



# Rockabilly to replace Richard Marx at Raue Center

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Scrambling to find a replacement after a cancellation by Richard Marx, the Raue Center for the Arts will bring Rockabilly to the stage.

Marx, known for his '80s rock hits, was slated to headline the Raue's second annual National Piano Conference. Marx ticket orders will be refunded or credited through the Raue's Box Office.

"We found ourselves in a pinch," Raue Executive Director Richard Kuranda said. "Richard Marx withdrew for personal reasons. We were very very disappointed, and that's all there is to it."

Looking through the roster, an intern suggested the Raue seek out a performer similar to Jerry Lee Lewis, who pioneered the 1950's pumping piano. So Kuranda turned to the stars of "Million Dollar Quartet," a musical inspired by the classic recordings made Tuesday, Dec. 4, 1956, in the Sun Record Studios in Memphis, Tenn.

The session brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for the first and only time.

The musical brings that legendary night to life, and the stars of the musical will perform "Jerry Lee & Friends: An Evening of The King, The Killer & Cash" at 8 p.m. June 29 at the Raue, 26 N. Williams St., Crystal Lake.

The performance features Lance Lipinsky as Jerry Lee Lewis, Cody Slaughter as Elvis and Adam Lee as Johnny Cash.

"We thought, 'What a home run,' " Kuranda said. "They're going to make the date work for us. They're great guys with just a wonderful sense of craft and showmanship.

"They're really just fantastic. When they found out what we were doing with the piano conference, they're not only going to be doing all of those incredible rockabilly hits and the music from the genre, but they're really going to tie in how the piano led to those other instruments."

Many don't know how much Elvis and Johnny Cash were influenced by the piano early on, Kuranda said.

The performance is expected to showcase the roots of Western Swing and rhythm and blues that would ultimately create Rockabilly and later, Rock & Roll.

The concert and the entire conference, slated for June 27-30 at the Raue, benefits the center's educational

programs.

Other conference performances include “Exploring the Piano, One Key at a Time” presented by Michael Pecak, and a “Winner’s Showcase Concert” on June 27; a “Nashville Country BBQ Fundraiser” and “Nashville Backstage: A Country Cabaret” on June 28; and “An Evening with Danny Wright” on June 30.

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