



WOMEN IN TEXAS MUSIC: STORIES & SONGS

By Kathleen Hudson



September brings us the annual Texas Heritage Music Day on September 25 at Schreiner University. Some of the women (the focus of this column and my second book) include Karen Abrahams, Lisa Beck, Terri Hendrix, Maria Moss, Kristi Foster, Staci Foster, Mary Muse (new executive director of the Kerrville Folk Festival Foundation), Penney Ney, and Lee Duffy with the Austin Songwriters Group (ASG) and Liza Proche.

Now that's a crew of talented people. Do they face specific challenges as women in the business? I addressed that in my book **Women in Texas Music: Stories and Songs** (UT Press, 2007). Most Texas festival lineups are loaded with men and light on women. We did a count once. I don't presume to apply any meaning here, just an observation.

The women on this list have stories to tell that will inspire anyone who listens. And their hard work has been rewarded in the ways art is often rewarded, by the listeners. Not the number in the crowd or the awards on the wall, rather by the moments when someone listened.

I often thank the crowd at the monthly Texas music coffeehouse held at Schreiner University for the gift they bring . . . listening. What do you hear when you listen? What story is your filter for the songs of women? I know each of the women listed in this column, and I know how I listen. I listen for the courage (from the word "heart" in Latin), for the resilience, for the creativity and more importantly, for the inspiration each one is in my own life as a woman teaching and running a music foundation.

We celebrate 30 years in 2017, and I am already making plans. Diana Burkett, another woman strong in creativity and Texas heritage, has stepped up to contribute to the THMF office as office manager. She will be coordinating the September 25th event for

her first time. Tell her thanks when you see her! Yes, I am expecting that those who are reading this have already planned to be on the Schreiner University campus on Sept. 25 from 9-1:30 and again at 7:30 for our Texas Heritage Music Day and annual concert with Terri Hendrix and Lloyd Maines. How do you listen to Terri and her music? Do you hear the resilience and beauty in her songs? "I fought the lions." I remember the first time I saw Terri perform, and the many times she has generously shared her story with my classes at Schreiner. I listen through the love to her songs of inspiration. "If I Had a Daughter." My students will be reading her book and writing letters to her, our gift on Sept. 25. CRY TILL YOU LAUGH...THE PART THAT AIN'T ART.

Maria Moss and Jon Hogan, Scorch Folk, will also be playing at the Rivers Edge Art Gallery on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at 6:30. Join us and imagine the life this woman lives out on the road all of the time. Ask her why she does this? See the joy in her eyes as she performs for us, both on the 22nd and the 25th. Her knowledge of history and her fancy guitar picking will amaze you. Ralph Peer discovered Jimmie Rodgers and the Carter Family within a three-day period. She let's the audience know this history when she and Jon play. She will say he is the musicologist, but she is part of the story! And Scorch Folk is the featured act at the October 7 coffeehouse at Schreiner, 7-9 p.m., Lion's Den.

Penny Ney and Karen Abrahams have both experienced great challenges to continue with their music. Penny shares her story with my composition class. Karen also produces art along with her music. Liza Proche sings gospel with three brothers, bringing family to the stage. And high energy! Kristi Foster is a Kennemer Scholarship recipient,

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