

# Reviews



Photo by Jay Janner

**D.A. and Texas Party members, D.A. McDowell (keyboards) and Dickie Childs (saxophone), entertain their audience with a pleasant mix of Rhythm and Blues, nostalgic rock and Broadway hits.**

**D.A. and Texas Party**  
D.A. McDowell, keyboards, guitar, vocals; Dickie Childs, saxophone, vocals; Kathie Cooper Allyn, vocals; Anna De la Fontaine, vocals.  
Kay's Cabaret, Thursday, Sept. 8

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A party is exactly what a D.A. and Texas Party show is. Led by keyboardist/vocalist/guitarist D.A. McDowell, the group performs an eclectic mix of 1950s and '60s rock 'n' roll, rhythm and blues, and Broadway musical numbers.

At Kay's Cabaret Thursday night, Texas Party treated an audience of about 40 to three hours of music custom-made for a good time.

With a variety that ranges from Beatles' hits to songs from "My Fair Lady," it is a fair guess that this group has something for everybody. McDowell describes the band's shows as "a true cabaret concept."

"Sometimes we'll get into a dance mode, sometimes an r&b mode," he explained during a break. "We adapt to what the crowd likes to hear."

The audience went wild during McDowell's medley of 1950s hits. His fingers skipped across the keyboard as he played the boogie-woogie strains of Jerry Lee Lewis's hits "Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On" and "Great Balls of Fire." Without hesitation, McDowell then launched into Bobby

Darin's "Splish Splash" before ending the rocking medley with "Chantilly and Lace."

Vocalist Anna De la Fontaine demonstrated her skill at Barbra Streisand-style tunes as she performed "Second Hand Rose," which was met with a warm reception from the crowd.

Kathie Cooper Allyn, another vocalist who also performs with the Stagecenter community theater group in Bryan, lent her vocal talents throughout the show, alternating between lead and backup vocals. Her duet with McDowell on the Mamas and the Papas' "California Dreamin'" showed vocal harmony that made for an enjoyable rendition (and I'm

not that wild about the song itself).

Dickie Childs arrived later in the evening to thunderous applause from the moment he entered the door. The music took a jazzier turn with Childs' searing saxophone leads. The audience loved his version of "Georgia On My Mind."

Childs vocals are no less impressive either, as he demonstrated on the aforementioned song and on T-Bone Walker's blues hit "Stormy Monday."

Blues, nostalgic rock, Broadway — a Texas Party show promises great entertainment. The name says it all.

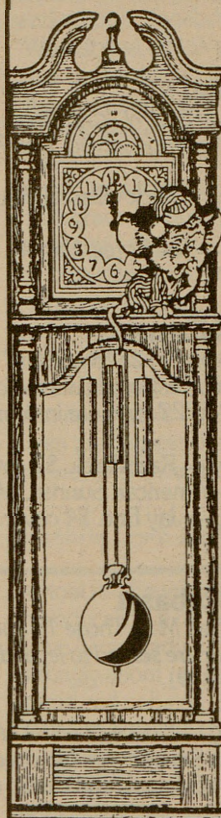
Review by Shane Hall

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