

On The Road  
Kathleen Hudson  
for May 2006

I'll be teaching global issues in San Miguel de Allende from May 9-25 for Schreiner University. Ah, the joys of teaching. We will experience the culture, food, people and music of this warm country. Yes, I experience a drastic shift in my entire being as I slowly walk the cobblestone streets of San Miguel. And "slowly" may be even more important this year since I'm scheduled for a knee replacement June 12 in Kerrville! Enough of my story. Let me tell you what is going on in the Hill Country.

Most of us are getting ready for the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Kerrville Folk Festival, an international event that brings people from around the world together to experience the power of music and song. The lineup alone tells you the significance of this year: Peter and Paul, without Mary, bring huge commitments to social change and awareness to the stage with their music on June 2 at 7:00 p.m. Other highlights (for me) include Terri Hendrix on May 27, Guy Clark and Eric Taylor on May 28, "Remembering Allen Damron from 3-5 p.m. on May 29, Django Walker and The Resentments (Stephen Bruton) on May 29, Ruthie Foster on June 2, Los Texmaniacs on June 3, Carolyn Hester on June 9, Emily Lively at the Ballad Tree on June 10, and the David Amram orchestra on June 11. And that list is just a taste of the offerings at this banquet table of stories and songs.

Carolyn Hester returns, bringing her own story as a leading voice in the Texas folk music scene. I had Carolyn visit with my classes at Schreiner University, and this woman articulates a powerful vision in both her story and her songs.

The festival features a New Folk Songwriting contest, honoring the words and music of 40 "winners" who will be competing during the festival for the chance to sing on the main stage in 2007. Peter Yarrow and Rod Kennedy created this event. Even though Rod has retired, he still serves as advisor and is coordinating the special last night concert with David Amram leading a festival orchestra. I once had the chance to read Kerouac while David Amram (a friend and peer of Kerouac) played his flute behind those words. I read the ending of *On The Road* and almost ran away from home that night! Powerful words. See the website for details and tickets. [www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com](http://www.kerrvillefolkfestival.com) Dalis Allen is bringing her own vision to this event, and the gentle touch of this woman is powerful! I love sharing this town with such visionary women. We have lots of "us" here.

Pampell's has become a gathering spot for music and stories. ([www.pampells.com](http://www.pampells.com)) During the spring Karyn Utterback and the Sigma Tau Delta group at Schreiner hosted a poetry reading there the last Tuesday of the month. Monte Montgomery played there April 30 and packed the house. This guitar wizard is also a song-writing master. Can you tell I love his stuff! Other performers at Pampell's include Django Walker, Shelley King, Shake Russell, Jay Boy Adams, Greg Forest, a host of local performers, Ronnie Leatherman, Will Owen-Gage, Cody Blue and many, many more. Come to Kerrville and check out this scene on the corner of Main and Water. The May schedule includes Shake Russell on May 12, Shelley King on May 19, Dana Cooper on June 15.

May 12-14 Fredericksburg is having the annual Pow Wow and Founder's Day Celebration. I have attended this Pow Wow when I'm in town, and it is a sight to behold. The drumming is mesmerizing, the dancing colorful, the people beautiful. This event is a reminder of the founding of Fredericksburg where the treaty between the German settlers and the Commanche People has not been broken to this day. This is one event I hate to miss, but my travels in Mexico are already scheduled. I'll be exploring the Don Quixote Museum in Guanajuato, the streets of Morelia, the huge square in Patzcuaro, with a group of 12 from Kerrville. Think about joining us next year if adventure calls to you!

I have an announcement for September. Yes, start making plans to attend the Texas Heritage Living History Weekend on the Schreiner campus in Kerrville Sept. 29-30. At no charge, you can spend the day Friday with about 50 performers, hearing the songs and stories of Texas music and history. We also showcase the dancing of the Aztecs, the chuck wagons and teepees of our own culture, and the Native American learning story as told by a member of Past is Prologue, an educational program that uses the wisdom of the people who walked across the Bering Strait. (See [www.learningpeople.org](http://www.learningpeople.org)) Food available on the grounds. Saturday at 1:00 we will have a panel sponsored by the Texas Folklore Society, followed by a Texas Music Coffeehouse at 7:00 p.m featuring local performers in an intimate setting. The organization I started in 1987 produces this annual event. We still need sponsors, volunteers, school contacts, and new ideas! Contact us at [kat@maverickbbs.com](mailto:kat@maverickbbs.com) and check out the website: [www.texasheritagemusic.org](http://www.texasheritagemusic.org)

Schreiner University hosts a music camp in June, and the Texas Arts and Crafts Foundation brings us the annual Fair Memorial Weekend at the new River Star Arts Complex in Kerrville. They are also bringing in musicians to lead a camp this June. For details check out the various websites. All these events add to the story that these Hill Country hills are, indeed, alive with the sound of music....and art, literature, storytelling, dancing and more.

