

THE WESTERN WAY

The Official Publication of the
International Western Music Association



IWMA FUTURE MEET THEM INSIDE PAGE 6

Roped into Western Music and Cowboy Poetry



IWMA 2023 AWARDS NOMINATION FORM INSIDE ON PAGE 22!

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Andy Hedges



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Gary McMahan
Photo by Bill Patterson



Bill Strickler

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From The President...



MARVIN O'DELL
IWMA President

Western Music Died Today!

I woke up this morning when the alarm went off and, as I do every morning, turned on my radio. And right away I knew something was wrong. I always kept my radio tuned in to my favorite western music station – but this morning there was no music playing. No guitars, no fiddles, no banjos, no bass, no four-part cowboy harmony – and the DJ was crying! I thought, “Something terrible has happened.” And then I heard the DJ say, “Ladies and gentlemen, I am terribly saddened to tell you that western music died today.” I couldn’t believe my ears. He went on to say that western music had passed. That it had crossed over to the glory land. That it’s gone forever.

I thought, “This is awful news. What will happen to the IWMA? It won’t have any relevance anymore. The lovers of western music will have to listen to something else – maybe hip-hop or rap! There won’t be any more dancing to western swing music. No more two-stepping and waltzing. Western bar-be-cues will have to find another kind of entertainment. Western-themed restaurants and bars will have to close their doors. Millions will be mourning the loss of the music of the Sons of the Pioneers, Gene Autry, Don Edwards, and Ian Tyson. With the death of western music, we’ve lost an old friend that has been so much a part of our lives.”

And then Theresa woke me up. She said, “Honey, you’re crying out in your sleep. You’re having a bad dream.” And you should’ve seen the smile on my face as I heard Rex Allen singing on my radio. And for the rest of that day, I stayed tuned in to Tommy Tucker and Judy James and O.J. Sikes and Peter Bruce and whoever else I could get on my radio who was playing cowboy and western music. And then I thought, “What a loss it would be to this world if no one ever wanted to sing a cowboy song again! If no one ever again painted the glory of running horses in song or told us about a girl named Feleena or sang of the streets of Laredo or yodeled their heart out for us while riding down some long-forgotten trail or helped us understand the intricacies of present-day ranching.” And I went to bed that night with a sigh of relief and hoped I would never in actuality wake up to the words “Western music died today.”

MARVIN O'DELL
President IWMA



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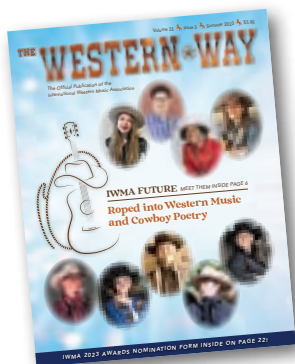
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ON THE COVER...

To succeed in the future, cultivate the present and build on the past.
That is exactly what the IWMA is doing through youth education and mentoring programs at the regional and national levels. These young faces are a sampling of the next generation of entertainers that are "roped into western music and poetry", honing their skills through the channels open to them in the IWMA. They are the future; the IWMA is in good hands.

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Editor's Insight



Theresa O'Dell
Editor

"Get Roped In"

The IWMA is in its third decade of existence as a 501(c)3 "...organization that encourages and supports the preservation, performance and composition of historic traditional and contemporary music and poetry of The

West." This quote is part of the IWMA Mission Statement.

The organization has been in existence for over 35 years. It has a history of early days that were exciting, "glory days" of sorts. It began with iconic figures who saw the vision and the need for the organization. The membership grew. Growing membership of course brought with it pains, and it peaked; then, leadership issues and smears on its reputation followed bringing declining membership; it struggled back to rebuild in leaders and members, wooing back into the fold those who had scattered. We were growing again; then, the pandemic. Some wondered if the organization could survive another downturn. It was a struggle to keep the IWMA afloat. But we did. Why? Because we still believed in the mission. We are stronger now than for many years.

The current leadership and board are on a mission of its own. We want to grow again! We want to expand with new chapters, attract new members (and rope in some of the "old ones"), experience new music and poetry from current members and new ones joining in, and appeal to more fans – lots and lots of fans! We want to cultivate and educate young artists and welcome new artists who may not even realize the wealth of western culture that is buried in the songs they sing. Their presentation style may be a little different than traditional western. We want to learn from them and broaden their western purview.

But it will take every chapter working corporately and every individual member, whether performer or fan, to make it happen. This growth shouldn't be confined just here at home; international members need to spread the good word in the country where you live. If you love IWMA, tell your western-lovin' friends about it, too! Increase our international outreach.

So, for now, we are going to be saying and you are going to be hearing "Get Roped into Western Music & Cowboy Poetry!" Widen the loop. Each one telling one would double our ranks

which benefits us all in multiple ways. Spreading the word about our genre solidifies the organization, allowing it to fulfill its ongoing mission; it provides a growing platform and outlet for our music and verse; and it will continue to bring a smile to the faces of those who currently love and support us and to many who may hear it for the first time.

Let's make the rest of 2023 and 2024 "our time" to grow together as artists and fans, and to introduce those around us to the IWMA family. Let's "get [them] roped into western music and cowboy poetry!" and keep the legacy going and growing.

Theresa

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From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short
Executive Director

If I sit on patio with my chair turned slightly to the south, I can pretend I live in the country surrounded by trees. If I make a bit of a turn in either direction, everything changes. We live in a city with just

over 100,000 people. Within a two-mile radius, we have four McDonalds, two WalMarts, and I don't know how many CVS Pharmacies. We're on the flight path to DFW Airport. But if I make that slight turn again, I'm back in the country. It's all a matter of perception.

A few years back, I was sitting next to a lady in the Friday Night Opry. She turned to me and said, "IWMA is just a group of "old guys" singing songs to each other that no one ever heard of." Later that same night, another person remarked about all the wonderful new talent we had on the Opry that night. Again, it's a matter of perception.

IWMA's vision is to be a sustainable and growing organization recognized as the leader in the preservation, creation, promotion, and celebration of Western Music and Cowboy Poetry and for connecting and serving the genre's diverse community of performers and fans. That's the reality of IWMA...one that we hope everyone shares.

A big part of that reality is the annual Convention. It's an opportunity for us to show everyone that Western Music and Cowboy Poetry are alive and well at IWMA! It's a time for us to change the perception that this is for "old guys." This is for everyone. Grab some friends and plan to be in Albuquerque November 8-12. We're excited to let you know that Andy Hedges will donate his time and talent for the Benefit Dinner on Thursday night.

We'd be interested to know your perception of IWMA. Has it changed over time? Let us hear from you.

Marsha



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- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
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The Western Way is the official magazine of the International Western Music Association, a non-profit 501(c)3 Corporation, and is supported through paid advertising.



In the **CROSSHAIRS**

IWMA YOUTH

Roped into Western Music and Cowboy Poetry

What we have encapsulated on these pages may be a look at the future of the IWMA. It is not all the youth who participate in music and poetry of the West, but it is a sampling of the young up-and-coming talent who are involved at the local chapter levels and are leaders in the IWMA Youth Chapter on the national level. We want to introduce them to you, tell you their names and show you their faces. Then we invite you to visit their Websites and become their fans, to support and encourage them. Purchase their songs and verse when it is available and attend their showcases as they perform at venues in your area. The legacy of the IWMA will continue in the future as long as we nurture this young talent in the present. So here are some of the songsters and poets who are roped into all that is western and they invite you to ride along.



ALICE BLACK
Rocky Mount, VA

Alice Black is an 18-year-old singer, songwriter, and performer from Rocky Mount, VA, where she grew up immersed in folk, western, country, and old-time music. The daughter of western entertainer, Aspen Black, Alice

began performing with her mother at age three and has toured the country with her mother several times a year performing shows for libraries and schools, as well as concerts of original music at a variety of venues.

As a youngster, Alice played mandolin and banjo. She has since developed into an accomplished rhythm guitarist and is the lead singer and rhythm guitarist in a bluegrass band, "The Downtown Pickers." She is also one-half of a duo called "Western Fever."

In 2019, Alice received the IWMA Liz Masterson Crescendo Award. She was selected for CD of the Year awards from the Rural Roots Music Commission in 2016 and 2018, and she placed 1st in the Youth Division of the Richard Leigh Songwriting Contest in 2017.



COLT BLANKMAN **Avon, UT**

From Avon, UT, Colt Blankman started performing cowboy poetry at the age of 8 at the Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous. Now 17, he's had the opportunity to perform at different gatherings and venues around the country.

Besides reciting classic cowboy poems of old, Colt has written his own cowboy poetry. "Pullin' That Trigger" is Blankman's first CD recording project.

He was the IWMA nominee for the Liz Masterson Crescendo Award in 2021 and 2022 and for Cowboy Poetry CD of the Year in 2021. He was the 2019 Sue Wallis and Rod McQueary scholarship recipient.

He loves mechanics, shooting, wagon trains, and hunting. He's a member of the High School Rodeo Association as a shooter in rifle and trap.



VENESSA CARPENTER **Arimo, ID**

Living in Texas for twelve years laid a foundation that gave nineteen-year-old Venessa Carpenter a heart and soul for western music. She learned to play guitar from the late John Defoore, Jr., an iconic Texas guitarist who inspired many young artists. Venessa's musical journey

was furthered by learning from Texas Music Hall of Fame members Charlie and Shawnda Rains Shearer.

In the fall of 2017, Venessa's family moved to Idaho. Leaving a strong support team behind, Venessa was unsure where her music would take her. She was introduced to the IWMA in the spring of 2018 and has since met a lot of good friends within the IWMA.

Venessa began writing her own music after meeting IWMA member, Dan McCorison, an award-winning songwriter who showed her the ways of songwriting. In 2021, Dan and Venessa wrote the winning Team Penning Co-write song. They have gone on to write other songs together, which Venessa loves to share with others.



JACK GEORGE **Quemado, NM**

Jack George is a sixteen-year-old cowboy poet from Quemado, NM. He was named after his grandfather, who was a horse trainer, and Jack enjoys spending hours in the saddle, too, working cattle on neighboring ranches.

Jack recited his first cowboy poem while in kindergarten during a school program and he hasn't looked back since. For the past five years, Jack has been performing cowboy poetry at major gatherings throughout the west and was recently awarded the prestigious 2022 Buck Ramsey Award by the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Alpine, TX.

Jack loves the ranching life of riding, roping, and wrangling and he's deeply inspired to preserve the western way of life through cowboy poetry and stories.

Continued on page 8

IN THE CROSSHAIRS

Continued from page 7



CARSON HOUSER **McClusky, ND**

Carson Houser is a rancher, bull rider, and cowboy poet from McClusky, ND. Raised working alongside his father on their cow-calf operation, Carson developed a passion for western art and music, which led him to writing

his own poetry, documenting his life experiences as a cattleman and rodeo cowboy.

In September of 2021, he published his first book – *Branding in the Rain: A Collection of Ranching & Rodeo Poetry* and he released his first CD – *Another Iron on the Fire* – in July of 2022. In February of 2023, he was honored with the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering's Buck Ramsey Award.

Carson's style is inspired by the music of Chris LeDoux and Kyle Evans, and the poetry of fellow Dakotans, Bill Lowman, Rodney Nelson and Yvonne Hollenbeck. His work ranges from thoughtful pieces that reflect his Christian background, exciting rodeo tales, and laments for the western way of life. Learn more about Carson here: <https://www.housercowboypoeetry.com/>



BOHDI LINDE **Rapid City, SD**

Bodhi Linde is a 14-year-old multi-instrumentalist from Rapid City, SD. You might hear him playing banjo, mandolin, bass, cello, piano, clarinet or saxophone, but guitar is his passion, playing it all from the Delta blues to

East Bay punk, Nashville country to Texas swing. But regardless of the style, he plays with the heart of an old soul.

Bodhi is influenced by the western South Dakota lifestyle he lives, and he fell in love with the sound of western swing bands like Bob Wills and the Texas Playboys which inspired him to start writing his own western swing music. Bodhi says, "I want to keep the western genre alive for people my age, as well as for the generation that grew up with it on the radio."

Songwriting comes naturally to Bodhi. Each day brings new opportunities to capture his feelings and align them with music in complex lyrics that challenge the listener to dig into the metaphors of his songs. Bodhi is working on a recording project of originals.



JENNA THUNBORG **Lemitar, NM**

Jenna Thunborg, from Lemitar, New Mexico, performs western music with her twin sister, Kacey. Jenna provides the main vocals (and yodels) for the duo. The twins have performed at a variety of venues including cowboy poetry and music gatherings, folk festivals, sporting events, county and state fairs, churches, schools, senior facilities, weddings, fund-raising events, and restaurants.

Jenna began taking music lessons with Mariam Funke, an awarding-winning instrumentalist, when she was seven years old. She is currently enrolled in her high school Recording Arts class where she composes and performs original music pieces for the community.

Kacey and Jenna released their first CD entitled *Simply Western* in 2019. The International Western Music Association (IWMA) awarded Kacey and Jenna the 2021 Liz Masterson Crescendo Award. In 2017 and 2019 the IWMA awarded the girls the Youth Harmony Duo of the Year. Jenna was nominated in 2021 by The Academy of Western Artists as Young Artist of the Year.

Jenna is the current President of the IWMA Youth Chapter. She is also a member of the Cowntown Opry Buckaroos and a member of her high school Speech and Debate and Golf teams.



KACEY THUNBORG

Lemitar, NM

Kacey Thunborg, from Lemitar, New Mexico, has been performing in front of audiences with her twin sister, Jenna, since they were eight years old. Kacey provides harmonies and instrumental accompaniment for the duo.

Kacey received her start in classic western music through Mariam Funke, an award-winning instrumentalist and member of the group The Cowboy Way. She studied guitar for over seven years under Mariam's guidance and mentorship.

Kacey and Jenna released their first C.D. entitled Simply Western in 2019. The International Western Music Association (IWMA) awarded Kacey and Jenna the 2021 Liz Masterson Crescendo Award. In 2017 and 2019 the IWMA awarded the duo the Youth Harmony Duo of the Year. The Academy of Western Artists (AWA) awarded Kacey and co-writer, Jim Jones, the 2021 Western Music Song of the Year. She was also nominated in 2020 and 2021 by the AWA as Young Artist of the year.

Kacey has performed with her twin sister at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering, Arizona Folk Preserve, Cochise Cowboy Poetry and Music Gathering, Cimarron Cowboy Music Gathering, Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering, Lonestar Cowboy Poetry Gathering, and Western Slope Cowboy Gathering among others. In addition, she has performed at numerous churches, fund raising events, senior facilities and schools.

Kacey is a member of the Cowtown Opry Buckaroos. She volunteers with "Bugles Across America." Kacey is a member of her high school Speech and Debate and Golf teams, and the Drama Club.



PHOEBE WHITE

London, KY

Thirteen-year-old Phoebe White is from London, Kentucky. She is homeschooled along with her six siblings and enjoys competing on local swim and volleyball teams. But her passion is singing western music.

Inspired by western pioneers like Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and Patsy Montana, Phoebe began performing publicly at age seven. She recorded her first nationally released album in 2022 in Nashville which featured the Grammy Award winning Riders In The Sky. Phoebe received the 2022 IWMA Janet McBride Best-of-the-Best Yodeling Award.

