Letter from the Director

As the Center for Texas Music History prepares to celebrate its sixth anniversary in September 2005, we can look back on a tremendous record of success and forward to a future filled with exciting new opportunities.

The Center continues to develop new graduate and undergraduate courses in southwestern music history through the History Department. The Journal of Texas Music History and the Handbook of Texas Music serve as valuable reference tools and have helped provide a format for scholarly debate on the evolution of Texas music.

The Center has expanded its work with museums, public schools, universities, and others to develop educational programs related to Texas history and culture. Following our successful collaboration with the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum’s 2002-2003 exhibit on Texas music history, we are once again working with the Bullock Museum on its new “Spirit of Texas Music” concert series. We are also pleased to be working with Dr. Richard Chetham and Texas State University’s College of Fine Arts and Communication to present the new “Stars of Texas Music” series, through which we invite younger artists to perform alongside veteran artists in order to educate students about the rich musical heritage of our state.

The Center is working on other new projects, as well. Of particular note is the Center’s new Texas Music Oral History Program, launched this past spring with the help of Dr. Ron Brown and others in the Department of History. Through this program, the Center is working with graduate history students to conduct oral interviews with people throughout the state who have been involved in the development of Texas music. These interviews, which will be conducted over several years, will become part of the university’s large and ever-growing archival collection on Texas music history and will be available to students, scholars, and others for research and educational purposes.

As part of our ongoing efforts to be more cost-efficient, we are also working to make all issues of the Journal of Texas Music History available on-line. This will help us keep costs low while making the journal instantly available to readers anywhere in the world.

We are exceedingly grateful to everyone who has supported our fundraising efforts during this past year. Since we receive no direct line of funding, we rely on the generosity of all who believe in the importance of what the Center is doing. In particular, I would like to thank Gregg Andrews and Vikki Bynum, Dee Lannon, Jimmy McWilliams, Cat Reed, Callie Wolf, Gene Bourgeois, Patty & Marianne Moore, Frank de la Teja, the entire Texas State University History Department, the Center’s Advisory Board, Ann Marie Ellis, Nina Wright, Deborah McNab, Becky Prince, Richard Chetham, Lisa McDonald, Carroll Wiley, Vicki Medlin Clarke, T. Cay Rowe, Duna Harrell, César Limón, Laniita Hanson, Brandi Bridgeman, Gary Hicklinbotham, Francine Hartman, Jim & Cathy Moore, John & Robin Dickson, Rick & Laurie Baish, Lucky & Becky Tominh, Kim & Robert Richey, Jo & Paul Snader, Margie First, Darrell & Barbiera Piersol, Phil & Cecilia Collins, Ralph & Patti Dowling, Cathy Supple, Dennis & Margaret Daun, Sharon Sandominsky & Chris Ellison, Ross & Judy Brown, Byron & Rebecca Augustin, John Kuntz, Kent Finlay, Clifford Antonze, Tracie Ferguson, Mildred Roddy, Elmer & Susan Rosenberger, Billy Scidell, and all of our other friends and supporters.

Please visit our website or contact us to learn more about the Center and its unique and exciting programs.

Sincerely,

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