

# Letter from the Director



With this Spring 2004 issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History*, the Center for Texas Music History (CTMH) celebrates the continued success of its many ongoing programs, and we look forward to developing new and exciting programs for the future.

As part of our efforts to help students better understand how music reflects the rich history and tremendous cultural

diversity of the American Southwest, the CTMH is expanding the number of courses on Texas music history that will be offered through the Texas State University History Department beginning in the Fall 2004 semester.

The CTMH is also enjoying the success of the recently published *Handbook of Texas Music*, on which we collaborated with the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Music Office, and others. The *Handbook*, which is the first encyclopedia of Texas music history, has become an important resource for historians and music fans alike. For Texas State students, who researched and wrote more than 100 articles, the *Handbook* has been an outstanding opportunity for these future historians to gain practical experience in research and publishing.

In addition to these projects, the CTMH is working to expand the number and variety of musical performances that it organizes on campus and throughout the community. Our "Texas Music History Unplugged" concert series at Texas State continues to provide an eclectic mix of prominent Texas musicians who consistently draw standing-room-only crowds. The Unplugged concert on March 28, 2004 featured a wonderful evening of music by Ray Benson, Jason Roberts, the Sisters Morales, David Spencer, Ruthie Foster, Cyd Cassone, Joel Guzman, Chris Wall, and Lars Albrecht. We also have begun working with the College of Fine Arts and Communication and others to develop additional music-related educational events.

Our "Travelin' Texas" CDs, which include such great artists as Delbert McClinton, George Strait, Tish Hinojosa, the Flatlanders, Toni Price, Pat Green, Terri Hendrix, and others, continue to sell

well and have become an important fundraiser for our programs.

The CTMH also continues to work with museums, schools, and others throughout the state to organize exhibits, performances, and other educational activities.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Dr. Kathryn Ledbetter, who will be stepping down as Editor of the *Journal of Texas Music History* in order to serve as Editor of *Victorian Periodicals Review*. Dr. Ledbetter not only helped found the *Journal*, but she worked very hard to set and maintain the high standards that have made the *Journal* so successful. Without Dr. Ledbetter, there would be no *Journal of Texas Music History*. She has been a dear friend and a great colleague, whom we will all miss. We wish you all the best, Kitty!

I am very grateful to everyone who has helped make our program such a success, especially Kathryn Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Dee Lannon, Cat Reed, Gene Bourgeois, Frank de la Teja, Vikki Bynum, the entire Texas State History Department, the CTMH Advisory Board, Ann Marie Ellis, Becky Huff, Nina Wright, Deborah McDaniel, Richard Cheatham, Beverly Braud, Carolyn Conn, Gerald Hill, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Francine Hartman, Rick & Laurie Baish, Lucky & Becky Tomblin, Kim & Robert Richey, Jo & Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell & Barbara Piersol, Tracie Ferguson, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Ralph & Patti Dowling, Jerry & Cathy Supple, Dennis & Margaret Dunn, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Mildred Roddy, John & Robin Dickson, Byron Augustin, Tracy Herman, Lanita Hanson, Brandi Bridgeman, Billy Seidell, and all of our other friends and supporters.

Please visit our website ([www.txstate.edu/ctmh](http://www.txstate.edu/ctmh)) or contact us to learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs.

Sincerely,

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