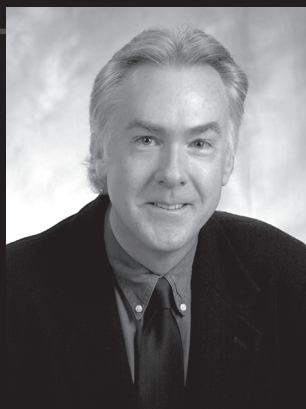


Letter from the Director



The 2007 issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History* heralds the beginning of another academic year and another very busy but successful twelve months for the Center for Texas Music History.

The Center recently received a \$60,000 grant from the PSH Foundation to complete the development of our new "Texas Music History Online" Web site, which will be an interactive database of information, archives, biographies, images, sound clips, historical sites,

festivals, and other items related to Texas music. This Web site will serve as a classroom teaching tool, a research database, and an information resource designed to promote Texas music heritage tourism. We are deeply grateful to the PSH Foundation, Humanities Texas, and the Texas Department of Agriculture's "Texas Yes!" program for helping fund development of this project.

Of course, the Center is involved in a number of other projects, as well. We're working with the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Music Office, and others to complete a revised and updated edition of the very successful *Handbook of Texas Music*, the definitive encyclopedia of Texas music history.

Through Texas State University's History Department, we continue offering a variety of courses, both graduate and undergraduate, including the History of Texas Music, Music and Social Movements, History of the Blues, and the History of Country Music. Our graduate students also have been actively involved in our Texas Music Oral History Program, through which they have interviewed a number of prominent musicians and others in the Texas music community.

The Center is happy to be working with several off-campus organizations to help promote the preservation and study of Texas music history. Beginning in Spring 2008, we will launch a new Texas music book series in collaboration with Texas A&M University Press. This series will feature scholarly publications dealing with various aspects of Texas music history.

We are proud to be working with Dickson Productions of Austin, which organizes numerous musical events throughout the year, including the very popular MusicFest in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Over the years, Dickson Productions has helped raise thousands of dollars for the Center and has assisted in our efforts to educate younger generations of Texans about the important history behind the music of the Southwest.

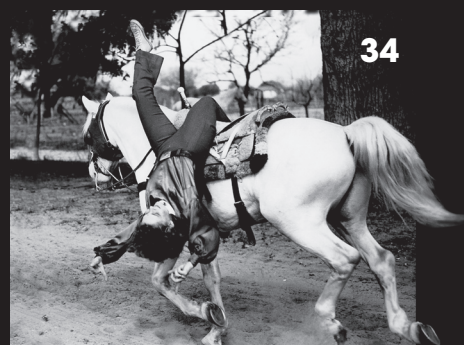
The Center continues to collaborate with Terry Boothe and others at the Texas Heritage Songwriters Association in Austin in order to honor Texas songwriters and celebrate the great tradition of songwriting in our state. With the help of such notable Texas musicians as Kris Kristofferson, Billy Joe Shaver, Rosie Flores, Larry Gatlin, and others, we have raised nearly \$100,000 to help fund our organizations' many activities.

I want to extend my sincerest thanks to the following people, without whom we would not be able to accomplish all that we have done: Gregg Andrews & Vikki Bynum, Dee Lannon, Wes Hardin, HalleyAnna Finlay, the Center's Advisory Board, Frank de la Teja, Gene Bourgeois, the entire Texas State University History Department, Perry & Marianne Moore, Ann Marie Ellis, Elizabeth Denton, T. Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Patti Harrison, Teresa Ward, Richard Cheatham, Liz McDonald, Lanita Hanson, Gary Hickinbotham, Laurie Jasinski, Terry Boothe, Francine Hartman, Jim & Cathey Moore, John & Robin Dickson, Rick & Laurie Baish, Lucky & Becky Tomblin, Kim & Robert Richey, Jo & Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell & Barbara Piersol, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Ralph & Patti Dowling, Dennis & Margaret Dunn, Ron & Judy Brown, Grant Mazak, Cathy Supple, Sharon Sandomirsky & Chris Ellison, Byron & Rebecca Augustin, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Tracie Ferguson, Mildred Roddy, Elmer & Susan Rosenberger, Bill & Michelle Musser, Lee & Judy Keller, Ronda Reagan, Billy Seidel, and all of our other friends and supporters.

I hope you enjoy this issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History*. Once again, we have tried to include articles covering a broad range of topics related to Texas music history. Our goal is to enlighten, inform, and perhaps even entertain, while helping readers develop a better understanding and appreciation for the rich and complex musical history of Texas and the American Southwest. To learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs, please contact us or visit our Web site.

Thanks, and best wishes.

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The Journal of Texas Music History is published annually by the Center for Texas Music History at Texas State University-San Marcos. The contents of this journal do not necessarily represent the views of the university.

Subscription: There is no charge to receive the Journal. Simply contact the Center for Texas Music History to be placed on our mailing list.

Article Submissions: Please submit manuscripts by e-mail in Microsoft Word, Chicago Style, to ga05@txstate.edu or mail to Journal of Texas Music History, Department of History, Texas State University-San Marcos, 601 University Drive, San Marcos, TX 78666.

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ISSN 1535-7104

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