

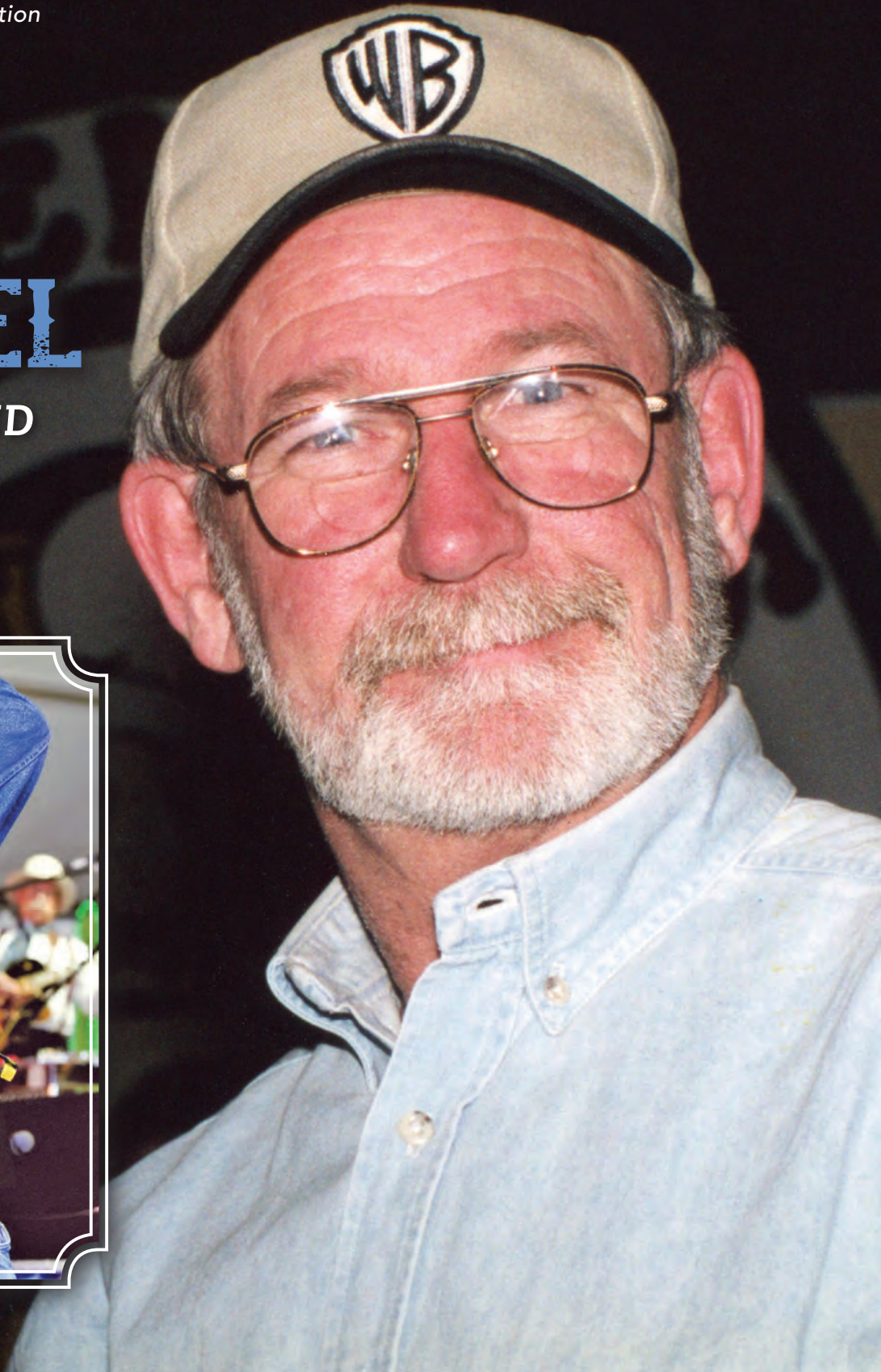
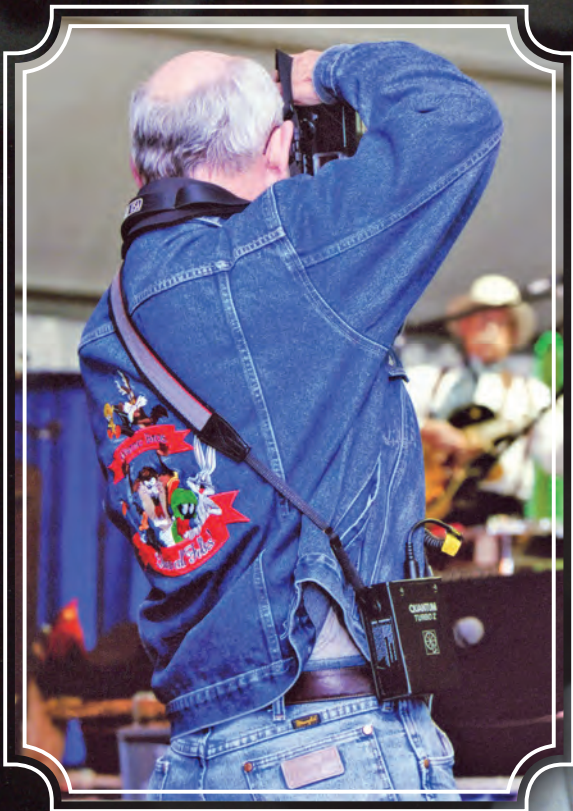
# THE WESTERN WAY

*The Official Publication of the International  
Western Music Association*

## JACK HUMMEL

**THE MAN BEHIND  
THE CAMERA**

**PAGE 6**





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## From The President...



Robert Lorbeer  
IWMA President

## ROBERT'S RAMBLINGS

In some ways, what is going on now seems to be what happened when Covid struck our nation, and everything shut down. Then, to prevent catching or spreading, we all had to stay at home. Essentially, there were no events for IWMA performers.

Now the cost of everything, especially gas/diesel has skyrocketed to prices that have never been seen before. Most of the venues are still going, but with smaller turnouts, and that impacts our performers. These are things that the venues and our performers have no control over. Hopefully, this too shall pass, and sooner rather than later.

In spite of all the setbacks, the Board is moving forward with plans and progress to keep the organization relevant in our ever-changing world. For instance, the Board and the Hall of Fame committee is working to update criteria for HOF induction. The goal will be to always honor and remember the past, those who laid the foundation but to also recognize the present, those who are continuing to keep alive the music, poetry and culture of the West. More information will be made available over the next months.

IWMA2022 is moving forward, full steam ahead. We hope you will make plans to attend this year. There will be some new things, but all the usual activities will be on the schedule (see the preliminary schedule in this issue!).

Just a word of caution... there are so many scams out there and we don't want you to fall prey to them. Check carefully when receiving emails asking members to "do him a favor" and send money or gift cards. This is NOT how IWMA conducts its business. When in doubt, don't!

And finally, I want to recognize a dear friend of IWMA, Jack Hummel. I am confident that everyone who ever attended an IWMA Convention, Jack took a picture of you. He was a friend to everyone, gracious to all and generous with his camera and photos. Jack will be missed, and our condolences are extended to his life's partner, Voleta.

Robert Lorbeer  
*President IWMA*



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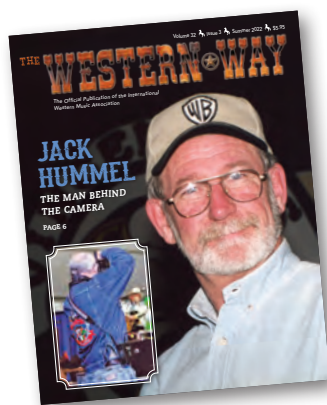
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### ON THE COVER...

We knew him as the "man behind the camera," and a good one he was! But he was so much more – a devoted husband, a true and loyal friend, a patriot and wartime veteran, an encourager to all, and a genuine supporter of the IWMA's mission and vision. Jack Hummel will be missed but not forgotten.  
(Cover images restored by P.S. Tchekassky)

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Theresa O'Dell  
Editor

# The “MRP” Performer

I recently received a piece of literature that used a phrase that grabbed my attention...“market-ready professionals (MRP).” I really liked the sound of it! Although they were using the

phrase in the context of education and preparing students for the future, I thought of us. It is a description that could be applied to all that we are and do in the IWMA.

As I pondered the phrase, I asked myself what it might take to be market-ready in our world today as it relates to music, writing, performances, event planning, or even appearance. The way my mind works, I jotted down just a few non-flashy words that might possibly define the phrase.

---

**Diligent** – focused and committed without faltering

**Prepared** – capable to keep going in spite of unforeseen distractions or unexpected circumstances

**Extra Ordinary** – doing ordinary things extra times, and extra well

**Schooled** – stretching the boundaries of what is already known (music, performance skills, writing) and conquering what may not be familiar (new instruments, business acumen, marketing skills, technology in all forms)

**Personal care** – overall well being that keeps an equilibrium in place for busy careers, family, travel, personal health and personal appearance

I know the list could go on and these areas overlap. So, create your own (honest) list of defining terms. Ask yourself, “Am I a market-ready professional?” “What sets me apart from others?” “Am I ‘market-ready’ but maybe I lack the ‘professional’ piece?”

