

Happy Holidays

TEXAS MUSIC

EXTRA

12/18/08

news

click here to read

calendar

click here to read

releases

click here to read

artist q&a

click here to read

Idol grabs Here Holy Spain



Here Holy Spain, from Dallas. Photo: Jason Janik

Dallas' Here Holy Spain is the latest signing to Big D-based Idol Records. The rock trio (Wes Solem, Ethan O'Daniel and Erica Guagliardi) is recording their debut album *Manic* (due early next year) with producer Casey Diiorio. In other Idol news, founder Erv Karwelis is launching a new "sub-label," Exploding Plastic Records, which will be geared toward art-pop releases. The new label's A&R guru will be [DARYL]/The Crash That Took Me member Dylan Silvers.

Kerrville fest goes nonprofit

On Dec. 15, all assets of the long-running Kerrville Folk Festival (along with the Kerrville Wine & Music Festival) were officially acquired by the Texas Folk Music Foundation. As part of the 501(c)3 Texas non-profit corporation – founded in 1999 to "educate, preserve and promote public appreciation and support for songwriters, songwriting and folk music in all

its forms" – the Kerrville festivals can now benefit from tax-free donations from the private and public sectors. "Combining forces with the TFMF gives us more opportunities to move forward with our mission of support for original music and the education of the world about the importance of music in our lives," said Kerrville producer Dalis Allen. "It also ensures the continuation of these events and allows for fundraising to make additional improvements to them."

Old Quarter back in business

Back in September, Hurricane Ike did its worst to Galveston's Old Quarter Acoustic Cafe (and all of Galveston, for that matter), but the beloved venue is now back in business. "The fans have rebuilt the OQAC from the ground up," owner Wrecks Bell reports in a post on www.oldquarteracousticcafe.com. "I can't tell you what this has meant to me. The outpouring of generosity has me humbled and thankful." The venue, which celebrated its grand re-opening last week, has coastal favorite Larry Joe Taylor playing this Saturday, and will host its 12th annual Townes Van Zandt Wake on Jan. 1. Artists booked throughout January include the Band of Heathens, Ken Gaines, Shake Russell, Sisters Morales, Richard Dobson and Hayes Carll.

Lovefest for Cactus' Luneberg

"Am I dying?" quipped Cactus Cafe manager Griff Luneberg from the back of the room Dec. 8, after Matt the Electrician announced that the regular Monday-night open-mic proceedings were being sidelined in favor of an all-star salute to the man who helped many of Austin's best-known songwriters get their start. In order to keep the tribute a surprise, co-host Graham Weber called Luneberg – who was at home taking the night off until closing time – half an hour before showtime in a mock panic, telling him the club's soundboard wasn't working. Luneberg dutifully came in and knew something was up when he found the house packed and full of Cactus A-list alumni like Slaid Cleaves, who performed along with Jon Dee Graham, Jimmy LaFave, Gurf Morlix, Sam Baker, Ray Bonneville, Jimmie Dale and Colin Gilmore, Bruce

Robison, Abra Moore, David Garza, BettySoo, Abi Tapia, Beaver Nelson, Nathan Hamilton, Rich Brotherton and Ed Miller, Michael Fracasso, Leatherbag and others. Asked at the end of the night if he'd forgive Matt and Graham for the surprise, a visibly moved Luneberg said, "Yeah ... I am overwhelmed with gratitude." But, duly impressed by the night's attendance, he did have one small complaint, teasing that they really should have charged a cover. The Cactus Cafe will celebrate its 30th anniversary in February.

Walker returns to One World

Fans of cosmic country legend Jerry Jeff Walker can catch the former hell-raiser in the refined, upscale setting of Austin's One World Theatre on Jan. 9. Later that month, San Antonio-born Grammy winner Christopher Cross sails into the theater on Jan. 18, and Michael McDonald plays a gala benefit for One World on Jan. 25. Better start saving if you want to make that show, though: tickets are \$500 a pop, or \$4,000(!) for the "meet and greet" option. But ticket-buyers also get to hob-nob at a Grey Goose-sponsored cocktail hour with a fancy buffet, and proceeds go to One World, "Austin's largest multicultural non-profit arts-in-education outreach program."

