



A rich musical heritage

There's no better way to appreciate the enormous creativity of our state than by listening to Texas music and Texas musicians. Texans love their music, and always have.

In recent times, Texas has produced originals in virtually every musical genre, from country (George Jones) to blues (Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown) to rock and roll (Roy Orbison) to jazz (Jack Teagarden) to tejana (Selena). What do classical pianist Van Cliburn, country great Willie Nelson and rock legend Janis Joplin have in common? They're all from Texas.

Our world-famous musical prominence is well-earned. Its origins go back a long way. Texas's musical roots started with Indians and the earliest missions. Among the first settlers were Germans, who brought instruments and a tradition of music appreciation to the frontier.

The Kleberg family, for instance, brought "a fine piano" with them to Texas in 1834, but it was unfortunately lost when Santa Anna burned Harrisburg, east of Houston, two years later. Music even played a role at the Battle of San Jacinto, where Texas won its freedom.

Gen. Sam Houston knew his attacking Texans would have to cross a wide open space, so he assembled a ragtag drum and bugle corps to accompany the advance. "Houston's plan on the day of battle was to deceive the Mexican sentinels into thinking that the gringo army was embarking on a sort of drill," the Houston Post reported.

"The only instruments they had were drums, fifes, bugles

and cymbals, but they played right lustily as the troops went into action," wrote Lota M. Spell in her book, "Music in Texas." The ploy worked, and the Mexicans were caught largely unprepared. "Some of these musicians were later rewarded by the Republic of Texas with lands and a pension for their good work on that spring morning."

The war over, the newly liberated land returned to its music. "The Republic of Texas was a singing country," William Hogan wrote in "The Texas Republic: A Social and Economic History." The 19th century saw a proliferation of German and Czech bands, flourishing singing societies, performances in somewhat rustic "opera houses" across the state, and biennial German singing festivals.

Anyone who thinks traditional songs have been crowded out by modern music has never been treated to the polka bands and yodeling at the annual Wurstfest in New Braunfels.

Texas also led the way in development of cowboy campfire music, and the rich mine of western folk music—songs of the people. Compositions such as "Little Old Sod Shanty" described the hard life on the Texas frontier:

"The hinges are of leather and the windows have no glass, and the board roof lets the howling blizzards in. And I hear the hungry coyote as he sneaks up through the grass, round my little old sod shanty on my claim."

These days, the Texas music legacy is more upbeat. It ranges across a rich and diverse spectrum from respected symphony

orchestras in larger cities, to historic dance halls and concert venues in places like Gruene and Luckenbach, to specialized entertainment areas like Deep Ellum in Dallas. A growing extravaganza is the annual club-centered "South by Southwest Music Festival" in Austin, still known as "the live music capital of the world."

This week, the Texas Hill Country will be alive with the sounds of music. The Kerrville Folk Festival starts again at the legendary Quiet Valley Ranch. It's been held annually since 1972 and is the oldest continuously-running music festival of its kind in North America. Some 30,000 visitors from around the world are expected.

Many major artists played Kerrville early in their careers and later. A visit to the historic Hill Country, where some of the first Texans wrote and played their music, is a great way to see a new generation of singer-songwriters who carry on the renowned Texas musical tradition.

Sen. Cornyn serves on the Armed Services, Judiciary and Budget Committees. In addition, he is Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics. He serves as the top Republican on the Judiciary Committee's Immigration, Border Security and Refugees subcommittee and the Armed Services Committee's Airland subcommittee. Cornyn served previously as Texas Attorney General, Texas Supreme Court Justice and Bexar County District Judge. For Sen. Cornyn's previous Texas Times columns: www.cornyn.senate.gov/columns.



Secure borders & immigration reform without amnesty

As your U.S. Senators, we have been heavily involved in the Congressional debate on immigration reform for several years. We have taken a leadership role on this issue because we represent a state that uniquely benefits from the contributions of legal immigrants, but is also uniquely vulnerable to the dangers of illegal immigration. Throughout this process, our principles have been clear and consistent: We must secure our borders, and we cannot encourage illegal behavior through amnesty.

On May 17th, the Bush administration, along with a small group of Senators, announced a compromise immigration bill that would take a necessary first step in improving border security. We did not join in the announcement. While our efforts had a positive influence, we were not convinced the announced proposal guarantees repair of our current broken system. We are particularly concerned that we may be repeating the mistakes of the failed 1986 national amnesty.

The bill promises some long-term positive changes, including significant border security measures, an end to chain migration, and a switch to green card distribution based on merit.

But many problems have not been satisfactorily addressed. For example, we must make certain that con-

victed criminals are not eligible for any legalization, and if these individuals attempt to stay here, that they are arrested and promptly deported.

We must ensure that only those who have played by the rules — and not those engaged in identity theft — receive Social Security benefits. This proposal would enable illegal immigrants to collect Social Security benefits for the time they were unlawfully in our country. At a time when we are already facing major shortfalls in our ability to pay benefits for future retirees, this represents an unfair burden on the American taxpayer. We must end the rampant document fraud that plagues our workplaces today, and do it in a way that is legally enforceable.

