



For Immediate Release
April 15, 2005

Contact: Billy Sparks
505-476-2299

Governor Richardson Signs Executive Order Establishing First New Mexico Music Commission

Santa Fe: New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson today signed an Executive Order establishing the first New Mexico Music Commission. "New Mexico has a rich and treasured musical tradition. Diverse and vibrant, it is time to recognize the contributions of the thousands of New Mexico musicians and to work with them to preserve our heritage, promote continued creativity and assist the state's music industry in reaching it's full potential," Governor Richardson said.

The Music Commission will work throughout the state and with other state agencies like the Tourism and Film Departments to promote the many New Mexico musical traditions spanning from the ancient melodies of New Mexico's Native Nations, Tribes and Pueblos, to the chart topping current hits of New Mexico resident and country music star, Randy Travis to the thousands of Mariachi musicians.

The Commission members will meet on a volunteer basis. The Governor will name the Commissioners in the coming weeks. Nancy Laflin who has worked as a local TV reporter since 2000 KOAT TV in Albuquerque has been appointed as the Executive Director.

Nancy grew up in Albuquerque and graduated from Eldorado High School and the University of New Mexico. She has worked as a TV news reporter in Corpus Christi and San Antonio Texas. She started her TV career at Action 7 New as an associate producer/reporter. She recently completed an album project featuring children's lullabies.

Our music and our musicians are among New Mexico's greatest cultural assets," said Department of Cultural Affairs Secretary Stuart Ashman. "Governor Richardson's far reaching vision has recognized a long overdue need to recognize the importance of music to our heritage and our economic development. With the newly formed music commission our state will be poised to foster not only the music of New Mexico, but will be able to help promote the music industry in our state."

"We're excited about working with the new Music Commission," said Loie Fecteau, executive director of New Mexico Arts. "We already do a lot to preserve the many diverse musical traditions in our state through the efforts of our state folklorist, and this will take us to a new level."

"Thanks to Governor Richardson, our multi-talented musicians will now have more opportunities to work with our expanding movie industry in New Mexico and this will broaden the economic opportunities for artists statewide," Fecteau said. "It is fitting that the state that was instrumental in the formative era of rock and roll -- Buddy Holly was among the musicians to record at the Norman Petty studio in Clovis -- will once again be front and center in the music world."

"We have been very successful in attracting major film projects and the Film Commission has played a significant role in our success. Twenty-five films and \$162 million dollars since I took office, is testament to our success. I want the same results and opportunities for the state music industry and artists from the new Music Commission," Governor Richardson said.