

Singing Cadets to help little Aggie fan

By Michele Brinkmann

THE BATTALION

Jason Hensen, an eight-year-old from Somerville, Texas, is a big Aggie fan, but because of a terribly debilitating disease Jason may never have the chance to attend his favorite university.

Jason suffers from congenital hepatic fibrosis and critically needs a liver transplant.

Because Jason's condition was highly publicized over the summer, several of Texas A&M's Singing Cadets got together and decided they wanted to help.

His parents, Franklin and Phyllis Hensen, were very thankful when the Singing Cadets' office called one day and offered to help.

At the time, Jason was in intensive care in Houston.

"I really needed some good news at that time," Phyllis said. "I was really touched to actually have Aggies wanting to help out because we are such big Aggie fans."

The Singing Cadets invited Jason and his family to campus to watch them rehearse. After the rehearsal they gave Jason a tape to take home with him.

Phyllis said Jason loves going to the Singing Cadets rehearsals and he cherishes the tape they gave him.

Although Jason doesn't talk, he understands what is going on and knows the Singing Cadets are trying to help him, his mother said.

Going to the rehearsals is a special occasion for Jason. His parents are careful about where they take him because in September, Jason's esophagus started bleeding as a result of his disease. He lost ten percent of the

blood in his body.

He is on medication to prevent bleeding but there is no guarantee that it won't happen again.

"If the vessels were to burst again, he could die before reaching Houston," Phyllis said.

Jason was diagnosed as having polycystic kidney disease when he was born. Soon after, he was

on dialysis and underwent a kidney transplant.

The new kidney was promptly rejected, and at this time he was found to have congenital hepatic fibrosis, which affects Jason's liver, and requires that he receive a liver transplant.

His family is currently trying to raise money which will allow Ja-

son to be put on a three-month waiting list.

But, his family must raise \$150,000 of the \$230,000 total cost of the transplant to be put on the list. The Hensens have confronted numerous difficulties in raising the money, since their medical insurance company dropped them due to a clause in the com-

pany's policy.

They have already acquired \$63,000 from a variety of sources.

Hermann Hospital in Houston is conducting the surgery and will put him on the waiting list when they feel the family is realistically capable of meeting this monetary goal.

But the Hensens are very frus-

trated with the hospital's policy.

Franklin, Jason's father, said he doesn't understand why the hospital won't put Jason on the waiting list if they sign a contract guaranteeing the money to the hospital.

"If Jason were to get very sick, he would get the transplant, but who wants to see their child near death just so they can get a transplant?" Phyllis said.

Linda Baumann, a transplant coordinator at Hermann Hospital, said the financial requirement is so important because the money doesn't only pay for the surgery but \$5,000-\$10,000 per year for medications and re-hospitalizations for years after the surgery.

"This is a very unfortunate part of our health care plan," she said.

Phyllis said she is upset because Hermann Hospital is a charity hospital and tax-exempt, and nobody has even said 'Let's try to work this out.'

"I am not asking for charity or for anything free, I just want it done," she said. "I will pay my bill."

The Singing Cadets are performing a "Just for Jason" benefit concert Sunday at Wolf Pen Creek Amphitheater.

Josh Jones, the Singing Cadets' public relations coordinator, said the Singing Cadets plan to raise between \$5,000-\$10,000.

All proceeds from the concert will go to the Jason Hensen Transplant Fund. Donations can be sent to:

Citizen State Bank
Singing Cadets
P.O. Box 518

or

P.O. Box Drawer K-1
Somerville, Texas 77879
Aggieland Station, Texas 77844

'Just for Jason. . .'



Shawn Grotte (right) sophomore kinesiology major keeps Jason Hensen company during a rehearsal. A&M Singing Cadets are preparing for to perform a concert this Sunday for eight-year-old Jason. Due to a debilitating liver disease, Jason needs a transplant.

MUSIC REVIEWS

'The Song Remembers When' shows artistic mixture A more mature Trisha Yearwood

By Lesa Ann King

THE BATTALION

"The Song Remembers When"
Trisha Yearwood
Country
MCA

While not as powerful as her sophomore release, "Heart in Armor," Trisha Yearwood's third MCA album, "The Song Remembers When" proves that her vocal strength and emotional interpretation of a song has matured.

"The Song Remembers When" contains a more artistic mixture of music than any of Yearwood's previous releases. Her music selection also utilizes some of country music's most talented songwriters including Willie Nelson, Rodney Crowell and Kostas. Most of the songs are slow, melancholy ballads that complement Yearwood's dynamic vocal strength.

One of the most powerful, heartfelt selections is the first release and title cut, "The Song Remembers When." The song tells of the lingering memories of a old love brought back by a song.

Another moving and mournful ballad to listen for is

"Lying To the Moon." This song tells of a lover's pain as she makes excuses to the moon for her man not showing up to meet her.

Songwriter Rodney Crowell contributes another powerful ballad to the album with "Don't Fall In Love So Easy." This song flows through the speakers with a distinct honesty that only Yearwood's voice could provide.