Phoebe is currently planning to record an album of original Western songs. Another of her goals is to make history performing on the Grand Ole Opry as the first black female Opry member performing traditional Cowboy / Western music. Phoebe plans to continue sharing the love of Jesus and the beauty of traditional Western Music with multiple generations, races, and ethnicities across the globe for many years to come.



For those not in the know, (or who haven't read the fine print), I have spent my career in radio. I've done a lot of work in both news and music formats: primarily country, but Western too. We all love music, that is why we're all together in this organization, the IWMA. Performance of Western music is key to what we do. In addition to music, lots of folks look to radio for local news and community connectivity. Just below, I'll share what I know about what's happening (at least in Arizona) concerning how folks are consuming and using media. The seismic shifts in the various ways people consume their infotainment is remarkable. Radio not only has to compete with television and the various video satellite services, there's also YouTube, Facebook and Twitter. Oops, forgot about Instagram and TikTok. How does this impact Western performers and musicians? Artists, duos and bands must have a focus on how they're going to reach their potential audience. The Arizona Broadcasters Association recently completed a study concerning consumption of radio, TV,

cable, satellite and streaming services. The indication is that free media services are showing growth and paid subscriptions are down. The various ways people are getting their audio (and video) continues to change due to technological advances. Lower cost internet cable TV providers, led by YouTube, grew to surpass traditional cable. An interesting sidelight is that over the air TV antenna usage also was up. As a radio guy, here's my big braggadocio for this column: local radio consumption for news, music and sports continues to remain the number one audio platform in Arizona. Folks sometimes listen to local radio streamed live to wherever they are, which is really a great phenomenon. Back to news, on every media platform, there is growth with no statistical decline anywhere in the news and information category. What about the music though? Challenging times demand creative solutions. It's important to keep brainstorming ways to achieve our goals. Next time: vinyl LPs, cassettes, record players and other stuff clogging up the storage space in your garage. 🐾

PETER BRUCE is an announcer, producer, engineer and emcee with 40 years of experience in broadcasting, music and radio. In addition to his love of music, Peter is an avid outdoorsman. His hobbies include cycling, skiing, kayaking, hiking and swimming. Arizona is home most of the time when he's not roaming the planet.



Penned by Lantern Light

This column will spotlight members of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter of the International Western Music Association. It will highlight an invited poet guest with possible short biographical information of his/her works. If a member of the Western Wordsmiths Chapter and if interested in submitting one piece of original work for publication, please contact the Western Wordsmiths chapter president.



HUNTER'S MOON

by Marleen Bussma

*On cloven hooves with wooly heads and sleek dark hides they come.
Their dance is fast. It swirls and sways on steady feet that drum
a pounding, primal, pulsing rhythm ancient ones have heard.
The thunder echoes on the plain as spirits' sleep is stirred.*

*The beat of dancing drums still vibrates through the hunting ground.
The bunched-up bison stampede on familiar trails and pound
the bleached-out prairie summer winds made brittle, brown, and dry.
October's Hunter's Moon is fading in the morning sky.*

*Steam rises in the cool air from the heated bison mass.
White, misty clouds of exhaled breaths add to it as they pass.
A spirit's vision rises from the cloud in morning's glow
and runs with bison like Lakota hunters long ago.*



MARLEEN BUSSMA, a Spur Award winning poet, was instilled with the love of horses by her father. She grew up wanting to be just like Dale Evans and live in the old West. Marleen, described as a formidable storyteller, draws from her past, growing up on a North Dakota farm, while putting together verses on the plight of women of the West from frontier days to modern farm and ranch times. She writes about the rancher as he works and worries hoping to make it through another year. Her writing has earned several honors, including the 2021, 2018 & 2016 Cowboy Poetry Book of the Year Awards, a Will Rogers Medallion Award, the Georgie Sicking Award, and the Spur Award from the Western Writers of America for Best Western Poem. She is retired with her husband Vaughn and lives in Dammeron Valley, UT.

In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...IWMA members **Carol Markstrom, Kristyn Harris, and Andrew Dean** are officially nominated for music awards from the Red Carpet Award Show in Holland. Carol will perform at the Award Show in the Netherlands in August, and **KC LaCourse** has been invited to perform cowboy poetry. KC brought cowboy poetry to the attention of the Red Carpet organizers who will add it as a category for next year's awards.

...In April, **Andy Hedges** had his *Roll On, Cowboys* album release concert at the Cactus Theater in Lubbock, TX. Joining him onstage were **Ramblin' Jack Elliott, Dom Flemons, Pipp Gillette, Brenn Hill, Waddie Mitchell, Michael Martin Murphey, Brigid Reedy, Randy Rieman, Tom Russell, Rod Taylor, and Andy Wilkinson** (all the artists from the album except for **Corb Lund**) and they performed for a sold-out crowd.

...**Juni Fisher** is playing select festivals and concerts this year in order to allow time to show her cutting horses. Her goal to reach her first NCHA special achievement award and buckle in 2023 came to fruition at her second show of the year on her mare Diamond (Kitty's Blu Boon) in two of the four classes they entered. She's now campaigning to qualify Diamond for the regional circuit finals in two divisions.

...During the first quarter of 2023, **Devon Dawson** (aka Miss Devon) loaned her original Jessie, the Yodeling Cowgirl shirt and red hat from the film "Toy Story 2" to the National Western Heritage Museum for a display at the entrance of what proved to be the largest and most popular temporary exhibit in the history of the National Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City. **Bob Terry** (who used to perform by Devon's side in costume as Woody), owner of what is arguably the largest personal collection of vintage western toys, games, cap guns, and memorabilia, provided his collection for the exhibit.

...Cowboy Poets **Floyd Beard, Valerie Beard, Terry Nash, Dale Page** and **Dennis Russell** have completed a new CD project titled *Four Aces and a Queen*, a follow-up to their IWMA/Western Wordsmiths 2021 award-winning book by the same title. They met with Don Richmond at his Howlin' Dog Studio in Alamosa, CO and recorded 15 original poems (three apiece) for the CD. Don added his magical musical touches to the project.

...**Peggie Douglas** presented "The Life and Music of Badger Clark" at the South Dakota Hall of Fame in June. Badger is a member of the Hall of Fame located in Chamberlain, SD.

...Inciitestudios.com is the new home of producer **Christopher Harris**. Harris reports that **Reba McEntire, Dennis Quaid, and T-Bone Burnett** are some who have recorded at the studio recently. He and **Paul Overstreet** got together to write a song for rodeo legend Jack Roddy that will be released soon with Overstreet performing the lead vocal.

...After a long delay, **Ron Christopher** is back in the studio working on a new single titled "All About the Song." The tune is a collaboration with **Mag Mawhinney** and is due to be released in July.

...The 2023 Spur Award for Song of the Year has gone to **Randy Huston** for his song "Way of the Cowboy." The tune was released on Randy's album from last year titled *Times Like These*.

...**Patty Clayton** made a trip to Rapid City, SD in June where she accepted an award from the Western Writers of America for her composition "Prairie Passages" as a Spur Award finalist in the Best Western Song category. She extends her congratulations to the winner, **Randy Huston**, and to second finalist, **John Fusco**.

...**Joel White** released a new EP in June of all original songs. Titled *Once I Was a Cowboy*, the project was produced by **Merel Bregante** and recorded at Cribworks Digital Audio. A release party was held in June at the historic Gem Theater and Armstrong County Museum in Claude, TX.

...**Joe Brown** recently traveled to Tulsa, Ft. Smith, Fayetteville, Oklahoma City, and Enid completing a fourth book signing tour. He was interviewed on radio in Fayetteville, Enid, and Duncan and appeared at the Buckaroo Bookshop at the Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival - all while producing a western music show for The Westerners in Albuquerque. Performers were **Jim Jones** and **Red River West** (Joe, Linda, and Gency Brown).

...Watch for a new release from **Carlos Washington and Steel Horse Swing** to be released soon. The EP will be titled *A Little Western, A Little Swing*.

...Santa Fe, NM songwriter **Paul Kelly** won an award for Best Bluegrass Song at the 2023 New Mexico Music Awards for his song "Love Is In Season." The song appears on his recent CD *Sugarfoot*.

...In June, **The Dan Canyon Band** performed their live show with a unique presentation in Arlington, WA. During the show, visuals are projected on a large screen behind the stage. The show will be repeated in August at the Skagit County (WA) fair.

...In May, **Yampa Valley Steve Jones** brought western music to the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival in Albuquerque, NM where he performed a set of his Irish cowboy songs.

...Cowboy poet **Duane Nelson** is pleased to announce the release of his new CD titled *The Girl in the Yellow Checked Dress*.

...**Larry Wilder** appeared in June at the Longest Day Alzheimer's Benefit in Portland, OR. The event is always held on the day with the most light. All attendees were encouraged to wear purple.

...**The Timberline Cowboys** (Geary Parsons & J. Michael Mullins) wrapped up work on their latest album, *Corral Dust & Crosses*, which was released in June. After an appearance at the Arizona Folklore Preserve, they will continue to prepare and raise money for The Durango Cowboy Poetry Gathering taking place September 27-October 1.

...**The Panhandle Cowboys** (Dave Fulfs and JB Barber) have just released their new album, *True Blue Cowboy*. All 16 tracks of music and poetry are original. The album was produced and mixed by Dennis Weber of Track 7 Studios.

...Being inducted into the Colorado Country Music Hall of Fame in August is IWMA member **Susie Knight**. The induction will take place on August 27 of this year.

...Expected to be released in July is a debut release from **Ted Hunt** titled *Ted Hunt: Legacy*. Produced by **Dave Martin**, the album will have 16 tracks and include western standards and what Ted calls "a few old friends."

...**Aspen Black** has a newly released CD titled *Born to be a Cowgirl*. The album was recorded in Nashville and consists of ten tracks, nine of which are originals.

...**Sarah Pierce** has a new release titled *Cowgirls Ride*, and it is available on her website. Another new album, *I Want To Go Home*, is slated for a mid-summer release.

...**Jim Jones** is finishing a new album as well. It will be a contemporary recording honoring traditional western music.

...**Rik "Yonder" Goodell** is working on a new Cowboy Poetry CD recorded at Allegro Sound Lab in Texas. A special guest on one track of the album is Audrey Goodell reciting "Daddy's Blessings" which won her a Greenhorn Champion buckle at the Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Oklahoma last April.

...The **Riders In The Sky** have released their first album in five years. Titled *Throw A Saddle On A Star*, the CD is now available from Too Slim's Mercantile. There are five original tunes and a fine selection of classics and obscurities in typical Riders In The Sky style. **Andy Reiss** adds brilliant guitar work to the quartet.

...**Almeda Bradshaw** is a busy lady these days. While working on curriculum development for the IWMA Youth Chapter, Almeda is also working with the Black Hills & Beyond chapter to revive the Cowboy Code Gathering, getting fit on the M2B Ranch riding horses and shoveling you know what, teaching a growing number of students, serving as her church's worship team administrator and performing around Billings, MT.

...The Billy the Kid Days festival in Las Cruces, NM in February was a great success according to singer/songwriter **Dan Robert Crow**. Also, he and Karla Steen (**Crow & Karla**) are taking their "Sing The Legend" musical presentation on summer tour with shows in Douglas, AZ then Fort Sumner, Gallup, and Las Vegas, New Mexico before two concerts in Lincoln, NM for Old Lincoln/Billy the Kid Days on August 4-6.

...*Oregon Arts Watch*, the state's leading arts journal, featured **Tom Swearingen** and his poetry in a recent issue. The article also spotlighted Columbia Chapter youth poetry contest winner **Thomas Fitzgerald**. Tom also guest hosted two more times for **Bobbi Jean & Jim Bell's** LA Talk Radio show *Rendezvous with a Writer* along with guests **Miska Paget** and **Jon Chandler**.

...The Kentucky Music Hall of Fame announced recently that **Phoebe White** will be featured in a special exhibit which will be on display in the museum for a year. Fox56 News visited Phoebe's home to interview her for the "Spirit of the Bluegrass" segment. Along with lots of other exciting interviews and performances, Phoebe is currently writing songs for her next album which will begin production soon.

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Continued from page 13

...**Dave Munsick** has been on the wing a lot. He jumped on the big bird this past winter to perform in San Antonio, Elko, Las Vegas, and Cheyenne a couple times. This spring has kept him in the air so far with a three-week run that included a fourteen-hour photo shoot by Boot Barn, opening to a sold-out arena in Billings with his sons Tris and Sam for his son Ian, performing for the annual Rancheros Visitadores in the mountains above Santa Ynez, and performing with all his sons for an encore at a sold-out Ryman Auditorium in Nashville.

...**Cisco Jim** is back in the saddle again after recovering from knee surgery. He will be riding Taza de Mogollon as a featured performer at the Santa Cruz County Fair, September 13 – 17. Cisco is also performing at several pubs, cafes, and other public venues throughout the Monterey Bay Area of California.

...In a post-Covid world, Aussie **Carol Huechan** has found limited opportunities for performing cowboy poetry. However, she has been busy commentating on various other types of entertainment, competitions, and festivals.

...A new single has been released by **Joni Harms** titled “Yellowstone.” It is available for downloads on all outlets.

...In April, **Rex Rideout** hosted a Whiskey Tasting Dinner at The Fort Restaurant as part of a series of celebrations of serving a taste of the wild west to their guests for 60 years. Whiskeys were selected from Colorado distilleries to represent early liquors shipped to trading posts and forts in the old west and were paired with choice buffalo dishes. Rex opened the evening with stories of whiskey in the west and some songs including “Rye Whiskey.” He returned to Sidney Nebraska’s Gold Rush Days in June and sang songs of the open range, the westward trails, the Civil War, and the Black Hills Gold Rush.

...**Cowboy Joe Babcock** has a new record out that is doing pretty good. It has reached #7 in the Country/Gospel charts as this writing. The song addresses the Alzheimer’s problem that so many families are faced with. It’s called “The House Still Standing.”

...**Jan Schiferl** is gearing up for a busy summer season performing at fairs and festivals in South Dakota, Nebraska, Montana, and Iowa. She is headed back to the studio to work on two new original songs that will be released soon as singles.

...**Peggy Malone** is spending lots of time helping her husband, Billy, who is in rehab following surgery after he broke his hip and collarbone in May. The couple just celebrated their 61st anniversary. Peggy’s only comment? – “In Sickness or in Health.”

...**Gary Kirkman** will be performing at the National Day of the Cowboy this summer. It is located at the historic 145-year-old Empire Ranch in southern Arizona. Back in the day, the Empire Ranch was a large working cattle ranch running many head of cattle.

...The latest album from **Doug Figgs** is called *One More Ride*. The project consists of eleven previously recorded songs enlisting the talents of **Butch Hause**, **Ernie Martinez**, **Trinity Seely**, and the great **Charlie McCoy** among several other fine musicians.

...**Ed Meyer** will be releasing a new gospel CD soon along with a single he has recorded for release. He is also working on songs for another CD hopefully to be released before the end of the year.

...Allen Kirkham of **Allen&Jill** was in a freak motorcycle accident near Mount Rushmore in May. He broke his left shoulder and right hand; both required surgery. Allen&Jill had to cancel their summer engagements until September. They continue to host their Circuit Rider Roundup radio show on American Cowboy Radio each Sunday and hope to see you all at their Showcase at IWMA Convention in November. Prayers for complete recovery are welcome.

