

On the Road  
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It's happening in the Hill Country. Venues abound and live music rings from the streets of Bandera where Arkey Blue is being inducted into a new Hall of Fame in September; in Fredericksburg where Hondo's on Main is full of good food and the spirit of Hondo Crouch, the Texas Imagineer; in Luckenbach where local musicians have a place to play anytime and everybody is somebody; in Comfort at Phil's Firehouse where you can sit outside a vintage bowling alley and hear great Texas music; in Kerrville where Kinky Friedman can show up at any minute as he campaigns for governor; in Hunt where Crider's Dance Hall gathers a crowd on Saturday nights; on Monday nights at Melt Down Madness at the Inn Pub where songwriters gather and a band plays for dancing the rest of the week; on Thursday nights at the Downtowner in Kerrville where local musicians jam and create magic; and more. The list of venues and opportunities to hear music is a long one.

August 18<sup>th</sup> the Texas Heritage Music Foundation and Schreiner University co-sponsor the Chamber of Commerce Mixer. Using the stage in the Robbins Lewis Pavilion on the Schreiner campus, close to the new office for the THMF, the sponsors will showcase local venues that have live music and local musicians. Expect to get some good food and hear some good music. Call the Chamber office for reservations and tickets.

Dennis Gaines reported that his Cowboy Concerts in Kerrville have been great, and he is taking the month of August off to give the audience a break from the heat. He'll be starting back up on Thursdays in September.

September 7 is the first Texas Music Coffeehouse at Schreiner University. Running from 7-9 p.m., starting with an open mike, the coffeehouse will feature a band to honor Hispanic Heritage Month. The Texmaniacs have been invited. Let's hope their schedule allows the appearance after that searing show at the Kerrville Folk Festival. We are planning a coffeehouse outdoors near the Robbins Lewis Pavilion with a Schreiner fraternity (Phi Delta Theta) helping create the party. Oct. 5 is an evening with Steve Young, writer of "Seven Bridges Road."

The THMF brings us the annual Living History Weekend Sept. 23-25. Put that free event on your calendar. Needed are sponsors, volunteers and even a few more performers. After a day of performers on Friday, the annual seminar on Saturday features Texas Folklore Society from 1-3 p.m. on The Power of Stories in Education. Sunday will be the fundraiser, the Literacy and Learning Concert. Performer TBA. Listen to the radio!

Hill Country Opry is missed as the doors are closed for the time being. I know it's available for private parties. The fundraiser there with Kinky Friedman, Billy Joe Shaver, Ponty Bone and friends, Will Owen-Gage, Jay Boy Adams, Greg Forest, Ronnie Leatherman and more was the best party in town. Little Jewford plays a mean keyboard and kazoo during Kinky's show. Kinky pulled out his latest book and read about The Hummingbird Man. I felt the tears welling up as he read of his parents and summer camp, two subjects near to my heart. In fact, Friday, July 22, I drove up to El Tesoro near

Grandbury to be with Jessica, my first granddaughter, at the closing ceremony of her week at my favorite camp.

I discovered the lively crowd at The Nautilus Bar on Sidney Baker, former home of the Hill Country Opry when I took my granddaughter, Jessica, out for the evening. We heard Back Porch Mary, and I'm sorry to say that it took me so long to discover this lively band! A new favorite for me. I love it when musicians bet down on their knees with their instruments! And they played some of my favorite songs, including Billy Joe Shaver and a Townes Van Zandt. Watch for them in the Hill Country.

Chili's has a great outdoor stage on the river in Kerrville. Mike Kasberg plays there as well as Francisco's at the star. Mike can be heard in a jazz trio and/or an R&B band. Either way, he rocks out on the sax. I know Mr. Clark, another local band, also has regular gigs at Chili's. Call for the schedule. No one sends me one!

