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### **Andover, NJ: Railroad Earth Announces Springs 2005 Tour**

Rising out of a state perhaps better known for its mobsters than its music, Railroad Earth just may surprise you with a trademark fusion of bluegrass, rock, jazz, and folk. But this truly unique six-man assembly of talent, heart and dedication won't have it any other way. From the foothills of the Kittatinny Mountains in the melting pot that is New Jersey, Railroad Earth is coming to a town near you.

Railroad Earth's spring 2005 tour has already seen record crowds, and the band's impressive and steady growth shows no signs of stopping. Recently they have made a huge splash in the San Francisco music scene. In December 2004, violin player Tim Carbone and mandolinist John Skehan joined Phil Lesh and Friends for his three-night run at the Warfield Theater. Phil had become so enamoured with Railroad Earth's music that he went on to invite the entire band to return to San Francisco to join Phil Lesh and Friends' Mardi Gras performance at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium on February 12<sup>th</sup>. Earlier in the day Mr. Lesh had asked Railroad Earth to headline a performance for the Unbroken Chain Foundation, to benefit Tsunami Relief efforts. Phil Lesh was featured on stage with the band for a portion of the show, which ultimately raised \$50,000 for relief efforts and gave the sold out crowd one hell of a show.

A true incarnation of American roots music, Railroad Earth has an instantly classic sound which, along with their heartfelt lyrics, never fails to find its way straight to your soul. Lead songwriter/vocalist Todd Sheaffer and Co. will move you with an effortless spirituality, which has helped the band become one of the most widely discussed to grace stages around the country.

Just three weeks after the members of Railroad Earth played together for the very first time, in a 200-year old barn in Western NJ, they went into a local recording studio and laid down a five-song demo, live with no overdubs except for backing vocals. Based on that demo's strength and remarkable sound, Railroad Earth landed a slot at the legendary Telluride Bluegrass Festival before they had even played their first gig. Telluride would end up being their tenth performance in front of an audience. 2001's "The Black Bear Sessions" was born straight from this same remarkable demo, and the album's clean and honest sound helped to make it one of Relix Magazine's top 20 albums of that year. It also got the band a record deal with Sugar Hill Records, home to such prestigious names as Nickel Creek and Dolly Parton.

After a year of steady touring, Railroad Earth released its sophomore effort, "Bird in a

House.” The album’s critical acclaim further bolstered the group, who were already on their way to becoming a staple on the national touring and festival scene. All Music Guide sums up the record’s stylistic and creative accomplishments nicely with: “a work of not only rare charm, but ageless beauty.” 2004’s triumphant “The Good Life,” the band’s second release with Sugar Hill Records, is rich with the musical mélange that only Railroad Earth can create. Co-produced by the band and Stewart Lerman (Loudon Wainwright III, Dar Williams), the 11-track album “mixes string-band instrumentation, freewheeling improvisation and folk-rock songwriting with contagious enthusiasm,” according to the Washington Post.

It has been said Railroad Earth’s music is at once illuminating and infectious. This is the music inside all of us. This is Railroad Earth.

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