Jug Band calls it quits

One of the state's most unique bands announced in early December that they were just about to amicably split. South Austin Jug Band frontman James Hyland announced on his MySpace (subsequently picked up by regional news outlets and music Web sites) that the group, a mainstay in their titular homebase and a highly regarded roots-music band elsewhere, was going to finish out a few dates before playing their last Texas show at their old stomping grounds of Momo's on New Year's Eve. A few scattered out-of-state obligations later, the band will apparently be no more. On the Jug Band's blog, Hyland praised all of his former bandmates (there have been

TEXAS MUSIC EXTRA

PUBLISHER/ STEWART RAMSER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
EDITORS CINDY ROYAL
RICHARD SKANSE
ASSOCIATE EDITORS CODEY ALLEN
ELIZABETH FULLER
CONTRIBUTORS LYNNE MARGOLIS
ETHAN MESSICK
AMANDA PALM
SARAH WHITE
ART DIRECTOR TORQUIL SCOTT-DEWAR

www.txmusic.com

WEB SITE DESIGNER WILLTHING

MAILING ADDRESS PO BOX 50273
AUSTIN, TX 78763

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1-877-35-TEXAS

OFFICE: 512-638-8900
E-MAIL: INFO@TXMUSIC.COM
COPYRIGHT © 2008 BY TEXAS MUSIC, L.L.C.
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.
REPRODUCTION IN WHOLE OR PART IS PROHIBITED.

TEXAS MUSIC

several incarnations) and made a vague promise to return to music soon: "I can only speak for myself, but ... I have no other skills than writing songs and performing them, so I imagine that's what I'll get back to doing."

Marcia, Ruthie up for blues awards



Ruthie Foster

Texas dames Marcia Ball and Ruthie Foster are both among the nominees for the 30th Blues Music Awards, to be held May 17 in

Memphis. Ball is in the running for the Contemporary Blues Female Artist of the Year and the Pinetop Perkins Piano Player awards, and Foster is up for Traditional Blues Female Artist of the Year. Other Texas nominees include Smokin' Joe Kubek and Bnois King (Rock Blues Album of the Year) and the late Albert Collins, whose posthumous Eagle Records release, *Albert Collins Live at Montreaux 1992*, is nominated for Historical Album of the Year and DVD of the Year.

Foster signs with Paisley & co.

Singer-songwriter Radney Foster has just signed a deal with Nashville's Sea Gayle Music, co-founded by Chris DuBois, Frank Rogers and Brad Paisley. Foster wrote hits as part of the duo Foster and Lloyd in the '80s as well as a solo artist in the '90s. His songs have been recorded by Keith Urban, Hootie & the Blowfish, Gary Allan, the Dixie Chicks, Brooks & Dunn and others.

Black on Celebrity Apprentice

Houston-raised Clint Black will be competing on the next version of NBC's *Celebrity Apprentice*, set to air on March 1. Fellow contestants include Andrew Dice Clay, Olympic skater Scott Hamilton, Joan Rivers and her

daughter Melissa, singer Brian McKnight, Dennis Rodman and former NFL player Hershel Walker, among others.

RodeoHouston ropes in more stars

Alan Jackson, Reba McEntire and Gary Allan were officially added to the lineup for RodeoHouston's annual concert series. The three artists join previously announced performers the Jonas Brothers, Brad Paisley, Rascal Flatts and Taylor Swift. The complete lineup for RodeoHouston, scheduled for March 3-22, will be announced Jan. 12.

Rock Band goes country

Tracks by Texas artists the Dixie Chicks, Brooks & Dunn and Miranda Lambert, along with Dierks Bentley and Brad Paisley, will soon be available for download for the Rock Band video game. The "Going Country" five-pack includes the first country titles designated for the game. Tracks include Brooks & Dunn's "Hillbilly Deluxe," the Dixie Chicks' "Sin Wagon" and Lambert's "Gunpowder & Lead," along with Bentley's "Free and Easy (Down the Road I Go)" and Paisley's "Mud on the Tires." The tracks will be available Dec. 16 for the Xbox 360 system and Dec. 18 for Playstation 3.