Whatever your own (honest) answer, make a second list of what it will take to get you where you want to be. Probably most importantly, set a goal to become a market-ready professional. By doing so, you will raise yourself and your career to the next level and you will also raise the bar for others who come alongside to also support the mission of the IWMA.

Many of you have had time these past months and used it to advance to become an “MRP.” Doors are beginning to open now; performance opportunities are out there. Be the ‘professional’ that will be in demand as venues search to bring music and poetry back to their communities. I think they will choose those who are ‘market-ready.’

*Theresa*



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--Dana Joseph, Cowboys & Indians.

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## From The Executive Director...



Marsha Short  
Executive Director

It's that time of year again. The IWMA Convention is November 9-13 and the schedule and ticket order form are in this issue of *The Western Way*. A more detailed schedule can be found at [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org) as well as a link to make reservations at the Hotel Albuquerque. And you can buy your tickets online, too.

We're very excited about this year's program. Wednesday's opening luncheon will have a very special presentation by IWMA Hall of Fame Member and member of the IWMA Advisory Board **Ranger Doug from Riders In The Sky**. That night Syd Masters & The Swing Riders will have everyone up and dancing (or at least tapping their toes).

Thursday night is the annual IWMA Benefit Dinner and Concert with another IWMA Hall of Fame Member, Dave Stamey. Last year's opportunity drawing before the dinner was a huge success and we're having another one this year.

This year there are more showcases and contests. The workshops scheduled will be informative and even a little entertaining. The Awards Show is scheduled Saturday night and it's always packed with good entertainment and lots of surprises. We wind it all up on Sunday morning with a Gospel Concert. Be sure to make plans to stay through this uplifting event.

Speaking of awards, there is a Nominations Form in this issue. Be sure to nominate your favorite performers and their music. You don't have to nominate three people or nominate in every category. Let your thoughts be known. The final ballot will go out to all voting members in mid-September.

*See you all in Albuquerque!*

*Marsha*

*Our hearts go out to the city of Uvalde, Texas. Dale Evans was raised there, and I'm sure she never imagined something so horrific would happen in her quiet little town. Hug your loved ones extra tight!*



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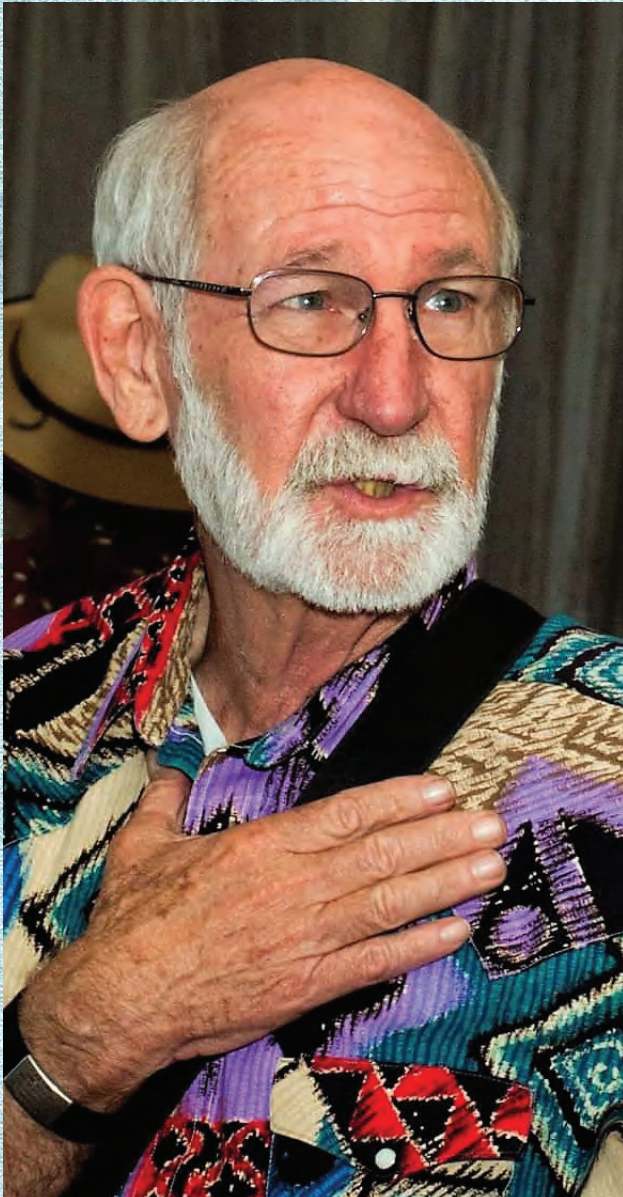
- Arizona Folklore Preserve – Sierra Vista, AZ
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- Tigard Public Library, Tigard, OR
- Rex Allen Arizona Cowboy Museum – Willcox, AZ
- IWMA Chapters at Local Gatherings and Festivals
- [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org)

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# Remembering the Man – Jack Hummel



*By Steve Justus*

Within the context of Western Music, there are so many of you who have known Jack for a great many more years than the 20+ years that he and I have been friends. So many of us call him friend, and so many call him a close friend. That's a testimony to the kind of person he was. Considering the fact that our two families live in the same community and only 80 paces apart, you could say that we were "close". That's only a geographical reference. For the last 15 years, we saw each other almost every day. We certainly shared a love of the West, especially the Southwest, its music, and the performances. There was much more to Jack than his countless hours taking and editing pictures and supporting the Association or the California Chapter. Others can tell of the long history of his and Voleta's dedication to, and service for, the IWMA.

This story to me is really, "what a difference that day made". There was that day when Jack met my mother. Each was born in a small Texas town a mere 4.5 miles apart, connected by the farms, ranches and families. Jack and my mom discovered that each had a cousin married to the other's. That day we discovered how small the world can be. Listening to the stories and names from them, that day our families became even closer. We re-discovered the small-town life of many years ago. From that day, Jack shared the hometown newspaper with my mom. Thinking of that



Northeast Texas country, it is fitting that one of Jack's favorite songs was "Dusty Road", by Dave Stamey.

That day long ago when we discovered that we are avid photographers, with Jack at a professional level. Jack and I talked camera equipment and technique, probably much like when musicians talk of their instruments and craft. We traded info about wildlife sightings and other photo ops, sometimes hiking to or driving to out-of-the-way sites. Given my work with the Tejon Ranch Conservancy, I was sometimes able to take Jack with me on my projects such as monitoring a resident herd of Pronghorn. We took pictures of any interesting plant, wildflower, critter, or vista. Jack had always sought the elusive Golden Eagle. Then there was that day a few months ago when he saw five! Then there was that day. The very day before we were scheduled for our last trip on the Ranch that he took the bad turn.

***He truly loved the music,  
the performances, and loved  
being around the performers  
and the events.***

Going back, there was that long-ago day when Jack came upon me as I returned from a long, dirty day on one of the ranches. He was immediately interested in what I had been doing, then he asked, "Hey, do you have any interest in Western Music"? That day I learned how insightful he was!

There were many "that days", as there always are. Over the years, I discovered that Jack was a person with integrity, who always met a commitment, and a man who could discuss issues and be respectful to opposing views. Maybe that was easier because we all loved the same baseball team! He excitedly shared knowledge, was truly a teacher, and listened intently to others. I watched the teacher many times. He truly loved the music, the performances, and loved being around the performers and the events. He and Voleta would travel far and wide for the music. Have there been many who have worked harder for the IWMA year in and out than Jack and Voleta? He never left before the last song ended..... See you down that dusty road, my friend.

*By Belinda Gail*

**A**s I began this brief tribute to my precious friend Jack Hummel, my dilemma was where to start! Should it be his selfless, tireless dedication to our IWMA organization, his generosity in sharing and blessing us all with his talents, or perhaps his quick wit, smile, and ever ready hug and kiss on the cheek? I settled on what was most precious to me, his friendship. From the moment I met Jack and Voleta (I always think of them as 'Jack and Voleta', always a team), I felt like I had known them my whole life!! They love Western Music and poured-out their love and support and encouragement on performers and fans alike, including me. I joined the IWMA in 1995 and met them early in 1996. As a total newbie I knew no one and there was no way I could afford professional promo pictures, but no problem! Jack and Voleta introduced me to all their friends in the IWMA and Jack generously did all the photography on the photoshoots that produced the first six of my promo photos ... for free. Additionally, without my asking, he constantly sent me a supply of candid photos of me with fans, friends, and performances which I gratefully used in promoting my career and cherish to this day. He and Voleta also graciously opened their home to me whenever I was in SoCal. The first time they invited me was especially touching because we had just met, literally, we had just been introduced! I was immediately drawn in by their kind open manner and engaging Texas drawl. I asked for their advice on a good, inexpensive place to stay in their neck of the woods for my next gig and they said ... how about free, would that work for you? So, the next weekend I was staying in their home!!! What is most precious to me is that Jack, Voleta and their amazing dog Rowdy quickly wrapped me into their life as 'family'! They had no family in California, so more often than not they spent Thanksgiving as well as part of Christmas with us in our home. We have spent hours sharing our love of music and the IWMA, talking and laughing. A LOT!!! Bottom line, Jack was a devoted and loyal friend and I have more precious memories of him than I can capture in this limited space but suffice it to say I am really, REALLY going to miss him!!!! I know our entire IWMA 'family' will as well!! He will always hold a precious place in our hearts. In Loving Tribute.





