



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – Country Music Hall of Fame® Press Release
FAMILY TRADITION: THE HANK WILLIAMS LEGACY, 28TH MARCH 2008**

The legendary Hank Williams is an American music icon and was country music's first superstar, selling ten million records from 1947 to 1953. Hank was only 29 when he died on his way to a gig on New Year's Day in 1953 but his music has gone on to influence the Rolling Stones, Elvis Costello, the White Stripes, U2 and many others.

Now for the first time ever, the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum have a major new exhibition, *Family Tradition: The Hank Williams Legacy, Presented by SunTrust*, opening on Friday March 28 2008, for a near two-year run. They will explore the connections between country music's most iconic figure and his creative heirs – both biological and musical – and examine the ways in which American music continues to be measured by the standards Hank Williams set.

Presented with the full cooperation and assistance of the Williams family, the exhibition will use artifacts, instruments, song manuscripts, costumes, photographs, computer interactives, moving images and more to explore the connections between Hank Williams and his progeny, and his enduring impact on popular music.

Among the items never or rarely seen by the public until now are Williams family scrapbooks and correspondence; and awards, instruments and costumes belonging to Hank Williams and Hank Williams Jr., including some of the latter's first toddler-size stage costumes designed by Nudie the Rodeo Tailor.

"In past years, the Museum has examined the life and music of Hank Williams through a major biographical exhibit and a two-CD collection of his demo recordings," said Museum Director Kyle Young. "As his heirs speak frankly about their ancestor's legacy and his impact on their lives, the *Family Tradition* story will take our visitors on a voyage to the spiritual and emotional core of the Williams family. This exhibition would not be possible without the blessing and participation of the family," he said. "They have opened their hearts to us and shared their stories and their journeys. They have also opened their homes and personal archives and shared a wealth of precious artifacts, many of which will be exhibited for the first time in *Family Tradition*."

More information about the Country Music Hall of Fame® and Museum is available at www.countrymusichalloffame.com or by calling 001 (615) 416-2001.