

# Texas Heritage Music Foundation

## Mission Statement & Organizational History

**Mission:** The Texas Heritage Music Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, was established in July, 1987, to preserve and perpetuate the traditions in Texas music, to examine the background of Texas music, to trace influences and patterns in Texas music, to document the role Texas music has played in society, and to provide free educational programming to the Texas community.

### History:

- 1987, Dr. Kathleen Hudson founded the non-profit Texas Heritage Music Foundation (THMF) to address the principal belief that music and storytelling can bring together a culturally and ethnically diverse community. THMF began producing free community programs such as the annual Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee and monthly Coffeehouse concerts at Schreiner University. Thanks to donations from the private sector and from local foundations, these programs have grown every year.
- 1993, the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund was established.
- 1996, Merle Haggard performs at Kennemer Scholarship fundraiser.
- 1997, the *Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee* was renamed *Texas Heritage Living History Day* (LHD).
- 1997, Willie Nelson and Little Joe y la Familia perform at Kennemer Scholarship fundraiser
- 2000, THMF began offering subsidized transportation grants to area schools who could not afford the travel expenses to attend the LHD event through its *Transportation Assistance Grant* (TAG) Program.
- 2001, Texas Heritage Living History Day expands to three days, renamed *Texas Heritage Living History Weekend*; THMF begins its educational outreach program, *The Bard Project*. THMF placed LHD performers in schools throughout central and south Texas to conduct LHD programming.
- 2004, THMF presents *Summer Arts Program for At Risk Youth* to provide Kerr County youth at risk with opportunities to develop creativity, learn the tools of communication and create multiple solutions to problems. Thirty-two youths participated in classes involving literature and composition, dance, art, and music.
- 2008, THMF-executive produced 10-part radio documentary series, *Whole Lotta Shakin'*, receives 2007 George Foster Peabody Award for Excellence in Electronic Media (Radio).
- 2010, the *Texas Heritage Living History Day* was renamed *Texas Heritage Music Day*.

Before settling into its permanent offices on Schreiner University campus in July 2004, THMF had relied on the generous support of the Kerrville-area business community for office space. In June 1992, the foundation received a grant from the Turner Foundation to open an office and museum at the Inn of the Hills River Resort and Conference Center. In 1994, River Hills Mall provided office space to THMF, and then Southern Investments donated office space in 1995. From 1996 to early 2004, 5K Laser Products, Inc. donated office space and utilities.

### Current Programs:

- *Texas Oral History Project* - A collection of over 500 taped interviews with musicians, songwriters, performers and club owners.
- Texas music photography exhibit.
- Annual six-part Texas Music Series *Coffeehouse* programs at Schreiner University.
- Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund - For Hill Country-area students pursuing a course of study in some aspect of music.
- *Texas Heritage Music Day* -Held on the last Friday of September each year on the campus of Schreiner University in Kerrville, and continued throughout the remainder of the school year via THMF's The Bard Project (a unique in-school performance/outreach program) in selected schools, hospices and after-school programs and centers. Combined attendance since 1997 exceeds 35,000 students, teachers and public.

### Over 20 years Presenting Educational Programming to Hill Country Youth (1987-2010)

Since 1987, THMF has presented, sponsored, and/or contributed to hundreds of educational presentations, projects, and lectures throughout Texas, especially Kerr County and the surrounding Hill Country area.

Because the tradition of storytelling in both song and spoken word is a powerful educational tool that stimulates imagination and thought, promotes heritage and history, and bridges the past with the present *and* future, THMF is and will remain committed to the belief that telling stories and singing songs do make a difference and are a vital part of both school and life curriculum.