

TEXAS HERITAGE MUSIC FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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March 29, 2005

KERRVILLE—The Texas Heritage Music Foundation will be hosting its open house at their new office on Schreiner University campus on April 7 from 5 – 7 p.m., and the public is invited to attend. Coinciding with Schreiner University's annual alumni recall weekend, the open house will feature entertainment by Schreiner guitar students John Butcher, Jason Van Slyke and others, as well as the Schreiner University Pep Band.

Since its founding in 1987, the Texas Heritage Music Foundation (THMF) has been committed to the belief that singing songs and telling stories do make a difference in the world. It is not an entertainment-based organization, but rather one that promotes heritage, history, education and family values to the central and south Texas community, especially youths and teens at risk, through various THMF-produced events and outreach programs each year. THMF also awards annual scholarships to students pursuing a course of study in some aspect of music through its Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund.

Schreiner University English Professor Dr. Kathleen Hudson founded the non-profit Texas Heritage Music Foundation in 1987 to address the principal belief that music and storytelling can bring together a culturally and ethnically diverse community. THMF began

producing free community programs such as the annual Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee and monthly Coffeehouse concerts at Schreiner University. Thanks to donations from the private sector and from local charitable foundations, these programs have grown every year.

In 1993, the Wayne Kennemer Scholarship Fund was established to provide college tuition to students pursuing a course of study in some aspect of music. In 1997, the Jimmie Rodgers Jubilee was renamed Texas Heritage Living History Day. In 2000, THMF began offering subsidized transportation grants to area schools who could not afford the travel expenses to attend the LHD event. By 2001, the Texas Heritage Living History Day event had grown into a three day event, and THMF began an educational outreach program, *The In School Performers Program*, by placing LHD performers in schools throughout central and south Texas. In 2004, the name of the event was finally changed to Texas Heritage Living History Weekend, to better reflect its growth.

THMF's Summer Arts Program for At Risk Youth was implemented in 2004 to provide Kerr County youth at risk with opportunities to develop creativity, learn the tools of communication and create multiple solutions to problems. Thirty two youths participated in classes involving literature and composition, dance, art and music, and successfully completed the first year program.

In August 2004, Schreiner University donated to THMF the use of the Nellie Holdsworth house as its office. Built and dedicated to Mrs. Holdsworth in 1937, the house was the former offices of the Texas State Arts and Crafts Association and is located near the Robbins-Lewis Pavilion, site of the annual community education event produced by THMF, Texas Heritage Living History Weekend.

Before settling into its permanent offices in 2004, the THMF had relied on the generous support of the Kerrville-area business community for office space. In June 1992, the foundation

received a grant from the Turner Foundation to open an office and museum at the Inn of the Hills. In 1994, River Hills Mall provided office space to THMF, while Southern Investments donated office space in 1995. From 1996 to early 2004, 5K Laser Products donated office space and utilities to THMF.

A new focus for THMF in 2005 will be the local music scene. THMF is encouraging Hill Country musicians to join the organization and to have their listing on the foundations website. Dr. Hudson foresees THMF as a viable source of information about local music, performers, and music education. Other ongoing projects are the Texas oral history project, a collection of over 500 interviews on tape with musicians, songwriters, performers and club owners; a planned photography exhibit on Texas music; a video documentary collection of all foundation events; six Texas Music Series Coffeehouse programs at Schreiner University each year; a November trip to the San Miguel de Allende Jazz Festival.

Also coinciding with recall weekend will be the last of the Spring '05 Texas Music Coffeehouses, to be held on April 8th at the Cailloux Student Activities Center. The Coffeehouse will begin with an open mike at 7:30 p.m. featuring special guests, and then local favorites, The Josh Murley Trio, will take the stage. Admission is free. Also, Dr. Hudson is considering a Texas Music Coffeehouse Series for the summer at Schreiner University.

The Texas Heritage Music Foundation is staffed by volunteers from the community and from Schreiner University and is always welcoming additional volunteers for its various community events. Currently, THMF is looking for a part-time office assistant with excellent computer skills. Contact Kathleen Hudson at 792-1945 for more information.

The Texas Heritage Music Foundation, a 501(c)3 non-profit foundation, was established in July, 1987, to preserve and perpetuate the traditions in Texas music, to examine the background of Texas music, to trace influences and patterns in Texas music, to document the role Texas music has played in society, and to provide free educational programming to the Texas community. The foundation website is www.texasheritagemusic.org.