

On The Road
By Dr. Kathleen Hudson
April 2011

“To Produce music is also in a sense to produce children.”]

I just attended “**Never The Sinner,**” a play written by John Logan, produced Nietzsche by Tony Galluci and the Guadalupe Stage Quartet from Ingram, “staggeringly” performed by two young men I met at Schreiner University (Philip Huddleson and TJ Ashabranner), and playing at the Cailloux Performing Arts Theatre in Kerrville during March. Jeff Cunningham is a great Clarence Darrow in this psychological drama that causes you to question both crime and punishment.

As one young man quoted **Nietzsche** and proceeded to commit a killing for the thrill of it, I was reminded of the Nietzsche I love who said, “Chaos gives birth to dancing stars,” and wrote about the distinctions of Apollo and Dionysus in *Birth of Tragedy*. Always two sides. In fact, the Tao says, “Everything contains its opposite,” and I agree with that. Wherever the front of the hand goes, the back of the hand follows. Opposites, paradox, irony and oxymoron have always intrigued me. I have a black dog, Max, and a white cat, Blanco, who follow me around my house on the high plain. Reminding me.

I started one of my weekly internet talks at www.the-hill-country-calendr.tv with a reading of **Walt Wilkins’** song, “Here’s To the Trains I’ve Missed,” another nod to opposites. Instead of celebrating the ones caught, celebrate the ones missed. Since I do love juxtaposition of opposites and oxymoron as poetic device, I see this in some of the songs of Texas music. And it thrills me!

I have coordinated a panel for the Popular Culture Conference in San Antonio April 20-23 called “Dancing with Archetypes,” and my presentation is on the trickster as teacher. Lewis Hyde tells us that trickster imagination (disruptive) creates culture. Three Schreiner students will present on the shadow, the rebel and the sage. And, yes, Texas music is full of archetypes as well. It holds up under the scrutiny of literary eyes.

Nietzsche also said, “Beethoven’s music is music about music,” written in *HUMAN ALL-TOO-HUMAN*, 1878. Now what does that mean to you? I would love from you to send me some of your experiences with music. When was it too much to bear? What did it say to you? How do music and lyrics relate for you? Are there rhythms and chords you like? Email me at kathleenhudson123@hotmail.com with your stories!

TEXAS WRITERS CONFERENCE AT SCHREINER UNIVERSITY
April 6-7 is the annual Texas Writers Conference at Schreiner University, featuring workshops, readings, open mikes, slam poetry, performance art, student display and more. We had two workshops on March 30 as pre-conference opportunities, one at 2:25 with poetry and Silke Feltz and one at 6 p.m. on creative non-fiction and the hero’s journey with Ron Franscell. Hope you made it then! April 6 is also the Texas Music Coffeehouse featuring spoken word with **Thom Moon Poet**, a wild creative man from Australia, founding member of the Austin International Poetry Festival (going on now in Austin!) and featured poet on Wed. April 6 at a workshop (free and open to public) at 2:25 in the Cailloux Student Center, and at the evening coffeehouse from 7-9 in the Lion’s Den in the Cailloux Student Center. April 7 has three workshops starting at 10:30 a.m. and an evening reading. Macondo Poets, a writer from California (Vic Inunza) on

war experiences, and **Karla Morton, Texas Poet Laureate** will be conducting workshops and readings. Rsvp for space only to mlyork@schreiner.edu or contact me again!

SxSW brought over 100,000 music aficionados to the Austin area in March. My deadline hit in a way that this story will have to wait until the May magazine, but trust that stories abound! Emmylou Harris was one highlight, along with Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon. Truly international this Texas music spirit!

LUCKENBACH AND THE SPIRIT OF TEXAS

Abby, queen mayor of Luckenbach, has been feeding the spirit of Texas with the many great shows at Luckenbach, the merchandise spread around the world, the haven for bikers on any spring day, a place to gather any evening or Sunday for a pickers circle and, of course, the crowing of a large proud Texas rooster! I stood under a big tree one Sunday, listening to **Lisa Morales** sing songs from her exquisite new CD, *Beautiful Mistakes* (another oxymoron!), wondering if the crowing over my head was a warning! I was also introduced that Sunday to a group new to me, **The Drakes**, who rocked us away before the gorgeous Lisa took the stage. They backed her, and Michael “Cornbread” Taylor, vocalist and guitarist with the Drakes, also produced her album. What a show! Enjoy the photos of Texas music in this column taken by **Mack Barham**.

