

Letter from the Director



This issue marks our eighteenth year of publishing the *Journal of Texas Music History*, which also is available online at www.txstate.edu/ctmh/publications/journal.html. There's no charge to receive the *Journal*. Simply contact us at jasonmellard@txstate.edu, and we'll be happy to put you on our mailing list.

(Please be sure to visit our Facebook page, too!)

This issue also is an important milestone for me personally. After nearly a quarter century of teaching at Texas State University and nineteen years as Director of the Center for Texas Music History, I am retiring on September 1, 2018. I'm quite pleased to say that the Center and its many important educational programs will continue under the very capable leadership of Dr. Jason Mellard, who has served as Assistant Director of the Center for the past five years. Jason is an outstanding scholar, a gifted and popular teacher, and is ideally suited to lead the Center into the future. Please continue to support Jason as you have so generously supported and encouraged me, and be watching for some very exciting new projects on the horizon.

As I look back over the past nineteen years, I'm very proud of all that the Center for Texas Music History has accomplished, including: developing a number of popular graduate and undergraduate courses on music history; the establishment of several scholarships to support Texas State students in their studies; publication of the award-winning *John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music* (produced in collaboration with Texas A&M University Press), which already has produced a dozen books with more to come; the Center's work with PBS, NPR, the Smithsonian Institute, the Texas State History Museum, the Governor's Texas Music Office, the Texas State Historical Association, Humanities Texas, the Texas Historical Commission, the Wittliff Collections at Texas State, and many others to help organize dozens of programs and events designed to educate students and the public about the important role music has played in the development of the Southwest's unique history and richly diverse culture.

Of course, we couldn't have done all of this without hard work, encouragement, and financial contributions from thousands of friends and supporters. My sincerest thanks to Jason Mellard, Kristi Madden, Alan Schaefer, César Limón, the Center's Advisory Board, Angie Murphy, Mary Brennan & Alan Apel, Frank de la Teja, Ken Margerison, Tammy Gonzales, Madelyn Patlan, Roberta Ann Ruiz, the entire Texas State University Department of History, Denise Trauth & John Huffman, Gene & Lynn Bourgeois, Michael Hennessey, Ann Marie Ellis, Laura Murray, Gail Randle, John & Robin Dickson, Patti Harrison, Mark & Linda Smith, Pat Muehl, Francine Hartman, Paul & Polly Glasse, Tamara Saviano, Perry & Marianne Moore, Randy Rogers, Brady & Bree Black, Bill Whitbeck, Curtis Clarke, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Richard & Linda Campbell, Greg Davis, Michael Davis, Gregg Andrews, Kent Finlay, Rod Kennedy, Dalis Allen, Clifford Antone, Kim & Robert Richey, Joe & Alice Specht, Pam Golightly, Lanita Hanson, Jim & Cathey Moore, Tracie Ferguson, Ruthie Foster, Randy & Leslie Collier, Diana Hendricks, Tom & Ann Francese, Elmer & Susan Rosenberger, Rick & Laurie Baish, Nell Hesson, Becky Tomblin, Denise Boudreaux, Carol Dochen, Steve & Lindley Workman Alyea, Jo & Paul Snider, Darrell & Barbara Piersol, Dennis & Margaret Dunn, Ron & Judy Brown, Grant Mazak, Mariko Gomez, Cathy Supple, Sharon Sandomirsky, John Kunz, Bill Musser, Lee & Judy Keller, Ronda Reagan, Luan Brunson Haynes & Elizabeth Brunson Vickers, and many others.

To learn more about the Center and its unique programs, please contact us or visit our website. Thanks again for helping make the Center for Texas Music History such a success, and I hope you'll continue to support the Center and its educational programs in the future!

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