

Texas Style

New organization strives to help musicians from all corners of the Lone Star State

BY SCOTT HARRIS
The Battalion

The rise in the popularity of Texas music is making way for a new generation of Texas outlaws. Instead of Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and David Allan Coe, there are Robert Earl Keen, Pat Green and Cory Morrow. Many aspiring country artists in Texas would love to have the life of these musicians. Money, fame, pretty women and not having to work a nine-to-five job are all perks in the music business. Unfortunately breaking into the music scene is not an easy task. It takes time, hard work, dedication and devotion.

Now there is a group that is trying to make it a little easier for all the musicians who want to be the next Jerry Jeff Walker — the Texas Music Coalition. The coalition has one goal in mind: to promote new Texas artists through already established artists and to build a larger fan base for the music.

Gary Hafernick, a senior construction science major and member of the coalition, said they promote new artists by having them open up concerts for more established musicians.

"We want to promote concerts and new artists," Hafernick said. "We help them out by getting them to open for big names. We want to give them more exposure to Texas music fans."

The Texas Music Coalition is the brainchild of Bubba Daniels and Mark Decker and is comprised mainly of A&M students. Daniels said they developed the idea last year on a road trip to Shiner, Texas.

"We got the idea last year driving to Bocktoberfest in a rented van," Daniels said. "We wanted to throw a big 'up yours' to Nashville. We talked about it, tossed around the idea and kind of joked about it."

Daniels said they were not too serious about the idea until he met Blake Henshaw, a radio DJ at 98.3 KORA-FM, on the back porch of the Dixie Chicken.

"I met Blake on the back porch of the Chicken playing guitar and we started talking about it," Daniels said. "He said I should come on [his show] and talk about it. So I did and it kind of blew up in my face. That's basically how we started. After that, we just decided what routes we wanted to take and what we wanted to do."

Hafernick said that right now they are not affiliated with A&M, but it is something they might look to do in the future.

"Right now, we are registered as an actual business," Hafernick said. "But we still are an organization with member fees, meetings and fund-raisers. We might apply to be a student organization in the fall."

Matt Medearis, a junior accounting major and vice president of the group, said the Texas Music Coalition will be involved in several projects.

The coalition will have different types of functions, including one concert per month in the fall and spring semesters, special acoustic performances for the members of the group and organized road trips. The coalition will also sponsor one surprise show per semester.

Medearis said the first concert the Texas Music Coalition is sponsoring will happen in September. It will feature Reckless Kelly and the Brent Mitchell Band playing at the Tap.

Daniels said the Texas Music Coalition hopes to break into college towns all across the state. After only a few months in existence, they have already peaked the interest of some students in Dallas who want to start a branch of the organization there. He said they want to network all through Texas and get the whole state involved because the more people who are involved, the better it is for the artists.

Right now there are only about 30 people involved in the organization, but Daniels said the more people that join, the better.

"We want as many people as possible," Daniels said. "As long as they love Texas music and want to help and have fun they can join. I wouldn't care if all of Texas A&M joined. I would love it."

