Bonham, Texas

Region: Prairies & Lakes

Bonham is the birthplace of Charlie Christian, one of the originators of the electric guitar. Born there in 1916, Christian went on to become one of the most influential and innovative jazz guitarists in history, playing with Benny Goodman and many others. Bonham was incorporated in 1848, and is a city rich with Texas history. Beginning as a railroad stop, the city thrived as an agricultural center, and housed the Confederate military headquarters for the northern sub district of Texas during the Civil War.

Those who make a Charlie Christian pilgrimage to Bonham will not be disappointed. Although the original house has been torn down, fans can visit the place where it stood until 2005. Christian is buried in Bonham, so devotees can bring flowers and visit the grave, as well as the church that hosted his funeral. The Bonham-Fannin Museum of history has a permanent exhibit dedicated to Christian. With over 400 businesses in the city limits, Bonham is a charming place to visit for music lovers and history buffs alike.

http://www.bonhamchamber.com/