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AGGIELIFE

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THE BATTALION

Thursday, Mar 23, 2000

Carroll takes place among Texas' best singer-storyteller

BY CHRIS CARTER
The Battalion

Townes Van Zandt, Willie Nelson, Joe Ely and ... Adam Carroll?

Texas may have found a new storytelling hero in the young, blue-eyed Tyler native. Carroll, at the age of 24, has managed to catch the eyes, and ears, of some of the most important personalities in Texas music with his unique storytelling style and ability, coupled with the melodic rhythms of his guitar and harmonica.

"Adam Carroll is a genius," said Lloyd Maines, the notable producer and slide guitarist for such Texas music acts as Robert Earl Keen, Joe Ely, Pat Green and Cory Morrow. Maines produced Carroll's debut album, *South of Town*, in 1998 on Down Hole Records.

These days, such a compliment is not rare for Carroll, who returned to music after short stints working jobs in the oil fields and landscaping.

Carroll said he has always loved putting plots and characters together for situations for stories.

"Because I have a short attention span, writing a whole story was like pulling teeth," Carroll recalls. "To keep my sanity, I started writing shorter stories with verses and refrains that eventually became songs."

With many noticeable influences such as Bob Dylan, Townes Van Zandt and John Prine, Carroll mixes adept guitar playing with intricately human stories of love, redemption and everyday life.

"Some of the songs I've written have come out of really awkward situations," Carroll said. "I like feeling vulnerable and I like turning those almost painful situations into good songs that get a laugh or strike a nerve."

This Texas troubadour attributes his love for music to his mother, while crediting his father for his storytelling abilities.

"My grandfather, Ray Davidson, played saxophone with legendary jazz drummer Gene Krupa, but traveling and clubs weren't his thing," Carroll recounts. "He left all that to come home and lead the church choir."



PHOTO COURTESY OF DOWN HOLE RECORDS

Adam Carroll will perform Saturday at Crooked Path.

After the release of his debut album, Carroll has been praised by critics for both his wonderfully refreshing storytelling and his skillful songwriting.

In a time when too many songs in the folk music genre focus on a protagonist's personal inadequacies and vices, Carroll's music brings uplifting stories of characters temporarily freed from the hardships of life and humorous anecdotes about laughable events that happen in everyone's life.

Adam Carroll will play at the Crooked Path Ale House on Saturday at 10 p.m. Admission for the show is \$5.



Adam Carroll
South of Town
CD courtesy of Down Hole Records

If there is anyone who thought the Church of Dylan fell to the wayside with the steady stream of ill-inspired pop "folk" music, Adam Carroll is the second coming.

With melodious tunes and inspired songwriting, Carroll ascends to what amounts to a Dylan-esque hike through the streets, front porches and prisons of East Texas in *South of Town*.

The CD starts off with Carroll, his guitar and a wheezing harmonica and, barring the occasional limited backup interjection by a mandolin or band, ends about the same way.

Lloyd Maines, producer of other notable Texas folk/country acts such as Robert Earl Keen, Owen Temple and

Cory Morrow, found a storytelling hero in Carroll. Imaginative and humorous, Carroll chronicles the lives of semi-fictional characters through a truly human approach. He masterfully builds stories only through events, but through a subtle exploration of situations and personal feelings. In "Cole," for example, Carroll introduces listeners to a man named by murder but redeemed through religious salvation in his jail cell.

Though in *South of Town* his voice is not the best (certainly Dylan-esque in this aspect, as well), Carroll gains what he lacks in vocal talent through his stories, skillful guitar picking and competence. (Grade: B) — Chris Carter

WEEKEND PREVIEW

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Texas Hall of Fame Rodney Carrington — Comedian. Tickets available in advance. Assigned seats are available for \$22, general admission tickets are \$16. Tickets can also be purchased at the door for \$20. Doors open at 7 p.m.	Texas Hall of Fame Dale Watson — Country. Cover charge \$3 for those over 21 and \$5 otherwise; doors open at 8 p.m.	Shadow Canyon Dale Watson — Country. Cover charge \$3 for those over 21 and \$5 otherwise; doors open at 8 p.m.
Crooked Path Adam Carroll — Country. Show begins at 10 p.m. Admission is \$5.	Milhouse — Alternative. Cover charge \$6; show starts at 9:30 p.m.	Sweet Eugene's Raindog — Blues. Cover charge \$1. Show starts at 9 p.m.
Third Floor Cantina Little Bryan Terry and the Zydeco Band — Zydeco. Admission is \$10.	Milhouse — Alternative. Cover charge \$3 for those over 21 and \$5 otherwise; doors open at 8 p.m.	Shadow Canyon Dale Watson — Country. Cover charge \$3 for those over 21 and \$5 otherwise; doors open at 8 p.m.

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The American Radio Chamber Orchestra

at the Bush Presidential Conference Center
Thursday, March 30 at 8:00 PM

With *Intimate Gatherings*, musicians host an open discussion with audience members immediately following the performance. Discussion to be moderated by Peter Lieuwen, Interim Head of the Texas A&M University Department of Performance Studies.

Intimate Gatherings

For tickets, call 845-1234 or order on-line at opas.tamu.edu.