...**Jeff Mamett** has been in the studio and has two original songs coming out digitally on all the popular music platforms. “Cowboy Heaven” became available in June. “Fortunate Son” will be released mid-July.

...**JD** from Wickenburg, AZ has released a new single titled “Santa Maria.” He is planning to release a Western single every month of the summer while also performing at the Weber and Utah state fairs.

...Singer, songwriter, and storyteller **Claudia Nygaard** can now add “Playwright” to her resume. Her children’s musical, *Time Tested Tales Told in Tunes*, will be produced by the Academy of Performing Arts, a theater in Massachusetts, with the production slated for the first weekend in October. Nygaard is creating an entire series of children’s musicals based on fairytales. The first production is “Little Red Riding Hood” and will be a full show with cast, sets, and director; but Claudia also performs the show as a storyteller, narrating the story in character voices and bursting into song on a regular basis – because, as she says, “That’s what a musical is!” Claudia is available to perform the latter version at cowboy gatherings.

...**Bob and Lana Upchurch** celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary on May 30. Bob writes and performs Christian Cowboy Poetry with Lana providing backup on keyboard.

...**Tom and Carla Swearingen** celebrated their 45th anniversary recently with a Caribbean Cruise.

...**Kacey and Jenna Thunborg** graduated from East Mountain High School in Sandia Park, New Mexico in June. In the fall, Jenna will be attending the University of New Mexico, and Kacey will be attending New Mexico State University. 🐾



Chapter Update

ARIZONA CHAPTER

President: Gary Kirkman
eskirkman@hotmail.com

The Arizona chapter has been busy getting ready for our June 17 meeting and jam session in Show Low. We have had good response from some of members that plan on attending and look forward to a good time. Unfortunately, Sierra Vista didn't happen as we could not get it organized. Some of our members performed June 30 at Taylor Arizona's annual cowboy poetry and music night in conjunction with the 4th of July rodeo celebration. There has been quite a lot of response from our members relative to our chapter meetings and goals, and we are anticipating a strong Arizona chapter in the coming years.

BLACK HILLS AND BEYOND CHAPTER

President: Brad Exton
ramblinrangers@yahoo.com

Spring has sprung and summer is almost on us, which means that Chapter members here in the northern tier are busy with numerous performances. It's hard to keep track of everyone's busy schedule. The Chapter sponsored it's first series of showcases in May and June with performances at Pat's Place in Hot Springs, SD and then the Arts In The Park, also in Hot Springs. Everyone had a great time and our western music and poetry was well received. Rik Goodell, from MT,

performed at Pat's Place on his way back from the Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Oklahoma. Rik placed 4th in the competition there and wife Audrey tried her hand at it too and received a buckle as the Greenhorn Champion. Congratulations to both of you.



Pat's Place Showcase 2023. Pictured from left Saddle Tramps, Ramblin' Rangers, Rik Goodell, Sherl Cederburg and Pegie Douglas.

Rik also recorded a new CD in Texas that will be out in late July, titled "Provin' Up Wise". Almeda Bradshaw, also of MT, is working hard to revive the Cowboy Code Gathering as part of the Northern International Livestock Expo, held in Billings. With Almeda's energy and the enthusiasm of the new Chapter, she is hoping for a strong comeback of the CCG, that will emphasize youth education and development. She is also working to develop a strategy to recruit and support more youth in western music and poetry. Pegie Douglas continues to amaze everyone with her busy schedule. She has played numerous venues in North and South Dakota, presenting her programs on the Life and Times of Badger Clark, and Hank Williams, along with other musical presentations. In addition, she continues to play bass for the Ramblin' Rangers whenever she is available. Sherl Cederburg continues to ride that Cowboy Poetry trail throughout South Dakota, North Dakota, Colorado and Nebraska,

performing at gatherings, showcases, auctions, cowboy churches and for vet and retirement groups. She has also paired up with Pegie Douglas on a number of programs. What a performance that is! Ben Alexander from CO is gearing up to start his 27th season playing at the Rawah Guest Ranch in CO. Ben is accompanied by fiddle playing and singing pard, Hannah Seek. They will start the season with a fund raiser and retreat for American and Canadian Special Ops Forces. This retreat and their music will help these soldiers transitioning back into civilian life. Our hats are off to Ben and Hannah for helping out our military heroes. The Ramblin' Rangers finished up their winter season in New Mexico and Arizona in April in time to start a busy schedule of north that includes venues in SD, WY, and MT. They continue to live up to their "ramblin" name by putting many miles on their rigs. On a sad note, the Rangers lost their "Superstar" Trevine this spring. He accompanied them everywhere they went and was



Trevine, the Superstar, with Bonnie.

a big hit when he sang the coyote part on "Coyote" and "Howlin' At the Moon". His smile and wagging tail is sorely missed. Kimberly Kaye has been busy with a new recording that will feature songs written by our

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The Western World Tour



by Rick Huff

Western Music is most often acoustic in its core instrumentation. Its lyrics are typically about the lives, loves, lore, locales, legends and legacy of the old and new West, its peoples or Cowboying worldwide.

Tips? Comments? Ideas for the column, send to:
Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442
or bestofthewest@swcp.com



Back in 2016, possibly in atonement for his ludicrous 2015 flick “A Million Ways To Die In The West,” Seth (“Family Guy”) MacFarlane offered up “The Cowboy.” It’s two episodes were “Movies That Shaped America’s Myth” and “Hollywood vs. History” featuring clips with commentary from film folk on the marketing and social legacies of The Western. Then he flew off into space (“The Orville”). Contrast it with the multi-season commitment of documentarian/singer-guitarist and cowboy-in-the-genes Mark Bedor. His is a horse of a different color. Or make that a horse of a different camera.

As part of his series “Today’s Wild West,” Bedor employs a handheld high definition camera to put us into the saddle with him on roundups and trail rides across Arizona, California, Montana, Nevada and Idaho among others. He has also taken us to visit locations as varied as Western Music festivals (Monterrey, Santa Clarita, the Red Ants Pants Music Festival), saddlery shops, milliners and the workshop of a peace pipe maker! Even a Cowboy cereal maker! He has profiled performers such as Wylie Gustafsen, The Quebe Sisters, Brenn Hill, Dave Stamey and more. His creation has gained a wide audience airing on PBS affiliates in thirty-two states...a whopping 91 markets...and, so far, has garnered one regional Emmy nomination and two coveted Western Heritage Awards. “That’s the one I really wanted to win,”

Bedor happily admits. As he recalls “I had worked in front of the camera in Chico and Des Moines (as an anchor and elsewhere behind the scenes as a news writer) and I got an idea. I combined my TV experience with my passion for all things Western and created “Today’s Wild West!” But his baby turned out to be anything but an easy sale. Undeterred, Mark Bedor proved to be the embodiment of sweat equity. He hosted, filmed and personally edited a complete 13-week package of thirty-minute shows before getting his first ‘Yes’!! But such is the fervor of a true believer. Whether it’s the art of Charlie Russell and the wonders of the Autry Museum or Montana’s National Museum of the West, the dust and grit of the open range or a quiet moment of

reflection before the majesty of a Western sunset, Mark Bedor is intent on palpably infecting his audience through putting them there.

That pesky Western Bug first bit Mark Bedor as a youth in Minnesota. That’s where he saw, in glorious Cinerama, the movie “How The West Was Won.” Along the way, he began singing and playing the guitar which further locked it in. An



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Chapter Update

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good friend, Jean Prescott. The first single released was "Days Like This" and is available on all platforms. She is also busy as an author, attending the Western Writers of America Convention in Rapid City. Her first western novel, "70 Days," will be published in July. Again, we invite all of you out there to take a look at joining the newest, most exciting, and maybe the best kept secret in IWMA, the Black Hills & Beyond Chapter.

CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

President: Greg Khougaz
gregkhougaz@earthlink.net

We are finally drying out here in CA. The Sierra snowpack will last through the summer. Our soaking this winter did not hinder Western music, however. We are pleased to have resumed quarterly shows at the Autry Museum's Wells Fargo Theater, the next being June 25. We'll have performers from across the country this time. IWMA members represented us well at the Topanga Guitar and Fiddle Contest with Joe Lima helping to give a class on the music and guitar style of Hank Williams. The Santa Clarita Cowboy Festival is back and was a great success with Kristyn Harris, Jon Chandler and others performing. Scott T toured the U.S. and Canada this spring playing in more venues than we could keep track. Mike Flemming performs regularly at the Double Trouble Wine room. The Empty Saddle Riding Club held its annual Western Music and poetry festival in Rolling Hills and this year paid tribute to our own P.W. Conway. Buffalo Bryan and Greg Khougaz were honored to be invited performers paying respects to the Conway Family. We are looking forward to Albuquerque and hoping to get Marilyn Tuttle there.

COLORADO CHAPTER
President: Sonja Oliver
psalmgarden@icloud.com

By the time you read this, the IWMA-CO Talent Roundup (06/24/23) will be history, but at the time of this report, several talented western entertainers (singers, dancers, poets and instrumentalists) will compete in this contest. Members and non-members are eligible. The contest is being held at one of our favorite venues: Florissant Grange, Florissant, Colorado. In April, three of our members traveled to Depew, Oklahoma to compete in and/or support the Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gathering. Geoff "Poppa Mac" Mackay was our Camp Cook. Congratulations to our members, Susie Knight, who won the Champion buckle, and KC LaCourse who won the buckle for Reserve Champion in the Dawn Anita Memorial Cowgirl Poet Division. The IWMA-CO Chapter will be hosting the Sharing Session



"Poppa Mac" MacKay sharing poetry at the Crossroads Poetry Gathering Depew, OK.



Susie Knight and KC LaCourse

(which is not a jam session) at the IWMA Convention in November. As always, it's immediately following the Friday Night Opry. Bring a song, poem, or story to share in a round-robin format. Your host for this year's

Wild River Trails



Dale Rollins

Rollins served two tours with the U.S. Navy--in Vietnam. It inspired him to write stories and songs about what he missed back home in Oregon. His music album received radio airplay all around the world. The rest is history.

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Photo Courtesy Jay Rymeka

WESTERN WORLD TOUR

Continued from page 17

interview with Rich O'Brien at a Heber City Cowboy Poetry Gathering guitar clinic resulted in O'Brien encouraging Bedor to come to Fort Worth to record an album, which he did in 2010. "My travel guitar is my Taylor," he notes. "I never leave home without it. I've spent many evenings singing and playing around the campfire at dude ranches and on horse trips." Following production on his newest installment of programs, Bedor intends to rework the album or possibly record a new one. And he further muses about creating a live stage presentation that would involve his music and footage from "Today's Wild West."

Mark Bedor's labor of love creation is now attracting a far wider following even beyond its loyal PBS audience, thanks to online assistance. "Today's Wild West" is now found on the Heartland Network at watchheartlandtv.com, a new steaming service yourhometv.com and his own YouTube channel at youtubetv/@TodaysWildWest/featured/ so it appears people are saying they can't get enough. You can also find information on his coffee table books through his website todayswildwest.com/books/. All of it proves one man's basic contention that the cowboy is still out there...and, if you "can't see him from the road," as the song says, "Today's Wild West" lets us find him on our TV screens. All the while he has continued to write articles with photo spreads for leading Western magazines. And why not?? As Mark Bedor puts it, "it's the coolest stuff there is!!" 🐾



Chapter Update

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Colorado sharing session at 2022 IWMA Convention.

IWMA-CO Sharing Session is IWMA-CO Vice President, Geary Parsons. Questions? You can reach out to him at gearyparsons@outlook.com. Our Business Member, the Western

Slope Cowboy Gathering, (Grand Junction, CO) will be happening November 3-4, 2023. Visit westernslopecowboygathering.com for information. Several IWMA-

CO Members are performing this year! Our other Business Member, the Colorado Cowboy Gathering, is hosting its Summer Concert featuring acclaimed western star, Gary McMahan, on Saturday, August 5 at 2:00 p.m. at the Maple Grove Grange, 3130 Youngfield, Wheat Ridge, CO. Tickets at the door are \$15.00. The Colorado Cowboy Gathering is moving the event in January to the fabulous Buffalo Rose Event Center located at 12th and Washington in Golden, Colorado. More information about the 2024 gathering will be on the website: www.coloradocowboygathering.org.

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Chapter Update

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COLUMBIA CHAPTER

President: Tom Swearingen
tomswearingen@gmail.com

The Columbia Chapter is looking forward to its annual meeting and showcase concert to be held Sept. 23 at the Granada Theatre in The Dalles, OR. Matinee and evening shows will feature members from several states and provinces. Speaking of provinces ... Scott Tonelson's travels took him to



Scott Tonelson and Geoff Mackay



Mike Dygert and Ed Wahl



Kathy Moss

Winnipeg where he joined Geoff Mackay for a performance. Albertan Mike Dygert and BC's Ed Wahl are paired up for several shows this summer. Kathy Moss and Duane Nelson shared their poetry at A Night with the Cowboys, an annual



Duane Nelson

concert in Oregon's Willamette Valley organized by Jim Crotts. Those three will also take part in the Lakeview Oregon Cowboy Gathering in October along with Dave Stamey, Tom Swearingen, and Joni Harms. Tom and Joni teamed up for two nights entertaining at the St. Paul Rodeo and are booked for other summer concerts. Venessa Carpenter and Bodie Dominguez will join the two in Viola, ID August 19 for a *Night of Western Music and Cowboy Poetry*, benefiting

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2023

IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR MUSIC AWARDS:

- Albums can be self-nominated. IF YOU ARE SELF-NOMINATING, please provide the following: A copy of the nominated album must accompany the Western Album or Cowboy/Western Swing of the Year nomination, a copy of the album containing a nominated song, or an album containing only the nominated song must accompany the Song of the Year nomination. Song nomination albums must be accompanied by either album artwork or a photocopy of the artwork showing the release date.
- In the case of Western Album of the Year and Cowboy/Western Swing Album of the Year, 75% of the music on the album must be of Western in content, lyrically or musically. Country Music content does not count as Western Music.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Any individual whose body of work meets criteria may be nominated for IWMA awards. Forms are made available to all members and may be provided to non-members by request. Current IWMA membership is required for voting.
- Albums and songs will all have a "birth" date of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year and one subsequent year (January 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR POETRY AWARDS:

COWBOY POETRY CD OF THE YEAR

REQUIREMENTS

- Albums may be self-nominated. If you are self-nominating, a copy of the nominated album must be submitted with the nomination.
- Albums must have a release date.
- Albums must have a bar code.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- All albums will have a "birth date" of January 1 of the release year and will be eligible that year plus one subsequent year (Example: January 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023).
- Poems written in free verse or blank verse are not eligible.
- 75% of the album tracks must be Cowboy Poetry, written and recited by a single person; the reciter must be the principal author of the poetry. The poetry must be the original work of the reciter, written in rhythm, rhyme and meter.

- 25% of the album tracks may contain other material including:
 - Western Music, pre-recorded or live,
 - Prose, including short stories or spoken introductions,
 - Material written by someone other than the collaborators,
 - Poetry recited by someone other than the principal author, including poetry written by the principal author.
- Collaboration in writing is permitted. In the event a poem is written by the collaboration of two or more persons, one of the collaborators must be named as the "principal" author. The other collaborators will be regarded as co-authors. Editors are considered collaborators.
- Collaboration in reciting is not eligible. Any poetry tracks that are recited by other than the principal author, regardless of authorship of the poem, will not count toward the 75% Cowboy Poetry requirement.