*He leaves an empty saddle that can't be filled by anyone else. Jack was so generous with his talents. There were many times he mailed us prints of his best shots of us performing, some of which made it into our promo materials over the years. He made us feel welcome and important when we were newcomers to the Western Music scene, and then over time became a true friend. We'll really miss him. – KG AND THE RANGER*



*Everyone needs a Jack Hummel in their life! We are so grateful that Jack, with his camera and Voleta at his side, embraced us as he did – encouraging us in our business and covering all OutWest's live events - music, art, and literature. They were a BIG part of the success of the popular SCVTV Presents The OutWest Concert Series. Not only did he capture the concerts on camera but together they encouraged our partnership with the IWMA California Chapter, offered suggestions on the performance schedule, and provided valuable insights on how to grow the Series. One of the ways we thanked them was the presentation of our store's OutWest Creed Award. What we'll really miss is his impish smile, the twinkle in his eye when he saw us, his sense of humor and his deep love for all things Western and all of us! – JIM AND BOBBI JEAN BELL*

*Jack was a great supporter of the IWMA Youth Chapter. Every year at the convention he always wanted to get that perfect group photo of the youth members who were present, knowing full well it was like herding cats. I always appreciated his patience. His friendly personality, longevity with the organization and passion for capturing the IWMA's greatest moments will be hard to replace (if at all) and it's difficult to imagine the convention and the IWMA moving forward without him. He will truly be missed. – JANE LECHE, Youth Chapter Coordinator*





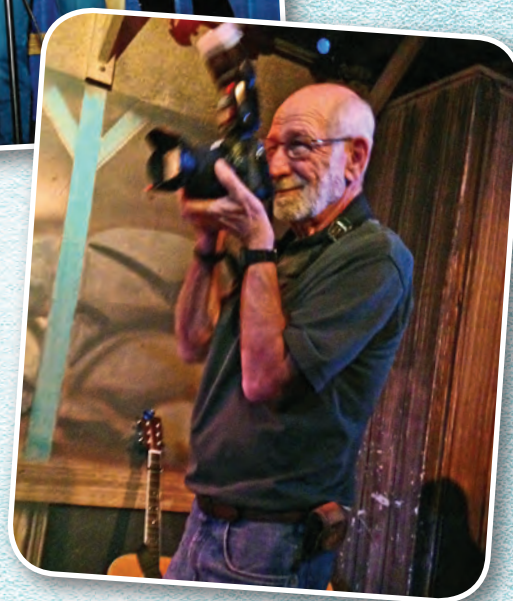
Being a mean-spirited person is easy – anyone can do it. But I believe that only strong people – people with inner strength – can be kind. Jack Hummel was a very kind gentleman, and I'll always miss him. A quote by the great poet Maya Angelou applies to Jack. She said, "People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did. But people will never forget how you made them feel. Jack always made me feel welcome in the world, and I am very grateful to have had him my life. – **GRACE CLARK**



Jack was a good friend for over 30 years. His photos documented the growth of the IWMA from the start. I always looked forward to seeing him at the conventions, but there was little time to talk as he was always "on call" to catch someone or a performance on film. Many grateful friends will also remember that he and Voleta were generous hosts to weary travelling musicians in need of a place to sleep (lots of fun stories there). We will miss him – a lot! – **O.J. SIKES**



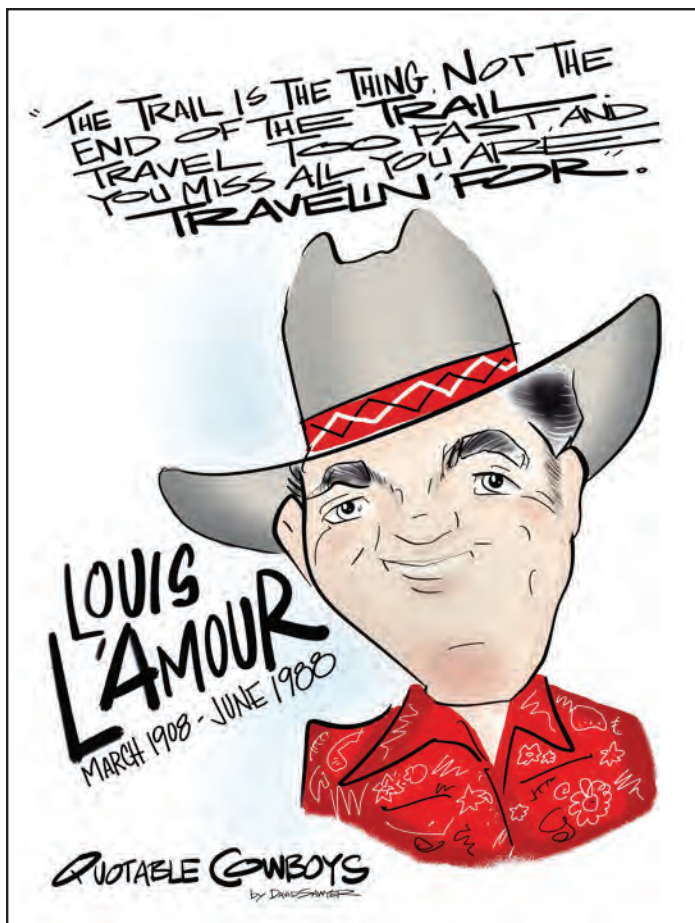
So sad to hear of his passing. He was such a sweet, humble, and talented man. He will be very missed. – **THERESA HANSON UNTALAN**



I first met Jack Hummel in the summer of 2009 when I attended my first Sunday Jam (now the Showcase) of the then Western Music Association California Chapter at The Autry Museum of the American West. Jack was taking pictures of the performers. After the performance, I introduced myself to Jack and asked if he would kindly send me a picture of me while singing one of my songs. We stood and talked for quite a while and from that conversation we developed a friendship. Through the years Jack, his wife Voleta and others would visit after the Jam. Jack was always gracious with his time. He came out to various locations and took photographs of me. Several of which I used on my album covers. Jack was involved with the Western Music Association and the local California chapter from the early days. He served as the California Chapter treasurer and through the years served as President and Vice President. He was my friend and a good one. I shall miss him. – **BOB THOMAS**

I met Jack and Voleta at the Autry Museum about 1989-90 The WMA was newly formed and the Museum was in its first year or two. I'm very satisfied to be a founding member of both organizations. The California Chapter was fostered by Mary Ann Reaules, artist and museum administrator, and western music person. There was Jack and Voleta ready to go and do whatever had to be done to build the chapter and the Association. Voleta was the work gal and go getter. Jack, always there with a nice smile and a twinkle of the eye. Always camera ready. It has been many years and many events, shows, festivals etc., that I have seen and visited with Jack. Always camera ready and as nice and pleasant a man as I have known. We are friends. I will, as you will, miss Jack, that sly smile and eye twinkle but none of us will forget the spirit that is Jack. – **MIKE MAHANEY**





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# 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.



---

## THE BISON

by Tom Hawk

---

*From Canada to Mexico the bison herds would roam  
In search of graze and water on their migratory home.*

*The cycle of the seasons saw them move across the plain,  
So many millions in the herds not hindered by terrain.*

*\The prairie grass remembers when the bison herds ran free,  
No town, no fence, no road was there, no immigrant to see.*

*The Buffalo, the Blue Stem, and the Switch Grass all grew there,  
The Side Oats and Blue Grama were the bison's fav'rite fare.*

*The wind that whispered through the grass had its own tale to tell  
Of bison sounds, the bawling calves, and their distinctive smells.*

*The wind that carried winter snow and summer's soaking rains,  
To feed the grass that grew upon the bison's roaming plains.*

*The rivers, streams, and creeks can also join this reverie,  
Their cooling waters gave the herds refreshment that was free.*

*Their flooding waters soaked the ground for seeds of cottonwood  
To propagate those welcome trees where water always stood.*

*The cottonwoods and willow can remember just as well  
When bison roamed the open plain o'er grassy hill and dell.*

*Though cottonwoods and willows needed water to sustain,  
Their presence offered scratching posts and shade from sun and rain.*

*The prairie hawk and meadow lark flew on the untamed breeze,  
They soared above the grazing herds on graceful wings with ease.*

*They warbled up their lovely songs for all around to hear  
And signaled to the bison when they saw a danger near.*

*And from their burrows prairie dogs could view the prairie scene  
Of bison grazing lazily on prairie grasses green.*

*But when the skittish bison spooked, stampeding o'er the plain,  
Their burrows gave them shelter from the thunderous refrain.*

*The prairie wolf as predator would stalk the bison throng,  
Then cull the herd one at a time of those who were not strong.*

*The pack would work together just to single out their prey,  
Then eat their fill triumphantly and live another day.*

*The stewards of the open range were all the native clans,  
Lakota Sioux, Comanche, and the Pawnee and Cheyenne.*

*They took just what they needed and they utilized it all  
The bison were the centerpiece and answered to the call.*

*The prairie grass, the cottonwoods, the wind, the creeks and streams,  
The prairie dogs, the hawk and wolf are visions in our dreams.*

*The native clans were witnesses and stewards strong and free,  
The endless cycle of the plains in prairie harmony.*