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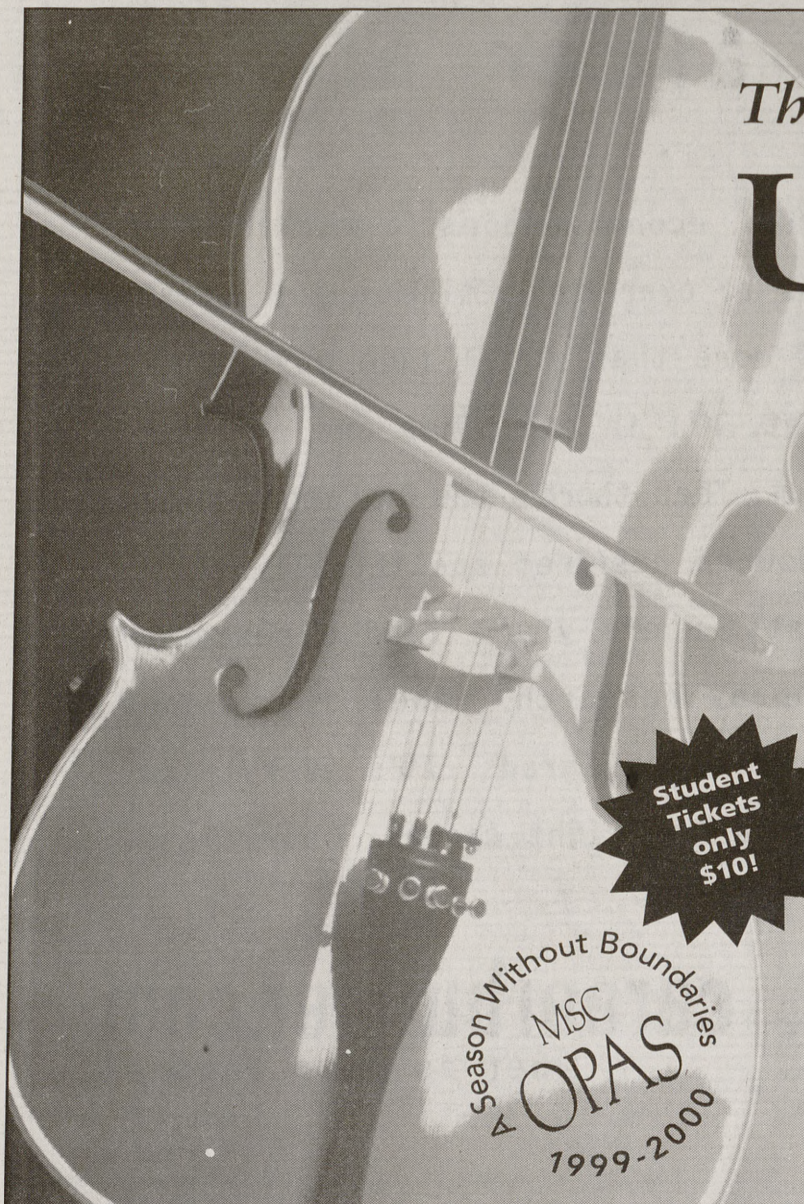


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Acct 209 Dr. Strawser	Test Review Mon Apr 3 9pm-12am	***Attention*** This Review will be offered only once!		
Acct 229	Part I Mon Apr 3 5pm-7pm	Part II Mon Apr 3 7pm-9pm	Part III Tue Apr 4 5pm-8pm	
OR	Part I Wed Apr 5 5pm-8pm	Part II Wed Apr 5 10pm-12am	Part III Thu Apr 6 5pm-7pm	
Acct 229	Test Review Thu Apr 6 9pm-12am			
Acct 230	Part I Tue Apr 4 8pm-10pm	Part II Wed Apr 5 8pm-10pm	Part III Thu Apr 6 7pm-9pm	
Fine 341	Part I Mon Apr 3 6pm-8pm	Part II Tue Apr 4 6pm-8pm	Part III Wed Apr 5 6pm-8pm	Part IV Thu Apr 6 6pm-8pm
Info 303 Stein/Darcey	Part I Mon Apr 3 8pm-10pm	Part II Tue Apr 4 8pm-10pm	Part III Wed Apr 5 8pm-10pm	Part IV Thu Apr 6 8pm-10pm
Info 305 Dr. Anthony	Part I Mon Apr 3 10pm-12am	Part II Tue Apr 4 10pm-12am	Part III Wed Apr 5 10pm-12am	Part IV Thu Apr 6 10pm-12am
Info 305 Dr. Shetty	Test Review Sun Apr 2 8pm-11pm	***Attention*** This Review will be offered only once!		
Math 141/166	Part I Mon Apr 3 6pm-8pm	Part II Tue Apr 4 6pm-8pm	Part III Wed Apr 5 6pm-8pm	Part IV Thu Apr 6 6pm-8pm
Mktg 321 Dewald	Test Review Sun Apr 2 10pm-1am			

Tickets go on sale Sunday at 4:30 PM.
4.0 & Go is located on the corner of SW Pkwy and Tx Ave, behind KFC next to Lark.
Check our web page at <http://www.4.0andGo.com>



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