BACKGROUND MUSIC

- Background music performed for the poetry album is permitted. Music need not be original.
- Background music must be Western.
- Background music imported from an external source (CD, radio, etc.) is permitted. Such music must be properly licensed for inclusion in the poetry album.

COWBOY POETRY BOOK of THE YEAR

Poetry is defined as works containing rhyme and meter. Although the book's content may include short prose and free verse, the poetry alone will be judged in meeting criteria for eligibility. Anything that is not poetry as hereby described, including free verse, will be classified as prose.

- 50% of the book must be "poetry" with rhyme and meter and must be original work written by the author of the book.
- 50% of those poems (criteria #1) must be 20 lines or more in length.
- Credits for poems used as a "cover" and poems written by someone other than the author of the book (including anonymous works) must be given. Poems not written by the author of the book will be considered "prose" and will not qualify for the 50% eligibility criteria as described above.
- Books written by multiple authors are not eligible.
- All books will have a "birth" date of January 1 of the copyright year. Eligibility is for that year, plus two subsequent years.
- Non-IWMA authors may be nominated. They will be notified that they have been nominated and be given a chance to become a member to win the award. At that time, they can choose to become a member or decline the nomination and lose eligibility.
- A reprint of a book published in a previous award year is not eligible.

2023

IWMA AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE NOMINATIONS BALLOTS

WESTERN ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. Award for an outstanding recorded performance by an artist or artists released during the specified time period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and producer **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY SWING ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. This award is for an outstanding cowboy swing recorded performance which was either commercially released or showed significant chart action during the eligibility period. The award recognizes the featured artist(s) and the producer. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award is for any song which was released or showed significant chart action within the eligibility period. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

WORKING COWBOY SONG OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songs. This award goes to a song recorded within the eligibility period that speaks expressly and clearly to real, authentic working cowboy life, historic or current. The award goes to the songwriter(s) and is based on lyrics, not performance. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

Song: _____

Written by: _____ Performed by: _____

INSTRUMENTALIST OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) instrumentalists. This award is for the instrumental artist who has shown an extraordinary mastery of his/her instrument(s) on recorded and/or in-person performance during the specified time period. The award recognizes the artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

MALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) male performers. Award for the outstanding male vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

FEMALE PERFORMER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) female performers. Award for the outstanding female vocalist based on recorded and in-person performance. The award recognizes the artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

DUO or GROUP OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) duos or groups. Award for a group or duo who regularly performs together that has shown outstanding recorded and in-person performance vocally. The award recognizes the performing group or duo for their excellence.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

ENTERTAINER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) entertainers. This award is for the performing act who displayed the greatest competence in all aspects of the entertainment field. Consideration will be given to recorded and in-person performance, public acceptance, attitude, leadership, entertainment value of performances, and over-all contributions to the western music image. The award recognizes the entertainer or group.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

SONGWRITER OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) songwriters. Award for outstanding songs written in the past year by a songwriter(s). Commercial release and number of songs recorded during the year are to be considered. The award recognizes the songwriter(s). **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

LIZ MASTERSON CRESCENDO AWARD Nominate up to three (3) individuals or groups. This award is for a group or individual, under 21, having made considerable advances artistically and/or commercially during the eligibility period. The band or individual should be performing under its/his/her name on a regular basis. The award recognizes the group or individual artist.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

RADIO DJ/RADIO PROGRAM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) radio DJs/radio programs. This award recognizes outstanding service to western music in the field of broadcasting. The recipient will be judged for contributions to the field western music, professionalism, work and involvement in the western music community, and promotion and fostering of the western music image. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY ALBUM OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) albums. The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding achievement on writing, reciting and recording original Cowboy Poetry. The award recognizes the poet. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

COWBOY POETRY BOOK OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) books. The award recognizes the author. **This is a juried award and will not appear on the final ballot.**

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

MALE POET OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) male poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses himself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. He performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through his performance.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

FEMALE POET OF THE YEAR Nominate up to three (3) female poets. This award is for the person who exhibits the ability to write original Cowboy/Western poetry or verse, who writes or expresses herself with imaginative power and beauty of thought, language and form. She performs original work but may occasionally perform the work of others to live audiences who showing the ability to enable audiences to develop a deeper understanding and appreciate of the Western lifestyle and history (with accuracy) through her performance.

Nominee #1: _____ Nominee #2: _____ Nominee #3: _____

Member Signature: _____ Printed Name: _____

Ballot must be postmarked or emailed on or before September 5, 2023 to be counted:
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or info@westernmusic.org

IWMA CONTEST RULES & GUIDELINES

Limited space is still available in contests scheduled
Saturday, November 12 during the IWMA Convention in Albuquerque.
To sign up for any of these contests, email marsha@westernmusic.org.

TEAM PENNING CONTEST

A committee will create a theme for the song and email it to the contestants two months prior to the competition. Be prepared to perform the song at the IWMA Convention on Saturday afternoon. The song can only be performed by the writers, with no additional musicians or singers allowed.

- A team will consist of two people (one musician and one poet recommended but not required)
- Songs must be no longer than 4 minutes.
- Because of time constraints this competition will be limited to 18 teams.

POETRY CONTEST

This is a contest to judge individual poets' recitations. Poets must recite his/her original poem. Reading is not allowed. You will have 1 ½ to 4 minutes in which to present your selection, including any introduction. Time will be called after four minutes. No exceptions.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Rhyme** (Avoiding slant rhymes)
- **Meter** (Adherence to uniform metrical pattern)
- **Form** (Uniformity of verse; consistent rhyming patterns)
- **Theme** (Appropriate Western theme, regardless of era)
- **Value** (Ethical, moral, principled)
- **Delivery** (Smooth flow of lines; inflection; diction; projection)
- **Stage Presence** (Interaction with audience; confidence, enthusiasm, attire)

HARMONY CONTEST

This is a contest to judge your group's harmony singing ability. An omni-directional mic will be provided. You may use one instrument of your choice. You will have 4 minutes in which to present your selection, including any introduction.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Technical Difficulty:** (Complexity, structure).
- **Vocal musicianship:** (Intonation, rhythm and phrasing)
- **Interpretation:** (Communication, style, diction)
- **Originality**
- **Appropriateness of song selection:** (Western music)
- **Stage Deportment:** (Appearance, personality).
- **Time allotment:** (The 4-minute time limit means 4 minutes).

YODELING CONTEST

This is a contest to judge your Western or Cowboy yodeling ability and instruments are discouraged. You will be judged on your ability to yodel and not your instrumental ability. You will have 4 minutes in which to present your selection, including any introduction.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Voice Pitch:** (Are you flat or sharp?)
- **Falsetto:** (Voice break notes clean and clear?)
- **Content:** (Format, Western-style yodeling?)
- **Intricacy (complexity):** (The more difficult the yodel patterns, the more points you will receive.)
- **Stage Deportment:** (Appearance, personality).
- **Time allotment:** (The 4 minute time limit means 4 minutes).



BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

By Les Buffham



For many years we have enjoyed the shenanigans told to us by our storytelling friend, Les Buffham. His article, *Buffham's Buffoonery*, has been a mainstay to this magazine. We are saddened to report that Les passed away on June 15, 2023. Les was inducted into the Western Music Hall of Fame in 2022. This will be the final column from this longtime friend of the IWMA and the *Western Way*. He will be missed by us all. Rest in peace, Les. We will meet again at the final roundup.

OLD GUY — SARDINES

I like sardines. Keep a few cases around to snack on. I didn't always like 'em. An old cowboy introduced me to them when I was a little feller, maybe three or four, growing up on the family ranch in northwest Colorado.

His name was Guy McNurlan and he lived in a dugout a few miles from our outfit so we'd see him once in a while. He was pretty much retired and living on Social Security. He had some kind of malady that messed up his hormone balance and caused him to get rather large, mostly around the middle and he must have weighed around 300 pounds.

He didn't own a vehicle so he relied on the neighbors to get him to the nearest town that had a doctor when he needed to go. Closer to home he traveled around the country by horseback. He had a couple horses that were pretty stout but of the short legged kind. Even so he'd lead 'em up to a stump or a rock to get on due to his weight. They carried him well despite his weight as he was a good rider and could help them out.

He'd ride one and pack the other when he had to go to the store and post office run by my aunt and uncle that was about ten miles or so away. It was a spot on the map called Greystone, population two. It's still on the map but just barely and I have no idea what is left of it. Guy would also make the rounds horseback to many of the neighboring ranches. He was always welcome and would stay a day or two. Neighbors sort of took turns transporting Guy to the doctor in the town of Craig, Colorado, (which I know is still there). It was a distance of 60 miles or so.

I guess on this particular trip Mom drew the short straw, because she took him along with all us kids in our old army 4x4. That was our only vehicle at the time. It was painted army green and had those old military type tires on it. It was quite a climb up in the bed of that thing for us kids.

We were returning from town with old Guy and was dropping him off at his dugout when he insisted we stay awhile and have something to eat. That's when the sardines came out. I don't know what the rest of them were eating, but me and Guy were chowin' down on sardines. It was the first time I'd had 'em and old Guy showed me how to fork them out on a cracker then shove the whole thing in my mouth.

I thought they were pretty good but I didn't cover them with Tabasco Sauce like he did. I knew what that stuff was like! I reckon we were on about the second can when he asked me, "By golly, Little Feller, do you know why these sardines are so good?" I shook my head 'no' and he told me, "*That's because they're cooked with the guts in 'em!*"

I dropped my last cracker and made a beeline for the door. I upchucked most of those sardines on the way to the old green 4x4. I climbed up in the bed of the thing and covered up with the blankets we always carried along where I finally went to sleep. I woke up when we were pulling in to our ranch yard on the Vermilion Creek.

It took a few years but I eventually developed a new taste for sardines. I liked to keep some in cow camp at all times. I knew they would always be there since my wife and kids wouldn't touch them. Reckon it might have been cuz I told them that the sardines are cooked with the guts still in 'em? 🐾



IWMA 2023

WORKSHOPS DEFINED

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9

Who Are These Guys & Gals Behind the Microphone? – Bobbi Jean Bell

WANTED: Recording artists, fans of Western music and poetry, and anyone interested in hosting their own broadcast. This is your opportunity to Meet The DJs! Come meet the folks behind the microphone broadcasting Western music and poetry to local and international audiences. Find out how a playlist is created and what they listen for in a recording. Here's your opportunity to ask questions...maybe consider starting your own show! Radio show host Bobbi Jean Bell leads an engaging conversation between DJs, the musicians and poets they play, and the fans who tune in. Come for the coffee...stay for the questions and answers!

Ultra Realistic Audio (URA) Applied to Western Music and Other Media – David Nidel & Todd Bacon

Ultra Realistic Audio: 1. Converts any and all audio from any source to true 3D audio with as few as four speakers compared to Dolby Surround Sound TM; 2. Sounds twice as loud as stereo, surround etc., with only a 1db. 1/6th boost. And yet does not penetrate walls, ceilings or floors at loud volume as much as any other audio format; 3. 3D audio is in perfect tact even far outside the speakers' field.; 4. Yields deeper bass and cleaner highs from all audio; 5. Tonal quality stays even anywhere you are.; 6. Has several applications for improving sound quality from recording, broadcasting, and other audio sources. We will be demonstrating examples of Western Music, Film, and Video Gaming that will contrast conventional audio with the converted enhanced Ultra Realistic Audio technology. Q&A will follow presentation as time permits.

Songs and Tales of Badger Clark, "Poet Lariat" of the Black Hills – Rex Rideout

Rex will sing songs of Badger Clark and tell of his life.

American Involvement In WWI As Told Through Songs & Stories – Michael & Judy

We will demonstrate and teach some representative popular songs of the era ranging from patriotic to comedic. Handouts of lyrics and chords will be provided. All instruments are appropriate; singers bereft of accompaniment will also be welcomed. Interspersed with the music will be stories of the doughboys and backstories of the songs and composers. Many of our soldiers were young men fresh off the farms and ranches of rural America. These are the songs that they listened to along with the rest of the world as they fought for the American way. We came up with this theme during the 2022 annual IWMA convention during which we attended the early morning Veterans' breakfast and were reminded of the 1918 Irving Berlin song "Oh, How I Hate To Get Up In The Morning." Join us to learn this and other standards of the time.

Mechanical Music Licenses – Dave Martin

What is a mechanical license? When do you need one and how do you get it? Plan to attend this informative workshop on how to avoid copyright issues on your recordings.

Sound Workshop: Using One Mic – Roger & Leo Eilts, Syd Masters

Tips on how to best use a large diaphragm mic in a live setting. Understanding vocal placement, instrument staging, and how to set one up if you are running your own sound. Learn how each member of the band needs to learn how to use the microphone.

Recording Workshop – Dave Martin

This workshop explains the process of recording your own project, from coming up with a realistic budget, to choosing and arranging your songs, and all the way through the mixing and mastering process. Topics will include (but are not limited to): Song selection; Recording other people's songs; Arranging the songs for the recording; Working out a budget; Planning the recording sessions; Choosing a recording space; Figuring out timeline and schedule for the recording; Capturing a great vocal performance; Editing and mixing; Mastering or not; The importance of album graphics; Song publishing and licensing; Distributing your album – DIY or using a distribution company like CD Baby, Tunecore, or Distrokid, and Creating a promotion plan. The goal of the workshop is to give attendees the information they need to plan on creating their own project.

Jam Sessions: What Are They and How Do They Work? – Roger & Leo Eilts, Ernie Martinez

What is the difference between a Song Circle and a Jam Session? Types of Jams. What are the Protocols? How about Tuning? Taking Breaks, (playing a lead). Things NOT to do. A little note about jam-busting. General jam etiquette for grinders (not pickers).

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Western Fingerstyle Guitar – Scott Tonelson

ScottT will share his talent, approaches, and insights into Western style fingerpicking guitar at this hands-on workshop. Guitar players of all levels are welcome to learn from this workshop. The goal: to help you learn basic thumb and finger picking patterns, basics of Merle Travis and Chet Atkins style guitar picking, how to use a thumb pick, and how to apply these techniques to your favorite Western songs. You can learn to play your very best through tips on tone production, hand position, fluidity, using your palm for muting, harmonics, and musicality. Bring your guitars tuned to standard tuning and any questions you want to ask!

Bass Workshop – Leo Eilts & Dave Martin

Types of Bases/What bass is right for you? Any of these could be either fretted or fretless and of different scale lengths: Traditional 3/4 scale Upright with 41.5" scale (double bass); Half-scale upright; Electric bass; Acoustic bass guitar; Acoustic/electric bass guitar; uBass or Ukulele bass; Folding upright bass (for travel); 4-5 String. Types of setup: Steel or Gut strings (upright bass); Gauge of Strings; Action (height of strings from fretboard). Style of playing: Straight root/5; Walking bass (and note choices); How the bass leads the band through chord changes: The importance of learning songs (not just "winging it"); Training your ear (especially when playing fretless). Charts: Different kind of charts and Learning to read and write them. Amplification: How to enhance the volume and tone of your instrument, do's and don'ts; Playing in a band or jam session. What's the bass players job? Survival guide: What to do when you've "over-played" and injured your fingers.