**Tom Hawk, The Yodeling Cowboy**, from Cumberland, MD, has been performing cowboy and western music and yodeling since 2008. He is particularly fond of the songs from the first half of the 20th Century. He has performed at the IWMA Convention, the National Traditional Country Music Association Festival, and across the United States and in Europe. His first CD, *Yodeling Familiar Trails*, in collaboration with Greg Latta on instrumentals, released in November 2010 and received the Rural Roots Music Commission/NTCMA award for the Best Traditional Yodeling CD for 2011. His second CD, *Earning My Spurs*, also in collaboration with Greg Latta, released in February 2018 and received the Rural Roots Music Commission/NTCMA award for the Best Western Yodeling CD for 2018. Tom has recently begun writing cowboy poetry. He may be reached at 301-722-0815, at [tom@tomhawkyodeler.com](mailto:tom@tomhawkyodeler.com) [www.tomhawkyodeler.com](http://www.tomhawkyodeler.com)

# In The Spotlight...

by Marvin O'Dell

...**Ranger Doug** (Riders in the Sky) taught western songs during Traditional Song Week at the Swannanoa Gathering in North Carolina the first week of July. In addition, esteemed scholar Bill C. Malone and his wife Bobbi have undertaken a serious scholarly biography of **Riders In The Sky**. Ranger Doug says, "He may think we are more important than we think we are." Also, Doug has been researching and writing about deeply underappreciated country (and yes, western) musician, singer, and songwriter **Carson J. Robison** who is well represented in our IWMA Hall of Fame but ignored by the Country Music Hall of Fame despite 28 nominations. Vanderbilt University Press will publish his efforts, aiming for autumn of next year.

...Aussie **Carol Heuchan** returned from the US earlier this year to a swag of back-to-back gigs, the most exciting of which was Sydney's Royal Easter Show. Over nine hundred thousand people, including H.R.H. Princess Anne, attended this year's bi-centenary event. And for the 14 days, Carol performed poetry from the back of a horse-drawn wagon. The vintage vehicle was "Professor Marmaduke McLardy's Travelling Medicine Wagon," and Carol called the crowd in with her (typically impromptu) spruiking: "*Step right up! Step right up! We're the original drug peddlers! Get your genuine Australian Red Belly Black snake oil here! We milk 'em every day. It'll cure your sore feet, your bad breath, take out your appendix and castrate your dog all in one go! You won't get Covid if you drink this, 'cause it'll kill you first! Only five bucks a bottle.*" And Carol says people actually offered her money to buy it! They actually believed her!

...**Miss Devon and The Outlaw** were on Good Morning America in May for a segment hosted by Amy Robach and broadcast live from the Fort Worth Stockyards National Historic District. They sang and yodeled a portion of "Texas Plains." Also in May, Devon Dawson was (finally) inducted into the Cowtown Society of Western Music as a "Hero of Western Swing," complete with a red, white, and blue ribbon showcasing the iconic CSWM logo medallion. The award ceremony had to be delayed two years, because of the recent disruptions in our national well-being.

...In March, **Sherl Cederburg** released her newest poetry album, *Wisdom in the Wind*. The album contains 18 poetry tracks, many which are based on events from Sherl's life experiences. All poems are written and performed by Sherl. Butch Hause from Ranger Station Studio added background music to enhance many of the poems.

...In May, Carlsbad, New Mexico's "Pearl of the Pecos" presented New Mexico Chautauqua Troubadour **Ralph Estes** performing "Me and Billy" - the *real* Billy, not the distorted legend created by Pat Garrett. The event was held at Halagueno Arts Park in Carlsbad.

...Oklahoma's **Jim Garling** will be inducted into the Western Swing Hall of Fame in July. The induction will take place in Lawton, OK.

...A new album has been released by **Dan Robert Crow** titled *Sidekicks and Saddle Pals*. Dan describes this as a "Rip-Roaring collection of original songs about those comical sidekicks from the Saturday Matinees." The project was released by Owlhoot Records and was recorded at The Cave Studio in Las Cruces, NM.

...**Kimberly Kaye** has published *Circle Back*, a collection of original western poetry and recollections of her rural lifestyle. It can be ordered on Amazon. She has also produced a CD of the same title. Kimberly was found playing music and reciting poetry in May and June in Medora, ND and Hampton, IA.

...IWMA Youth Chapter member **Phoebe White** just finished recording in Nashville with Grammy award winners **Riders In The Sky**. She had the pleasure of working with Grammy award-winning engineer **Randy Kohrs** and world-class producer Michael Johnathon. She completed her album with the internationally-renowned **McLain Family Band** and engineer Jeff Myers in Lexington, KY.

...With the intention of converting one room into a recording studio, **Jeneve Rose Mitchell** recently bought a house. And the studio is finished as of this writing. Jeneve plans to release music as her own publisher. She also is looking forward to learning the ropes of recording. Watch for a new album soon.



...*Warm Breeze*, the latest album from **Larry Krause**, was nominated by the Saskatchewan Country Music Association for Alternative Country Album of the Year. It didn't win, but the strong group of nominees that he was included with shows the caliber of his album. This summer Larry will be returning to Western Canada to perform at the Calgary Stampede, Northern BC's Pelican Lake Lodge, and High River's Trails End Gathering. He is also excited about being a part of a group that will be bringing a Cowboy Poetry/Music event back to Pincher Creek, AB.

...For **Scott Glen Lambertsen** the year started out rough with the loss of his dear mother and his second bout with Covid. However, he is now rebounding, and along with music and poetry partner **Mark Seeley** (The Fall River Boys), is making up for lost time from two years of cancellations and craziness. Last fall Scott was elected to be president of the Cowboy Poets of Idaho with only one dissenting vote, his own!

...**Mike Mahaney** was recently both emcee and performer on the Tiny Porch Stage at the 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Topanga Canyon (CA) Banjo and Fiddle Folk Festival. This is the state's oldest one day Festival. Mike is also a guest vocalist once a week at a local watering hole in Burbank called Ireland 32.

...In May, **Dan McCorison** introduced western music to a crowd in Boston MA! He joined several other artists for a benefit to raise money for a charity called Healing Gardens. The concert was one of a series over the past 10 years sponsored by Patio Records. The group has raised over 1.5 million dollars to build places at hospitals where patients can step out to enjoy a little taste of God's creation.

...Cowboy Evenings Big Steak Dinner Show at Bobcat Pass Wilderness Adventures in Red River, NM is announcing its 31st season. **Syd Masters** headlines all events with opening night taking place in June. Shows continue every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday through Labor Day weekend. Special guest musicians and grilled ribeyes are featured throughout the summer. Go to [www.sydmasters.com](http://www.sydmasters.com) for the schedule.

...Since becoming a member of IWMA, **Merel Bregante** has recorded and co-produced the critically-acclaimed **Carol Markstrom** album, *Mile After Mile*. He also performed on and mixed for video a new song for Carol in June. In August, Merel will be recording and producing a

new **Jim Jones** project. And he has been working on singles for western music radio for new IWMA member and CMA of Texas 2018 and 2019 Western Music Female Artist and Song of the Year winner, **Sarah Pierce**.

...**Teresa Burleson** has taken over the management of the Children's Poetry Contest at the Red Steagall Cowboy Gathering that takes place in the Historic Fort Worth Stockyards in October,

...**Bobby Newton** tells us that the Academy of Western Artists will be going back to a live show in 2023. Dates have not been settled yet, but the event will most likely take place sometime in the fall.

...**Peggie Douglas** performed "The Life and Music of Badger Clark" (South Dakota's first Poet Laureate) at The Medora Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Medora, ND in May. She also performed the program for the Tall Grass Arts Council in Pierre, SD in June with support from the South Dakota Humanities Council.

...A new album is expected early next year from **Claudia Nygaard**. In the meantime, she recently performed at the "Folk Alliance International" where she was selected for an "official" (juried) showcase. While touring the northeast shortly afterward, she filmed a video in Cape Cod, MA, with a horse named Tucker (with whom she says she fell in love) for her next album.

..."Miner's Candle," a song recorded by **Carol Markstrom** that was co-written by Carol and Manuela Schneider, was developed into a short film by filmmaker Christian Meza and director Manuela Schneider and filmed at Gammon Gulch Movie Set in Arizona. The film won the Best Music Video/Musical Performance Award from the Tucumcari Film Festival in New Mexico, received Best Dramatic Short and Best Cinematography Awards from the Faith in Film International Film Festival in Tucson, and is nominated for additional awards.

...**Larry Wilder** will be filming for Metro East Media, channel 11, Portland, OR in July. They will be using some green screen, exterior images, and video to support Larry's music. He will be featuring songs, routines, and stories from his shows.

*Continued on page 14*

## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

*Continued from page 13*

...The 34th Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering will take place in Prescott, AZ August 11-13. Over 40 cowboy poets and musicians will perform on Friday and Saturday. Featured performers on the evening shows are: Thursday night, **Dale Burson**; Friday night, **Floyd Beard**; Saturday night, **Joni Harms**. For more info, go to [www.azcowboypoets.org](http://www.azcowboypoets.org).

...**Dave Munsick** continues to perform with his sons as well as doing his solo "Songteller" shows around the west. He will be recording and releasing a new album of his songs this summer.

...In June, **Lori Beth Brooke** taught an accordion western swing workshop for the non-profit organization Not Just Oompah which focuses on educating accordionists on a variety of genres and promoting interest and growth in accordion music. She presented the workshop in Austin, TX, then again online for three evenings.

