

THMF Newsletter for February 2007

Flash: The THMF is celebrating its 20th anniversary all year! Everything we do will be in the spirit of this celebration. Even though I started this organization in 1987 to house my various music commitments and passions, I did not come this far alone. Hundreds of sponsors, volunteers, performers and members helped keep this dream alive. The mission statement says it all: To preserve and perpetuate the traditions of 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. That last infinitive phrase was added last year at the suggestion of Tim Wilton, a man who worked tirelessly during our time of expansion.

Projects for 2007 include the Texas Music Coffeehouse series the first Wednesday of Feb.-April and Sept.-November. The Greg Griffith Blues Band will be part of the tribute to Black History Month with a focus on blues, hip-hop and rap. In March we will pay tribute to women. I have invited Carolyn Wonderland to join us. April will be our poetry slam contest with a spoken word artist. Join us at the Cailloux Center at 7:00 for the open mike, free coffee and cookies, special guests.

Membership: We have a new performer/band membership division. Look under local musicians on the website and see the links with performers who have joined us. Consider joining up for this special 20th year. We have plans for a members-only party/concert at end of the year. All are invited to join. The levels are \$20/Groupie; \$50/Band membership; \$100/Roadie; \$500/Manager and \$1,000/Texas Star. James Harris and Bobby Delery (Saddle Pals) have worked with the THMF for years, and we had a chance to recommend them for a gig with Victor Meyers at the Buckhorn RV Park on I-10, April 18, featuring cowboy music and poetry. Yes, membership here can become part of a local network that promotes all kinds of Texas music!

The THMF is proud to support all the local mics in town, all the local performers (of which there are many!), and all the music venues. Live music matters to us all, and this community is full of great music!

CD's.....Ben Stafford Rodgers (yes, spelled just like Jimmie!) can be seen on top of the Wells Fargo Stagecoach around the country. He also has a new cd, "Texas, Then and Now, that features him singing some well known favorites: Marty Robbins songs, "Streets of Laredo," "Cattle Call," "Jealous Heart," "San Antonio Rose," and more. www.rodgersandcompany.com

Rounder Records, one of the top independent labels in the country, known for great taste in folk music, has released a collection of intimate songs by Nanci Griffith (who did play for Kerrville Folk Festival many years ago). Entitled "Ruby's Torch," the collection includes songs penned by Nanci as well as others by some of her musical heroes. She performs songs from country balladry, from Jimmy Webb, and three by Tom Waits. "The challenge is performing these songs is that you have to somehow remain true to the spirit of the song but infuse it with your own story." A perfect description of "interpretation." See www.rounder.com for more great albums.

David Lee stopped by the THMF office and delivered two Guy Forsyth albums. I first heard Guy in Austin as founder of Asylum Street Spankers. His performance was eclectic (plays the saw) and creative. His mom lives in Ingram, so we've heard him several times in Kerrville. He's toured the world, won awards and continues to live a life committed to his passion. He is a creative spirit, and his CD "Love Songs: For & Against" speaks to my heart! Let's find a way to bring him back to the Hill Country.

Events: Hill Top House Concerts has a spring schedule now. Hans York is the featured artist on February 3. See www.hilltophouseconcerts.com for details. Jack Fields gets credit for the first house concert series (in conjunction with THMF for the first one, I must add!) in Kerrville, and his lineup is always stellar. I had a great New Year's Eve at Pampell's listening to a local treasure, the Mike Kasberg R&B band. Tybor Cook is still one of the liveliest performers in the Hill Country, singing like a wild man and playing lead guitar, with dad, Van, holding down bass and Mike and Denny Hardy playing twin saxophones. And then there are the times that Denny just takes the lead, hitting notes that most lungs won't tolerate! Way to go Denny! I danced out the old year at a venue that once claims Jimmie Rodgers as a patron. Rumor has it that he practiced upstairs. I do know he played the Arcadia Theatre. I really love the food, ambiance, history and style of Pampell's. Check out the weekly schedule as you drive by the corner of Sidney Baker and Water Street.

A personal note: I was having lunch at my favorite Mexican café, Mi Ranchito, when I ran into Kelly Tuck and her son, Haven Q. We decided to sit together and share stories. I found out that Kelly has produced a 30 minute television program syndicated into the homes of 65 million Americans! CD Highway showcased many new performers, and her eye for talent matches my interests. She and Haven were on their way to Luckenbach because Haven wanted to go play his guitar, set out his tip cup, and build up his bank account. "I want to play guitar and make money," he answered when I began my interview. His gorgeous blond hair was distracting to me, as were his eyes that seem to look right through me with infinite wisdom. After this most amazing conversation where we talked about art (he was drawing in his notebook), music, songwriting (I've never "written" a song, he explained, but I have made up some songs.), his stage appearance with Monte Montgomery and Kinky Friedman, and life, I realized I wanted to know this gorgeous man better. When I found out that Haven Q was five years old, I knew that I'd probably have more time with him in the future.

New THMF help! **Sandra Langley** has joined us, working in the THMF office Monday, Wed. and Thursday afternoons. Her mornings are spent in the PR department for Schreiner University. A match made in heaven for me! Just in by e-mail: www.ALLTEXASMUSIC.com has been created to promote all aspects of Texas music. Created to specifically get Texas music overseas, the call is out to all artists! Check them out.

Happy Trails and down the Road. KH