

Letter from the Director



The Fall 2003 issue of the *Journal of Texas Music History* marks another important milestone for the Center for Texas Music History. With this issue, the *Journal* celebrates its third anniversary as the first academic journal to cover the entire spectrum of Texas and Southwestern music history. With readership now stretching across the nation and around the globe, the *Journal* has become the

centerpiece for our expanding programs devoted to the preservation and study of the Southwest's richly diverse musical heritage. We thank all the contributing authors and sponsors who have helped make the *Journal* such a resounding success.

We also are celebrating other important changes and accomplishments. Because it has grown into one of the state's largest and most successful publicly-funded universities, Southwest Texas State University has shortened its name to Texas State University to help reflect its growing stature in the academic community.

The long-awaited *Handbook of Texas Music*, which we co-produced with the Texas State Historical Association, the Texas Music Office, and the University of Texas at Austin, is now available through the Texas State Historical Association's website. (www.tsha.utexas.edu) The *Handbook*, which is the first comprehensive encyclopedia of Texas music history, already has become an invaluable resource for historians and music fans alike. I am very proud of our students, who contributed more than 100 articles to the *Handbook*.

I am also pleased to announce that the Center for Texas Music History recently moved into a new and larger facility in the historic Brazos Building on the Texas State University campus. This new space will allow us to continue our many ongoing projects while expanding our capability to develop new projects in the future.

In addition, I am very grateful to Richard Cheatham, Dean of Fine Arts and Communication, for inviting the Center to co-sponsor a concert at Texas State on October 24, 2003, featuring singing star Michael Martin Murphey, his band, and the Texas State Orchestra. This concert will serve, in part, as a fundraiser for the Center to help us continue our important work. Please contact the Center directly for more information about this event.

Our many other successful projects include: the *Travelin' Texas* CDs, Volumes 1, 2, & 3, featuring such great Texas artists as Delbert McClinton, George Strait, Tish Hinojosa, Asleep at the Wheel, Ruthie Foster, Joe Ely, Billy Joe Shaver, the Flatlanders, Toni Price, Pat Green, Ray Wylie Hubbard, Terri Hendrix, Jerry Jeff Walker, and others. These CDs, which have become an important fundraiser for our program, are available for only \$10 each through the Center; the online bibliography of books, articles, and other publications on Southwestern music, which our students helped develop in cooperation with the Texas Music Office, remains an important tool for researchers and music fans; our work continues with museums, schools, and other programs throughout the state in organizing exhibits, performances, and other educational activities; our "Texas Music History Unplugged" concerts, which bring prominent musicians to campus to perform and discuss how their music reflects the unique history and culture of the Southwest, continue to draw standing-room-only crowds.

As always, I am deeply grateful to all who have helped make our program so successful, especially the following: Kathryn Ledbetter, Gregg Andrews, Dee Lannon, Gene Bourgeois, Frank de la Teja, Vikki Bynum, the entire Texas State History Department, the CTMH Advisory Board, Ann Marie Ellis, Becky Huff, Nina Wright, Deborah McDaniel, Beverly Braud, Gerald Hill, T.Cay Rowe, Diana Harrell, César Limón, Francine Hartman, 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, Mildred Roddy, Billy Seidell, and all of our other friends and supporters.

Please visit our website (www.txstate.edu/ctmh) or contact us to learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs.

Sincerely,

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