...After releasing her newest western CD in February of this year, **Patty Clayton** jumped right back in the studio and is now putting the finishing touches on a bluegrass CD entitled *Heartland Express*. Release date will likely be July or August. Check her website at [www.pattyclayton.com](http://www.pattyclayton.com) for performances in your region.

...**Cisco Jim** returns to Roaring Camp Railroads, Felton, CA, portraying the role of Town Marshal on weekends throughout the summer. While at Roaring Camp he sings about the Old West while riding his horse, Taza de Mogollon.

...After two months in California working for Lacey Livestock, **Merritt and Almeda Bradshaw** are back home in Montana. This summer has them busy enjoying their kids and grandkids, building another rental unit, and making plans for a snowbird winter somewhere warmer than Huntley.

...**Bob Thomas** will be releasing his ninth CD late in June. The title is *My Tree* and it will feature ten new original songs.

...**Tom Swearingen** and **Carla Swearingen** celebrated their 44th Anniversary in May. Tom's poetry and Carla's children's books have resulted in each being invited to additional bookstore readings.

...The youngest son of **Lori Beth Brooke**, Connor, just graduated from Lake Travis High School in Austin, TX and is planning to major in Music Ed at the University of Houston in the Fall. His principal instrument is the bassoon. Her older son, Carson, is now a Senior at the University of North Texas in Denton, TX majoring in Music Education.

...**Janet McBride** has received a request from the family of long-time member of IWMA **Dan Bell** for a card or note from "the old-time members or current ones." Janet writes: "Dan suffered a stroke some time back and your card or note will certainly 'make his day'!" You can send your cards and notes to Dan Bell, PO Box 407, Athens, IL 62613. 🐾



We had to make the "bittersweet" decision to permanently close the  
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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](mailto:bestofthewest@swcp.com)

Of all the off-the-wall topics we have offered you here, you might reasonably predict that a profile of a prominent Jewish culture specialist might be the off-the-waldest! But then you just never know who might have a fascination with the effect the American West has had on Europe and maintained a Facebook site called “Sauerkraut Cowboys,” now would you??!

Ruth Ellen Gruber’s storied life as an award-winning writer, historian and photojournalist covering all facets of Jewish culture was the inspiration for “Haven,” a 2001 TV movie starring Natasha Richardson in the lead role and Anne Bancroft (nominated for an Emmy) as her mother Gussie. And a 2010 documentary on her life was entitled “Ahead Of Time.” But Ms. Gruber first came to my attention some months back when I casually Googled “Ukrainian Cowboys.” You may recall I underwrote, produced and hosted a special showcase (the original Western World Tour) for the 2017 WMA convention wherein Cowboy songs we translated from around the world were performed. Today’s sad headlines caused me to realize Ukraine was one country I hadn’t probed for material back then. Ruth Ellen Gruber had, though. There displayed on the screen were her photographs of Ukrainian roundups, riders and ranchers. Also listed under her name was that title “Sauerkraut Cowboys!” This, of course, had to be looked into!

Within her online bio, Gruber wrote the following: “For several years I’ve been exploring the imaginary Wild West in contemporary Europe – observing and experiencing the many ways Europeans embrace the mythology of the American Frontier to enhance, imbue or create their own identities (or, indeed, just have fun!)” Beyond the info about her “Sauerkraut Cowboys” Facebook page, a scholarly treatise is also posted for the reading. Its full title: “Sturm, Twang & Sauerkraut Cowboys – Country Music and Wild West Spaces In Europe!” What a read it is!! It turns out that “Sauerkraut Cowboy” was originally the name of a song from German-American singer Don Jensen. Its hero, who had never visited the US, takes his kids to European rodeos and Cowboy theme parks as he creates a Western dreamworks to live out his fantasies. Gruber interviewed Jensen in the hometown of his song’s subject Kaiserslautern, West Germany. That hit me big time! In the Army I was stationed in “K-Town” for a year and a half! In fact, it was there that I first read in Stars & Stripes about a Deutsch Western club that camped and cowboied in the Black Forest. Little did I know...

In reading, I found Ms. Gruber to be zealous in her pursuit of the threads and causes of Cowboy culture on the continent. To be sure, it had morphed into a hybrid mix of Cowboy, Indian, Country, Trucker, Hobo and other more localized influences. Her ultimate finding is that a point of commonality is the appeal of being “on the move.” Gruber gives us compelling text, painting a picture of influence wider than any Western sunset! We learn about societal imprinting of a type we’ve long dreamed about re-occurring on this side of the pond. Venues and events across the continent that draw hundreds of thousands of people, most in full costume! Giant Wild West theme parks and “towns” offering the music! Venerated artists who perform original Cowboy material in their own languages! Among the latter group, Ms. Gruber introduces us to such acts as Truck Stop, cited by her as Germany’s “most durable Country & Western band” founded in the late 1970s. We meet the Czech singer “Lonstar” (Michael Luszczyński) who helped found The Mragowo Country Piknik, a Country & (very) Western festival in Poland! We learn of the late Michal Tucny who toured widely and whose frequent guest headliner was an American Western singer “Rattlesnake Annie” (Annie McGowan). Through Gruber’s work we discover Czech tramps, known for wearing cowboy hats and bandanas, writing their version of Cowboy Poetry and whose camps sport names like “Colorado” and “Arizona,” feature tepees, totem poles, log cabins and other Frontier imagery. A collection of their acoustic songs dating from 1920 through 1939 was released, featuring groups with names like Settlers’ Club, Campboys and Westmen. We read that Buffalo Bill’s Wild West Show toured as far inland as Ukraine (1913) and the continent’s oldest Western “saloon” was founded immediately afterward! It’s still in operation. And there’s so much more.

My aim was to interview Ruth Ellen Gruber for this column. Finding many online references to her various appearances and body of work on Jewish history, I still couldn’t come up with a way to contact her. It was on my third try I found her obituary. She had passed away, at the age of 105, in 2016. That was the exact time I became determined to produce The Western World Tour showcase referred to at the start of this column! I found myself wishing she could have seen and heard that one-of-a-kind reveal of the world’s Cowboy Music. But y’know what? If there’s any justice, maybe she did!

*Continued on page 18*





# Chapter Update

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

**President: John Paulson**  
**Johnpaulson1945@gmail.com**

The Arizona chapter will have its first jam/meeting since last fall at the Beatitudes Campus in Phoenix, with the date and other details to be provided to chapter members by email. The event is to be hosted by Igor Glenn, the Jazz Cowboy, and will provide an opportunity for members to perform individually and with a group. Chapter officers continue to look for new performance venues, particularly in the Phoenix and Central Arizona areas, and welcome suggestions and volunteers to assist with future events. Long-serving chapter secretary/treasurer Sherry Walker has announced that she will not be seeking re-election for next year, so chapter members are invited to consider filling those offices at the annual election in October.

## COLORADO CHAPTER

**President – Levi Cody Richardson**  
**howdylevicody@gmail.com**

In early May 2022, former Vice President, Levi Cody Richardson, emailed the current membership requesting nominations for a new Board of Directors for this Chapter. Since no office was contested, we thank you for your trust in choosing the following team to serve on this Board for the remainder of 2022 and through 12/31/25. The Officers are as follows: President: Levi Cody Richardson, Vice President: Sonja Oliver, Secretary/Treasurer:

Susie Knight. There are many opportunities for our membership to serve on our new Advisory Board. What are your strengths? Do you like marketing? Would you like to host a Showcase? Are you strong in fundraising? Membership drives? There's no limitations, and we'd love to have you join us. We acknowledge these interested members: Dennis Knill, Jane Leche, and Geary Parsons. If you are interested in also being a part of the Advisory Board, please contact Levi Cody Richardson.



*Levi Cody Richardson, President CO Chapter*

## COLUMBIA CHAPTER

**President: Tom Swearingen**  
**tomswearingen@gmail.com**

Finally! After two years of pandemic-caused cancellations the Columbia Chapter was able to hold its annual spring concert. Organized by Lynn Kopelke, the event was held at the Elks Lodge in Lewiston, Idaho and featured Tim Jenkins, Ted Hunt, Sam Matisse, Barbara Nelson, Judy Coder and Jennifer Epps' duo Notable Exceptions, Jim Aasen, Jinny Cash, and the Panhandle Cowboys duo of Dave Fulfs and J.B. Barber. MC for the matinee and evening performances was Snake River Radio Roundup host Tommy Tucker. Planning continues for our annual meeting and concert in Oregon's Columbia Gorge to be held October 22. Our Youth Cowboy



*Sam Matisse*



*Jinny Cash*



*Barbara Nelson*



*Panhandle Cowboys JB Barber and David Fulfs*

Poetry Contest is taking 2022 entries in three categories: grade school, middle, and high school. Winners in each category will receive a custom trophy buckle and travel stipend to perform their poems at one of our chapter concerts. The buckles have been ordered and members are doing what they can to spread the word to youth in Oregon, Washington, and British Columbia. Ned Bodie had that opportunity recently when invited to sharing his poetry at Goldendale Washington's HonkyTonk Restaurant. Contest details and online entry can be found on our chapter website [iwmacolumbia.org](http://iwmacolumbia.org). Last year's high school winner Venessa Carpenter was among the invited

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# Two-Cents of Songwriter Savvy

BY A.B. SHAW



A question often asked of songwriters is a “Which comes first: the chicken or the egg?” type of question, most likely asked by someone new to the craft of songwriting. “What do you write first: the words or the music?” There may be some seasoned songwriters who respond to the query with a bit of eye-rolling and reply, “It really doesn’t matter, whatever works for you.” Well, I can’t help wondering if they aren’t missing the profundity of the question, like not seeing the forest for the trees. I think it’s an excellent inquiry, one that sets the stage for defining the essence of songwriting and serves very well as a springboard for teaching the craft.