More Texas Grammy noms

In our last issue, we reported on the slew of Texans nominated for Grammys. We missed a few: Chente Barrera and Joe Posada from San Antonio, Albert Zamora (Corpus Christi) and Tortilla Factory (Austin) were all nominated for Best Tejano Album. In the Best Norteño Album category, Los Palominos (Uvalde) and Grupo Siggno (Harlingen) were nominated, and in the Best Polka Album category, Paulino Bernal (McAllen) was recognized. Thanks to reader Gilbert Velasquez for bringing this oversight to our attention. In all, 26 Texas artists received a total of 30 nominations. Congrats to all our talented Texans!

news
click here to read

calendar
click here to read

releases
click here to read

artist q&a
click here to read

Texas Music magazine makes a great gift!

Order today for a friend or family member, and you'll receive an e-mail with a link to our gift certificate so that you can print it out and put it in their stocking.

TEXAS MUSIC

calendar

news
click here to read

calendar
click here to read

releases
click here to read

artist q&a
click here to read



Charlie Robison is just one of many Texans headed to Washington, D.C., for the Black Tie & Boots Inaugural Ball, Jan. 19.

Black Tie & Boots Ball Gaylord National Resort Washington, D.C., Jan. 19

Several Texas artists will be heading to Washington, D.C., to celebrate this historic election and the inauguration of Barack Obama as our country's 44th President. Among those performing are Tracy Byrd, Jack Ingram, Kevin Fowler, Dale Watson, Asleep at the Wheel, Kelly Willis, Bruce Robison, Sunny Sweeney, Charlie Robison and Rick Trevino. Nearly 10,000 guests have already reserved their tickets for the Ball. Tickets are only available to dues-paid members of the Texas State Society. Jan. 19, 2009; Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center, Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.texasstatesociety.org.

DECEMBER

19

Campanas de America Holiday Show
with Mariachi Del Pueblo
Sunset Station
San Antonio
www.sunset-station.com

19-20

**Kelly Willis and Bruce Robison
Holiday Show**
Gruene Hall
Gruene
www.gruenehall.com



Paula Nelson performs with Robert Earl Keen at Flores Country Store in Helotes Dec. 19-20.

Robert Earl Keen Christmas Show
with Paula Nelson
Flores Country Store
Helotes
www.liveatflores.com

20

Luckenbach Christmas Ball
with Gary P. Nunn
Luckenbach Dancehall
Luckenbach
www.luckenbachtexas.com

31

First Night Austin
Downtown
Austin
www.firstnightaustin.org

New Years Eve Celebration
with Emory Quinn
Rockefeller Hall
Houston
www.emoryquinn.com

Celebrate San Antonio

Hemisfair Park and La Villita Plazas
San Antonio
www.saparksfoundation.org

JANUARY

4-11

**Coastin' and Cruisin'
with Larry Joe Taylor**
Mike McClure Band, Susan Gibson and more
Galveston to Jamaica, Grand Caymen and
Cozumel
www.larryjoetaylor.com

15-18

Windows on Texas
with Hal Ketchum and more
Various Venues
Fredericksburg
www.texasrebelradio.com

17-24

**Delbert McClinton and Friends
Sandy Beaches Cruise**
Marcia Ball, Stephen Bruton and more
San Diego to Zihuatanejo Manzanillo
www.delbert.com



Kelly Willis and hubby Bruce Robison play their holiday show Dec. 19-20 at Gruene Hall.



TMRU BESTSELLER! THE RESENTMENTS "ROSELIGHT"
TEXAS MUSIC ROUND-UP
THE TEXAS MUSIC DISCOUNT WAREHOUSE Buy 5 CDs and get \$3 off each!!!

Alright mighty fine and a big ho, ho, ho!!!