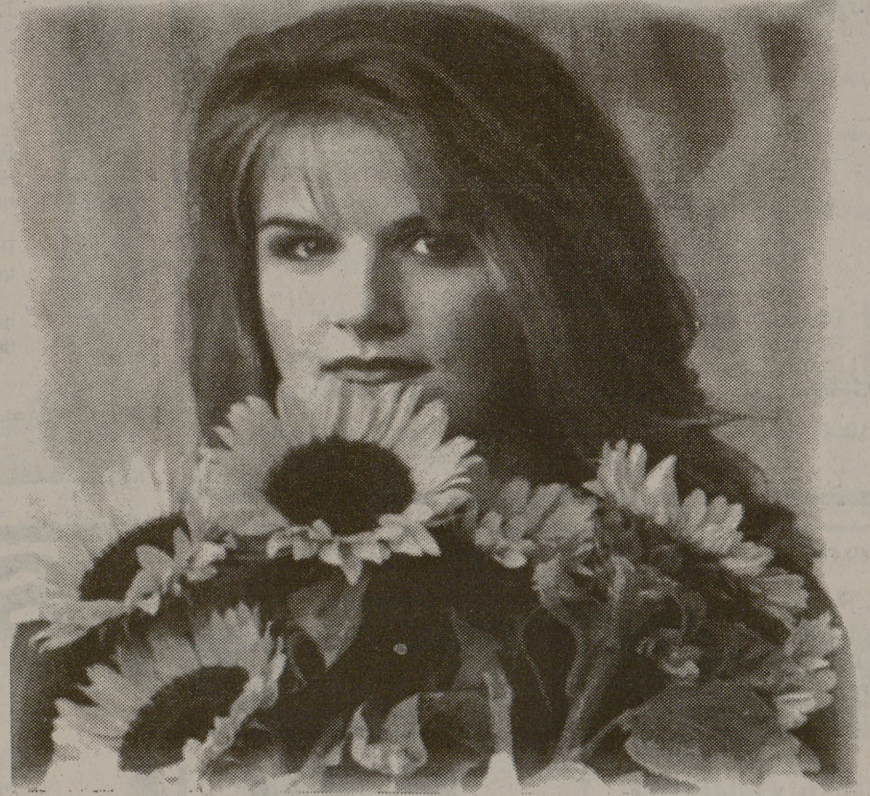
Another sad selection is the soft, stirring "Hard Promises to Keep." The acoustic guitar and Rodney Crowell's harmonies add to the song's moving effect.

Changing the pace a bit, Yearwood takes a more bluesy approach to the sassy "Better Your Heart Than Mine." An "I told you so" kind of song, this song demonstrates Yearwood's matured vocal ability.

Moving towards a more honky-tonk sound, "If I Ain't Got You" shows Yearwood's more upbeat and spunky vocal abilities.

The other cuts are also artistic in their composition, but most fall short in comparison.

While not a typical country album, "The Song Remembers When" takes a different, more poetic approach to country music. The song selection may not receive as much radio airplay as Yearwood's previous releases, but her fans will love the musical depth and honesty this collection provides.



Yearwood

Country music pioneer does it again... 'Soon' just in time for Tanya Tucker fans

By Lesa Ann King

THE BATTALION

"Soon"
Tanya Tucker
Country
Liberty Records

A past CMA Female Vocalist of the year, Tanya Tucker possesses one of the most distinctive and enduring country female voices. And her latest Liberty release, "Soon" displays her immense vocal talent at its sharpest.

Unfortunately, like most of Tucker's albums, "Soon" contains about four or five good songs, with the rest serving as fillers.

Cuts to listen for on this album include the hit title release, "Soon." This track has the strongest vocal performance on the al-

bum. Co-written by Casey Kelly and Bob Regan, the song looks at a no-win affair, with a new twist on its probable outcome.

Tucker also shows her vocal depth and emotion in the slow, heartbreaking ballad, "We Don't Have To Do This." Co-written by Gary Burr and Victoria Shaw who wrote "The River," for Garth Brooks, and "I Love The Way You Love Me" for John Michael Montgomery, this song is a girlfriend's earnest plea with her boyfriend to reconsider ending their relationship.

With a sad and regretful tone, Tucker recalls the memories of an old love on home video in the mournful ballad, "Let the Good Times Roll."

The more sassy and upbeat cuts on "Soon" include the bold and sultry "You Just Watch Me." This song embodies the traditional brassy Tucker sound.

"Hangin' In" also has a flowing, up-paced, two-stepping beat that gives the song its own distinctive Tucker sound.

Another upbeat song is the bouncy "Come On Honey." The song's rhythm is reminiscent of the another Tucker song, "San Antonio Stroll."

Tucker also keeps up the beat in the fun and spirited song about an opposites attract relationship in "I Love You Anyway."

The other cuts are good songs; however, they don't have as much lyrical quality and depth.

Tucker's vocal talents have been rock solid since her first hit release, "Delta Dawn" at age 13. A pioneer among country music ladies, Tucker talent seems to get only better. "Soon" proves Tucker's time as a number one lady in country music will not be over any time soon.



Tucker