My response to the “which comes first” question is always, “The words.” Then I like to ask my inquisitor: “What’s a song?” Their short answer is typically “words put to music” or “music with words.” Either way, the two combined become a song. Without words, music is still music and can stand alone. Conversely, words without music can stand alone to be read or recited as poetry or lyrics. Only when combined, do the two become a song.

Okay, you say, but you haven’t explained why you write the words first.

Let’s start with a longer, more concise answer to “What’s a song?” A song is words that tell a story, paint a picture or express a feeling and are written in a way that incorporate the musical elements of meter and melody. Meter is a linear pattern of hard and soft accents found in both poetry and music. However, melody is found only in music, so the structural link between words and music must be in the element of meter.

Meter in poetry is a unit of rhythm, the pattern of the beats. Meter in music refers to the regularly recurring patterns and accents such as bars and beats and the arrangement of its rhythms in a repetitive pattern of strong and weak beats. Meter is the mechanical link that allows words to blend with music to create a song. Add melody and chord structure and the story, the scene, the expression become imbued with mood and emotional color.

That’s all fine and dandy. So, which do you write first and why??

If a song uses words to tell a story, describe a scene or express a feeling, the choice of words has to make sense. Words are symbols for intellectual concepts that allow us to understand our world and life experiences. They are a precise means of communication. They cannot be used haphazardly. They are required to convey the point the author is trying to make coherently. And they must be metrically cohesive in order to blend well with a musical composition. The sounds of music: pitch, timbre, duration, melodic intervals can be far more varied and flexible. The music has to sound pleasing and appropriate to enhance the atmosphere of the story, but the music doesn’t have to “make sense.” Words do. That’s why I start with words when writing a song.

So, I wonder if when a songwriter says they are writing the melody first or writing the music along with the words, they aren’t actually using their musical idea to establish a meter/rhythmic pattern for the words. A song needs some kind of structure to fit the words into and perhaps the music in the songwriter’s mind is providing that framework. I wonder if my many years of reading, writing and studying poetry along with a life-time of

## “GIVE IT A TRY”

Try writing a poem using perfect meter and rhyme. Learn about the different types of poetic meter and how they are used. Pick a pattern and write a poem with the intent of finding just the right words to fit the syllabic pattern and end rhyme and still say what you want to say in a way that sounds natural and makes sense. It can be quite a challenge...but give it a try!

*Continued on page 18*

**Almeda Bradshaw** comes from a long line of writers. Her bookshelves hold a treasure of family journals, diaries, books and manuscripts dating back to the late 1800s. Almeda feels privileged to be carrying on that tradition through her own life of journaling, essays, poetry, songwriting and, under the pen name **A.B. Shaw**, her work as a free-lance writer and future novelist.



## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 16*



*Notable Exceptions with Tom Swearingen*

performers at the Juab Cowboy Poetry Gathering in Utah. Also invited from the Columbia Chapter was Cody Traylor. Other chapter members are partnering up here and there. Tom Swearingen and the Notable Exceptions provided an evening of music and poetry at Tualatin Oregon Heritage Center. Tom and Joni Harms will represent the chapter at the Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering. Almeda Bradshaw and Scott Tonelson performed a house concert at Marilyn Tuttle's in California. Almeda, Marv Ramsey, Duane Nelson, and Kathy Moss were featured at Jim Crotts' "Night With the Cowboys" in Oregon's Willamette Valley. And Ed Wahl and Mike Dygert have several shows on the horizon. Among them a music

weekend in the old cow town Clinton, B.C., several shows at the Williams Lake, B.C. Stampede and then more than a week of shows at and around the Calgary Stampede. Later in the summer they'll be at the Stoney Plain Alberta Cowboy Festival. Those guys get pretty busy once the snow melts!

### KANSAS CHAPTER

**President: Orin Friesen**

**orin@rbanjoranch.com**

After a couple of relatively slow years, our chapter members are finally experiencing more activity. Events that had previously been postponed due to Covid are now back on the calendar, including 3 Trails West's series of concerts in California. Following the passing of original member, Jim Farrell, the Diamond W Wranglers have decided to continue performing. The group has gone back to the trio sound with original members, Stu Stuart and Orin Friesen, joined by Orin's son, Jesse Friesen. Jesse has returned to Kansas following two years as a member of the Flying W Wranglers in Colorado Springs. The Kansas

*Continued on page 38*

## TWO-CENTS OF SONGWRITER SAVVY

*Continued from page 17*

playing, reading and writing music hasn't made it easier for me to work primarily from a "words first" position because of the natural framework of both musical and poetic meter within me.

I wrote my 2016 Song of the Year nominated "Heavenly Here with You" purely as an exercise in writing a western. I wrote it from my husband's point of view expressing the nature of our marriage. I had to use a certain set of words to stay within the parameter of our personal lives. I attempted to write it as close as I could to having perfect meter and end rhyme to satisfy the poet in me. I also incorporated internal rhyme into the verses and chorus. And I tried to use fresh imagery, for example, "Our shadows are gone" to describe a time of day.

After I was satisfied, I put it to music. That part came much easier. Perhaps because I had put so much time into making the song metrically correct. That's my process. And I think process is really what the "words or music first" question is all about. What is the process by which a song is written? Maybe that sage songwriter is right. Maybe it doesn't matter if you start with words or music. But either way, I believe a good songwriter must start with meter, which, in my opinion, is the most important element of good song writing.

Well, that's my two-cents worth of songwriter savvy. What's yours? Please email me with your thoughts about which comes first: the chicken or the egg? [almedam2b@gmail.com](mailto:almedam2b@gmail.com) I would like to hear from you. As space permits in future issues, we may incorporate your perspective in the column. There is so much that can be learned by sharing methods and ideas. 🐾

## WESTERN WORLD TOUR

*Continued from page 15*

Here is a list to Google for yourself. Spend some time with it. Trust me, it's truly eye-opening!

- Strum, Twang & Sauerkraut Cowboys
- Polish Cowboy Race [Cowboys In Poland]
- Pullman City Harz
- Pullman City in Bavaria
- Buffalo Bill Etterem Hungary
- Dream Valley Switzerland
- Cowboyclub Munchen 1913e.v. Meunchen
- Beaver City Czech Republic
- Country Rendez-vous Craponne France
- Country Music Fair Berlin
- Halter Valley Czech Republic
- Karl-May-Spiele Bad Sedeberg

...and, for fans of the topical, try...

- Ukrainian Cowboys
- Russian Cowboys (Putin on his horse doesn't count. North American cowboys being called on to help found and initially stock the Russian state's 500,000 acre working cattle ranch does)! 🐾





# 2022

## 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 and bar code.
- 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, 2021 through September 1, 2022).

### 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, 2021 through September 1, 2022).
- 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.



# 2022

## 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. **Beginning in 2020, this will be 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, 2022 to be counted:  
IWMA Awards, PO Box 648, Coppell, TX 75019 or [info@westernmusic.org](mailto:info@westernmusic.org)**



# Applying QR Codes to Raise Money and Increase Membership

BY DAVID NIDEL

Have you noticed that we are carrying less cash on hand and that we are shopping more with plastic or even digital means like Apple Pay® or similar applications through your phone? Have we all been in an uncomfortable position of having to dig deep for a buck or two and pocket change for contributing tips (when we wish we could give more) to our entertainers when the hat or tip bucket is passed in our direction? Our musicians and performers have certainly taken note of this change as well.

I wanted to do something to address this concern as well as have a means of informing guests at our open mic and showcase events about the IWMA and our NM chapter. A few months ago, at one of our chapter meetings I brought up the idea of having tabletop holders with cards displaying QR Codes as an easy means for guests to learn about IWMA, our chapter, and be able to contribute to our mission to preserve and promote Western Heritage while supporting our performers. I want to acknowledge Judi Anderson, Bobbi Jean Bell, Bonnie Exton, Brad Exton, Rick Huff, Kim Linker, and Dennis Russell for reviewing and helping edit my efforts. Following a few design drafts and working on the most appropriate verbiage here is what we came up with.

The actual size of the cards is 5" x 7", respectively, and fit in the tabletop holders perfectly. I used Microsoft Publisher for the layout. Should your

chapter consider doing this there are a variety of graphic design programs that may be used by Microsoft, Adobe, Canva, and other publishers. I used a similar color scheme for both cards as the interior lighting in a bar or other performance venue is usually quite dim. I wanted these to stand out and grab attention. We worked with our bank and webmaster to set up a Donate tab on our website that seamlessly offers the donor the option of using their debit/credit card through a Merchant Services provider or PayPal account to process their donation with ease. Both choices send a record of the transaction via email to the donor and may be applied as an itemized tax deduction on their tax return.