My July 4<sup>th</sup> was spent in my own hometown of Ft. Worth. The Willie Nelson Picnic was held at an outdoor staging area behind Billy Bob's. Two stages alternated acts which gave us a day of continuous music. And the show still ran behind, with Willie coming on after midnight and playing it out until about 1:30 or so. Fireworks exploded both on and off stage and Los Lonely Boys took the stage, showcasing their father, the man who helped make it all happen. The regulars were great, Pauline Reese and Paula Nelson and Janie Frickie added some female energy to the show, Bob Dylan showed up and played. Of course, the backstage area around Bob was a sight to behold. We were run out of the photo lane during his show, and he was led on and off stage by a tight group of people. Tony Garnier, his longtime bass player, is friendly with many Texas performers, his brother once playing the Austin scene. Ray Benson held court backstage, introducing me to Patrick Simmons of the Doobie Brothers. I became a new fan when I heard them rock out. Yes, Willie can throw a party. Yes, the crowd was huge, and the weather was hot. But the show was well-organized and everyone got their money's worth. As the show ended, I sat at the back of the audience in a little traveling chair my mom had insisted that I take, listening to "Mama, Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up To Be Cowboys." Glad to have that little chair, mom. I'll be going next year, for sure. Willie's last song was a new story, "I Ain't Superman." He just might be though.

One highlight for me was Willie's young son, Lucas. He played his Steve Ray Vaughan blues licks with his dad and with Los Lonely Boys, trading leads. He walked forward on the stage with the Marty Dread and Los Maui Boys, saying, "I just want to thank my dad. He's the man!" I saw him play with Dylan at the Kansas show. He just gets better, playing from the center of the music in his heart. Marty Dread also shared his passion for peace and humanity as he invited the audience to join in on "Pray For Them. And, yes, Willie joined them as he did many of the other acts during the day.

Kinky was being filmed for a CMT special, and everyone he talked with had to sign a release. A longer version of this story is at [www.texasheritagemusic.org](http://www.texasheritagemusic.org) under "On The Road."

New CD's abound. "Come On Back," by Jimmie Dale Gilmore on Rounder Records, will be out soon. A collection of songs his late father loved, it includes "well-crafted, unpretentious little gems from a wonderfully creative period in American commercial music," including a version of "Blue Yodel #9—Standing On The Corner," a song by Jimmie Rodgers. Produced by Joe Ely, the album showcases the distinct voice of Jimmie Dale and is an important addition to this artist's output.

I also have a new CD by Gary Jones, one that includes just the man and his guitar doing more of those great Jones tunes. By now you all know that his wife Mary does much of the writing? Right? And what a creative pair they are. Jason Allen played Monday at the Inn and gave me his CD. I enjoyed listening to some great Texas/Americana music as I drove home that night. Gary was at the Inn Pub, listening, and he made sure Jason and I talked. Jason talked to me of his father and a new CD that he has just produced for his father. Now that's another musician honoring his father.

Propaganda Media Group, a PR firm that takes good care of Texas artists, sent me a copy of a new release by Brian Keane, "I Ain't Even Lonely." Keane has chosen Austin as home, and his Southern roots come through in the strong collection of songs he has written. Influenced by Hank Sr., Townes, Lyle Lovett and Prince, Keane has a style that weaves through Americana and folk country. Songs where music and words blend into poetry.

Speaking of poetry, Billy Joe Shaver has a book out with University of Texas Press that speaks to the poetry of his life. Kinky says he's the next poet laureate of Texas. Kris Kristofferson says "He's as real a writer as Hemingway. He's timeless." Honky Tonk Hero is the story of a man who has lived every word he has written. His next project is a video celebrating the life of his son, Eddy. I'll be glad to give him some footage we have from their visit to the Schreiner Texas Music Coffeehouse years ago. And his visits to my classroom at Schreiner. Billy Joe is always part of the Willie Nelson picnic, and he also has a home in our hearts in the Hill Country even though he is based in his hometown of Waco. Yes, Billy Joe just might be a national treasure.

Send me your promo kits, your CD's for review, your stories. PO Box 291945, Kerrville, Texas, 78029-1945. [kat@maverickbbs.com](mailto:kat@maverickbbs.com)

Il's sont partis and Free Leonard. Kathleen