



THE CHURCH STUDIO

Constructed in 1915 as Grace M.E. Church, it was in 1972 that Leon Russell purchased the dilapidated building and turned it into a world-class recording studio and home office to Shelter Records. Along with his business partner, producer Denny Cordell, the business rocked the music world throughout the 1970s.

Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers got their start at The Church Studio and the history boasts many other legacy artists who walked through the doors including Willie Nelson, Eric Clapton, Kansas, Stevie Wonder, Bob Dylan, Bob Seger, Jimmy Buffett, Bob Marley, George Harrison, Dwight Twilley, and Ringo Starr, to name a few.

Purchased by Teresa Knox, the recording studio underwent a five-year significant historic renovation, completed in early 2022 with a highly coveted vintage gear list to accompany the gorgeous restoration. It offers both analog and digital recording options in a state-of-the-art facility. In addition to being a recording studio, the Church is a tourist attraction, audio engineering school, rentable venue, and home to the Church Studio Archive, a rare collection of over 5,000 artifacts, documents, and memorabilia. The mission of The Church Studio Music Foundation, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity, is to support the understanding, appreciation, and advancement of music. Tax-deductible donations may be sent to 2210 S. Main St., Tulsa, OK 74114.



WILL ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL

Will Rogers High School (its traditional name) was completed in 1939 during the Great Depression as a Public Works Administration (PWA) project. This art deco masterpiece is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Its balconied auditorium resembles a luxury theatre, seating 1,406. It will receive a new theatre organ this year.

The Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, Inc., was formed in 2010. Its primary mission is to raise and receive charitable contributions from friends and alumni of Will Rogers High School and from the general public, to manage and invest the contributed property and funds, and to make distributions to the school in support of the school's mission and priorities. The foundation funds projects requested by faculty members; provides academic scholarships, supplies and equipment; conducts public tours of the historic building; supports organized athletics and other extra-curricular activities; and is responsible for the operation of the Hall of Fame, which not only honors its many distinguished alumni, but also inspires current students.

The foundation is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as an I.R.C. § 501(c)(3) nonprofit entity. Donations are tax-deductible and may be sent to P.O. Box 52845, Tulsa, OK 74152.



Leon Russell^{80th} Birthday Concert

PETE & JENNIFER MARRIOTT | TOMMY LUTHER | ALAN RANSOM | DAVID TEEGARDEN SR. | FRANK PADILLA | JON GLAZER

April 03, 2022 | 2:30 PM | Tulsa, OK

Will Rogers High School Auditorium

Will Rogers High School
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

JARED TYLER FREDERICK

ANN BELL | CLAUDIA LENNEAR | DON WHITE | BEAU CHARRON | PAUL BENJAMIN | DAVID THAYER | WADE INMAN | BRANDON HOLDER | JOHNNY WILLIAMS | BILLY ESTES | CORTEZ JOHNSON



The late Leon Russell is a Grammy Award-winning member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Songwriters Hall of Fame, and Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame. Having graduated from Will Rogers High School in 1959 as Claude Russell Bridges, Leon is also a member of the Will Rogers High School Hall of Fame.



Jointly sponsored by The Church Studio Music Foundation and the Will Rogers High School Community Foundation, this exciting performance is part of The Church Studio's "LeonLifer Shindig" festivities. Executive Producer Teresa Knox and Producers Johnny McDonnell and Leon classmate Dick Risk are proud to invite you to celebrate Leon Russell's 80th Birthday!

The performing ensemble for the Leon Russell Birthday Concert is comprised of instrumentalists and singers who toured and recorded with Leon, led by Music Director Paul Benjamin and Co-Director Frank Padilla, and including superstars Claudia Lennear and Ann Bell along with Don White and David Teegarden and many other Tulsa Sound legends: Beau Charron, Brandon Holder, Billy Estes, Pete Marriott, Jennifer Marriott, Tom Nicholson, David Thayer, Alan Ransom, Wade Inman, Johnny Williams, Jon Glazer, Jared Tyler Frederick, and Cortez Johnson. Music historian and radio personality John Wooley is the master of ceremonies.

