

On The Road
By Dr. Kathleen Hudson
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Ah, new year starting with memories of 2008 still fresh in my head. Terri Sharp and I drove down to Piedras Negras for a Sunday lunch Café Moderno on bright December day. She took her guitar to let the manager know she was interested in singing there when the new bar opened at the café. After he heard a few songs, he invited her to join the Tomas, the pianist, and sing during lunch. She not only sang traditional Spanish songs with Tomas accompanying her on piano, but she also played her guitar and accompanied him. What a time we had. And I have photos to prove it. Keep posted for more news on the life of Terri Sharp, a singer/songwriter who is passionate about Mexico, both the culture and the language. And she continues to build her repertoire of songs in the Spanish language..

I enjoyed a spectacular evening at the Auslander in Fredericksburg with Walt Wilkins y Los Mystiqueros just before heading to San Miguel de Allende. This evening was “everything” Texas music can be: passion, great songs, exquisite guitars, rhythmic drumming (from handsome Ray as well as Walt’s young son offstage), steak and potatoes (Yes, good food is always part of the music scene!), friends and family, wide range of ages and even more. This was just one night of the Auslander Winter Concert Series. KFAN broadcast the show and will be using Auslander as a venue in the upcoming Windows on Texas series later in January. See the KFAN website for details on this event which gathers local musicians, featured artists (Hal Ketchum), industry folks and more. Always a Texas music time in Fredericksburg. As I heard Walt, Monte Montgomery was playing across the street at Silver Creek and the McKay Brothers were out at Luckenbach. Fredericksburg just might be the next Texas music capitol! Watch out Austin.

I will go on record as saying, “Here’s To The Trains I’ve Missed” is one of the GREATEST songs in any catalogue of writing...Texas and national. Walt incorporates a view of life that celebrates all that creates the present moment. Watching him sing with his wife, Tina, (who also opened the show for him that evening) is like watching a love affair in progress. Yep, I had a wonderful evening sharing this music with a person new to my life, Gene, who got to “discover” what really matters in Texas music.

Long time friends of mine, Melissa Weatherly and Bryan Maldonado (also partners in life) of Sol Patch have their first album out now, “Everything Under the Sun,” and it’s a good one! Good writing, good performing, good music. Eclectic in style, Sol Patch give us more than just a patch of sun. Check them out on Myspace. I know they play Auslander on January 2, Bonterra on January 16, and Bandera Saloon on January 17 (CD release). Support musicians and buy cd’s!

ShAnnie, another Fredericksburg duo (and partners in life), have a Myspace that includes clips from their new CD. Annie did some singing with Walt, showcasing her voice. It was an evening of talking with partners who share life as well as the creative process. What a joy.

October 3 Richard Dobson, singer/songwriter who now lives in Switzerland, visited my Texas music class at Schreiner University. We heard stories of his life and songs about some of those stories. Richard tours the US at least once each year, always willing to share himself with my classes. Rod Kennedy and Jimmy Perkins (Sustain Records) were

also guests in the class, each adding stories to the students knowledge base of Texas music. More important, each presentation gave the class a new experience of Texas music. Bill Worrell's Christmas party gave me the opportunity to meet many new people, including a woman putting together a school curriculum using songs to encourage interest in history. A perfect mix me! And I met the Benini's, a couple who give the Hill County an arts encounter at the end of every other month. See the website for their foundation, enjoy his paintings, and take a virtual tour of the sculpture on his ranch located between Stonewall and Johnson City. A generous couple, they bring the idea of sharing art to a new level. See www.sculptureranch.com for more information. The art encounters feature several genres of art, and I was thrilled to be invited to join Belle Starr as she talks about women in Texas music.

Speaking of collaboration, Abbey of Luckenbach fame, asked me if Luckenbach could name the **Texas Heritage Music Foundation** as recipient of the April fundraising project. Of course, I shy said yes! Check out the calendar, support live music, and support out local non-profits as you head to Luckenbach. Bill Worrell will be hosting a picking and jam on Mondays called Poet and prophet (along that line). Great idea for enriching the Texas music scene.

I heard from sister Carolyn that Los Lonely Boys were playing an acoustic evening at Gruene Hall on January 23, I will be there for that! I headed for San Miguel de Allende December 29 and will be there celebrating the sun in Mexico until January 8 or 10th. School starts the 14th so better return. I will be teaching a **creative writing class** on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m. Might consider joining up and auditing the course?

Enjoy this collage of memories as you contemplate the year ahead. Put March 2 on your Calendar for **Guy Clark and Texas Writers Conference**. The coffeehouse series is the first Wed. of Feb.-April. Willie Jaye returns in February, a tribute to women in music in March with young Marcus Rubio bringing down the house at the April coffeehouse. And "Ain't I Woman" will play at Schreiner on February 24 as a tribute to Black History month. The chamber music trio will pay tribute to both the voices of women and to Black History. Free to the community so join us!

Don't forget Art2Heart's Journey of the Silver Chord, playing Kerrville at the Cailloux Theatre on February 21. My granddaughter Jessica will be dancing again, this time adding hip-hop flavor. Lorraine and Richard Lemon have been produced many version of this journey, each one more significant than the last. Expect wonderful voices, great music and dance and powerful stories.

Down the road and ils sont partis. KH