It's Christmas time and
the Lone Stars are shining.

Stop by the new and improved Texas Music
Roundup to stock up on all your favorite
music. We'll have specials on holiday
tunes as well as great new releases.

We're still home to the Roundup Special
where you get \$3 off the retail price of
each CD if you buy 5 or more per order.
You can also get an extra dollar off your
order by using the coupon code
TxMusMag when you check out.



Full Service CDs & DVDs

FAST TURNAROUND - ANY QUANTITY
LOW PRICES - GRAPHIC DESIGN

anyandallmedia.com

WWW.TEXASMUSICROUNDUP.COM

TEXAS MUSIC

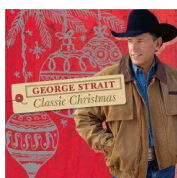
holiday releases

news
click here to read

calendar
click here to read

releases
click here to read

artist q&a
click here to read

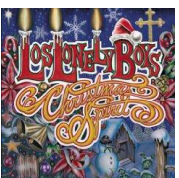


George Strait Christmas Classics

(MCA Nashville)

One could be forgiven for thinking they'd heard all of this before – it's not Strait's

first Christmas album, and this collection was previously released as a Hallmark store exclusive back in '06. It's good to see it in wide release, though. When it comes to a classic song, Strait has a winning instinct for playing it, well, straight. Where other singers use Christmas songs as a showcase for over-wrought vocal-range exercises, the gracefully aging "Troubadour" trusts the melody to give his heartfelt but understated voice everything it needs to work with. There's not much you can do to spice up "Jingle Bells" at this point, but Strait's rendition promises not to annoy, and he sounds even better on intricate, spiritually-driven relics like "We Three Kings" and "O Come All Ye Faithful." **ETHAN MESSICK**



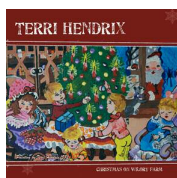
Los Lonely Boys Christmas Spirit

(Sony BMG)

With their first Christmas album, Los Lonely Boys take traditional standards and turn

them upside down while adding a couple of new holiday songs that already sound like longtime classics. The two originals, "I've Longed for Christmas" and "She'll Be My Everything for Christmas," start off the album, and things only get better from there. The Garza brothers turn on '50s rock 'n' roll for a retro version of "Run Run Rudolph," and then move effortlessly into a superb version of "Carol of the Bells," which features impeccable acoustic guitar that melts gracefully into full-on electric guitar. Of course, the album does have a Latin tinge, particularly on

"Feliz Navidad" – though the Boys change things up on this version by setting it to the rhythm of Stevie Ray Vaughan's "Pride & Joy." And if you're looking for good ol' traditional Christmas anthems, don't miss "Silent Night" and "Away in a Manger" – featuring perfect Garza brother harmonies. If you're looking to spice up your Christmas, be sure to add this album to your collection. **AMANDA PALM**



Terri Hendrix Christmas on Wilory Farm (EP)

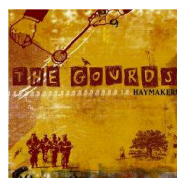
(Wilory)

Following the "good things come in little packages" rule, Terri Hendrix keeps it short

and sweet on her first collection of holiday tunes. Tucked inside a cardboard sleeve adorned with a Yuletide painting Hendrix did in early high school, *Christmas on Wilory Farm* is a svelte, five-song EP that – much like her 2005 "kid's record," *Celebrate the Difference* – manages to delight on a level transcending its target audience (or in this case, season). Sure, "Do You Hear What I Hear" (spruced with a playful new arrangement and a Riley Osbourn piano line reminiscent of both Vince Guaraldi and Bruce Hornsby) and "Away in a Manger" (less adventurous, but twice as lovely) are once-a-year affairs; but "Christmas in August" is a beautiful original that would fit nicely on any Hendrix album. Ditto "Declan's Cookie," a spry, Gaelic instrumental named after one of producer Lloyd Maines' grandkids, just like the Grammy-winning "Lil' Jack Slade" that the duo co-wrote for the Dixie Chicks. Best of all is the closing cover of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow's "I Heard the Bells," a timeless prayer for peace during wartime that Hendrix delivers with heart-wrenching conviction. "Jingle Bells," it ain't. **RICHARD SKANSE**