Guitar Workshop – Ernie Martinez

(Tribute to the song "El Paso" by Marty Robbins)

Learn the chords and lead guitar riffs of Grady Martin. One of Marty Robbins' biggest hits, this song will help to understand the Ranchero side of Western Music. This song will also help propel you into songs like "Big Iron," "Strawberry Roan" and many others. Bring your guitar and a recording source. For any level guitar player, this song uses chords D, G, A and Em.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 20



Tom Swearingen and Joni Harms

the Columbia Chapter's Youth Program. That program's Cowboy Poetry Contest is taking entries through Sept. 1. Open to 3-12 grade students in OR, WA, ID, and BC with details and online entry on our chapter website iwmacolumbia.org.

KANSAS CHAPTER

President: Orin Friesen
orin@rbanjoranch.com

Kansas Poet Lariat Ron Wilson was pleased with the opportunity to present an original cowboy poem for two U.S. Senators who had an event at the Wilson's family ranch near Manhattan, Kansas. Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman and Senator Roger Marshall held a listening session at the ranch where Wilson performed. Shown left to right: Senator John Boozman, Ron Wilson, Senator Roger Marshall. Kansas Jim John has a new



Shown left to right: Senator John Boozman, Ron Wilson, Senator Roger Marshall.

website, kansasjim.com. There you can find information about Jim and his artwork, along with information about purchasing his merchandise. Jim's CD, *One Poem at a Time*, is the auditory companion to his recently released book, *Cowboy Poets: Writers of the West*. It has ten selected poems from the book, recited by Kansas Jim's characters. It's available now. Roger Ringer's new book, *Kansanology*, is due to be released in October. Pioneer Bluffs: Center for Flint Hills Ranch Heritage will celebrate the National Day of the Cowboy on July 22, with music provided by Annie Wilson and Jeff Davidson. Jeff is also planning to be a part of the week-long Dodge City Days, which begins on July 29.

NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

President: David Nidel
David.nidel@gmail.com

Spring has been going great with the New Mexico Chapter. Summer is around the corner and Fall will be here before you know it! We are continuing to upgrade our web presence on our website, Facebook pages, and working on additional representation on other social media platforms. Recently we noticed that we had few brochures and

they needed an upgrade. So we got that done to circulate at events we host locally and statewide. Alexander Rivera has been a great addition to our chapter, sharing his graphic and web design expertise! On May 6-7 we put up a pop-up and table at the Rio Grande Valley Celtic Festival. Lee Peters and Judi Anderson helped with providing the pop-up and walls as well as helping man the booth. Joining them included Joe Brown, Bernard Carr, Jane Aubol, Betty Jo Carter, Ralph Estes, Tom Farrell, Martha Burke, and myself. Special thanks to Marsha Short for sending us additional copies of *The Western Way* to distribute. We have been honoring reciprocal agreements



Joe Brown and Bernard Carr preparing to meet the masses.

Continued on page 31

**Honoring God
and Our Western Way of Life
With the Finest
Western Music and Poetry**

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IWMA 2023 SONGWRITING CONTEST!

The second IWMA Songwriting Contest begins May 1. Anyone who writes songs is encouraged to enter. There is a nominal entry fee shown below in the rules and rewards section. Last year's winner was a lady who had written songs for her enjoyment but was not a performer; second place went to a professional songwriter. It just shows that anyone can win. Let's make this another great event for the IWMA this year. We hope you will get excited and will enter a song from your own pen.

1. There are two categories for the contest this year: secular cowboy/western song and cowboy gospel song.
2. Fee is \$25 a song or three (3) songs for \$50.
3. There can be more than one songwriter for a song, the prize to be divided between them as they see fit.
4. A lyric sheet must be provided for each song.
5. Judges will be music business professionals.
6. Grand prize will be \$1000, a free half-page ad in *The Western Way*, and a free Silver Spur Package for this year's IWMA convention.
7. Grand prize winner will get to perform the song on this year's (2023) Convention Awards Show on Saturday night in a featured slot where the \$1,000 prize will be presented.
8. Second Place prize is \$200 and an opportunity to perform the song on this year's (2023) Convention Friday Night Opry in a featured slot where the prize will be presented.
9. Contest dates are May 1-July 31. Entries may be received before this window but not later than July 31. Send to: meoteo@aol.com; or IWMA Contest, P.O. Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019.
10. Winner will be notified ahead of time but will not receive his/her award until the convention.
11. Songs must be ones that have not been previously released in a recording.
12. Songs must fall lyrically into the cowboy/western genre. *Song may be written to fit any musical style – rock 'n' roll, folk, Celtic, easy listening, etc. – but must speak to the life, work, nature, history, landscape, romance, etc., of life in the west past or present or to life lived in the west outside the city. Cowboy gospel songs must reference the cowboy or the west as in the style of Bob Nolan.*
13. Songs must be submitted by mp3 or on disc. *Songs do not have to be recorded in a professional studio. Song may be simply performed and recorded with a home device.*
14. Songs must be submitted with no more than two (2) instruments. *Judges will be considering lyrics and melodies, not performance of the song.*
15. Each entrant must be submitted with the full name(s) of each songwriter.

For more information contact:
marsha@westernmusic.org or meoteo@aol.com

Name _____

Phone Number () _____

Email _____

Song Title(s) _____

Email _____

Category: ☐ Traditional ☐ Gospel
(\$25 per song entry/\$50 for 3 songs)

Payment Information ☐ Check/Money Order enclosed

☐ Credit Card ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Credit Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Name on Card _____

Billing Address _____

INFO CONTACT: Marsha (505) 563-0673 | marsha@westernmusic.org | meoteo@aol.com

In Memoriam

DOUGLAS BROWN CARTER (1950 – 2023)



Douglas Brown Carter was born Wednesday, January 11, 1950, to Philip Hamilton Carter and Marjorie Brown Carter in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2023, at the age of 72 years in his home in Albuquerque. His

wife Betty, family, and friends are grateful to have shared wonderful memories with Doug in his final days. All who knew him loved his wit, personality, and desire that “everyone just have fun.”

Doug was raised in Old Town Albuquerque where his family lived, his grandparents owned La Placita and La Hacienda restaurants.

He graduated from Albuquerque High School in 1968, Covell College at the University of Pacific in 1977, and the School of Law at the University of New Mexico in 1985.

He had a gift for languages, being fluent in Spanish, German, and French; this giving him amazing value to the Albuquerque school system. Doug retired in 2015 after an outstanding career teaching at Rio Grande High School. Doug and his wife Betty were known throughout the national Western Swing community for their excellence in dance. Doug not only danced, but he also loved the costuming associated with it. He sported endless western, folkloric, Scottish, and German regalia. Doug also loved to read, travel, maintain freshwater fish tanks, and take part in trivia competitions. He was active in the following organizations: Irish American Society of NM, Edelweiss Am Rio Grande, German American Club, St. Andrews Scottish Society of NM, Western Swing Music Society of the Southwest, and the International Western Music Association NM Chapter. In 2016, Doug and Betty were the recipients of the IWMA Bill Wiley Award.

Doug is survived by his wife, Betty Jo Maes de Carter; nieces, Laurel Griffen (Josh) and Annamarie Cowart; nephew, Michael Cowart (Jodi); and brother-in-law, Shannon Cowart, and a multitude of friends and relatives.

STANLEY “GENE” TUSSING (1931 – 2023)



By Yvonne Tussing Ryan

A foundational component of the International Western Music Association has always been our many talented professional and amateur musicians, poets,

and songwriters. Yet, in order to remain vibrant and viable, our organization must also be built on two other foundational pillars – enduring fans and volunteers willing to support the organization through thick and thin. The latter group includes those who provide logistical and administrative support; promote our Western artists and their music via radio, printed media, and online; mentor and educate the next generation of performers; provide performance venues and opportunities via house concerts, festivals, showcases and open mics; and much more.

On Sunday, 28 May 2023, IWMA lost one of its most ardent fans and supporters. Stan Tussing (known to his family as “Gene”) passed away at 92 in his Summer home in Hudson, WY. Stan and his wife Alma have been passionate lifetime IWMA members, as well as members of every local chapter, since the late 1990’s. In 2006, they were awarded the Bill Wiley Award for their extraordinary dedication and support of IWMA and Western music.

Over the years, Stan and Alma have hosted numerous house concerts for both established and emerging Western talent. For the National Conference, they have organized silent auctions, volunteered in the Mercantile and Consignment shops, provided yearly Pizza Parties for the Youth members, and donated back to IWMA the “Painted Palomino” that graces the main entrance to our national convention in Albuquerque each November. As “Fans Extraordinaire,” they have traveled the Western US, attending many festivals in Albuquerque (NM), Tombstone and Sierra Vista (AZ), Cedar (KS), Alpine (TX), and Encampment (WY) – just to name a few.

However, these facts do not fully reflect the depth of love and regard that my Dad and Stepmother have had for Western music, culture and, most of all, for the people – many of whom have become wonderful friends throughout the years. Although my husband (Ray) and I grew up enjoying Western TV serials, movies, music, the culture, and its values, we had grown away from them as we progressed into adulthood. It was my Dad who introduced us to the IWMA, and we have never regretted it.

In closing, I'd like to tell you about the man I knew as my dad. He was ethically strong, generous to a fault, reserved, gentle, humorous, and friendly to everyone he came across. He was also very human. In spite of his flaws, which he was the first to admit to, he taught and modeled for me and my eight siblings how to be good people, work to achieve our goals, and respect others. In short, he was my HERO. I will miss his quiet ways, loving support, and most of all his wisdom – which helped me become who I am today.

Chapter Update

Continued from page 28

to have our chapter represented at fellow non-profit organizations sponsored community events and the organizers of those events such as this one and The Albuquerque Folk Music Festival are welcome at ours. Our efforts brought us the contact information of 34 folks to invite to future chapter events and pursue prospective membership. We continue to host our online Song & Poetry Corral on the 1st Monday of the month and our live Song & Poetry Corral on the 3rd Monday of the month at The Hopper Restaurant & Pub in Albuquerque. Dave Levenson continues to set up these activities for everyone to enjoy. Judi Anderson and Bobbi Jean Bell introduced the Opportunity Basket drawings at the most recent live Song & Poetry Corral as a way to fund raise for the chapter. This has turned into a fun feature that will continue at our upcoming events. There are two special events in July. We are looking forward to welcoming Kerry Grombacher and Aspen Black to New Mexico.

As part of their Southwest US tour, they will be performing for a chapter sponsored House Concert in Albuquerque following our July 16 Chapter Membership Meeting. On July 22, at 7:00pm at the Best Western Rio Grande Hotel we will be celebrating **National Day of the Cowboy** with an exciting program! This will feature the integration of written word presented by Western authors Johnny SD. Boggs, Melody Groves, and Don Bullis joined by the vocal and musical talents of Jim Jones and Mariam Funke. I want to commend the wonderful efforts of Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell, Betty Jo

Carter, Judi Anderson, Barbera Alt, Susan Buescher, Ollie Reed, and respective authors and musicians above for organizing and promoting this important event. In addition to the chapter events listed above, members Joy Allen, Dave Levenson and Margaret Crowl are hosting House Concerts throughout the season for various IWMA performers on tour. Several of our chapter performing members are touring as well to perform at various house concerts and festivals. Best wishes for a safe and healthy Summer!

OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

President: Robert Maxwell Case
robert@robertmaxwellcase.com

Our executive board is zeroing in on plans for our annual get-together and membership meeting at the end of summer. Present consideration is being given to moving the event to Slick, OK (Faith Baptist church's recreation hall) on a Saturday in late September. We welcome input from any and all of our in-state and out-of-state members. A few of us are hoping to drive north to Wichita to see our Kansas Chapter



National Day of the Cowboy Poster

Continued on page 34



A MUSICAL NOTE AND REVIEWS FROM O.J. SIKES

To submit your CD for review, send to: O.J. Sikes, 681 Ellington Road, Ridgewood, NJ 07450
Required: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number | **Questions?** You can email O.J. at ojisikes@gmail.com

Cowboy Sidekicks: More Than Meets the Eye (The Stories of Smiley Burnette & Pat Buttram)

B-Western movie fans remember **Smiley Burnette** and **Pat Buttram** as **Gene Autry's** movie sidekicks at different points in their careers. The story of how this came about is an interesting one. Smiley was Gene Autry's sidekick when they came to Hollywood together in 1934 for a screen test in a **Ken Maynard** film, *In Old Santa Fe*. Eventually, Smiley became so well-liked by moviegoers, he was named one of the ten most popular cowboy movie *stars* each year from 1939-52, and music may have played a role in his popularity. Smiley was a prolific composer with some well-known titles to his credit, like "Ridin' Down the Canyon" and "On the Strings of My Lonesome Guitar." He could also play practically every instrument that existed, and some that didn't (so he invented them, e.g. playing a jackassaphone in one of **Charles Starrett's** **Durango Kid** films).

Gene and Smiley had been an effective team from the beginning, but when Autry joined the Army-Air Corps during WWII, he started thinking about making some changes in his movies when he returned to Hollywood after the war. At that point, Gene was so popular he didn't think he needed a sidekick (**Tom Mix** and **Buck Jones** didn't have sidekicks), but he had in mind an actor named **Sterling Holloway** he could call on, in case Smiley was needed but not available when Gene returned. Eventually, that's what happened (Smiley was busy with Charles Starrett's series at Columbia, so not available for Gene's), but Holloway was not as well-liked by fans as Gene had hoped, so he was replaced by **Pat Buttram**, whose unmistakable voice had become a fixture on Gene Autry's weekly *Melody Ranch* radio shows. That replacement in Autry's movies became significant for the B-Western genre (the "B" in B-Western refers to low budget, not level of quality).

Pat Buttram was probably one of the four most popular sidekicks in Western movies and TV, the others being Smiley, **Gabby Hayes** and **Al "Fuzzy" St. John**. Of those four, only Smiley was musical, but the sidekick's music wasn't essential to a film's success. The same can be said for slapstick, even though these fellows were experts at it. The sidekick had to have acting talent, i.e., entertainment value. This was brought home to me when I learned that *Mule Train*, a Gene Autry film from 1950 *that elevated the role of the sidekick*, was named by the American Museum of Modern Art as the best B-Western film ever made!

Mule Train co-starred Buttram with his soon-to-be wife, **Sheila Ryan**. And the soundtrack had some outstanding music, "Room Full of Roses" and "Old Chisholm Trail," in addition to the popular title song, but Gene handled the music; Pat had to act, and it wasn't all comedy! [In case you haven't seen the movie, the DVD is out-of-print, but you might be able to find the film on the GeneAutry.com website.]

So Pat earned a place in history, co-starring in the genre's "best" film. As for Smiley, his contract for the Starrett series ended in time for him to make Gene's last 6 films as his sidekick. As Autry said at the time, he and Smiley had started out together "and we'll finish up together." The timing coincided with a near-fatal accident. A cannon exploded on the set during the filming of Gene's TV show, nearly killing Pat. Smiley stepped in to replace Pat in Gene's last movies, and **Chill Wills** and **Fuzzy Knight** took Pat's place on the weekly TV show, until he was back on his feet, 9 months later. 🐎

EDDIE DEAN

"I Dreamed of a Hillbilly Heaven – The Singles Collection 1934-57"

ADD CD3460



Singing Cowboy Eddie Dean was held in high esteem by his silver screen contemporaries.

