

# Letter from the Director



As this Spring 2003 issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History* goes to press, the Center for Texas Music History (formerly the Institute for the History of Texas Music) continues to develop important new programs and activities focusing on the preservation and study of the Southwest's complex and diverse musical heritage.

Our graduate and undergraduate courses on the history of Southwestern music continue to be very popular. The *Handbook of Texas Music*, which we are co-publishing with the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Music Office, and the University of Texas at Austin, will be available later this year. Our students have researched and written more than 100 articles to be included in the *Handbook*.

The online bibliography of books, articles, and other publications on Southwestern music, which our students helped develop in cooperation with the Texas Music Office, remains a very useful tool for researchers. We also are very happy to have worked closely with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and others to help organize the recent "Country Music from the Lone Star State" exhibit.

Our "Texas Music History Unplugged" concerts, which bring prominent musicians to campus to perform and discuss how their music reflects the unique history and culture of the Southwest, continue to draw overflow crowds. Through these free concerts, such artists as Flaco Jimenez, Ray Benson, Tish Hinojosa, Joe Ely, Marcia Ball, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines, Ruthie Foster, Cyd Cassone, Marvin Dykhuis, Joel Guzmán, Ponty Bone, Willis Alan Ramsey, Jeff Plankenhorn, and others have helped educate students and the general public about the important role music has played in our history and culture.

In November, we completed the third volume in our *Travelin' Texas* compilation CD series. Such great Texas artists as Delbert McClinton, Asleep at the Wheel, Eliza Gilkyson, George Strait, Billy Joe Shaver, the Flatlanders, Toni Price, Pat Green, Lavelle White, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Jerry Jeff Walker, Rosie Flores, and others donated the use of their songs to help make these CDs a

very successful fundraiser for our ongoing educational projects. Our sincerest thanks to these musicians and everyone else for helping support our efforts.

Finally, I am profoundly grateful to the following people who have worked very hard to make our program so successful: Kathryn Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Dawn Shepler, Dee Lannon, Beverly Braud, Ann Marie Ellis, Gene Bourgeois, Vikki Bynum, the entire SWT History Department, the CTMH Board of Advisors, Becky Huff, Gerald Hill, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Francine Hartman, Rick and Laurie Baish, Lucky and Becky Tomblin, Kim and Robert Richey, Jo and Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell and Barbara Piersol, Tracie Ferguson, Phil and Cecilia Collins, Ralph and Patti Dowling, Jerry and Cathy Supple, Dennis and Margaret Dunn, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Billy Seidel, and all of our other friends who have contributed to the success of the Center for Texas Music History.

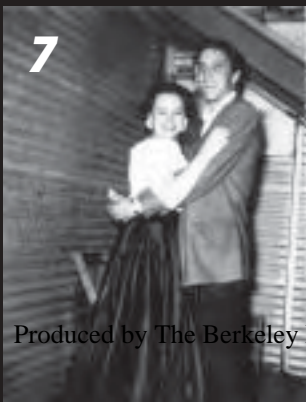
Please contact us for more information or to become involved in this unique and exciting program.

Sincerely,

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