new releases

Jan. 6	Various Artists	<i>Undone: A MusicFest Tribute to Robert Earl Keen</i>	Right Ave./ Dickson Productions
Jan. 6	Gourds	<i>Haymaker!</i>	Yep Roc
Jan. 20	Bruce Robison	<i>His Greatest</i>	Premium
Jan. 27	Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys	<i>The Tiffany Transcriptions</i>	Collectors' Choice
Jan. 27	Pat Green	<i>What I'm For</i>	BNA
Feb. 3	Ben Kweller	<i>Changing Horses</i>	ATO
Feb. 3	Willie Nelson and Asleep at the Wheel	<i>Willie and the Wheel</i>	Bismieux Records
Feb. 3	Ruthie Foster	<i>The Truth According to Ruthie Foster</i>	Blue Corn
Feb. 3	Johnny Goudie and the Little Champions	<i>El Payaso</i>	Sea Change
Feb. 17	...And You Will Know Us by the Trail of Dead	<i>The Century of Self</i>	Richter Scale
Feb. 17	Gurf Morlix	<i>Last Exit to Happyland</i>	Rootball
Mar.	Danny Schmidt	<i>Instead the Forest Rose to Sing</i>	Red House
Mar. 3	Raul Malo	<i>Lucky One</i>	Fantasy
Mar. 3	Buddy and Julie Miller	<i>Written in Chalk</i>	New West
Mar. 24	Various Artists	<i>Keep Your Soul: A Tribute to Doug Sahm</i>	Vanguard
Spring	Flatlanders	<i>Hills and Valleys</i>	New West



The Gourds Heymaker!

(Yep Roc)

The Gourds are far from being Austin's best-kept secret – they're over 10 years into a career with pockets of fans all over the world – but they're definitely one of the town's most distinctive products. Already on their 10th album in a little under 12 years, the band refuses to make a misstep or even a mediocrity: *Heymaker!* packs the eclectic roots-rock punch that has made the band kings of the surreal Hill Country hoedown for over a decade. If not as expansive as the band's last effort, '07s sublime *Noble Creatures*, it still chugs along admirably on

the strength of the band's two lead singers. Kevin Russell's magnetic tenor twang on "All The Way to Jericho" and the comically profane "Shreveport" can make a swampy shuffle feel transcendent, and Jimmy Smith's dusty Cajun-tinged voice handles tenderness ("Valentine") and country-funk ("Tighter") with grit and grace. Even without an obvious knockout like the last album's "How Will You Shine?" or "Promenade," it's a satisfying listen from a veteran band that has yet to lose its way. **ETHAN MESSICK**

Q&A The Gourds



Since the mid-'90s, the Gourds have used Austin as their launching pad to a still-growing fanbase around the world. The

band's eclectic, idiosyncratic approach to country-rock has yielded numerous treasures over the course of 10 albums since 1997, fusing rootsy grooves with expansive (and occasionally bawdy) lyricism and a devil-may-care disregard for where they fit in, genre-wise. On their new album, *Heymaker!* (due in January 2009) the band mines classic country, down-home blues, roadhouse R&B and Cajun music for a funky stew that often brings to mind the best of The Band or Doug Sahm from yesteryear (few modern bands make for a fair comparison). Listeners who are only familiar with the band's oft-downloaded cover of Snoop Dogg's "Gin & Juice" are missing the point; the Gourds are a highly original musical force to be reckoned with, and hopefully another great decade of music is just getting started. Kevin Russell, who is one of the band's two principal singer-songwriters (along with co-founder Jimmy Smith), was kind enough to sit down and join us for a *Texas Music* interview.

Suppose that I was someone who'd never heard the Gourds before ... how would you explain the Gourds, and your approach to music?

