

Letter from the Director



The Fall 2004 issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History* marks our fourth year of publication. With articles covering such diverse topics as jazz pioneer Gene Ramey and the history of bluegrass in Texas, this issue of the *Journal* continues our mission of exploring the remarkably complex musical history of the American Southwest.

Of course, the *Journal of Texas Music History* is only one of many programs the Center for Texas Music

History (CTMH) has developed as part of its efforts to help scholars, students, and the general public better understand how Texas music reflects the rich history and tremendous cultural diversity of the Southwest.

In addition to publishing the *Journal*, we continue to work with museums, universities, public schools, and others to promote the study of Texas music history. The CTMH also organizes a variety of musical performances on campus and throughout the community, including the very successful "Texas Music History Unplugged" concert series at Texas State University.

The CTMH also offers graduate and undergraduate-level courses on southwestern music history through the Texas State University Department of History. During this academic year, we have added more courses in order to accommodate growing student interest in Texas music history.

This past year also has been very successful for the CTMH in terms of fundraising. Thanks to a very generous gift received recently, we are pleased to announce the establishment this fall of the James E. Moore Endowment for the Center for Texas Music History. The Moore Endowment will help fund a variety of programs, including the *Journal of Texas Music History*, campus lectures and performances, and community outreach, all focusing on the preservation and study of Texas music history.

We also want to extend our sincerest thanks to John and Robin Dickson, Kathleen O'Keefe, and everyone else at Dickson Productions for inviting us to participate in Music Fest, an annual music festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, featuring many

of Texas's best musicians. With an emphasis on educating the public about the history behind Texas music, Music Fest attracts thousands of fans to Steamboat Springs each January for a week of skiing and great music. John and Robin Dickson have generously offered to donate a portion of this year's proceeds from Music Fest to the Center for Texas Music History.

We are also especially grateful to Lucky and Becky Tomblin and everyone at the Tomblin Family Foundation for their generous support and their continued help in funding our ongoing programs. Because of the Tomblin Family's assistance, we are able to offer additional educational programs on campus related to Texas music history.

The CTMH's tremendous success is due to the hard work and support of many people. I would like to offer my sincerest thanks to all of those who have helped us over the years, including Gregg Andrews, Dee Lannon, Jimmy McWilliams, Cat Reed, Gene Bourgeois, Frank de la Teja, Vikki Bynum, the entire Texas State University History Department, the CTMH Advisory Board, Ann Marie Ellis, Becky Huff, Nina Wright, Deborah McDaniel, Richard Cheatham, Beverly Braud, Gerald Hill, Carroll Wiley, Vicki Meehan Clarke, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Francine Hartman, James Moore, Rod Kennedy, Rick & Laurie Baish, Lucky & Becky Tomblin, Kim & Robert Richey, Jo & Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell & Barbara Piersol, Tracie Ferguson, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Ralph & Patti Dowling, Jerry & Cathy Supple, Dennis & Margaret Dunn, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Mildred Roddy, John & Robin Dickson, Billy Seidell, and all of our other friends and supporters.

Please visit our website (www.txstate.edu/ctmh) or contact us to learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs.

Sincerely,

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