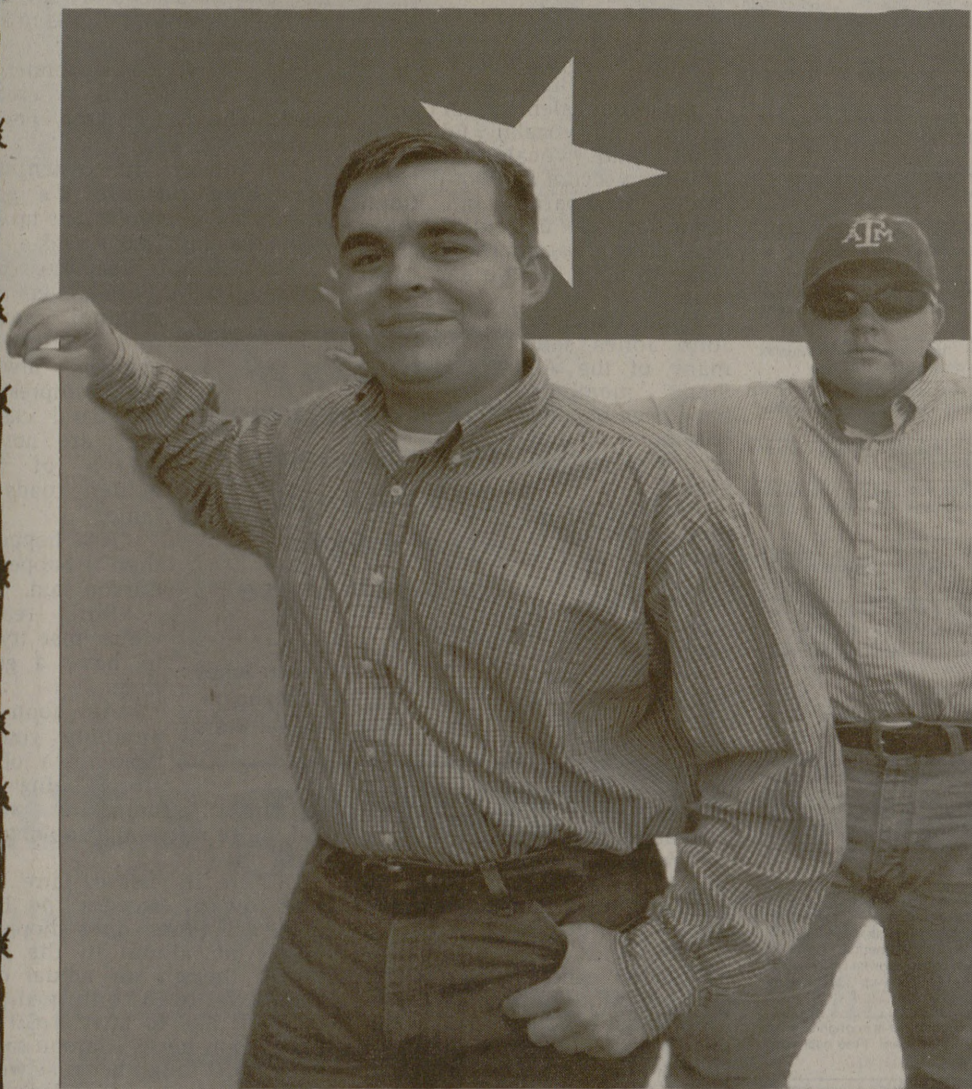


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Matt Medearis (left) and Bubba Daniels started the Texas Music Coalition in May of this year.

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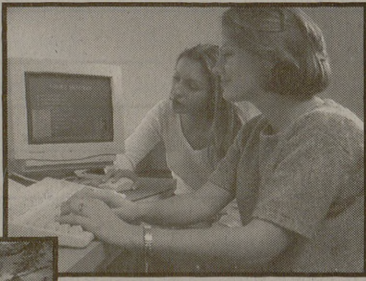
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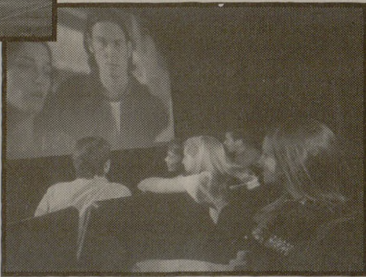


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RESOLUTION
BOARD OF REGENTS
THE TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Whereas, Sterling C. Evans '21, Distinguished Alumnus, and former Chairman of the Board of Regents (formerly Directors) of Texas A&M University, has contributed in numerous and substantial ways over his lifetime to benefit the University and the State of Texas; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans, during his tenure on the Board, played an important role in making military training optional and admitting women, two decisions which spurred the growth and enhanced the reputation of the University; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans co-founded the Friends of the Texas A&M University Library, serving as its first president; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans became a major benefactor to the Library at Texas A&M University which was named in his honor upon completion of its expansion in 1979; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans among his many gifts to the University did substantially raise the stature of the library by contributing an endowed chair in library administration, one of the few such positions in academic libraries at the time; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans provided vital leadership to the State in agriculture and agribusiness, particularly as president of the Houston Bank for Cooperatives and later as president of the Federal Land Bank of Houston, and as renowned rancher and raiser of Santa Gertrudis cattle and;

Whereas, Mr. Evans, having received many awards for his leadership and contributions over the decades, has most recently been recognized by the Texas A&M Foundation which created a named medal in his honor and made him one of the first recipients of the Sterling C. Evans Medal; and

Whereas, Mr. Evans, turns 100 in August of 1999; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Board of Regents of The Texas A&M University System proudly and gratefully recognize the lifelong contributions and achievements of Sterling C. Evans as he approaches his 100 birthday in 1999, hereby designating him as one of the outstanding Aggies of the Century; and, be it further

Resolved, that this resolution be duly recorded in the minutes, and copies thereof, signed by the Chairman of the Board of Regents, to be presented to Mr. Evans and to the Archives of Texas A&M University, as an expression of appreciation for his leadership and commitment to the Library, Texas A&M University, The Texas A&M University System, and the State of Texas.

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