

Letter from the Director



As the Institute for the History of Texas Music celebrates its second anniversary, we can look back on a very productive first two years. Our graduate and undergraduate courses on the history of Texas music continue to grow in popularity. *The Handbook of Texas Music*, the definitive encyclopedia of Texas music history, which we are publishing jointly

with the Texas State Historical Association and the Texas Music Office, will be available in summer 2002. The online bibliography of books, articles, and other publications relating to the history of Texas music, which we developed in cooperation with the Texas Music Office, has proven to be a very useful tool for researchers.

Our *Texas Music History Unplugged* lecture series has been a tremendous success. Through the program, we have brought such musicians as Tish Hinojosa, Ray Benson, Terri Hendrix, Lloyd Maines, Joel Guzmán, and Willis Alan Ramsey to SWT to perform and explain how Texas music reflects the state's unique history and culture, has been very successful. We're planning another big "Unplugged" concert for the spring semester, with smaller performances throughout the year. We also are working with Rosetta Wills and a number of people in the music and business communities to establish a "Bob Wills Endowed Chair in Texas Music History."

The Institute's community outreach programs continue to grow. In addition to our educational presentations at public schools, community centers, and other venues, we have launched a new program, Swan Songs, in which we work with musicians and health care professionals to organize therapeutic musical performances for patients.

Our first compilation CD, *Travelin' Texas*, which includes songs from Asleep at the Wheel, Tish Hinojosa, Joe Ely, Marcia Ball, and 14 other Texas artists, has been such a successful fundraiser for the Institute, that we've put together a second CD. *Travelin' Texas, Volume 2* will include Delbert McClinton, George Strait and the Ace in the Hole Band, Eliza Gilkyson, Billy Joe Shaver, Sara Hickman, Ray Wiley Hubbard, and a va-

riety of other great Texas musicians. Proceeds from the CD have been vital in helping fund our ongoing educational projects. We are very grateful to the musicians and to everyone else who has supported us during the past two years.

The Institute continues to add important new collections to the Texas Music Archives at SWT, including the Mike Crowley Collection and the Roger Polson and Cash Edwards Collection. We also are working closely with the Texas Heritage Music Foundation, the Center for American History, the Texas Music Museum, the New Braunfels Museum of Art and Music, the Museum of American Music History-Texas, the Mexico-North consortium, and other organizations to help preserve the musical history of the region and to educate the public about the important role music has played in the development of our society.

At the request of several prominent people in the Texas music industry, we are considering the possibility of establishing a music industry degree at SWT. This program would allow students interested in working in any aspect of the music industry to earn a college degree with specialized training in museum work, musical performance, sound recording technology, business, marketing, promotions, journalism, or a variety of other sub-fields within the music profession.

With this second issue of *The Journal of Texas Music History*, we continue to provide interesting and engaging information for those interested in the history behind Texas music. As the first academic journal to focus on the entire spectrum of Texas music history, the *Journal* already has earned national praise for its high academic standards and its innovative format.

I am deeply indebted to Kathryn Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Jenni Finlay, Ann Marie Ellis, Gene Bourgeois, Gerald Hill, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Lucky Tomblin, and everyone else who has contributed to the success of the *Journal* and the Institute. We believe the work we're doing is very important, and we invite you to contact us for more information or to become involved in this unique and exciting educational and preservational program.

Sincerely,

Gary Hartman, Ph.D.
 Director, Institute for the History of Texas Music
 Southwest Texas State University



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Institute for the History Texas Music

Director
Assistant Director
Program Director

Gary Hartman
Gregg Andrews
Jenni Finlay

The Journal of Texas Music History

Editor-in-Chief

Kathryn Ledbetter

Assistant Editors

Gregg Andrews
Gary Hartman

Senior Designer

César Limón

Contributors

Karl Hagstrom Miller
Joe Specht
Roger Wood
John Dempsey

Reviews

Gregg Andrews
Gary Hartman

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