Walt Wilkins, Kevin Welch, and Jason Eady swapped great songs on Sunday, March 13. Abby announced that the second Sunday of each month Walt and Jason would host this showcase. I sat in a quiet, attentive, awed audience listening for several hours to great songs. Kevin Welch, now living in Wimberly also has a songwriter’s school at his house. Jason Eady is working on his fourth album which Kevin is producing. Their interaction, their songs, their authentic voice produced a listening I have never heard on a crowded Sunday afternoon at Luckenbach. As we neared the 5 o’clock hour, during one of Jason’s songs, two roosters started vying for the ownership of one hen! Now that was some noise. I heard so many songs that moved me, including one by Jason of a stolen gun, a mistake in justice, and the friend who was mistakenly hanged. That brought up some tears! Tina Wilkins joined Walt for the last few songs, adding gorgeous harmony to round out an already-perfect afternoon!

TEXAS MUSIC COFFEEHOUSE SERIES

The March coffeehouse featured **Susan Gibson and Lisa Beck**. The women both spoke to my creative writing class, and the class wrote reactions to their songs. Each woman has a distinct story to tell. Susan gave us the story behind “Wide Open Space,” her Platinum song performed by the Dixie Chicks, and Lisa told us the story behind “The Sands of Lubbock, Texas,” a favorite of mine! The audience came to listen, and none were disappointed. We heard great songs, lively soulful performances, and experienced the heart of Texas music. I find the authenticity of each voice, each story, to be a characteristic of Texas music. These women were not writing for the hit, writing for the airplay; rather, they were writing from the heart.

And that reminds me, **Rod Kennedy** was in the audience. His book, **Music From The Heart**, documents his life in music, and this May the Kerrville Folk Festival, his baby, celebrated 40 years of life....through rain and shine the songs go on!! **Dalis Allen**, writing in this magazine, will fill you in. I know the lineup includes many favorites, many regulars, and an appearance of Texas favorite, **Asleep At The Wheel**. They brought a road show, “Ride With Bob (Wills, that is)” to the Cailloux Performing Arts Center

downtown several years ago as a THMF project, raising some money for the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund. Better bring your dancing shoes that night! Rod has been a consistent stand for great Texas music ever since he teamed up with the Arts and Crafts Fair 40 years ago to bring some music to the show. After a few years, he moved the festival out to Quiet Valley Ranch on Highway 16, and the rest is history! I first came to Kerrville for the reason of attending this folk festival, held in the auditorium in town. I also sat on bales of hay at the Arts and Crafts Festival on the Schreiner campus (now home to the THMF and our September festival). I have attended every festival except the first one! That makes me.....older!

And now on loss: Brian Young..."B"

The Kerrville music scene lost another member as **Brian Young** slipped away a victim of liver cancer. I did not realize he was also a Tivy graduate until I attended the riverside memorial for him on Wednesday, March 9. I had just watched the film Total Eclipse where Rimbaud's last lines were, "I have found eternity. It is where the sun melts into the sea." I walked up to the Guadalupe River that Wednesday to see hundreds gathering to pay tribute and the sun sparkling on the water, dissolving into it. Eternity. My friend Hoppy asked me upon leaving, "I wonder why grief and loss bring us together in ways that happiness does not. Why does it take this to see people in a community we have known for so long? I wonder." I do know that sharing stories and songs creates community, and I was glad to be there, seeing old friends and celebrating Brian's life.

One memory I have is of a conversation we had about his music at a time when he was beginning to write. He had all the fears and concerns of putting his words out there, having played many a gig using cover songs. Songs he loved, of course. I treasure that conversation for it inspired me as well. Be brave, put the words out there.

I ended the month before my deadline listening to **Jimmy LaFave** at the **Auslander**. April is a celebration of the **50th anniversary of Bob Dylan's first album**, and we heard some BOB that evening, March 14. Playing with Jimmy were some excellent Texas musicians: Chip Dolan on keyboards (taking some wild leads), Bobby Kallous on drums and Kim Deschamps on steel guitar. I was certainly tangled up in blue waiting on the keys to the highway as I experienced a simple twist of fate with Jimmy that evening. Jeff, Auslander manager, has created an excellent venue for Texas music, and he was the sound man as well!

A request from the **Texas Heritage Music Foundation**: volunteers needed to produce the Texas Heritage Music Day on September 30 at Schreiner University. If you know of performers, organizations, sponsors who would like to be involved, contact me immediately at kat@texasheritagemusic.org

Il's sont partis.....and remember April is also the birthday of Willie Nelson, and his party is at the Backyard in Austin. KH