

## **TEXAS HERITAGE MUSIC FESTIVAL**

*September 2003*

From the Director:

Ah, September is upon us! We've had one coffeehouse, a stunning success with Jimmy LaFave and an interesting open mike! We're coming upon our annual Living History Weekend (not a "day" anymore), time accelerating at an exponential rate! Lots of volunteers calling in to help. That's good. As we move to Schreiner University, the educational component becomes even more significant. Debbie Fowler, a teacher in training and executive assistant in this office, has helped with the educational package this year. Thanks, Debbie. Jennifer Keeler, a work/study through Schreiner, has joined the team. And Tim Wilton is doing his usual responsible job of seeing that everything gets done. Tim has written out the grant proposals for us the last few years. Thanks to his work, we are funded!

We will be sending five performers into schools around the state this year, thanks to a grant from a local foundation. And we'll have bus money for many schools to come--- bringing "kids at risk." I'm writing this note two weeks before the event. I've decided to create this event from "joy" at all times, not burden. Hey, that intention works.

Some of my joyful moments include the following: Attending the Mike Blakely Fandango at Luckenbach on Sept. 12 and hearing Elmer Kelton, Mike, Geronimo Trevino and Becky Crouch Patterson read from their books; discovering Ryan Bingham at a Saturday music session at Luckenbach (what a voice on this 22-year-old!); hearing Brennen Leigh again (She is one of my favorite voices in the world! Her high lonesome sound penetrates heart and soul.); dancing to Pauline Reese on the wooden dance floor; seeing Neal Brown, Luckenbach manager, running around directing a great weekend show; getting back in touch with my love for these performers (Just hugging bass player B.B. Morse is worth the trip, and sharing that big smile of his! He sounded great with Brennen on Saturday, Sept. 13.); taking Mary Hayes, her daughter, Roxy, and her daughter, Mary, to Luckenbach. Three generations of women enjoying this special place in Texas! The list goes on. I had an exciting evening with Floramay Holliday at the Ole Waterin' Hole in Kerrville on Friday night, Sept. 12. The Krybabies brought Stevie Ray Vaughan and Jimi Hendrix back to life at Chili's one Wednesday. I met a man in Luckenbach who talked of Beatniks and Paris. Yeah, I was reminded of my own literary leanings and yearnings. Brennen is only twenty so my interview with her captured a woman who "chose" Texas from her Minnesota home. Texas has enough space for all the special moments you can create. I like the one I create at home in my little house on the high plain west of Kerrville, heading towards Junction.

We will be taking a charter bus to San Miguel de Allende for Thanksgiving. See the information on this site. Leave your reservation for Rita at our office phone, 367-3750. We still have a few spaces left. Deposits due soon. We'll be attending the International Jazz Festival where we'll be treated like the honored Road Warrior guests that we are! Straight from the heart of Texas.

Tom Russell appears at our coffeehouse on October 1, and Patricia Vonne comes November 5. I just saw "Once Upon A Time In Mexico," a film directed by her brother, Robert Rodriguez. I believe she has some music in the film as well. I loved all the scenes shot in San Miguel! Ah, the synchronicity that weaves my life together. All is connected for me.

Please consider joining the organization. Your donation helps create a base for all this to happen! We have low administrative costs, with most money going to projects that preserve and perpetuate Texas music. Your membership donation insures the office space, the operating costs. Our events have been free with an annual fundraiser for scholarship money. Consider joining our "volunteer" team. Lots of great names on that list. Lots to read on the internet now. Thanks for reading this. Free Leonard and down the road. Kathleen (the volunteer director!) Remember, I also have a monthly column in the free music publication, The Texas Rising Star. Pick one up at your local Mini-Mart or music store.