Some of our colleagues, sensing the fragile nature of the proposed compromise, want to rush it through the Congress immediately. This would be a major mistake. It is too important and too complicated to rush. Major questions remain about details of the plan, and how it would work. We believe the bill —

which was negotiated privately — deserves a full public airing. The legislation requires extended Senate debate, with full opportunity for public input and criticism, and an open process for amendments to strengthen its provisions.

In 1986, the Congress approved a similar compromise plan that, in return for amnesty for most immigrants here illegally, promised an end to porous borders and disregard for our laws. Those promises were not honored. The amnesty legislation instead actually encouraged further disrespect for our laws, and led directly to the situation we face today.

As the Senate considers this bill, our goal will be restoring the integrity of our borders, providing guest workers with opportunity, not amnesty, and preserving our social security for all who legally qualify. Our contributions to the debate will continue to be positive, and constructive.

Our country needs immigration reform. We must ensure that it's done, and done correctly.

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Fishing Festival June 2 at TFFC

ATHENS, Texas—The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens will kick off National Fishing and Boating Week by making a family fishing trip affordable with free admission for kids 12 and under plus free fishing for the whole family and free hot dogs and drinks from 9 to 4 Saturday, June 2.

Anglers who fish in TFFC's stocked casting pond can enter the big fish contest held by the Irving Christian Bass Club from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Prizes of fishing gear will be awarded for the three largest catfish and sunfish. All children 12 and under will receive a free ticket for door prize drawings

to be held at the TFFC picnic area at 1:30 p.m.

The Tarrant County Christian Bass Club will hold the Bassmaster Kids Casting Contest beginning at 10:30 a.m. Participants will receive a certificate from the Bass Anglers Sportsman's Society (B.A.S.S.).

In addition to fishing, visitors can walk the wetlands trail; see a diver hand feed fish; learn about the history of fishing in the freshwater fishing museum; shop for a Father's Day gift in the Flat Creek Bait 'n Goods Gift Shop and watch the alligator feeding at 3:30 p.m.

The TFFC Fishing Festival is sponsored by Athens Wal-Mart

Supercenter, Bass Pro Shops Grapevine, Bass Pro Shops Garland, Shakespeare, Joey and Pam Ridgle, Ernie Yarborough and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

National Fishing and Boating Week comes at the start of the summer vacation season and is designed to encourage families to spend time together on and around water. No fishing license is required anywhere in the state on the first Saturday in June, which is designated Free Sportfishing Day.

For information go to <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/spdest/visitorcenters/tffc/> or call (903) 676-2277.

Writers' Corner

If you have a poem, song lyrics or a short story and you would like to share it with the readers of *The Statesman* now is your chance.

Email or mail us your submission and look for it in an upcoming issue of *The Statesman*.

SIMPLE THINGS WE DO

A quiet walk, a tender touch
an eager smile can mean so much;
I recall, as dawn breaks through,
that all the little things we do
are simple pleasures filling days
and touching lives in many ways.

I help a loved one find a gift,
I'm there when spirits need a lift.
I hold the hands of those in pain
and listen as our guests explain
their tears of joy or tears of grief --
my presence here provides relief.

I start each morning with a prayer,
"Where there is need, let me be there,"
for little things I do each day
help those I meet along the way.
I'm a caring part of every shift.
I volunteer ... the priceless gift.
Submitted by Otis Rainwater

MY COWBOY FRIENDS

Bob Steele was a friend of mine.
Used to watch him all the time.
Three licks and the bad guy was out.
Never saw him lose a bout.

I used to visit him a lot.
Whatever happened to Randolph Scott?
He rode a black stallion named Thunder,
Never saw him make a blunder.

Audie Murphy, from Texas, was a hero in the war;
Went out to California and became a movie star,
There was never a little man better with his fists,
Or he never had a woman that he didn't kiss.

Always thought Roy and Gene were the sissy type.
They'd rather sing and play their guitars than fight.
They rode two horses named Champion and Trigger,
As far as singing cowboys, there was none any bigger.

Lash Larue was famous for his whip.
The outlaws didn't give him any lip.
Every Saturday the outlaw left him for dead.
Next Saturday the outlaw would be filled with lead.

The radio batteries were weak and I could hardly hear.
But every day after school the Lone Ranger was on the air.
He wore a mask and had a faithful companion named Tonto,
Rode a white stallion, Silver, and could draw his guns pronto.

Another old friend was named Red Ryder.
He was a good man and one heck of a gunfighter.
He helped the poor and was against the crooks.
You could read about him in the funny books.

My all-time favorite was a man named John.
He put a many a bad man on the run.
Wish we had more in this country like him today,
So we could be proud as we were yesterday.

Seems like all my old friends have bit the dust.
Kids' heros now are about crime and dope and lust.
My friends are looking down on their reckless brothers,
And saying, "Hey, you've got to fend for one another."
by Dwayne Garner

Give yourself...

Tad Morgan, D.D.S.

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