



Kim Meeks: From Canada to Texas

The October coffeehouse for the Texas Heritage Music Foundation showcased Kim Meeks and Her Bad Habits, a trio. Chumbe Salinas, videographer for the foundation, recommended her, and I hired her sight unseen. When she walked up, I knew. She is the blues performer I always wanted to be in my secret life. Meeks, who is from Montreal, has been passionate about music from a young age, devoting the majority of her free time as a teenager to singing and playing the guitar. In addition to Meeks, Her Bad Habits Trio includes Neal Ford on vocals, acoustic guitar and blues harp; and Harvey Kagan on bass guitar. Now those three ALL have many stories. Hans Bauer was on hand to take some photos, and his shot of Harvey Kagan also captured the miles of musical history. And that's another story. Kagan did join the Sir Douglas Quintet in 1969. When you research this on youtube, be sure and see Chumbe Salinas' channel. She has some great footage. And the special by Andy Vasquez.



Kim and I had a talk before her performance in the Lion's Den. "I was in Montreal, Canada, and I met Kevin online, and he was in Austin.

He told me about the scene, and I knew I had to go. After all, it was the home

of Stevie Ray Vaughan. He invited me down and agreed I could stay at his house. We are now happily married." She played blues and rock in Montreal, but in Texas she plays a lot of blues. Neal Ford, "a writing genius," performs with her. She mentioned Montreal, I mentioned Leonard Cohen. We are both fans; little did we know he would be gone so soon after our talk on October 5. She lives with Kevin in Spicewood on 5 acres in a house his grandfather built.

The evening performance began with a favorite of mine, "House of the Rising Sun." Her performance was strong and sultry. Andrew Vasquez, new digital media hire at Schreiner, filmed this and created a promo for the coffeehouse series with hit. Check it out online at the Schreiner facebook site. Neal Ford told a story about turning down a song once only to hear it recorded by Kenny Rogers. "Just Dropped In (To See What condition my condition was in)."

Then he sang "When Love Slips Away" for us, a heartrending song that led to some beautiful harmony. Meeks is a full-time musician in Texas and loving it. She plays some regular gigs, including Oma Gruene's Secret Garden in New Braunfels often attracting over 200 people. This woman from Canada has found her new home.

I must pay homage to Leonard Cohen, a Canadian who came into my life through the song "Suzanne" over 50 years ago, along with Dylan (now Nobel Laureate of Literature) and Willie (1963 at Panther Hall in Ft. Worth). We lost Leonard in 2016 closely followed by Leon (Russell). Both in November.

Feb. 14 THMF showcases David Broza from Israel and a film produced by Texas songwriter Steve Earle at the THMF coffeehouse at Schreiner University. Ils Sont Partis.