

Morrow Exposure

Texas musician Cory Morrow visits Aggieland

By Thomas Phillips
THE BATTALION

As an accounting major at Texas Tech University, Cory Morrow played his guitar and sang the songs of Texas, music he said is "inspired by musicians who were born and bred in this country of Texas."

For the last 15 years, this singer/songwriter has been watching Texas music grow and become a popular form of musical expression. In the mid-1990s, he began contributing his own brand of talent and has turned his passion into profit while touring across the state performing and writing songs.

Midway through his junior year, Morrow left college and moved to Austin to find success as a singer/songwriter.

The Houston native grew up on rock and roll — *Led Zeppelin IV* is one of his favorite albums — but made the personal discovery of Texas music when he first heard Robert Earl Keen and Jerry Jeff Walker 15 years ago.

He said he still listens to hard rock, but his openness to variety has made for a robust musical background.

"You can't draw the line; if you draw the line, you're not keeping your horizons broad and you're not expanding your mind to anything," Morrow said.

"Every kind of music has its own unique quality and has something special about it, because hopefully the people that wrote it had something special that they wanted to say with their music and a point they wanted to get across."

Morrow writes country songs. From his lonely, Texas drawl to his casually-strummed acoustic guitar, his songs swing about as far from the metal and mayhem of rock as one can go.

When writing a song, Morrow said his focus is simple; the result is evocative, clear and undeniable narratives on what he knows, ideas he has and what he feels.

"I add my interpretation to the life down here in Texas and all the uniqueness of the little towns and the people that make their living farming and ranching;

my interpretation of a good time on a Texas river or honky tonk," Morrow said.

And he likes what he writes.

His Website listed his own CD, *Double Exposure*, among his favorite albums. He said this was not pomp or arrogance on his part, but a matter of believing in oneself, and at the time, he was very proud of that work. Whenever he records a CD, he will listen to it for about three weeks before moving on to distribute it, and during that time, "it's my favorite album," he said.

"You've got to like it in order to expect anybody else to like it," Morrow said. "How are you going to sell yourself and what you are singing about if you don't really like it?"

During his time at Tech, Morrow had a friend named Pat Green, a fellow singer/songwriter who has had success of his own. The pair tried to establish a musical partnership, but both were unwilling to share the spotlight and the arrangement did not last, but the friendship did.

In 2000, Morrow and Green teamed up again to record *Songs We Wish We'd Written*, which sold 60,000 copies.

"It's fun to be able to do projects like that together and still have our own kind of music that's personal for our lives," Morrow said. "He and I have been talking about [working together more] and we really want to do another album, and we'd like to do some more events together."

Somewhere along the way, Morrow met Lloyd Maines, a producer and musician who has worked with Texas legends Jerry Jeff Walker, Robert Earl Keen and Joe Ely. Maines is also father to Natalie Maines, lead singer of the Dixie Chicks.



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