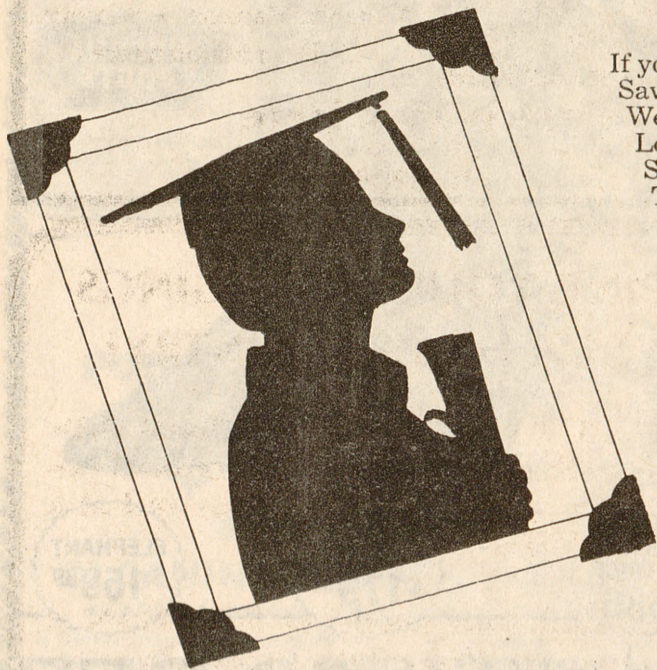


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Former A&M student's music like 'homecoming' for crowd

By Karl Pallmeyer
Music Critic

When Lyle Lovett finished his show at Rudder Theater Thursday night, the audience left with the warm feeling usually associated with a homecoming.

About 350 people turned out to see the show benefiting MSC Town Hall and the Texas A&M chapter of the American Institute of Architecture Students. The audience consisted of Lovett's fans, friends, former teachers and students from his A&M days. He took the time to thank his friends and even had some of them on stage to play and sing.

Robert Keen, Jr. opened the show with "This Old Porch," a song he and Lovett wrote about the times they spent on the porch of Keen's house behind Northgate. Keen told some jokes and sang songs about dipping snuff and running over armadillos.

Lovett and his band — guitarist Ray Herndon, drummer James Gilmer, bassist Matt McKenzie, cellist John Hagen and pianist Matt Rollings — took the stage. Lovett's friend Cole Harrison joined the band on steel guitar occasionally throughout the night.

The audience members responded to the songs from Lovett's album, "Farther Down the Line," "God Will," "Cowboy Man" and the others, as well as several songs which haven't been released yet.

Lovett invited Ken Appelt and Kevin Duff, members of a band that used to play at Grins (now Morgens-terns) when Lovett was starting out. Appelt sang and Duff played guitar on a few songs. For the encore, Appelt, Duff, Keen, Harrison and the rest of Lovett's band huddled up and sang, mostly ad-libbed lyrics about how they didn't know the song and were ready to go get a beer.



Lyle Lovett entertains the crowd at Rudder Theater Thursday. Photo by Bill Hughes

Committee will study tax system in Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — No subject, not even a state income tax, will be off-limits for study by the blue-ribbon committee that will examine Texas' tax system, Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday.

But which committee recommendations might finally become law is another story, the governor said.

"It was agreed that we should in no way restrain what their recom-

mendations might be," Clements said. "Now whether . . . they would be accepted and whether anyone (in the Legislature) would move forward with such a provision, who knows? But certainly they should not be under any constraints."

The 13-member Select Committee on Tax Equity was named Wednesday, with members appointed by Clements. House

Speaker Gib Lewis and Lt. Gov. Hobby.

The panel that includes lawmakers, businessmen and state Comptroller Bob Bullock will examine the tax structure and offer recommendations to make certain the tax burden is shared fairly by all Texans.

Clements said the committee should begin work in June or July.

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