

Letter from the Director



As the Center for Texas Music History prepares to celebrate its sixth anniversary in September 2005, we can look back on a tremendous record of success and forward to a future filled with exciting new opportunities.

The Center continues to develop new graduate and undergraduate courses in southwestern music history through the History Department. The *Journal of Texas Music History* and the *Handbook of Texas Music*

serve as valuable reference tools and have helped provide a format for scholarly debate on the evolution of Texas music.

The Center has expanded its work with museums, public schools, universities, and others to develop educational programs related to Texas history and culture. Following our successful collaboration with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum's 2002-2003 exhibit on Texas music history, we are once again working with the Bullock Museum on its new "Spirit of Texas Music" concert series. We are also pleased to be working with Dr. Richard Cheatham and Texas State University's College of Fine Arts and Communication to present the new "Stars of Texas Music" series, through which we invite younger artists to perform alongside veteran artists in order to educate students about the rich musical heritage of our state.

The Center is working on other new projects, as well. Of particular note is the Center's new Texas Music Oral History Program, launched this past spring with the help of Dr. Ron Brown and others in the Department of History. Through this program, the Center is working with graduate history students to conduct oral interviews with people throughout the state who have been involved in the development of Texas music. These interviews, which will be conducted over several years, will become part of the university's extensive archival collection on Texas music history and will be available to students, scholars, and others for research and educational purposes.

As part of our ongoing efforts to be more cost-efficient, we

are also working to make all issues of the *Journal of Texas Music History* available on-line. This will help us keep costs low while making the *Journal* instantaneously available to readers anywhere in the world.

We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts during this past year. Since we receive no direct line of funding, we rely on the generosity of all who believe in the importance of what the Center is doing. In particular, I would like to thank Gregg Andrews & Vikki Bynum, Dee Lannon, Jimmy McWilliams, Cat Reed, Carley Wolf, Gene Bourgeois, Perry & Marianne Moore, Frank de la Teja, the entire Texas State University History Department, the Center's Advisory Board, Ann Marie Ellis, Nina Wright, Deborah McDaniel, Becky Prince, Richard Cheatham, Liz McDonald, Carroll Wiley, Vicki Meehan Clarke, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Lanita Hanson, Brandi Bridgeman, Gary Hickinbotham, Francine Hartman, Jim & Cathey Moore, John & Robin Dickson, Rick & Laurie Baish, Lucky & Becky Tomblin, Kim & Robert Richey, Jo & Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell & Barbara Piersol, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Ralph & Patti Dowling, Cathy Supple, Dennis & Margaret Dunn, Sharon Sandomirsky & Chris Ellison, Ron & Judy Brown, Byron & Rebecca Augustin, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Clifford Antone, Tracie Ferguson, Mildred Roddy, Elmer & Susan Rosenberger, Billy Seidell, and all of our other friends and supporters.

Please visit our website or contact us to learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Hartman". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Gary Hartman, Ph.D.
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