A few reports from my musical journey: I attended the Bob Dylan concert in San Antonio in April. Held at the Municipal Auditorium (a new experience for me, a beautiful venue in downtown San Antonio on the river walk), this concert for about 4200 people (soldout) blew my mind. I've always loved Dylan, and I love the way he reinvents himself. This time I heard more familiar songs than ever, and I heard a new rhythm he's invented that brought this concert into the realm of a great rock show. He now stands at the keyboard (no guitar) and plays as he sings, adding harmonica, of course. His band is tight, and Tony Garnier, his longtime bass player, adds a strong foundation to every show I've seen. I attended two of his shows with Willie Nelson in 2004, heard him with Merle Haggard in California in 2005, and head him again this year with Merle. I did miss Elana Fremerman accompanying him on fiddle as she did on the Willie Nelson tour. If I ever had a chance to talk with Bob Dylan, I would certainly let him know what a difference she made to "Highway 61 Revisted." Since Dylan put out a tribute to Jimmie Rodgers in 1997, and since I've been producing a tribute to Jimmie Rodgers (Father of Country Music) each September in Kerrville, and since Merle and Willie both played here to help raise money for our Wayne Kennemer Scholarship, I think that "someday" I should get to talk with Bob Dylan. My request has not been granted, yet.

Some of my favorite moments during the Haggard/Dylan concert in San Antonio were: Merle's entrance to a standing ovation followed by a tribute to Waylon Jennings; then "That's The Way Love Goes," and my memories of talks with Freddy Powers who toured

with Merle and wrote songs for him; a new song with the line “to love is both a blessing and a curse. I guess my heart just settled back to earth”; Dylan kicking it off with “Maggie’s Farm”; hearing his line, “Even the president of the United States must stand naked,” and “Life sometimes get lonely,” and all the wonderful Dylan lines and the new rhythms. A sea of faces intent on hearing, really listening, greeted Dylan at all times. I wonder if he knew that. I watched one young lad, in this twenties, jump up ecstatic at the end of each song. At times he would try to hold back....the let go and jump up, clapping wildly. I remember my experience in 1963 hearing Bob Dylan and Peter Paul and Mary. I was only 18 when I got hooked!

We gave the 2006 Wayne Kennemer Scholarship of \$1,000 to Casey Hubble of Ingram, Texas, this year. What a soulful young man, embodying the spirit of the generous man with a heart for music as big as Texas, Wayne Kennemer. Casey played a couple of songs at the Schreiner Writers Conference in April. We showcased songwriter Andy Wilkinson who is artist in residence at Texas Tech this year. Well, Casey is going to Tech. He can take Andy’s songwriting class. And that is synchronicity. Andy gave a great talk on the creative process at our afternoon workshop. He’s truly a man committed to his own creative life. And we’ve asked him to return September 29 for the Living History Day. He said, “Yes, of course.” I love his spirit. Janice Kennemer, THMF director and scholarship chairman, gave Casey his award. Her late husband, Wayne, inspired many a person in this Hill Country.

I’ve had a run of great visitors to my writing class at Schreiner University. Doc Mason, from Fredericksburg, brought us some new songs and a great story on living the creative life. He talked with my freshman literature class at 10:00 a.m. He’s also an emergency room doctor so I guess he can handle all times of day! I grabbed our vice-president of finance, Fred Gamble, and showed my students what a two-step looked like. None of the students joined in. Can you imagine that? Richard can sing, write a dance song, and share his own heart, all with great ease. He, too, will be joining us Sept. 29.

Susie Nelson visited, telling my creative writing class what it was like to write that biography of her dad about 20 years ago. Harold Eggers, former manager of Townes Van Zandt, came with her, and told the class stories of Townes. Harold, a literary agent, works with Susie on various projects, She also told of her latest writing project, a children’s book that also tells a family story. My students were moved by her willingness to share herself with them, and they were thrilled with the gift she gave them each....a copy of her book on Willie Nelson. She’s joining us Sept. 29.

Harold also brought Barbara K (former Timbuk 3 Band member) to the class. She shared her vision for Texamerican, a non-profit distributor that not only sells cd’s but also donates to public radio and other non-profits out of a commitment to free speech. Barbara had created a book that day, telling the story of Texamericana. That was her gift to this creative writing class of 7 students. And she will join us Sept. 29.

Yes, I love weaving my love of teaching, writing, literature, stories and songs into each class I teach. What an opportunity this small liberal arts university has given me! See [www.schreiner.edu](http://www.schreiner.edu) for more information.

Other guests to my classes this semester included Drew Kennedy (songwriter), Lynn Winwright (songwriter from Bandera, road manager for Charlie Robison), Emily Lively (local songwriter), John Andrew Parks (“Planet Texas”), Andy Wilkinson, Mobi Phillips (storyteller and translator), Tony Galluci (writer, teacher), Jackson Parker (8 year old

who read to us), Doc Mason, Andy Wilkinson, and a few more! All this is out of my commitment that stories and songs make a difference in the world! The same vision that drives this column.

I discovered a new band, The Greg Griffin Band, playing at the Southway Pub one Friday in Kerrville. This three-piece blues band plays music I love. Greg is from San Antonio, Tom Goodwyn (drums) and Barrett Beach (bass) are from Kerrville. If in need of blues and rock for the company picnic, give them a call. Might locate them through the THMF website when they join us! In fact, check out our local musicians page when you are hiring bands. We support local music! Southway Pub is a small local bar with room for dancing and pool. Another favorite of mine, Sol Patch, a local duo performs there with a band on weekends. I've also heard Greg Forest, Ronnie Leatherman, Andy Vickers and other good musicians at the Southway Pub, located on Highway 16 south of the river at Southway Road.