Should your chapter consider using these for your events I recommend first obtaining permission from management/owners of the venue. If performers of the chapter are being paid by the management/owners of the venue for an event, obtain clarification

that use of these does not present an appearance of a conflict of interest in that use of these will not nullify the compensation agreement by the venue.

We are happy to share our experience with this new application as this will be a tool to not only helping with funding but also increasing our membership. Please feel free to contact me for more information at david.nidel@gmail.com.







# IWMA 2022

## “ALL ROADS LEAD TO ALBUQUERQUE”

NOVEMBER 9-13 ★ HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE AT OLD TOWN

## PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

### WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

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10:00 am–8:00 pm	<b>Member Registration &amp; Ticket Sales</b>
10:00 am–6:00 pm	<b>Performers CD Check-In</b>
12:00–1:30 pm	<b>Opening Lunch</b> Special Guest Speaker: Ranger Doug-Riders In The Sky
1:45–5:00 pm	<b>Showcase Performances</b>
12:00–6:00 pm	<b>Western Wear Consignment Boutique</b>
7:00–10:00 pm	<b>Swing Dance</b> Syd Masters & The Swing Riders

### THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

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8:00 am–7:00 pm	<b>Member Registration &amp; Ticket Sales</b>
8:00 am–5:00 pm	<b>Western Wear Consignment Boutique</b>
8:30 am–5:00 pm	<b>PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS</b>
8:30–9:30 am	<b>Coffee with the DJs</b> – Hosted by Peter Bruce A time for you to get to know the DJs and learn how to present your music for maximum airplay
8:30–9:30 am	<b>Skills for Effective Interviews</b> – Jennifer Herron The task of promoting one’s career and raising one’s visibility in Western music and poetry often falls on the artist, but the needed skills do not automatically come to most people. Jennifer Herron brings a wealth of experiences to this session having been in TV and radio for decades. She has knowledge on the kind of information hosts are seeking in interviews and has coached clients in this regard. There is much to facilitating a great interview which can then lead to more airplay and other opportunities. Learning effective interview strategies can also contribute to better stage shows as artists are encouraged to think about how to identify and concisely get across information about themselves during their performances that will have the greatest impacts for their careers.



## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Continued from page 23

11:30 am–1:00 pm	<b>Recording Workshop</b> – 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.
1:00–2:00 pm	<b>Sound Workshop</b> – Leo Eilts, Roger 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.
2:15–3:15 pm	<b>Western Finger Style Guitar</b> – 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!
3:30–4:30 pm	<b>Open Range Cowboy Music &amp; Poetry</b> – Steve Cormier Traditional cowboy music came from the work of ranch hands on the open range and early fenced ranch years. The period is from post-civil war to roughly the 1920s. Working cowboys, mostly anonymous, composed poetry and songs about horses, cattle, love, hate, longing, success, and failure, religion, and death. The music was an expression of their lives and is the foundation of modern western music. We will cover the development of this music from the trail songs of the 1870s to the 1920s "Tyin' Knots in the Devil's Tail" and "Little Joe the Wrangler."
10:00 am–4:00 pm	<b>Showcase Performances</b>
5:00–6:30 pm	<b>IWMA Raffle &amp; Reception</b>
6:30–9:00 pm	<b>IWMA Benefit Dinner &amp; Concert</b> Featuring Dave Stamey

## FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

7:30 am–6:00 pm	<b>Member Registration &amp; Ticket Sales</b>
8:00 am–6:00 pm	<b>Western Wear Consignment Boutique</b>
8:00 am–6:00 pm	<b>CD Mercantile OPEN</b> Reopens after the Opry
8:00 am–9:30 am	<b>IWMA Chapter Officers Roundtable</b>
8:30 am–4:00 pm	<b>IWMA Youth Chapter Meeting &amp; Workshop</b>
9:45 am–1:45 pm	<b>Campfire Stage</b>



2:15–5:00 pm	<b>Development Stage</b>
10:00 am–5:00 pm	<b>Showcase Performances</b>
1:00–2:00 pm	<b>Introduction to Rhythm Guitar</b> – Ernie Martinez
2:15–4:15 pm	<b>Introduction to Western Swing/Jazz Rhythm Guitar</b> – Grace Clark with Special Guest Instructor Ernie Martinez Learn the fundamentals that will jump-start you with this exciting and beautiful guitar style. The course materials provided will allow you to continue learning at home. First, we learn fundamental music theory concepts. Second, we explore the fingerboard knowledge and chord vocabulary that will launch you into a new musical world. Third, we learn the swing guitar strumming style, complete with the “left hand release technique” that puts the exciting “snap” in the rhythm. Fourth - Starting with simple songs, we add “fancy swing chord progressions” one-by-one, until we arrive at fully developed swing-style arrangements of the songs. Bring your guitar!
7:00–9:00 pm	<b>IWMA Friday Night Western Opry</b> Hosted by: Roger & Leo Eilts

## SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12

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7:00–8:30 am	<b>Veterans Appreciation Breakfast</b> Hosted by: Jerry Hall
8:45–9:45 am	<b>IWMA Membership Meeting</b> Open to all current and future IWMA members
10:00 am–5:00 pm	<b>Western Wear Consignment Boutique</b>
10:00 am–5:00 pm	<b>CD Mercantile</b> Will reopen after Awards Show
10:00 am– 6:00 pm	<b>Registration &amp; Ticket Sales</b>
10:00 am–5:00 pm	<b>Vendor Area</b>
11:00 am–12:30 pm	<b>Poetry Contest</b>
12:30–1:15 pm	<b>IWMA Youth Chapter Showcase</b>
1:30–5:00 pm	<b>Performer Showcases</b>
12:45–1:30 pm	<b>Harmony Contest</b>
1:45–2:45 pm	<b>Yodeling Contest</b>
3:00–5:00 pm	<b>Team Penning</b>
6:30–7:00 pm	<b>Awards Pre-Show</b>
7:00–10:00 pm	<b>IWMA Awards Show</b>

## SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 13

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7:00 am–12:00 noon	<b>Western Wear Consignment Boutique</b>
9:00 am–12:00 noon	<b>CD Mercantile</b>
9:00 am–12:00 noon	<b>Vendor Area</b>
9:00–11:00 am	<b>Sunday Morning Gospel Concert</b> Hosted by Belinda Gail



# IWMA 2022 TICKET PRE-ORDER & MEMBER REGISTRATION

November 9-13 – Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town

Return to: IWMA | P. O. Box 648 | Coppell, TX 75019 Email [Marsha@WesternMusic.org](mailto:Marsha@WesternMusic.org) | Call 505-563-0673

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse or Guest Name(s) if attending \_\_\_\_\_

Company or Group Name (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Country \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## **IWMA MEMBERS ONLY**

☐ Check if this is your first time to attend!

### ☐ **Basic Package**

(includes ALL workshops and daily showcases; does NOT include evening shows)

### ☐ **Sidekick Package**

(includes workshops, showcases and all ticketed events)

### ☐ **Silver Spur VIP Package**

(includes workshops, showcases and reserved seating for all ticketed events)

#### **MEMBERS**

#### **NON-MEMBERS**

\$75/person

\$85/person

\$225/person

\$265/person

\$425/couple

\$495/couple

\$350/person

\$450/person

\$575/couple

\$695/couple

## **WEDNESDAY**

### ☐ **Opening Lunch**

ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$40/person

\$50/person

### ☐ **Swing Dance**

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$20/person

\$25/person

## **THURSDAY**

### ☐ **Workshops** (included in all packages; please indicate which which you will attend)

☐ Coffee with the DJs

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Skills for Effective Interviews

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Recording Workshop

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sound Workshop

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Western Fringer Style Guitar

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Open Range Cowboy Music & Poetry

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ **IWMA Benefit Dinner & Concert**

ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$50/person

\$60/person

## **FRIDAY**

### ☐ **Workshops** (included in all packages; please indicate which you will attend)

☐ Introduction to Rhythm Guitar

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Introduction to Western Swing/Jazz Rhythm Guitar

# attending \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ **IWMA Friday Night Western Opry**

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$20/person

\$25/person

## **SATURDAY**

### ☐ **Veterans Appreciation Breakfast & Program**

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$35/person

\$45/person

☐ Check here if you would like to sponsor a veteran

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$35/person

\$45/person

☐ Check here if you are a veteran....there's no charge for your ticket!

ANY DIETARY RESTRICTIONS? \_\_\_\_\_

### ☐ **IWMA Awards Show**

# of tickets \_\_\_\_\_

\$35/person

\$45/person

## **TOTAL DUE**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

## **Payment Information**

☐ Check/Money Order enclosed

☐ Credit Card

☐ Visa

☐ MasterCard

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing ZIP Code \_\_\_\_\_

***Some space is limited so order tickets early! Cancellations after October 31, 2022 cannot be refunded.***



# BUFFHAM'S BUFFOONERY

by Les Buffham



## FOURTH OF JULY PARTY

I think I was 12 or 13 that summer, back in '54 or '55. It was the Fourth of July and there were a whole passel of folks gathered at my Aunt and Uncle's place near the foot of Douglas Mountain in Brown's Park, Colorado.

There were all kinds of relations there, some neighbors and town friends from as far away as Wyoming, and even Utah. Of course, most of them had kids and the front yard got to lookin' like one of those Woodstock festivals after a while.

