

On the Road
January 2007
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For Hill Country Visitor

Off to Pampell's for a night of celebration with Mike Kasberg and some rhythm and blues. It's December 31, the last night of 2006, and I am looking forward to 2007 even as I reminisce with nostalgia 2006.

Ahead is the Texas Music Coffeehouse series at Schreiner University on the first Wednesday of February, March and April. Sponsored by Schreiner and the Texas Heritage Music Foundation the series begins at 7:00 p.m. with an open mike, followed by a featured guest at 8. February, Black History Month, features the Greg Griffin Blues Band and some local rap artists. March is Women's History Month and April is International Poetry Month. Check out www.texasheritagemusic.org for updates on featured performers.

2007 is the 20th anniversary of THMF, and we plan many new activities, including a songwriting school at Schreiner June 28-July 1.

The local music scene is hopping with Revolution Radio, 94.3, KRVL taking the lead in sponsoring a Texas music show each day as well as Monday night revolution at the Inn Pub. They also co-sponsor the coffeehouse series.

KFAN (107.9 and 103.1) has been Texas Rebel Radio for years, and their annual Windows on Texas Music gives us lots of free music in Fredericksburg from Jan. 11-14. Check their website for details... www.rebelradio.com

I heard great music last year and sat on a panel of writers sharing out book on Texas music. I had fun doing that!

After a great night at the Big Band Bash in Fredericksburg in November, I have enjoyed the fine cuisine at the Hill Top Café on the Mason Highway accompanied by the fine music of proprietor Johnny Nicholas, founder of the Big Band Bash. December 30 I heard Joel Guzman on keyboard and accordion with Billy Burdett joining on drums. This café is not some well-kept secret, but it is out of the city limits. I am always pleased to drive up to a full house at this vintage gas station now turned café. And the food is exquisite.

More of my recommendations for the new year include Hondo's on Main in Fredericksburg, a diner and music venue that captures the true spirit of Texas Imagineer, Hondo Crouch, the man who bought Luckenbach, Texas, where "Everybody is somebody." December 30 D'jango Walker performed, bringing the legendary spirit of his dad, Jerry Jeff Walker, back to dance and sing a bit with Hondo.

Pampell's, in Kerrville, now serving hot food with the tasty music, is another favorite of comfortable place for people to hear music, visit, eat and drink. I once read about a Wednesday treat of massage and Martini. Haven't tried that yet!

Sol Patch, a Kerrville band that forms around the duo of Melissa and Bryan, is playing several venues, having created a regular Thursday night open mike at the Riverstone Back Porch on the Junction Highway. They just get better and better!

On December 31, Sunday, I heard some wonderful Christian music at Southern Oaks Baptist Church on Valley View in Kerrville. Four young college men, home for Christmas, joined up to lead the music on this Sunday. Josh Taylor, Pastor Joe Taylor's son, played lead guitar and sang. Having grown up in a Baptist Church in North Richland

Hills where music was central to all worship, I have a great appreciation for hymns, gospel music and Christian music. "How Great Thou Art" is my favorite, and Willie Nelson can really sing that one!

As I drive in on Sundays, I hear "The Banker" on Rev 94.3 FM playing many of my favorites. Kris Kristofferson signed up with a new publishing company started by Texas schoolteacher (who died in 2006) Marijon Wilkins. Wilkins also wrote "One Day At A Time" at a time when she was down and out. I almost met up with her on a trip to Nashville that I took in 2004. A missed opportunity for me! "The Banker" plays some Kris, including "Sunday Morning Coming Down."

Robert Earl Keen, a local now, played the Bass Concert Hall December 30 in Ft. Worth, my hometown. I missed that show, but I did go to the Christmas show at JJ's Blues Bar with Holland K. Smith (an exciting discovery for me) and James Hand. Always good to dance to the Ft. Worth blues shuffle.

I also spent nine days sunning in San Miguel de Allende after school let out. I mostly walked to the square and sat in the sun, but I did discover some music. Cody Moffett played several nights I was there, and he can play some drums! In fact, I am now looking for a used set to begin my own 2007 adventure with drums. His dad grew up in Ft. Worth and played with Ornette Coleman. Cody tells me he played at John Coltrane's funeral when he was just six. Cody is proud of his family heritage in music, and he's carrying on the spirit. I know he missed his boys in New York as he played the Christmas season in Mexico. I'll be taking a small group of students to San Miguel in May. Want to join us? Contact me at khudson@schreiner.edu

Beginning the new year with my new roommate, Jessica (my 14 year old granddaughter) is an exciting challenge. We've made many adjustments since she moved in August 5, and I look forward to sharing a live music scene with her. She loves dance and music, mostly hip-hop and rap. I am getting an education as well.