



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Jefferson Center announces concert with
Doo Wop superstars The Platters and The Coasters**

Concert serves as part of annual Jefferson High School Alumni Weekend celebration

Join us for some of the best music of the 1950s with The Platters and The Cornell Gunter Coasters in an unforgettable concert featuring songs that defined a generation including, *Only You, The Great Pretender, Yakety Yak, Charlie Brown* and more!

THE PLATTERS

The Platters were formed in 1953 in Los Angeles, CA. Their 1955 recording “Only You” was the beginning of stardom for the group that was to become the most popular vocal group of the fifties. The Platters had four number one songs and sixteen gold records, most of which can still be heard on any easy listening or oldies station throughout the country today. Record sales to date are in excess of 80 million copies. Among their 20 movie appearances are “Rock Around The Clock” and “The Girl Can't Help It”. In 1990, the Platters were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall Of Fame.

THE CORNELL GUNTER COASTERS

The Cornell Gunter Coasters are the supreme comedians of rock and roll. What's more, their impact has deepened with time. Named for their West Coast origin, The Coasters were the first vocal group to be inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1987. Their songs, their parodies and the tunes that became million-selling records are revived in this new generation of music. This year marks the 35th Anniversary of the formation of Cornell Gunter's Coasters. So unique was Cornell's approach to the Coasters' music, and 1950's music in general, that within a year Cornell Gunter's Coasters were headlining in Las Vegas six months out of the year. Soon the Drifters, the Platters, and other 1950's groups, following Cornell's lead, were reconstituted as live performing groups, all with their own unique style. It's been ten years since Cornell passed away, but his genius still lives on in the way Cornell Gunter's Coasters present themselves onstage.

This special summer concert is presented in celebration of Jefferson High School's Alumni Weekend held annually at Jefferson Center. Originally constructed in 1922, Jefferson High School served as Roanoke's largest high school for half a century. After its 1975 closing, the dilapidated building was nearly torn down. In 1989 the Jefferson Center Foundation, headed in part by dedicated Jefferson Center alumni, helped raise money to renovate and restore the building to what has become Roanoke's premier non-profit performing arts center.

Tickets for The Platters and The Cornell Gunter Coasters go on sale to the public Monday, July 7 and range from \$26-31. Tickets are available through the Jefferson Center box office at (540) 345-2550 or online at www.jeffcenter.org.

Jefferson Center is a non-profit performing arts center that enriches and educates Western Virginia by producing high quality performing and visual arts programs including concerts, dance parties, exhibitions, lectures and artist residencies.

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