
PRESS RELEASE: KERRVILLE UNIVERSITY SONGWRITERS CONTEST

For more information contact Gary Varner: g-varner@philosophy.tamu.edu, (979) 845-8499,
Stuart Vexler: s.vexler@twobits.com, or
Dalis Allen dalis@dalisbooks.com

Area college student songwriters are invited to enter the sixth annual Kerrville University Songwriters Contest. A competition to select a representative from Bryan-College Station area colleges (including Texas A&M, Sam Houston State University, and both the Bryan and Brenham campuses of Blinn College) will be held on Saturday, May 3, at Revolution in downtown Bryan, beginning at 6:00 p.m.

The winner will be included in a special concert during the Festival, showcasing university student songwriters from around central Texas. That concert will occur on Friday, June 23, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Threadgill Theater on the Festival grounds.

The Kerrville Folk Festival runs 18 consecutive days in May and June on the Quiet Valley Ranch south of Kerrville, Texas. Famous for its emphasis on songwriting, the festival features a three day songwriters school, and the all-night campground song circles that follow the daily stage concerts are legendary.

The University Songwriters Contest is the brain child of Stuart Vexler, an Austin psychologist and chairman of the Festival's Board of Directors. For years, Vexler has organized a multi-day music school for teachers as part of the festival. He thought that a concert featuring student songwriters would be a natural extension.

Previous representatives from our area were Shane Walker (founder of the group Sidehill Gougers), J Goodin, Jenny Morgan, Becky Kessler, and Megan Ochoa.

"Kerrville is the longest consecutively running folk music festival in North America with the second largest annual attendance," said Andrew Seidel of Bryan, who is chairman of the Board of Directors for the Quiet Valley Ranch, which hosts the festival, and another judge for the May 3 competition in Bryan. He added that representing our area at the festival would be "a highly valuable opportunity for a songwriter to meet others in the field, some new and some long established."

The contest is open to any currently enrolled college student who will be able, if selected the winner, to perform at festival. To enter, contact Gary Varner by email (WyldeHare@hotmail.com) or phone (846-0250), or visit this web site: <http://philosophy.tamu.edu/~gary/kerrville.html>.

Approximate word count = 350
