

On The Road  
February 2008  
By Kathleen Hudson

I keep thinking I am staying off the road these days, enjoying the house, woodstove and friendly black dog named Max who lives with me. Then the story begins, and I realize I have been going places...down that road! Most recently I have discovered the Fredericksburg Events Center, a venue for any event you can imagine. The Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Recipient of years ago, John Christopher Way (see photo gallery at [www.texasheritagemusic.org](http://www.texasheritagemusic.org)), is hosting "Opry Nights in Fredericksburg" at the Events Center each Wednesday night from 7-10 p.m. THMF is proud to offer support for this family event where folks show up to dance! Various Hill Country artists will be showcased throughout each month. Kelly Counts, manager of the center, is enthusiastic about the event, having worked with the idea of an Opry in the Hill Country for a long time. "I know this is what the community wants," she said. "A place to gather, hear good music, dance and bring the family." The Limestone Grill in the events center has a great lineup of food as well! I know, I had quail there on day for lunch.

KFAN used the center as a base for some Windows on Texas events. I heard the demo derby there, and the CD by John Christopher Way inspired many positive comments by the music folks on the panel. I mean, Bill Green with BGM productions in San Antonio, does know music!

Neal Brown produced a benefit concert for Rusty Weir on January 21. I believe we had more items donated for the raffle than we had people in the audience. Many came out to support his good cause. Rusty was instrumental in the cosmic cowboy scene even though he stood apart from that scene as a rock and roller! Yes, he always makes me want to dance. One highlight of this lineup was a song swap with George Ensle, Walt Wilkins, Freddy Krc and Kam King on stage. Song after good song. Freddy and Kam are 2/3 of The Explosives, a group that backs Roki Erickson now. Roki and The Thirteenth Floor Elevators were pioneers in the history of Texas psychedelic music.

The raffle included a guitar donated by Hill Country Music and signed by all the artists of the day....Tommy Alverson, Mike Blakely, Shannie, Charlie Bishop, Walt Wilkins, Geronimo Trevino (**Dance Halls of Texas** is his first book!), Tim Henderson, and many more. Another highlight for me was the song between Walt and Tommy, saying, "I sing the blues like Hank tonight." A great duo. Hearing Tim Henderson took me back to my early days at the Kerrville Folk Festival. And I took home his CD of 20 folk songs, including Maria Consuelo, my favorite by time. Yes, "Time is a river." I seem to know that more and more each day.

January 9 I headed to Marble Falls for the Tuesday night special with Mike Blakely at River City Grill. Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines were the featured guests. Jimmy LaFave is featured there on January 29, and Pauline Reese (a chapter in my new book on women in Texas music) on February 19. Terri took leads on harmonica and mandolin that I had not heard before. Lloyd teased her about tuning. This duo heads up and down the road on a regular basis. And they will be featured at the Texas Music Coffeehouse at Schreiner on March 12. Terri introduced "The Spiritual Kind" by saying, "I like all the religions. I like a little bit of every faith, and this is a song I wrote on a Mississippi John

Hurt riff.” Lloyd picked up the dobro to join her. Upbeat and toe-tapping. We heard a story with every song, just like I like it. And Terri is a chapter in my new book.

I had a great time in Austin one Friday in January taping for a KUT radio show in March, women’s history month. They interviewed me about my experience with the women in my book. I was asked to describe the music of Terri Hendrix, Ruthie Foster, and I loved doing that! Abbey over at Luckenbach, announced to me a women’s music festival planned for August 2. I believe she has invited Ruthie, and I know she’s asked me to bring my book. What fun to be part of promoting these women I love, this music I love.

Got a call from Blow in Marble Falls last night. He has an unbelievable lineup for the Bluebonnet Blues Festival March 28-30. He has nationally known blues acts, along with great local music. Over 18 acts confirmed. See [www.bluebonnetblues.com](http://www.bluebonnetblues.com) for details. Join us in the streets of Marble Falls for hot food and cool blues. He has added a session on blues education with Dr. Barry Pearson, an author who writes about the blues. His book contains over 100 interviews with blues players...stories and songs! I look forward to meeting this professor from the University of Tennessee who also collects stories.

One band, a young band, placed 2<sup>nd</sup> out of 157 in the IBC in Memphis, going on to play Chicago and Ontario. Homemade Jamz is that group of youngsters, 15, 13 and 9, who are tearing up the country. The CBS news story on their web gives you a taste of the music. And watching that nine-year-old play the drums was inspiring to me...a woman who also wants to play drums. Think I’ve waited too late? Anson Funderburg, Derek O’Brien and Antone’s Blues Band, Whitey Johnson (who might bring Gary Nicholson), Texas Johnny Brown, Larry Lange, Omar and The Howlers, Chris Holzhaus, and Texana Dames, all names you know. And yes, the Dames are a chapter in my new book. I have such fun saying that! March 28-30. Mark your calendar now!

Ahead is a wonderful house concert series in Boerne with Robert Hurly. See [www.houseconcertshillcountry.com](http://www.houseconcertshillcountry.com) for details. You missed Walt Wilkins on January 26, but Jack Williams is coming in February. A great spring lineup.

And Hill Top House Concerts is bringing Hans York back on Saturday night Feb. 2. [www.hilltophouseconcerts.com](http://www.hilltophouseconcerts.com) for more information. Yes, the house concert concept has given us three more great venues right here in the Hill Country. Jack Fields also produces these at his house on a hill! And San Saba Caps is another location in Kerrville. No shortage of good music and good venues.

I recently watched a DVD called B4MD....”Before The Music Dies,” a loan from Kathleen Keen, a woman who does care about the music. I see this as excellent material for the new course I’m going to teach on Texas music, and the information was enlightening and inspiring to all of us who are out there promoting Texas music, promoting live music. Look it up on the web. As Arlo would say, ‘It’s a movement.’ The DVD contains many interviews with musicians and those in the business on the “state” of live music and recorded music. Check it out. Maybe we can have a showing at Schreiner if we have an audience for it!

February 14 John Christopher Way is playing a special steak night for Valentine’s Day at the Fredericksburg Events Center. Might make some plans around that. Ils sont partis. KH ([www.kathleenhudson.net](http://www.kathleenhudson.net))