Unfortunately, his Western recordings have not received the distribution they deserve in the years since he rode the Hollywood range. But the folks at the Acrobat label have done their best to find good copies of 50 of his "single" recordings from 10 different labels for this 2CD set.

Eddie's earliest records were recorded with his brother, Jimmie (not Jimmy, the sausage king), in 1934. They worked as a duo then, but soon after they recorded the duets in this collection, Eddie started working as a cast member in B-Western movies, while his brother became a member of the cast of Gene Autry's Melody Ranch radio show. Some of those early movies gave Eddie a chance to sing and some provided the opportunity to meet folks like Glenn Strange, who would become a friend and musical collaborator later on. In fact, they collaborated on one of Eddie's best-known Western songs, "On the Banks of the Sunny San Juan," first recorded in 1947. Eddie's 1956 modification of the song, with the new title, "Banks of the Old Rio Grande," is also included in this set.

The 2nd CD here contains more Western tunes than CD #1, but both contain many sides that have been "lost" all these years, so this set is a real "find." Many tracks come from old 78rpm discs, so the audio sometimes hints of "bacon sizzlin'

in the pan," but for many listeners, that just makes the old tunes sound more authentic. Andy Parker & the Plainsmen, who had been making movies with Eddie in 1947, back him on the first 7 songs on Disc 2, an unexpected pleasure. They were recorded that year for the Majestic label. Widely available online.

STUART HAMBLEN

"Honky Tonkin' Cowboy Songs & Hymns: Portrait of a Songwriter 1929-1962"

JAS MCD3797



I never met Stuart Hamblen, but my friend, the late Hal Spencer (Tim's son), told me he

practically grew up in Hamblen's house (they called him "Pappy") so I learned a lot about Stuart from Hal's stories. And apparently, Stuart was quite a character! Detailed liner notes for this disc, written by Paul Hazell, shed light on Stuart's fascinating life, starting with his early work as an award-winning working cowboy.

Stuart and his band, the Covered Wagon Jubilee, made the first "C&W" record Decca ever released ("Texas Plains," his own composition, recorded in August 1934). That one's not here (a later recording is), but there are a couple of extremely rare tracks in this collection that pre-date it!

His own recordings of some of his best-known compositions are on this new release, e.g., "This Ole House," "It is No Secret," "My Mary," "(Remember Me) I'm the One Who Loves You," "Don't Fool Around with Calico, When

You Have Silk at Home," and a favorite of mine, "Blue Bonnets for Her Golden Hair." Many of Stuart's most successful compositions were written about his wife, "Suzy," who delighted audiences at the IWMA convention with stories the year Stuart was inducted, posthumously, into the Western Music Hall of Fame. Available from your usual CD sources.

DICK HAYMES AND THE ANDREWS SISTERS

"Stay Tuned to Club 15! Vol.1"

JAS MINE



You might not think pop singers would be recording Western songs, but, in fact, they capitalized

on, and helped grow, Western music's popularity back in the 1930-50s. Dick Haymes and the Andrews Sisters were extremely popular when these radio broadcasts were recorded in Hollywood, and they put their own brand on a number of then-contemporary as well as older Western tunes. "Copper Canyon" is a title that was being sung and recorded by the likes of Bing Crosby, at the time, and "She Wore a Yellow Ribbon" became well-known as the musical title of a John Wayne film.

"Ragtime Cowboy Joe" had been around for a while, as had "I'm an Old Cowhand (from the Rio Grande)," and they lent themselves well to the styles of Haymes and the Sisters. Haymes even sings a lightly swinging version of Tim Spencer's then-new "Room Full of Roses," and he sings a great version of "Have I Told You Lately that I Love

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Chapter Update

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friends 3 Trails West perform at The Prairie Rose Opera House on Saturday, July 15. The show is at 7 p.m. and dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. It's a wonderful venue located at 15231 SW Parallel Street, Benton, KS (<https://www.prairieroseks.com> 316-778-2121). We want to congratulate all of the honorees



Bob Wills (courtesy National Cowboy Museum)



Gene Autry (courtesy Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame)

at the National Cowboy Museum's Western Heritage Awards held April 14-15 in Oklahoma City. Bob Wills and Lou Diamond Phillips were inducted into the Hall of Great Western Performers Bob Funk, Sr. of Express Employment Professionals was inducted into the Hall of Great Westerners, and Red Steagall received the 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award. Remembering when: The Oklahoma Music Hall of Fame in Muskogee inducted Gene Autry in 1998. Raised in rural Ravia, OK, young Gene worked in Bristow as a telegrapher for the St. Louis-San Francisco Railroad (Frisco Line), using his "railroad pass" to travel to auditions in New

York, Chicago, and Los Angeles. In 1928 he co-wrote his first hit record, "That Silver-Haired Daddy Of Mine," with his railroad boss and guitar mentor Jimmy Long in Sapulpa, OK.

TENNESSEE CHAPTER

President: Gary Holt
Gih50@live.com

Greetings from the IWMA Tennessee Chapter!!! It's been an exciting and super busy several months for so many of our IWMA TN members! Our secretary/treasurer Micki Fuhrman Milom's album "Westbound" was named Traditional Album of the Year by the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Wrangler Awards and she was presented the award at the Black Tie Gala in April in Oklahoma City. Mary Kaye Holt, as a two-time Wrangler Award Winner herself,



Western Heritage Awards Gala

was a celebrity presenter for the 2nd year in a row for the Wrangler Awards. Our 13-year-old phenom Phoebe White has received 4 nominations for the prestigious Josie Awards and Vice President Tecia McKenna Hedden has been nominated for Holiday Song of the



Phoebe White nominated for Josie Award



Tecia McKenna nominated for Josie Award



Country with Heart Poster

Year for her song "What on Earth". The Josie Awards will be presented at the Grand Ole Opry House in Nashville in October! Bobby Marquez presented his 8th Annual "Country With Heart" a benefit for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with this amazing lineup of super stars: John McEuen, John Schneider, Johnny Rodriguez, Dennis Quaid, Rex Allen Jr., Barbara Fairchild, Riders in the Sky, John Berry, Ballie & the Boys. The successful event was held June 10 during Nashville's CMA Fest! We're



Gone with the West

Continued on page 40

O.J. SIKES REVIEWS

Continued from page 33

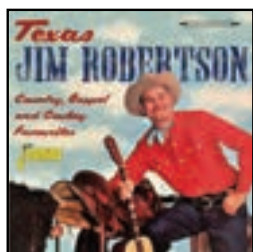
You" as a duet with Patty Andrews. But, for me, the real "find" in this collection, is a rather obscure tune composed by Dick's younger brother Bob Haymes, and Marty Clark: "Hush, Little Darlin'."

Available from your usual CD sources.

TEXAS JIM ROBERTSON

"Country, Gospel and Cowboy Favorites"

JASCD3796



Texas Jim Robertson made his radio debut in Charlotte, NC, and soon he was recruited by

NBC to begin a long career in New York. But don't let that fool you! Jim grew up on his dad's ranch near Batesville, Texas in the early part of the 20th Century. Later, his career involved a recording contract with RCA Bluebird and hosting his own TV show in NY, among other things.

Detailed, fascinating liner notes by Paul Hazell offer an excellent history and insight into the career of this Western (and country) performer who hasn't received much attention over the years, outside of the NY area, but who left his mark through these and other recordings. Unfortunately, some of Robertson's recordings suffered from inadequate, changing technology, as stereo was introduced, but the remarkably skilled Jasmine engineers did their best to cope, under the circumstances. The result is good listening, for the most part, and you'll find rare memorabilia in one or two instances.

Most of the recordings on this new CD were taken from Jim's 1959 recording sessions, which focused primarily on gospel and country material, but there are Western tunes as well, like "O Bury Me Not on the Lone Prairie," "Home on the Range," "Little Old Sod Shanty," "When it's Roundup Time in Heaven" and "A Cowboy's Dream." Available from your usual CD source.

BILLY STRANGE

"Billy Strange – Guitar for Hire: 1952-62"

JASCD892



Billy Strange was one of the most recorded guitarists of the last century. His work appeared on wagonloads of "singles," over 40 of which are here, but he was even better-known for his impeccable accompaniment of

artists like Tennessee Ernie Ford, and as a member of the legendary Wrecking Crew that backed so many artists, e.g., Elvis, Sinatra, etc., on hit records.

There are plenty of examples of his work on this 2-volume CD set, especially from the country and early rock music genres, but what is likely to have the greatest appeal to Western fans is Billy's studio work with an obscure group called Jim Malloy & his Range Riders, issued on the Golden Tone label. Their contribution consists of 12 sides, most of which are Western standards, but they also include the rarely heard, "Beside the Rio Grande." Why the group is obscure is a mystery to me, because they have a great "sound" and the leader's voice (presumably Strange, himself) has tremendous appeal. But apparently "nobody" has heard of them, perhaps because "Jim Malloy" was actually the name of the studio technician who engineered the session! Fortunately, Jasmine located this group's 12 tracks, and all are issued here, in pristine condition. Available from your usual source. 🐾

MAILBAG

Please tell Marvin how much I appreciated his insightful 'Presidential' piece in the Spring issue of *The Western Way*.

Best wishes
Colin Thursby
England



To submit items for review, send to: Rick Huff, P.O. Box 8442, Albuquerque, NM 87198-8442. Include: Album cost, S&H cost, Address, Phone Number. We also recommend you furnish a land source (Address or PO Box) as well as Online sources for obtaining product. Submitting a CD or Book for review does not guarantee that it will be reviewed or that a review will be published. Finalized CD or book cover art must accompany the work and be unsigned.

ASPEN BLACK

"Born To Be A Cowgirl"



For her new album singer/songwriter/author Aspen Black journeyed to the wilds of

Nashville. What she found were some fine session folks and, of course, Kerry Grombacher 'dueted' on a trio of tracks as well. They have periodically teamed onstage and on-record since 2014. Ms. Black brought her distinctive vocal styling and songwriting acumen to the project, and both are enhanced by the production here. Nicely there seems to be a focus on expression along with the balladeering.

Picks include the title track "Born To Be A Cowgirl," "Cowboys & Troubadours," "Where Cowboys Ride," "Blue Eyes," "Rolling Back," "She Rides," "Dreams and Lies and Love" and the duet "Hard Work." Not all the songs are Western, but they don't have to be! Overall, on both a content and a performance basis, I would name this one as Aspen Black's best release to date. Ten tracks, highly recommended.

CD: Information not available.

THE BLACK ACE

"Teardrops To Reality" (2-CD Set)



A meaningful thread in the fabric of Alberta, Canada's music tapestry

was the Jimmie Rodgers-style balladeer Allan M. Kirby, known to radio listeners of the 1930s and live audiences through the 1970s as "The Black Ace Yodeling Hitch Hiker." Long a fixture at the Calgary Stampede, Kirby was a prodigious songwriter. Thanks to the dedication of Kirby's daughter Marie, this compendium of his words put to fresh melodies (and some of his own) has been issued, providing "new" entries into the general Western Music catalog.

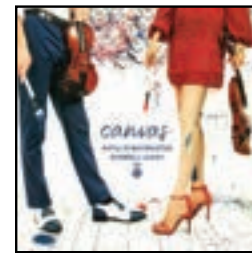
Eccentrically on this release the first six songs on Disc 2 are replicated from Disc 1, but there are twenty-eight songs here to pick from. Among the thirteen performer/composers featured are such familiar names as Vic Anderson, Jeff Campbell and Mark Munzert. Additional musical support was provided by John Thiel and Beau Hughes. Picks: "Old Moon of Alberta" (w/ Leanne

Copithorne), a feisty virtuoso guitar boogie from Jeff Gonzales "Ace Up My Sleeve," "My Bluebonnet Land" (w/Carolyn Harley), "Cowboy's Last Yodel" and "Will There Be Boxcars Up There" (w/Vic Anderson), "Desert Canyon Blues" (w/Charlie Ewing), "Lonely Guitar" (w/Aaron Hahn) and "Old Alberta's Chinook Arch" (w/Harold Roy Miller).

Recommended for interested collectors.

NATALIE MACMASTER & DONNELL LEAHY

"Canvas"



Of course you've heard the old expression "there are no new ideas." With their newest release

Canada's award-winning Natalie MacMaster & Donnell Leahy beg to differ. They write that their new one is a result of COVID sequestering and no limits. These performance and life partners are master fiddlers in the Irish (and, therefore, Western) tradition, but there is little that is traditional about "Canvas." There is much that is extraordinary about it!

Starting from the Irish-style fiddling platform, the pair brings their near supernatural prowess to bear in wildly inventive explorations of the musically possible. Appropriately they share credit for the end product to the performance collaborators... more than twenty en toto, including the renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma and especially arranger/performer and co-producer Elmer Ferrer. This release could serve as inspiration impetus for creators in many musical genres, including Western.

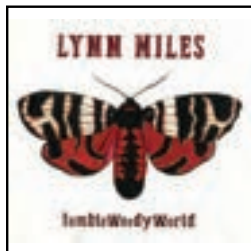
Thirteen tracks, very highly recommended for the musically adventurous.

CD: Available through
natralieanddonnell.com



LYNN MILES

"Tumble Weedy World"



Lynn Miles' unique CD title is part of a line found in her song "Palomino Pal." Many other

Western references are peppered through her all-acoustic album tracks. By effect the Juno Award and multiple Canadian Folk Music Award-winning artist basically hangs in a Western framework as she displays many pictures. Her dedicated coterie of fans would tell you this shouldn't come as news, but they admit Miles is a seriously underappreciated treasure.

Make no mistake. These are fine songs, as in "fine art" and "fine china." This is true in their construction, their execution and their arrangement. Then there's her voice...at once sweet, compelling and expressive. As album picks, we'll name the aforementioned "Palomino Pal," "Night Owl,"

"Hwy 105," "Johnny Without June" and "Cold Cold Moon," but the complete product is highly listenable and, yes, even dance-able!

Lynn Miles is firmly in control of her art and we are the beneficiaries. Ten tracks, very highly recommended.



DUANE NELSON

"The Girl In The Yellow Checked Dress" (Poetry)



It's nice to be able to name a Cowboy Poetry release as being a perfect one to use to

introduce newbies to the genre.

Duane Nelson's new one "The Girl In The Yellow Checked Dress" is such a release! Of course it may have to come with an *asterisk. (*Not all releases are as well done as this one).

These works (mostly original) are little gems. They are clear, relatable and meaningful, firmly rooted in Cowboy life and tradition. I get the feeling Nelson might be a short story writer or novelist at heart.

But his delivery seals the deal. He's conversational, just folksy enough, your host for the campfire visit. Particular picks include "Own It All," "Ridin' Old Bay," the self-appraising autobiographical "Romancing Lori" and the epic story of the title work "The Girl In The Yellow Checked Dress."

One note: Someone has dealt Nelson some technical dirt. The early (outer) tracks on the CD are cued together so tightly end words can get clipped, depending on the player used. At least that was the case on the CD furnished for

review. For the material, very highly recommended. Fifteen tracks.

CD: Available through contacting
duaneandlori@hotmail.com or
through facebook/meta



PANHANDLE COWBOYS

"True Blue Cowboy"



For those not up on them, the Panhandle Cowboys are an Idaho (!!)

duo and they effectively blend Cowboy Song and Poetry. It's a performance formula that has worked well for a number of teams before them. It winds up being a strong nod to the origin of the songs, which in many cases, would have been the stories/poems around the campfire. On mandolin and vocals is "Farmer Dave" (Fulfs) with reciting and co-writing duties handled by JB Barber.