I'd say the Gourds are ... we primarily think of ourselves as a roots-music band, with different forms of roots music: country, folk, rock 'n' roll, blues, zydeco, and anything and everything in between, R&B and soul included. There are no rules. We play all styles, but in our own way. Sometimes I like to call our music "sur-rural," a Tom Waits term, and a lot of times I tell people

news
click here to read

calendar
click here to read

releases
click here to read

artist q&a
click here to read

that I think there's like 157 strings on stage. It's like a pawn shop on wheels.

What's your "origin story", so to speak? How did you start out as a band?

We started out like most bands, just friends playing music for fun ... then somewhere along the way, one of us got an idea that we were maybe OK, pretty good, and we could go play a gig. No one else really wanted to play a gig, but our old drummer Charlie went and booked a gig without really telling us, and we had to go play it, being men of high reputation and moral fiber [laughs]. We had to make good on our word. He promised we would play there. We told everybody we knew. At that time in our 20s we were fancy-free, had lots of friends entwined in the social circle of slacker Austin back then. Got everybody we knew to come out, and they thought we were pretty good, too, so it just kind of went from there.

You've been based in the Austin scene from the beginning (circa 1997). How would you say it's changed since you started?

Oh, it's changed dramatically, in kind of disturbing ways to me. People used to come here to play music, and now they come here to try and be famous. That's a huge paradigm shift there. It was more of a lazy artist type that was drawn to this place, and now it's all these type-A personality types who are all organized and wired and wanna try and be movers and shakers in the music world. And, you know, that's all well and good, too; it's probably made the city look up and take notice, probably more that they would have in the early '90s. There are exceptions to everything, of course, but that seems to be the trend.

We won't try to tie you down to a favorite venue, but what Texas venue would you say you've played the most over the years?

Well, in recent memory, it's been sort of a transition from Jovita's being our home club to Threadgill's in South Austin, outdoors in the beer garden when the season is right. That's definitely what we prefer.

What would you say is the strangest place that you've played in Texas?

We've played some really strange places. But to me the weirdest place, where I felt most out of place, like a fish out of water ... some years ago, we did an in-store at a Hastings in Waco. To me that was just just bizarre [laughs]. We did not belong there. And we played Clayton Williams' ranch out in West Texas, that was pretty strange ... on a tennis court, that was the dance floor. Some of our friends from Alpine were walking around sprinkling sawdust all over the tennis court while we were playing, and passing around absinthe. It was absinthe and barbecue.

You've got kind of an unconventional style of songwriting, with the stream-of-consciousness approach. How quickly do your lyrics usually come to you, and could you point out any major influences?

Usually pretty quickly, but I'm always writing ... tons of notebooks full of poems and lyrics and stories, but still usually the music comes to me first. Obvious things, for influences ... it's hard to say, but I'd think Bob Dylan and

Neil Young. And I love Leadbelly, Woody Guthrie, A.P. Carter and the Carter Family, those kinds of guys. Tom Waits, Vic Chesnutt, too.

Was there anything in particular that you were going for on this newest CD, in terms of sound or concept?

We never really had a concept, but Jimmy was mining a lot of old soul, those forms of songwriting. For me, I was going for a much more straight-up kind of country rock. I hadn't really done that for awhile on a record, in a focused way. That's what I was trying to pull off on this one, so it's kind of a country-rock-soul record.

So now we've got a new year coming up, and a brand new album. Any particular resolutions for anything you want to accomplish this next year?

You know ... haven't really thought about it [laughs], what I want to accomplish this next year. I think we just wanna keep it going, wanna stay alive. **ETHAN MESSICK**

the PANHANDLE HOUSE

THE PANHANDLE HOUSE RECORDING STUDIO

Digital Precision

Vintage Vibe

NEW GEAR VINTAGE NEVE 8058 ALL DISCRETE CONSOLE
PRO TOOLS HD3, 32 CHANNELS OF APOGEE I/O
EXTENSIVE PALETTE OF OUTBOARD GEAR

Creature Comforts

PANHANDLEHOUSE.COM