Park on Lake Okoboji in northwest Iowa, has organized the concert, a way to get the word out about the association and to help preserve Iowa's rich rock and roll history.

The 3 bands that will perform in Tipton are among the best in the state today and fans will not be disappointed by what they hear, according to Loren Paulson, president of the Rock 'N Roll Music Association who helped organize the event.

"Milk and Honey", which started in 1967, still has one of its original singers, Rick Koch, who plays bass guitar, keyboard and signs.

He's joined by Maureen Hastings, vocal and keyboard (who joined the group in 1971); Roger Miller, vocal and lead and bass guitar; John Arntson, percussion; Wayne Risvold, vocal, guitar and keys; Jenny Fitkin, vocal and percussion and Brent Hastings, sound/light technician and harmonica.

The group was originally based in western Iowa and the name Milk and Honey came from a poem about the "Land of Milk and Honey." The band was inducted into the Iowa Rock N' Roll Hall of Fame in 2004.

"Rock N' Flames", which includes 2003 Hall of Fame inductee brothers Jim and Sid Moore, got it's start in 1957, making this year the group's 50th anniversary.

The group's now known as Sundown III, but it was the "Rock N' Flames" that is in the Iowa Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame.

The band has a long history of playing all eras of music in southeastern Iowa.

In addition to Jim and Sid Moore, Jim's son, Cass, and Michelle Schultz round out the band.

Rock N' Flames plays music starting back in the good old days of the 50's and 60's, but also performs music from the 70's on into the 20th century.

Like Milk and Honey, the Rock N' Flames encourages requests for songs that listeners want to hear.

The third gig that will be playing at the Rock the Roof Road Show, Richie Lee & the Fabulous 50's, is a performer and group that's especially for anyone who's a fan of Buddy Holly.

Now Buddy Holly never actually played a concert in Tipton, but on a cold winter day at the end of January in 1959, Buddy, Ritchie Valens and the "Big Bopper" Richardson were briefly stranded here, right before they headed off to one of their last concerts at Clear Lake.

The group's bus had a malfunctioning heater and Holly, Valens and Richardson spent a few hours in town, mainly at a small restaurant near the garage where their bus was being fixed, called "The Meet and Eat", located near where Happy Joe's now sits.

Richie Lee, a 17-year-old from Des Moines is one of those people who's never forgotten Buddy Holly, who was killed along with several members of his band when their plane crashed Feb. 3 1959 north of Clear Lake.

A fan of Holly's music since he was 6, Richie is making a name for himself performing Holly's music at '50s style dances and clubs around the state.

He's also played with many Iowa Rock 'N Roll Hall of Fame bands, in Boston, with the Drifters and this summer in Memphis for an Elvis Tribute.

Richie even has the same kind of guitar as his favorite artist, a 1955 Fender Stratocaster.

He's adamant that Buddy Holly's music "not fade away."

"I want to bring back this sound for kids so it's not forgotten," he said. I want them to hear what real rock music sounds like."

All 3 of the bands that will be playing in Tipton are available to play at other events, so if you like what you hear, you might want to bring them back for another occasion.

All the groups, plus the Iowa Rock 'N Roll Hall of Music Association have websites where you can read more about them.

Milk and Honey's website is www.milkandhoneymusic.com; Rock N' Flames can be located at www.sundown3band.com and Richie Lee and the Fabulous 50's is at www.richielee productions.com. The Iowa Rock 'N Roll site is www.iowarocknroll.com.

Paulson, the president of the Iowa Rock and Roll Music Association that's bringing the concert to Tipton, says most people aren't aware of the truly rich tradition that rock and roll has in Iowa.

"The state was a natural stopping point from east to west as musicians traveled the ballroom circuit," he said.

A wealth of information about rock and roll in Iowa, Paulson's confident people here will enjoy the 3 bands that are coming to the fairgrounds.

"I think people here will be talking about this show for a long time after it's over," he said.

Similar concerts are held around the state and, where groups have performed, they're often asked back with larger crowds the second time round.

In addition to providing bands for events like Tipton's Rock the Roof Road Show, the Rock 'N Roll Music Association also has a museum in Arnolds Park, Iowa that's full of rock and roll memorabilia from the state's past.

Now a lot of that material is going on the road, traveling to events sponsored by the association so that more people can learn about this aspect of the state's rich musical heritage.

Paulson said the Rock 'N Roll Association also emphasizes education, with a program called the 4R's---Reading', Ritin', Rithmatic' and Rock & Roll---which encourages and supports music education at all levels.

The association now annually gives a scholarship to an Iowa high school student who plans to study music in college.

Finally, the organization also sponsors an annual Gretsch guitar art competition, where 8 guitars were taken to Iowa high schools and painted with the students' own designs.

Students at Bedford High School won the competition this year and their guitars are now on display at the rock and roll museum. The school received gift certificates for the purchase of art supplies.

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