Basically Fulfs' vocals reside in the Burl Ives/Doc Watson camp. Able musical supplementation comes from Dennis Weber "and the Track 7 (Studio) guys." There is a nice ratio of singing to recitation here. Song picks: "The Ol' Double J," "Dance With Me Cowboy," title track "True Blue Cowboy" and "Take A Deep Seat Cowboy." Poetic picks: "Lessons Learned" (or as Ian asked 'what does she see in that old cowboy?'), "Luck Of The Draw" and its thematically related song "Ride The Devil's Herd." Combo picks: "Best of Intentions" and "The New Outfit" (a nice lady Cowboy take). Overall this release ranks high among the Panhandle Cowboy's releases. Recommended, 16 tracks total.

CD: \$15 + \$3.50 s/h from JB Barber,
531 Hidden Trail Ln., Twin Falls, ID,
83301

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THE RIFTERS

"The Enchanted World"



Producer extraordinaire/singer/multi-instrumentalist Don Richmond, singer/guitarist (and

former Head Cowboy of the Philmont Boy Scouting Ranch) Rod Taylor and singer/composer Jim Bradley make up the superlative band The RifTERS!

The well-known smoothness of execution and gentle harmony of this beloved northern New Mexico group prevail again in this, their seventh release after nearly three decades of entertaining. The sweet presentation (the sugar) may help some stiff medicine to go down for certain folks. They just shouldn't be so "certain." A booklet with lyrics and annotations on song and selection inspirations is enclosed.

Original picks include Richmond & Taylor's "The Circle" and their "So Many Different Things;" Taylor & Teri McCartney's "The Perfect Dance" and the tough-minded "The Dollar Worth of Mother Earth" from Taylor and outspoken cowboy poet Waddie Mitchell. All four CD covers are picks: Andy Wilkinson's Max Evans-inspired "The Greatest Mystery," Eliza Gilkyson & John Gorka's "At The Foot of The Mountain," one that Hall of Famer Hi Busse always championed as being a Western song Haven Gillespie & Beasley Smith's "That Lucky Old Sun" and John Hartford's "Gentle On My Mind."

Fourteen tracks, very highly recommended.

CD: \$19.99 + \$4 s/h from The RifTERS, PO Box 825, Alamosa, CO 81101 or through rifTERS.net/product/the-enchanted-world

CARL VAUGHN

"Fifty Years Of Recording"



This retrospective collection nicely shows off the maturing voice of its artist. Carl

Vaughn and his band were packing them in, as they say, six nights a week at Fort Worth's Rustler's Rest club. When "fortune & fame" came knocking Vaughn signed with Monument Records in 1967 for a successful run. However, he found himself being propelled into a life he didn't want, so he decided to withdraw from the craziness in 1972 into a pace of recording and performing he could better control.

The grouping contains a goodly amount of Western Swing and Country Swing, but all the tracks should find dancers' feet wanting to participate. Folks with good memory will recognize the charting songs, regional favorites are included, and there will be discoveries to be made by all. Twenty-four tracks, recommended.

TJ CASEY

"Man Of The West"

(Book) ISBN 978-1-4563-0128-6



Wow! TJ Casey! 'Long time no hear from!

Back in 2020 the Montana singer/songwriter/educator/Cowboy Poet turned out a bound collection

of just what the book's subtitle says of it: "Stories, Poetry, Musings and Ramblings." Due to that start-of-decade shutdown, Casey apparently wasn't able to get his book's widest release under way, but now it's out of the chute!

All four elements of his subtitle are based in solid Cowboy reality, and the book is profusely illustrated with personal photos that place him squarely on the scene. A few prime examples of content: the apt definition "They Call You Cowboy," the sudden final justice dispensed in "The Rustler's Song," the autobiographical hard-learned life lesson "A Little Bigger Brain," the strong first-person recollection of "Montana Run" and Casey's line "a bunch of us boys wouldn't be here if not for 'The Chuckwagon Cook'" bears a double meaning. His own mom was one.

Sixty-six works (not counting musings) on 120 pages. Recommended.

Book: Available through tjcasey.net 🐾

NOTICE:

The following page contains reviews of some single releases. Published reviews of single releases will be only on space availability at the discretion of *The Western Way*.

Sampling The Singles

Megolith Records released its Spring collection of eleven tracks to be considered for airplay. Among them were three specifically Western oriented tracks: a new border love song from **Lonnie Spiker** done in the spirit as "El Paso" and "Border Affair" called "**Lo Siento Maria**" (the convicted cowboy regrets forsaking his pregnant love for living by the gun); Western imagery telling another story is the story in "**Patience Packs A Pistol**" from **Steve Kolander** (sort of a "Pistol Packin' Mama" for the 2020s) and there's a frisky Western Swing instrumental by **Hiram Posey** and friends called "**Chigger Ridge Rag**."

Our friend **Bob Marshall** has been shooting out singles like a sonofagun! Two are worthy Western tracks. In "**Ride The River With Me**" he uses colt training terminology to tell his proposed lady love he is "trying to learn all the cues" of getting along with her. In "**I've Got My Life Again**" he is happily ensconced in a high ridge line shack "washin' off that city life like a preacher cleanses sin!"

Singer **Jasmine Sean McDonald** has offered "**Train Station**," wherein the girl plans to jettison the 'cowboy' by taking him to the Yellowstone station because "I caught him cheatin' too many times like cowboys do!" Nuh-uh. Not the ones who practice The Cowboy Code! It's her fault for picking the ones in foldy flea market hats and dancin' boots!

Through a re-imagined arrangement, the hit song "**Starting Over**" from Chris Stapleton and Michael Henderson becomes a clever amalgam of the thinking behind "going West" for **Andy Cooney**.

But the arrangement, termed "Country & Irish" in the promotional material, comes off about as "Western" in sound as it gets. Singer/podcaster Cooney is a strong vocalist of some 30 years standing, possessing a solid tenor/baritone voice.

Real ranch cowboy and songwriter Chuck Cusimano can be counted on to create strong Western Swing songs. "**Shuffle Back To Me**" has been picked up by a strong vocalist **Anita Mackey**. Cusimano's song is a slow swinger fit for buckle bunnies and their intended wild hares! Nicely put together all around.

If you assess **Lonnie Bartmess'** tracks "**Chase Each Other 'Round The Room**" [w/**Lisa Layne**] and "**Nothing Like It**" along with his recent release of "**I Love It When She's Leaving**" you will find he has a strong Western Swing orientation with the traditional Western Swing instrumentation in place and handled the traditional way! Your dancing feet will thank you.

Smooth balladeers **Dan Washburn & Tomas Jackman** have created a strong and wistful song "**Longing For Ireland**." It's a harmonious gem. While not specifically Western save for a mention of "blacksmiths," this song's subject is one that dovetails with the familiar Irish cowboy-themed works – the forced emigration away from the terrible famine of the mid-19th Century. It brought thousands deep into the West with their music, native cowboying skills and natural longing for the emerald green hills of home. Incidentally it also brought my maternal great-grandmother Nancy Craig to Missouri as a child, aboard a covered wagon! 🐾

Chapter Update

Continued from page 34

excited to announce the formation of the all-girl super group GONE WITH THE WEST comprised of Tecia McKenna, Micki Fuhrman, Merna Lewis and Mary Kaye Holt! Watch for an upcoming announcement for their late summer "Tumbleweed Tour." People are touring, new music is being recorded and it's an exciting time in the World of Music with IWMA TN! So, saddle up and hang on! It's going to be an awesome ride!

WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

President: Mark Munzert
markmunzert@gmail.com

Western Wordsmiths Chapter is among the sponsors of the Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest again in 2023. Contest Chairman (and Western Wordsmiths' Secretary) Ron Wilson reports that this year's contest had 17 entries from three states in the qualifying rounds and is preparing for the finals. Western



Ron Wilson

Wordsmiths Jeff Davidson is on the Contest Committee and Betty Burlingham is a competitor in this year's contest. The Governor of Kansas signs award certificates for the top poets in the humorous and serious categories and the winners receive beautiful trophy buckles. For more information, see www.cowboypoetrycontest.com.

Miska Paget's "little children's book, The Rhythm of the Ranch, has been published and is ready to make its way into the world." Miska is not only the author but the illustrator as well, just email her at cowgirlvetpoet@outlook.com to grab a copy to read to your Grands! Many Western Wordsmiths attended the Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gatherin' (Depew, OK): Susie Knight; KC LaCourse; Geoff Mackay, aka Poppa Mac; Scott Wiswell; Rik Yonder Goodell; Audrey



Rik Yonder Goodell and Scott Wiswell

Goodell; Smokey Culver were among many others. Wordsmiths Seen at the Salado: Valerie & Floyd Beard; Terry Nash. Valerie & Floyd stayed in Texas a bit to host Poetry Under the Stars at The Western Heritage Classic in Abilene, TX. Dennis Russell performed for the Association of Women in Construction Regional Conference at the Broadmoor in Colorado Springs. Sherl Cederburg and Rik Yonder Goodell performed with the IWMA Black Hills & Beyond troupe at their first Showcase. Yours truly, Mark Munzert, has found some



Mark Munzert

new ground to cover as emcee for a few regional bands and events and had the opportunity to talk about the state of Cowboy Poetry with: Gary Holt and Bobbi Jean Bell on Equestrian Legacy Radio; and with Midwest Country Music Organization New Artist of the Year and DJ Angela Meyer on her Muddy Water Radio broadcast. Have a Blessed Summer!

YOUTH CHAPTER

Youth Coordinator:

Almeda Bradshaw

Almedam2b@gmail.com

Chapter members have been busy with end of the school year activities and lots of gigs. Many are planning to attend camps and have other summer fun in the works. Congratulations to high school graduates Kacey and Jenna Thunborg. This duo will be performing at the Arizona Folklore Preserve Youth Showcase along with Jack George and Bodhi Linde in June. The Youth Chapter is comprised of young people up through high school graduation and then as young adults until age 21 years from all across the country. They represent what is good about today's youth. This issue of the magazine features a cross-section of young people who love western music and poetry and are involved in the IWMA Youth Chapter. There are others, too, that are being mentored through programs offered through the IWMA regional chapters. We invite young people to contact local chapters or the IWMA Executive Director (marsha@westernmusic.org) to learn more, or join us in Albuquerque, NM, in November at the annual convention where special workshops, trainings and showcase opportunities are available for the youth chapter members. The Youth Chapter offers one more way to "Get Roped into Western Music and Cowboy Poetry!" and it's a good ride. 🐾

CLASSIC PROFILES

SOUNDS FROM THE PAST

(Recordings From Our Great Western Treasury That Deserve a New Spin)

BY RICK HUFF

We're proud to say that more artists are creating and performing Western Music these days than at any time in its long, illustrious history. Its legacy includes others who have helped to fortify the trail that Western artists of today continue to ride. The work of these trailblazers should continue to be celebrated, heard and enjoyed.

TOM HIATT

"Rugs, Wranglers & Rodeos"
(2005)



I've been a fan ever since encountering his house band at a Scottsdale Western theme park

steakhouse (where he impressed us more than the festival acts performing outside).

Tom Hiatt produces the same kind of vocal warmth with mellow familiarity that first endeared Gordon Lightfoot to the multitudes. Hiatt's mid-decade release stands as a wonderfully listenable exploration of mid-twentieth century Western and his own songwriting talents. He is also not afraid to recognize and feature Western output from Pop-Country....in this case folks like Lee Hazelwood ("Summer Wine") and Dan Seals ("God Must Be A Cowboy At Heart"). The title illustrates the sources. The "Rug" is Ian Tyson & Tom Russell's "Navajo"

one, the "Wranglers" were on the hips of Tom T. Hall's cowboy philosopher in "Faster Horses" and the "Rodeos" come from Chris Wall's hit for Jerry Jeff Walker "Rodeo Wind" and Hiatt's own "High Riding Rodeo Man."

You simply won't find better covers of any song he may choose to use. This album is a fine example of his work, but any past Tom Hiatt release could deserve an airplay resurrection. To learn more about his activities, visit tomhiatt.net.



SYD MASTERS & THE SWING RIDERS

"Live and Swingin'" (2000)



Yes, they are....and yes, they do! Anyone who has experienced the effect of this group

can attest to it! Perhaps it was at one of the November IWMA Swing Dances in Albuquerque. Maybe

onstage, or maybe it was Syd as a solo at a campfire. Personnel-wise, this CD presents and earlier incarnation of the band, although "Uncle Bob" Goldstein does swing in and swing out of appearances they make. But even back then, the prevailing sense of merriment was intact. The specific term "Cowboy Swing" has never been better embodied than it is here with its inherent acoustic combo makeup, sans brass, sans steel, sans fiddle and sans drums. The beat of Syd's rhythm guitar flicks is all a dancer could want!

A generous helping of twenty, always danceable songs fills the bill and there are a couple of novelty tracks present that are no longer part of the Swing Rider repertoire. That makes it "collectible," ya know! As of this writing, Syd and the band are still going strong, with some rotation of casts (but never quality). They are a reliable showband that never fails to please the crowd. This album is sporadically available from aftermarket sources. When you find it, you want it. 🐾

Reed's Reading

Recommendations & Book Reviews



Ollie Reed, Jr.

To have your book reviewed by Ollie, send a copy to: Ollie Reed, Jr., P.O. Box 2381, Corrales, N.M. 87048 or contact him at: olreed.com@gmail.com

E. JOE BROWN

A Cowboy's Destiny



Joe Brown, former IWMA board member and a Western music performer in past days and, on occasion, these days, turns his hand to fiction in this

novel about Charlie Kelly's amazing rise to fortune and prominence in the Southwest of the early 20th Century.

"A Cowboy's Destiny" is a rags-to-riches tale, a kind of horseback Horatio Alger story. Charlie Kelly reminds me to some degree of the Nevada Smith character in Harold Robbins' 1961 novel "The Carpetbaggers," although Charlie finds his way to success through ranch work, the fledgling oil business, and a fortunate romance rather than through the movie industry as Nevada did in the Robbins book.

Brown's novel begins in the summer of 1913 when Charlie is a husky 14-year-old living and working on an Oklahoma ranch with his father, mother, two brothers and a sister. Things would have been fine there except that Charlie's father, Joe, drinks too much and gets into fights.

One fight too many gets Joe fired, so the family picks up and moves to Fort Sumner, NM., where Joe and his sons find work on a ranch and the family settles in long enough for Charlie to graduate from high school.

But Joe hasn't changed, and a shooting scrape in a saloon has the family on the move again, heading back to Oklahoma. By this time, Charlie is 19 and fed up with trying to clean up the messes made by his dad. He takes leave of his family and rides off on his horse, Tony, to pursue his dream of working on the celebrated Miller 101 Ranch in northern Oklahoma.

Charlie does eventually land a job at the 101, and his adventures there include stopping a stampede, fistfights with an ornery 101 cowboy and a showdown with rustlers.

Incredibly, he advances from cowhand, camp cook and fence builder to a position of responsibility in the 101's oil business. His love affair with a beautiful woman, who had been married to the man who gave Charlie a break in the mercantile business, opens more doors for him.

