Dream On
By Paula Reynolds

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover." ~Mark Twain

Ol' Samuel Clemens certainly had quite the way with words, and his quote sure did a great job revving me up on the topic of dreams. Not so much the kind that provide a nocturnal picture show, but the kind that live deep inside your heart and mind…the kind that spur you to do—or not do—those things you *dream* of. And why the topic of dreams--following a dream? When it comes to singer/songwriters and other artists, who more can inspire as one who lives what many of us never will…a follower of their dreams?

Hosting house concerts has opened up the door to many new experiences and friends, including meeting some amazing artists. It never fails to leave me in awe to see the dedication, determination, and good old-fashioned stick-to-itiveness (hey…a Prof once told me that *was* a word!) that these souls possess. Long hours on the road, taking a million "no's" before that one "yes", believing that they do have a gift to share, and seeing the pure, almost surreal satisfaction in the eyes of that creator when their creation touches another human being with a smile, a tear, or a shared laugh.

Thus it goes with our first house concert of the year…a return visit by Hans York, appearing on Saturday, February 2nd (www.hilltophouseconcerts.com). Hans is one of those delightfully creative souls who believes whole-heartedly (and for good reason) that his gift of song and word is worth sharing. And it is. Hans first contacted me, as many artists do, through an email inquiring about booking a house concert. I've always kind of been the fly-by-the-seat-of-my-pants kind of gal when it comes

to what I like…and I liked what I heard. I took a chance, we hosted Hans, and the rest is pleasant history. His sound really isn't typical Americana, or folk, or Texas, or bossa-nova, or… You just have to hear this guy! Hans has been compared to Sting, Paul Simon, Jack Johnson, and others and all would work. A live performance with Hans is certainly not dull, the music is extraordinary, and he is just one hoot of guy to watch, listen to, and hang out with. So he's not a Texan, but he fits the bill of a talented, free thinking, soaring soul who's happily grabbed the bull by the horns. It may be time to give him the official Adopted Texan certificate on his next round through. Catch Hans in action, dreams dangling in front of you, on the hilltop in February. (www.hansyork.com)

And while on the topic of dreams…we've had some amazing folks out there sharing their dreams with a lot of young minds by way of the **THMF Bard Project**. I'd dare to say there're probably any number of fresh souls out there with new dreams of their own, thanks to the likes of November performers Richard Dobson (Schreiner University), Josh Grider (Tivy High School English Department), and Ray Rios and company with their Aztec presentation (Fredericksburg Elementary School). What a fantastic (that word just doesn't convey the swelling in my psyche that accompanies the excitement about things like this!) (okay…so *swelling* is maybe a little weird to use, but bare with me…this program is so cool!) opportunity this program is for bringing creative, following-their-dream, personas to our kids. I have no doubt that any one of the students fortunate enough to take part in this have been changed in a way that wouldn't happen otherwise, whether they realize it right now or not. We all have that creative flow somewhere; it just has to find its way to the surface and be allowed to start burbling. Thanks to The Bard Project, I think I hear more burbling going on in the schools of our county. There is still a little funding

left (at the time of this writing), so be sure and give me a call if you'd like to inquire about booking someone through this project. 895-0975

One more thing while we're dreamin' on; Christmas gifts! "While visions of sugarplums danced in their heads…" may qualify for one of those aforementioned nocturnal versions, but we can all dream of a really great gift to give or receive. My recommendations…drum roll please…stand as follows: "Vicky Emerson" – self-titled new release, a wonderful piece of work by a wonderfully talented Texan-at-heart (www.vickyemerson.com); "Diamonds in the Sun" – Walt Wilkins and The Mystequeros. Need I say more than "Walt…" to offer credibility to this awesome album?; tickets to any live performance, anywhere, anyplace, anytime. Live music is where it's at, along with any other type of live performance. And for you palatally-gifted types, check out Biscoff goodies at www.biscoff.com. Yum yum.

Happy holidays, Merry Christmas, and pleasant dreams to all.

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