

On The Road

December 2006

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2007 is the 20th year anniversary for the THMF. Hard for me to believe that. I remember when I attended the Memphis Blues Awards in 1986, interviewing Willie Nelson and BB King. I realized then that I wanted to create a structure to hold all my varied interests in Texas music. I wanted to take photographs, interview musicians and songwriters, create radio programming, create a tribute to Jimmie Rodgers and more. I had worked with Rod Kennedy and the Kerrville Music Foundation for one year, whetting my appetite for the work of a non-profit dedicated to preserving and perpetuating. Bobby Rector created the THMF logo, Stuart Davis, accountant, did the paperwork, and I was off and running. Randy Scroggins (now a board member) picked up the financial reporting early on, and I invited a board of directors that included the late Johnny Copeland and Carl from Carl's Corner.

Twenty years later the board is comprised of local people, and the projects include sending performers and programming into the schools. This year we funded Doc Moore and Tim Tingle at a school in Boerne. Hal Robinson conducted a drumming for the students at Pathways, a University of Texas charter school that takes care of kids at risk. Tony Galluci and Clifton Fifer provided significant programming on American music, the flute and stories of American Indians to another group of young men at risk. Hoppy Hopkins and Bret Rozek (a Schreiner freshman in my English class) provided Native American programming and a teepee for the entire Fredericksburg Elementary School. I hope to get funding for a year of this type of program. Art can change the world. Just ask Lorraine and Art2Heart.

The Coffeehouse series ended on November 1 with a stunning show by Ruben V and Sylvia Kirk from San Antonio. Rev. Goat Carson helped us create a tribute to the Native American Indian. Sylvia's son, Kirk, took the stage and performed some real blues. I do like his voice, and I invited him back for the February coffeehouse dedicated to blues, rap and hip-hop. Greg Wall, a local musician, gave an attentive audience two songs during the open mike. And he received calls for "more." I love listening to Greg sing.

November 7, I attended Schreiner night at Pampell's. There I discovered a duo, Steal Hearts, from Bandera who harmonize and sing like that's all they've ever done. I understand they write songs as well as interpret them. Women's voices making a difference.

November 11 was the 12th annual Big Band Bash, created and produced by Johnny Nicholas. This might have been the best year ever with the usual suspects showing up AND a special featured guest, songwriter Jimmy La Fave. Marcia Ball took the stage at the end of the evening, getting everyone up dancing. My only suggestion is to get a bigger venue for this sold-out crowd. The 12th anniversary just might be the last, according to rumor. This dedicated group of musicians have raised money for arts and

music in education, a worthy cause. This year I noticed Dr. John Mills, UT Jazz department, with his horn taking the lead amongst a huge group of horn players that included Kaz Kazonoff and Al Gomez. My special guest for the evening was a dancer, so I put that new knee to test. I could still walk the next day. Guess that's good news.

November 13 a group of interested folk met at Schreiner University to brainstorm ideas for the THMF 20th anniversary! Yeah, it takes a community to keep a foundation flowing. We have contacted H-E-B to help us bring a stage production of the Life of Jimmie Rodgers to town. We have contacted a well-known songwriter who now lives close by to help with the first Jimmie Rodgers Songwriting School to be held next summer at Schreiner University. And we might get him to teach a summer school class as well! I've invited Asleep At The Wheel to return with the "Ride With Bob" show. And more. No shortage of imagination here. If you want to participate, share ideas, brainstorm, and contribute, contact us as kat@maverickbbs.com Be sure and review www.texasheritagemusic.org

Richard Dobson visited my classroom on November 6. He sang his songs, told us the story of his life and shared some words of wisdom Townes Van Zandt is quoted, saying, "His rhythms and ideas are great. His words are precise and never wasted. He's one of my favorite songwriters." Richard married his Swiss wife, Edith, in Coleman, Texas, with Roxy and Judy Gordon holding forth. I was along with the camera. What a weekend we had. Roxy, a Chocktaw writer and artist, is no longer with us, but his art lives on! Visit www.roxygordon.com for an education! Richard sang from his new album, "Thistledown Wind," and talked about his new project, a recording in Houston. I know it is good for my writing students to hear someone else talk about writing.

94.3 KRVL (known as the Revolution) is bringing Texas music to the Hill Country through various shows, including a blues show! My favorite. I also love hearing "The Banker" on Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. playing some of my favorite gospel songs....."One Day At A Time," "Sunday Morning Coming Down," "Amazing Grace," and "How Great Thou Art." KRVL is a sponsor of the THMF coffeehouse series, and we hope to broadcast a show live this spring. The Tivy media team has been filming for Channel 2, supporting our commitment to document Texas music, preserve and perpetuate.

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