Brown knows the geography and history of his novel's setting. What I enjoyed about this book is the time period, that twilight era when the old, wild West hasn't quite got a grip on the new, settled West.

Details in the author's writing give me a taste of that period, which I have always found intriguing. But I would have liked "A Cowboy's Destiny" more if Charlie had stuck with his dream of being a top hand on the Miller ranch. I'd been happier reading about him working cows than getting fitted for three-piece suits in Kansas City.

I found Charlie's breakneck rush to accomplishment and a life of luxury unconvincing. Sure, I get that his physical presence – a muscular 6-foot-5 – works to his advantage, making him intimidating to men and attractive to women. But the attributes that cause powerful men to take him under their wing do not appear to me to be exceptional, but rather the characteristics you would expect to find in any competent, responsible employee.

I get the feeling we have not seen the last of Charlie. Maybe my opinion of him will change as his story evolves. Maybe he'll discover that working cattle with Tony isn't such a bad life. No three-piece suits for sure.

("A Cowboy's Destiny," 9781951122379; paperback, 287 pages, \$17.95; Artemesia Publishing; available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](https://www.barnesandnoble.com), [bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) and other outlets.)

JAMES ROBERT DANIELS

Jane Fury



This novel is a sequel to "The Comanche Kid," which I wrote about in the Fall 2022 issue of Western Way. It is not my habit in this column to return so

quickly to the author of books I have previously reviewed, but something else I had planned fell through and this is my backup.

"The Comanche Kid," as you may recall, was a finalist for the Western Writers of America Spur Award in the traditional Western category. It told the story of 16-year-old Jane who tracks the Comanches who murdered her family and kidnapped her baby sister.

I liked that book. You'd be hard put to find a more gripping start,

and there is action throughout its 354 pages.

"Jane Fury" begins 15 years after the events of the previous novel. Jane owns a Texas ranch and is the mother of a 15-year-old girl as stubborn and inflexible as she is. You can imagine the friction and sparks.

In the first pages, Jane comes to the aid of an old trail-drive acquaintance who has been banged up in a fistfight he actually won. Jane takes the man, now a Texas Ranger, to her ranch house for nursing.

The ranger, known as Hard Luck, is still around when rustlers steal a large horse herd from Jane's ranch. Hard Luck, Jane, Jane's daughter, a Quaker physician, several other Texas Rangers and a few other able bodies set off after the horse thieves. This novel is built around the chase, which takes the posse into Mexico and all kinds of complications. One of these is a Texas sheriff, whom I'm unable to adequately describe

because I don't want to use those words in this magazine. Suffice it to note that he releases outlaws captured by the posse and locks Jane up instead.

But maybe the sheriff, despicable as he is, has a point. Jane is a complex character. Less tolerant reviewers might even describe her as insufferable. She all but slaps the teeth out of well-meaning people who try to comfort her during difficult times but displays compassion for an outlaw she has never seen before when he gets shot while resisting arrest. OK, she's a nut job. So much for tolerance.

"Jane Fury" has its moments, but I do not like it as well as "The Comanche Kid." The sequel may be a better character study, but the first book is more exciting, more moving, more memorable.

("Jane Fury," 9781957868424; paperback, 324 pages, \$19.99; Cutting Edge Books; available at amazon.com, barnesandnoble.com, bookshop.org and other outlets.) 🐾

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The Country Campfire

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KZNQ, Santa Clarita, CA

The Country Campfire

W 10 pm – 11 pm

Around the Campfire

TU 10 pm – 11 pm

TH 10 pm – 11 pm



TIMES ARE CST AND AIRTIME MAY VARY

Western Playlists – Reporters

Here are the DJs who submitted their playlists this quarter:

Joe Angel

KEOS
PO Box 1085
Del Valle, TX 78617
jangeldj@arhaven.com

Marshal Allen Bailey

"Trucker's Radio USA"
909 First St.
Windom, KS 67491
www.truckersradiousa.com

Bobbi Jean Bell (Poet Friendly)

"OutWest Hour"
KUPR, www.kupr.org
Out West, 8201 Golf Course Rd NW
Ste D3, #189
Albuquerque, NM 87120
"Campfire Café" & "Saddle Up, America"
Equestrian Legacy Radio Network
Co-host with Gary Holt
bobbiejeanbell@gmail.com
www.equestrianlegacy.net
661-714-0045

Skip Bessonette & His Pard Lucky

"Rogue Valley Bound Show"
2395 E. McAndrews Rd.
Medford, Oregon 97504
541-301-7649
www.earsradio.com
skipbessonette@gmail.com

Janice Brooks (Poet Friendly)

"Bus of Real Country"
170 Jodon Ave.
Pleasant Gap, PA 16823
Busgaljb@gmail.com

Peter Bruce (Poet Friendly)

"Under Western Skies"
KAFF Country Legends
FM 93.5/AM 930
1117 W. Route 66
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
928-556-2650
www.kafflegends.com
peter.bruce@kaff.com

Chuckaroo the Buckaroo

"Calling All Cowboys Radio"
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Community Radio
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http://kpov.od.streamguys.us/
calling_all_cowboys_new_56k.mp3
Email: callingallcowboys@hotmail.com
Station NFLY – No Fly Internet Radio/
The Flying SL Ranch Radio Show
radio.spalding-labs.com
22470 Rickard Rd., Bend, OR 97702

Roger & Leo Eilts

2821 W 75th Street, Prairie Village, KS 66208
"The Americana Road Show"
www.truckersradiousa.com
roger@thederrieres.com
816-769-4041
leo@thederrieres.com
913-226-3637
www.thederrieres.com

Doug Figgs

P. O. Box 3, Lemitar, NM 87823
505-440-0979
www.dougfiggs.com
www.RioGrandeValleyRadio.com

Nancy Flagg (Poet Friendly)

"Cowboy Tracks"
KDRT 95.7 FM live radio
and internet streaming (www.kdrt.org)
1623 Fifth Street
Davis, CA 95616
Email: CowboyTracks2@gmail.com
Website: Facebook.com/cowboytracks

Paul Hazell

PH Records
Royal Mail Building (PO Box 3)
Brambleside
Bellbrook Industrial Estate
Uckfield
East Sussex
TN22 1XX United Kingdom
"Paul Hazell's World Of Country"
www.uckfieldfm.co.uk
Uckfield FM (in the UK)
paul.hazell@uckfieldfm.co.uk
Telephone: +44 7775 545 902

Randy Hill

"Western Swing Time Radio Show"
5114 Balcones Woods Dr., Suite 307-387
Austin, TX 78759
(Plays only western swing)
westernswingtime@gmail.com
www.westernswingtime.com

Judy James

*"Cowboy Jubilee with Judy James and
Western Heritage Radio"*
PO Box 953
Weatherford, Texas 76086
judy@judyjames.com

Allen & Jill Kirkham (Poet Friendly)

*"Circuit Rider Roundup" on
"American Cowboy Radio"*
KJAG FM 107.7 Guthrie, TX
www.americancowboyradio.com
25353 S. Lightning Creek Road
Custer, SD 57730
(Plays Western Gospel music and
cowboy poetry)
Sunday 10:00 am & 7:00 pm (CST)
Monday 8:00 pm (CST)
KirkhamMusic@icloud.com
605-440-7338

Jarle Kvale (Poet Friendly)

KEYA Public Radio
PO Box 190, Belcourt, ND 58316
jkkeya@utma.com

Eddy Leverett

c/o Campfire Productions
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"Around the Campfire"
WKUL
www.wkul.com
kudzu cowboy@outlook.com

Butch and Christina Martin

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Grants Pass, OR 97527
Earsradio.com
KSKO Ashland, OR, www.KSKQ.org

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www.defendersoffreedomradio.com

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tunein.com/radio/KZNQ-Q-

Country-1015-s264146/

www.earsradio.com

meoteo@aol.com

10430 W. Loma Blanca Dr.

Sun City, AZ 85351

805-551-4649

www.musikode.com

Bob O'Donnell *(Poet Friendly)*

455 12th Avenue Apt 130

Baldwin WI 54002.

justbobswesternjukebox@gmail.com

O.J. Sikes

681 Ellington Rd.

Ridgewood, NJ 07450

ojsikes@gmail.com

KKRN, Redding, CA

www.earsradio1.com

Totsie Slover *(Poet Friendly)**"Real West From The Old West"*

AM 1230 KOTS Radio

220 S. Gold Ave.

Deming, NM 88030

575-494-0899

realwestoldwest@live.com

www.realwestoldwest.com

www.demingradio.com

Facebook/totsieslover

jj Steele*"Cowboy Corral"*

KLZR

103 2nd St., Westcliffe, CO 81252

Tommy Tucker *(Poet Friendly)**"Snake River Radio Roundup"*

93.1 FM/1350 AM KRLC Radio

805 Stewart Ave., Lewiston, ID 83501

208-743-1551

tommy@idavend.com

*"Keepin' It Western"***Wayne & Kathy***"Swing 'n' Country"*

KBOO 90.7 FM

20 SE 8th Ave., Portland, OR 97214

wkjswingandcountry@comcast.net

Attention DJs! Your contributions to *The Western Way* charts are welcomed.

Please send your playlist, including the song and the CD on which it appears, to meoteo@aol.com.

International Western Music Association

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Western Charts

Attention Musicians and Poets! Various DJ friends have reported their playlists for the last quarter, thus helping us compile these charts reflecting which CDs are being played the most on their radio shows. You will find a listing of those reporting DJs in this issue.

TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Bunchgrass – Wylie & the Wild West | 16. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way |
| 2. American Outlaw II – Chris Guenther | 17. The Enchanted World – The Rifiers |
| 3. Purple Sage (And Other Tales From the Plateau – Dan Canyon Band | 18. The Last Best West – Jim Reader |
| 4. Roll On, Cowboys – Andy Hedges | 19. Sugarfoot – Paul Kelly |
| 5. Times Like These – Randy Huston | 20. 5 From the Heart of a Cowboy – Tom Hiatt |
| 6. The Real West – Patty Clayton | 21. Which Way'd They Go – KG & the Ranger |
| 7. Westbound – Micki Fuhrman | 22. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris |
| 8. Cowboy Serenade – Ed Meyer | 23. Good Days Are Comin' – Jim Jones |
| 9. UneXpected – Phoebe White | 24. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington |
| 10. Arizona Stars – Rusted Spurs West | 25. Between a Horse and Me – Almeda Bradshaw |
| 11. The Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs | 26. Flower Songs in Sagebrush Town – Tracey Morrison |
| 12. Me and Les – Dan McCorison | 27. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher |
| 13. She's Leaving Cheyenne – John Lowell | 28. Old West Requests – Pioneer Pepper |
| 14. True Blue Cowboy – The Panhandle Cowboys | 29. Travelin' West – Allen Chapman & Rodeo Kate |
| 15. Cowgirl's Ride – Sarah Pierce | 30. 97 Acres – The Renfrees |

TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. Arizona Skies – Rusted Spurs West
2. Yearnin' – Jim Winters
3. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
4. A Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
5. This is Swing Country – Steve Markwardt
6. Devil on My Tail – The Hot Texas Swing Band
7. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
8. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
9. Dancin' With Swingitude – Grace Clark
10. Lone Star Fiddler – Ridge Roberts

10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. Ribbon of Darkness – Wylie & the Wild West
2. If I Could Love a Girl (Like I Love My Horse) – The Dan Canyon Band
3. Dreams Out Here Are Never Wasted – The Dan Canyon Band
Ode to the Cowtown – Chris Guenther
The Brave Line – Chris Guenther
6. Long Gone Out West Blues – Patty Clayton
Night Hawk Lullaby – Ed Meyer
8. Desert Skies – Carlos Washington
9. Born to be a Cowgirl – Aspen Black
River of No Return – Micki Fuhrman
Way of the Cowboy – Randy Huston
The Circle – The Rifiers

10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
2. Teresa Burleson – Between the Sun and the Moon
3. They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss
The Best Horses in Heaven, They Have No Tails – Miska Paget
5. Why We Cowboy – Rik "Yonder" Goodell
Drovers, Trbutes, and Heartbreaks – K.C. LaCourse
7. Circle Back – Kimberly Kaye
Pensive 'n' Playful – Mark Munzert
9. I'll Ride Thru It – Deanna Dickinson McCall
10. New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell

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REPRESENTS A TIE FOR THAT SPOT.**

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Mark E. Brown	Franklin, IN	Marvin O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Ken Bucy	Mesa, AZ	Theresa O'Dell	Sun City, AZ
Stephen S. Burnette	Brownsville, TN	Tom O'Malley	Harvard, ID
Robert Maxwell Case	Slick, OK	Darren Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
Susan Booth Case	Slick, OK	Sara Lou Oliver	Castle Rock, CO
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David DeBolt	Nolensville, TN	Roger Ringer	Medicine Lodge, KS
Rich Dollarhide	Sierra Vista, AZ	LeeLee Robert	Paradise Valley, AZ
Arllys Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Jessie D. Robertson	Fort Worth, TX
Dave Eaton	Scottsdale, AZ	Patricia Robinson	Tucson, AZ
Fred Engel	Kimball Junction, UT	Roy "Dusty" Rogers, Jr.	Lampe, MO
Brad & Bonnie Exton	Hot Springs, SD	Elizabeth Rukavina	Arleta, CA
Robert E. Fee, Esq.	Tucson, AZ	Lori Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Juni Fisher	Franklin, TN	Mike Rutherford	Sierra Vista, AZ
Rick Flory	Paradise Valley, AZ	Ray Ryan	San Jose, CA
Norbert Gauch	Walzenhausen, Switzerland	Yvonne Ryan	San Jose, CA
Dick & Dixie Goodman	Sun City West, AZ	Mary M. Ryland	Albuquerque, NM
Douglas B. Green	Brentwood, TN	Suzanne Samelson	Thermopolis, WY
Betsy Bell Hagar	Mill Valley, CA	Rudolf P. Schai	Bernhardzell, Switzerland
Jerry Hall	Porterville, CA	Hank Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Patti Hamel	Petoskey, MI	Sharyn Sheffer	Apache Junction, AZ
Tex Hamel	St. Ignace, MI	O.J. Sikes	Ridgewood, NJ
Les Hamilton	Dubois, WY	Lindy Simmons	Mancos, CO
Calvin Danner Hampton	Amarillo, NM	Cowboy Jerry Sooter	Apple Valley, CA
Lisa Hampton	Amarillo, NM	Julie Spencer	Pacific City, OR
RW Hampton	Amarillo, NM	Dave Stamey	Orange Cove, CA
Joe Hannah	Visalia, CA	Cheryl Stanley	Roswell, NM
Lon Hannah	Visalia, CA	Red Steagall	Fort Worth, TX
Joni Harms	Canby, OR	Bob Taylor	El Cajon, CA
Eddy Harrison	Las Cruces, NM	Steve Taylor	Roy, UT
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Paul Kelly	Santa Fe, NM	Harvey Walker	Anaheim, CA
Karen L. Killion	Forney, TX	Carlos Washington	Youngstown, NM
Ray Kraft	Loomis, CA	Washtub Jerry	Fort Davis, TX
Fred LaBour	Ashland City, TN	Leonard Werner	Flemington, NJ
Jane Leche	Westcliffe, CO	Johnny Western	Mesa, AZ
Paul Lohr	Nashville, TN	Norman Winter	Mills, WY
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