

December 7, 2007

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For information and high resolution image, contact:

Nancy Howell, Executive Director (352) 383-2627

RITA COOLIDGE TO HEADLINE THE 11TH ANNUAL MOUNT DORA MUSIC FESTIVAL

MOUNT DORA: Two-time Grammy-winner Rita Coolidge will headline the 11th Annual Mount Dora Music Festival featuring four days of great music and twenty exciting performances. The most versatile singer of the rock generation, Coolidge also sings pop, rhythm and blues, jazz, folk and country music. She is best known for her hits '*Your Love Has Lifted Me Higher and Higher*' and '*We're All Alone*', in addition to albums that focus on her Native American roots. Coolidge will perform two shows at 5 and 8 p.m. on Saturday, February 23rd, 2008 at the Mount Dora Community Center, 520 North Baker Street, downtown Mount Dora.

Coolidge began her career as a backing vocalist for such artists as Eric Clapton, Joe Cocker, Jimi Hendrix, Bob Dylan, and Leon Russell who was inspired to write '*The Delta Lady*' in honor of Coolidge. In 1973, several duet hits followed with husband Kris Kristofferson including their Grammy-winning recordings *From the Bottle to the Bottom* and *Lover Please*. Coolidge's string of hits also included cover versions of Carole King's *One Fine Day*, the Temptations' *The Way You Do The Things You Do*, and Carole Bayer Sayer's '*I'd Rather Leave When I'm In Love*'. In 1983, her song '*All Time High*' became a hit when featured in the James Bond film '*Octopussy*.'

In the late 1990s, Coolidge's family trio Walela released Native American-themed albums that explored and celebrated the music of the Cherokee Indians. In 2002, she was presented with a "Lifetime of Musical Achievement" award at the First Americans in the Arts Awards, and was later honored with a "Native American Music Award for Lifetime Achievement" for her accomplishments in and out of the Native American community.

In 2004, Coolidge headlined the opening of the Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian and also released a 41-song retrospective of her complete career, *Delta Lady — The Rita Coolidge Anthology*, which was followed by her 2006 jazz CD, *And So Is Love*.

"I guess the fact that I'm still here means I must be doing something right," Coolidge says. "It's good to know that people who've liked what I do for all these years still like what I do, and at the same time it sounds good to people who weren't even born when I

started out. And it's especially satisfying because I've made a record that's really true to the style of music I love. How can you ask for more than that?"

The Music Festival will highlight other showcase performances including the Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra's presentation of an *'Evening at the Opera'*. The program will be presented on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church and will include exciting moments from famous operas. A Saturday afternoon *Music in the Park* concert and Sunday afternoon swing concert will also be featured along with many other performances in and around downtown Mount Dora.

General admission tickets for the Rita Coolidge concerts are \$36 advance and \$41 at the door. A limited number of \$100 VIP tickets include reserved seats and a post-concert reception with the star. Tickets for the Florida Lakes Symphony Orchestra are \$36 advance, and \$42 at the door.

To purchase tickets, call the Festival hotline at (352) 385-1010 or (352) 383-2627, or visit www.mountdoramusicalfest.com. Tickets are also available at the Mount Dora Chamber of Commerce and the First National Bank of Mount Dora Trust Department. For more information on the Festival call Executive Director Nancy Howell at (352) 383-2627.

Major sponsors of the 2008 Mount Dora Music Festival include Target, City of Mount Dora, Main Street Leasing, Mount Dora Community Trust, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., Waterman Village of Mount Dora and Lake County Tourism and Business Relations.

--end--