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Music And Eventing: Together At The Galway Downs International Horse Trials

Temecula, Calif., March 11, 2013 – If the sport of eventing had a soundtrack, then dressage would be symphonic (intricate and soaring), show jumping would be jazz (smooth and calculated), and cross-country would be the loudest of rock and roll.

At the Galway Downs International Horse Trials, on March 29-31, music lovers will get to indulge their passion as they listen to five diverse musical acts, adding to the excitement of the horses competing at the highest levels of the sport.

Tony Suraci, singing his “The Highwayman Show,” will be the featured performer on Saturday night, March 30. Suraci, who lives just north of Temecula in Fallbrook, brings fans to their feet with a foot-stomping selection of songs by Johnnie Cash, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Waylon Jennings.

Sharing the stage with Suraci will be Tim Walsh, who fronts his own Credence Clearwater Revival tribute band. Walsh is a multi-talented musician who also co-hosts with comedian Andy Dick the weekly TV show “Battlecam” on Filmon.tv.

“I’ve been emulating certain people since I was a kid,” says Suraci, who created “The Highwayman Show” about six years ago, after a fan heard him sing songs by all four legends in a performance and suggested he turn it into a full-fledged tribute show. Suraci usually plays a guitar Nelson gave to him more than 20 years ago.

During Saturday's cross-country phase, from noon to 4:00 p.m., Kenny Marquez will play his wide-ranging rock collection on one section of the course, while Low Volts, the one-man band of Tim Lowman, will play on another section.

Marquez, known as "the human jukebox," was the lead guitarist for the 1980s rock band Renegade, and he's performed at more than 500 venues in Southern California. Lowman was voted the best new artist of the year in San Diego for 2011, and the album "Twist Shake Grind Break" was voted the best blues album.

Tacky Little Hat Shop will kick off the musical performances with their experimental folk/indie music on Friday, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Sisters Annie Preston and Enya Preston formed Tacky Little Hat Shop in the summer of 2008, playing acoustic guitar, banjo, keyboard, and accordion. They call their newest album "Broken Doll," and last summer they won the Battle of the Bands at the Riverside County Fair.

Award-winning 18-year-old singing sensation Jillian Calkins will provide the weekend's musical climax after Sunday's show jumping phase, from noon to 3:30. Calkins, of Lake Elsinore, has taken the Southern California jazz scene by storm. She captivates audiences of all ages with timeless French and contemporary jazz, along with modern hits of the day with her own jazzy flair.

Each of the more than 60 horses expected to start in the three international divisions will perform their dressage tests on Friday morning and then negotiate the demanding show jumping course in the late afternoon. Then, on Saturday, they'll gallop over the more than 30 jumps on the cross-country course designed by Ian Stark of Great Britain, who's designed the Galway Downs course to great acclaim since 2007.

The CIC3* division of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials is one of 15 member events of the Adequan/USEA Gold

Cup/PRO Tour Series for 2013. Riders in each of these events aim for top prize money and prizes while seeking to qualify for the series final at the American Eventing Championships, where the purse is \$40,000.

Equine Insurance of California, the Adequan/USEA Gold Cup, and the PRO Tour are the Presenting Sponsors of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials.

The Gold Medal Sponsors of the Galway Downs International Horse Trials are: The *California Horsetrader*, Professional's Choice, MD Barnmaster and Sunsprite Warmbloods.

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General admission for the Galway Downs International Horse Trials is only \$10 per day in advance, \$15 at the gate, with children under 12 free when accompanied by a paying adult.

Patron's passes – which include seating in the ringside tent, lunch and a full selection of beverages – are also available for \$55 per day or \$150 for the weekend in advance. For advance reservations, go to www.galwaydowns.com.

For more information on the Galway Downs International Horse Trials, visit www.galwaydowns.com or call 951-303-0405. To learn more about eventing, visit the U.S. Eventing Association's website (www.useventing.com).