

Letter from the Director



The beginning of the Fall 2002 semester marks the third year since the Center for Texas Music History (formerly the Institute for the History of Texas Music) was officially established in the History Department at Southwest Texas State University. During those three years, the CTMH has compiled an impressive list of accomplishments.

With the help and support of many good people and businesses throughout the Southwest, we have built a unique and important program focusing on the preservation and study of the region's complex and diverse musical heritage. With an emphasis on how Texas music reflects the rich history and tremendous cultural diversity of the Southwest, the CTMH is involved in a variety of educational and preservational activities aimed at helping students, scholars, and the general public better understand this important part of American history and culture.

Our graduate and undergraduate courses on the history of Southwestern music remain very popular. The *Handbook of Texas Music*, which we are publishing jointly with the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Music Office, and the University of Texas at Austin, will be available in 2003. The online bibliography of books, articles, and other publications on Southwestern music, which our students developed in cooperation with the Texas Music Office, remains a very useful tool for researchers.

Our "Texas Music History Unplugged" concert series has brought to campus such great musicians as Ray Benson, Joe Ely, Tish Hinojosa, Marvin Dykhaus, Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines, Joel Guzmán, Ponty Bone, Ruthie Foster, Cyd Cassone, and Willis Alan Ramsey. Through their music, these artists have helped students and others better understand the importance of music to the history and culture of the Southwest. Our community outreach programs, through which we provide educational presentations at public schools, community centers, and other venues, continue to grow.

Our *Travelin' Texas* compilation CDs, which feature such artists as Delbert McClinton, Asleep at the Wheel, Marcia Ball, Eliza Gilkyson, George Strait, Billy Joe Shaver, Sara Hickman, and Ray

Wylie Hubbard, have been very successful. Our third CD, which will feature Jerry Jeff Walker, Rosie Flores, The Flatlanders, and others, will be available soon. Proceeds from the CDs have been vital in helping fund our ongoing educational projects. We are very grateful to the musicians and everyone else who contributed.

We are very pleased to be working closely with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum, the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, and others to help present the "Country Music from the Lone Star State" exhibit, which will run through January 2003. This issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History* features an in-depth article about the exhibit. I strongly encourage all our readers to visit the Bullock Museum to experience this wonderful presentation on Texas music history.

I am very grateful to the following people for their hard work and generous support: Kathryn Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Vikki Bynum, Jenni Finlay, Dawn Shepler, Ann Marie Ellis, Gene Bourgeois, the entire SWT History Department, the CTMH Board of Advisors, the Joan and Herb Kelleher Charitable Foundation, Becky Huff, Gerald Hill, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Rick and Laurie Baish, Lucky and Becky Tomblin, Kim and Robert Richey, Jo and Paul Snider, Margie First, Darrell and Barbara Piersol, Tracie Ferguson, Phil and Cecilia Collins, Ralph and Patti Dowling, Jerry and Cathy Supple, Dennis and Margaret Dunn, John Kunz, Kent Finlay, Don Anders, Billy Seidell, Pat Jasper, David Dennard at Dragon Street Records, Texas Folklife Resources in Austin, the Texas Heritage Music Foundation in Kerrville, the Texas Music Museum in Austin, the Museum of American Music History-Texas in Houston, the New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music, and everyone else who has contributed to the success of the Center for Texas Music History. We believe the work we're doing is very important, and we need the ongoing support of others to continue our success.

I invite you to contact us for more information or to become involved in this unique and exciting program.

Sincerely,

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