Letter from the Director

For the nearly two decades this journal has been in publication, this space has contained the words of the Center’s founding director and guiding spirit, Gary Hartman, as he shared the latest updates on the Center’s programs documenting the rich musical heritage of the Lone Star State and Southwest. With Dr. Hartman’s well-earned retirement, I have stepped into the Director’s role and look forward to building on the foundation he has built for the Center’s undergraduate and graduate course work at Texas State, music history events for the campus community and general public, and publication of original research in this journal and in the books of our John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music History at Texas A & M University Press. Dr. Hartman’s contributions to Texas State University and the Texas music community are vast, and I want to take this opportunity to thank him on behalf of our audience.

Since coming on as Director, we have held campus events with the Chulita Vinyl Club dj collective and Texas Country artists Wade Bowen, Jack Ingram, and Randy Rogers. The Texas Country evening built on the research of a recent Center alum, Rich Kelly, and a portion of that work also appears as the Jack Ingram article in this issue. Developing such original research is among our key goals, and so it is fitting that a second article here, Jason Crouch’s essay on Charlie Sexton’s career, also began in one of our graduate courses. Bryan Proksch’s article on the Magnolia Oil house band in the early twentieth century rounds out our 2019 edition with historical context on an oft-overlooked aspect of musical performance in Texas.

We look forward to campus events in the remainder of 2019 and into 2020 on the subjects of Texas dance halls, blues scholarship, and Houston hip-hop. Our Dickson Series at A & M is also going strong, with recent additions including Paul Oliver and Mack McCormick’s “lost” manuscript

There’s no charge to receive the journal. Simply contact us at jasonmellard@txstate.edu, or krb121@txstate.edu and we’ll be happy to put you on our mailing list. You can connect via our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts as well.

Of course, we couldn’t have done any of this without hard work, encouragement, advice, and financial contributions from all of our friends and supporters. My sincerest thanks to Gary Hartman, Alan Schaefer, Kristi Madden, César Limón, Callie Lewis, Tammy Gonzales, John McKiernan-Gonzalez, Angie Murphy, Mary Brennan, Madelyn Patlan, Roberta Ruiz, the Center’s Advisory Board, the Texas State University Department of History, and University Marketing. And thanks to all of you who are invested in the study, preservation, and celebration of Texas music history. Here’s to the next twenty years!

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