The Church Studio is thrilled to celebrate Leon's 80th birthday with "LeonLifers" who have gathered in Tulsa from around the world for a three-day "Shindig" April 1-3, 2022. Organized largely by its leader, Johnny McDonnell, the festivities included a tour of Leon's studio at Grand Lake and an evening of music and reflection in a local club. On his actual birthday, April 2, the group toured The Church Studio including its archive and memorabilia collection, capped with a champagne reception. Today's Leon Russell Birthday Concert at Will Rogers High School, Leon's alma mater, concludes the festivities.

LeonLifers is a group of individuals from diverse backgrounds who live all over the world. Members used to travel to meet and attend his concerts wherever they were held. The common bond between these individuals is the music Leon Russell has created. As one member puts it: "A LeonLifer is someone who has been fortunate enough and lucky enough to have been exposed to Leon and doesn't have to be from the 1960s."

Stranger in a Strange Land

Performed by Paul Benjamin
Don J. Preston, Leon Russell; Irving Music, Inc. (BMI)

Out in the Woods

Performed by Paul Benjamin with Jared Tyler
C.R. Bridges; Irving Music, Inc. (BMI)

Prince of Peace

Performed by Paul Benjamin
Greg Dempsey, Leon Russell; Irving Music Inc. (BMI)

Hummingbird

Performed by Jared Tyler
Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp., Reservoir One America (BMI)

Roll Away the Stone

Performed by Jared Tyler
Greg Dempsey, Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp., Reservoir One America (BMI)

Crystal Closet Queen

Performed by Claudia Lennear
Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp., Reservoir One America (BMI)

Home Sweet Oklahoma

Performed by Claudia Lennear
Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp., Reservoir One America (BMI)

This Masquerade

Performed by Claudia Lennear, featuring Johnny Williams
Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp. (BMI)

Girl from the North Country

Performed by Claudia Lennear
Bob Dylan; SONY Music Entertainment (SESAC)

The Letter

Performed by Claudia Lennear
Wayne Carson Thompson, arr. Jay Althouse; Budde Songs Inc., Lovolar Music (BMI)

Goodnight Irene

Performed by Don White
Huddie Ledbetter, John A. Lomax Sr.; Ludlow Music, Inc. (BMI)

Tight Rope

Performed by Paul Benjamin
C.R. Bridges; Irving Music, Inc. (BMI)

Superstar

Performed by Ann Bell
Bonnie Lynn Bramlett, Delaney Bramlett, Leon Russell; Embassy Music Corp., Reservoir One America (BMI)

Honky Tonk Women

Performed by Ann Bell
Michael Phillip Jagger, Keith Richard; Abkco Music, Inc. (BMI)

Jumpin' Jack Flash

Performed by Ann Bell
Michael Phillip Jagger, Keith Richard; Abkco Music, Inc. (BMI)

A Song for You

Performed by Ann Bell
Leon Russell; Irving Music, Inc. (BMI)

Selections and performers subject to change.

PRODUCTION STAFF:

Teresa Knox, executive producer and marketing; Richard (Dick) Risk, producer; Johnny McDonnell, producer; Paul Benjamin, music director; Frank Padilla, music co-director; Bill Miller, location coordinator; Karen Miller, stagecraft and house manager; Jo Anne Lewis, volunteers coordinator. Technical Team: Teresa Knox, Ivan Acosta, Amber Acosta, Cade Roberts, Dan Heinrichs, KJ Barger, Matthew Simonson, Nancy Ruth, Tim Crisp.

THE CHURCH STUDIO MUSIC FOUNDATION:

Executive Board: Teresa Knox, Linda DeWitt, Jim Stephens, Ronnie Carlson.

WILL ROGERS HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION:

Paul Thomas, president; Jacci Harris, vice president; Bill Miller, vice president; Mary Ebanks, treasurer; Rick Miller, immediate past president; Richard (Dick) Risk, founder, past president, advisor, and authorized representative; Nicolette (Nikki) Dennis, principal (ex officio).