There was one kid in the bunch that was quite a bit bigger and older than the rest of us. He'd come along with some of the folks from Utah, and it seemed like everything we'd set out to do he would bull right in and take over. Him being a city kid and all, that didn't set too well with the rest of us for very long.

A big surprise came when my Uncle told us we could ride the milk-pen calf, which ordinarily was a no-no, and all of us kids gravitated down in the direction of the corrals in a hurry. As it turned out that "calf" was about a yearling steer and he was big and stout. He was broke to lead though and that made it fairly simple to snub him up in the corner of the corral and get on him.

We all took a turn on him, seven or eight of us I guess, only our new friend from the city wouldn't get on him. Though we tried every way we knew to get him to he kept coming up the excuse that he had on his brand new Levi's and he didn't want to get 'em dirty. It had rained the night before and that corral was kinda sloppy and after we'd all been bucked off in it a time or two it was gettin' a little hard to tell who-was-who. 'Course all the time we were riding the steer that city kid was settin' up there on the fence giving us all instructions like he was Casey Tibbs or someone else that really knew something.

My two older sisters had been helping us catch the steer and get on him. I guess they were getting a belly full of that kid's braggin' cause one of them roped him and they both fell on the rope and jerked him off that fence right into the mud.

All the rest of us hollered with glee and got on the rope too! We drug him around the corral a couple of times on his belly. Then we let him up and told him he could ride now 'cause he was already dirty. He just took off bawlin' for the house and we all figured we were in big trouble then. But nobody said a word about it by the time we gave up on the steer ridin' and went in to eat. Maybe he took advantage of the deal and told his mother what a whale of a ride he had made or something.

Back of my Aunt and Uncle's house there were lots of redrock ledges and cedar and pinon trees, and we wound up there exploring and just messin' around. We played hide and seek a while, and while we were doing that me and a kid named Leo

found a big 'ol hole in the rocks that went down 6 or 8 feet. It was connected by all these big cracks going off in different directions. We found us a way down into it and were looking it over, when "smarty pants" showed up at the top and Leo, him being the quick one, tells him we're trapped and can't get out. I didn't think "smarty" would go for it, but he did and being the stuff heroes are made of, he starts right in on a personal plan of rescue. First, he drug up a dead cedar limb and hung it down to us but it broke when Leo latched onto it. Then, he got real resourceful and took off his brand new Levi's that weren't so clean anymore, and dropped one leg down to us while he hung on to the other.

By now, me and Leo were putting on a pretty fair kind of an act, whimpering and whining about how we'd never get to see our mommas again. And 'ol "smarty" really started getting into the hero thing. He wasn't holding onto his end of the britches very good though, and Leo jerked 'em out of his hand. Then we took off running down one of those cracks and left him standing there. When we got out in the open, we could see everyone else heading for the house so we hid "smarty pants" Levi's under a bush, and headed out too.

We all ate dinner and then stuck around for dessert. There were some big 'ol watermelons in the spring house and someone had brought ice from town to make ice cream. Boy that was about as close to heaven as a kid could get them days, watermelon and ice cream, and all in one sittin' too!

It took a while, but "smarty's" mother finally noticed he was missing, and she put out the alarm. Then it wasn't very long until my Aunt came looking for me. I never was much good at not looking guilty, and she didn't have to drag me very far by one of my big ears 'fore I 'fessed up. So, me and Leo were headed out to find 'ol "smarty pants" and bring him in.

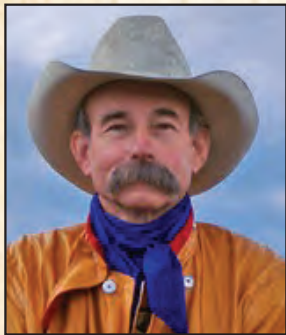
After hunting in the bushes for his britches, we got back where we'd left him. There he was, sittin' on a rock under a cedar tree in his BVD's. And he had been bawling his head off. Well, we got to feelin' sorry for him then, and after we gave him his britches back and decided he wasn't going to kill us, we told him to come to the house with us, we'd saved him some watermelon. He sorta cheered up then, and when we got back to the house with the red eyed rascal, nobody said a word about the deal.

A little later we kids all gathered out in the horse lot. Chose up sides and got up a baseball game. 'Ol "smarty pants" joined right in and was havin' just as much fun as the rest of us. Once he started to tell us our rules were all wrong, and how he knew because he'd watched the Yankees and the Dodgers on TV, but after me and Leo just turned around and stared at him a minute, he shut right up. That sure was a fun Fourth of July. 🐾



# In Memoriam

## BAXTER BLACK (1945 – 2022)



Baxter Black, the veterinarian turned cowboy poet, storyteller and philosopher of rural life in America, died Friday, June 10, at the age of 77. He was a Patron Member of IWMA.

Baxter was born in Brooklyn, New York, but grew up in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He was a Future Farmers of America president and president of his senior class in high school. He also began riding bulls in high school and continued in college and competed in rodeos in the 1960s. Baxter earned his undergraduate degree from New Mexico State University and completed veterinary school at Colorado State University in 1969. He was a practicing large-animal veterinarian from 1969 to 1982.

In the 1980s, Baxter began entertaining audiences with his poetry and storytelling. His descriptive prose and self-deprecating humor made it obvious to all that he was a genuine cowboy who had survived many of the jackpots he described.



When asked how many books he has written, he quotes the late Franklin Delano Roosevelt, "Altogether, too many." Over one million books and audios sold, a weekly column, a weekly radio program, a weekly television program ...there's no place to hide if you live in the country!

He poked his head above the horizon long enough to attract urban followers (gentiles, he called them), through National Public Radio, public television, Johnny Carson's Tonight Show, Random House and *USA Today*.

Baxter said his life was blessed, "I like what I do. I have a great home to come home to, a couple good horses, a few cows, a good dog, and friends everywhere I go. I'm square with God and I make a living entertaining people I care about."

"My audience is my inspiration," he says, "Every cowboy, rancher, vet, farmer, feed salesman, ag teacher, cowman and rodeo hand has a story to tell, and they tell it to me. I Baxterize it and tell it back to 'em! It doesn't seem fair, does it?"



Baxter is survived by his wife Cindy Lou, children Jennifer and Guy and a multitude of friends and fans.



**Editor's Note:** If you'd like a more in-depth look into the life of this amazing man, visit the archives of the Western Way magazine on the IWMA Website, [www.iwesternmusic.org](http://www.iwesternmusic.org), Winter 2021, Volume 31, Issue 4 (In the Crosshairs, page 6).



# *In Memoriam*

## **DIANE BERGSTROM (1948 – 2022)**



Diane Bergstrom passed away on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. She wasn't a "star performer" or a "famous personality." Rather, she was my wife. Diane was a western music fan and one of the legion of IWMA members who make the functioning

of the Mercantile, the CD room, or selling tickets at the convention a success. Few knew of the health challenges Diane faced. Few knew how much she loved the friends she met along the way as she attended various events, or her many acquaintances. Diane was genuine and caring. I will miss her always and I know many of you will as well. – John Bergstrom

Our long-time friend and devotee, Diane Bergstrom passed May 19. Diane was a dear friend, faithful servant and selfless supporter to us all. She never sought the limelight but could always be found supporting her husband, John's performances, behind the IWMA table at an event or running the Mercantile at the IWMA convention. Notwithstanding a long and painful fight with rheumatoid arthritis, Diane welcomed all with her warm smile. We all benefited from Diane's hard work, contributions, and her love of Western Music, the IWMA, the performers, and members. She leaves a great void and will be missed. – Greg Khougaz

When a Dear Friend leaves this life for the next, words are hard to find. Today, we learned of the passing of our friend, Diane Bergstrom. She, along with husband John Bergstrom, "rode" along with us – and OutWest – for over 10 years providing support, enthusiasm, and love - whatever we needed – whenever we called. Along the way we were enriched with her insights, humor, and...gift of friendship. Thank you, John and Diane, for all you did for us and for your steadfast and lasting friendship. To Diane...we know we will meet again! Love you both. – Bobbi Jean and Jim Bell

Should you like to reach out to John, his address is 17650 Devonshire St, Northridge, CA 91325. Phone is 661-714-2019.

## **JACK HUMMEL (1942 – 2022)**



Jack Hummel was literally everyone's friend in the IWMA and beyond. Because of his deep roots in the beginning of and the ongoing functioning of the IWMA, you can see more and read more about "The

Man" in the tribute elsewhere in this issue. Here is a few of personal details about Jack provided by his life's mate, his wife Voleta:

Jack was born November 7, 1942. in Texarkana, Texas. He grew up in Naples, TX (a small town about 40 miles southeast of Texarkana). Was on the football team in high school and participated in most sports – tennis and golf, for example. Jack attended the University of Texas and then graduated from what was then East Texas State University, now known as Texas A&M University - Commerce. He was drafted in the Army, attended OCS, and was stationed in Fort Lewis, Washington, Korea, Recruiting Main Station in Amarillo, Texas (where we met), then served as a company commander in Viet Nam from 1970-1971 (after getting married in Las Vegas on his way – I was there <grin>). Jack exited the Army from Fort Meade, Maryland in 1972. He then went on to receive his MBA from North Texas University. We lived in Topeka, KS, after he graduated, then St Louis, MO, and then in LA County and Santa Clarita, California. We had no children. He has a brother, Steve, living in Georgetown, TX.

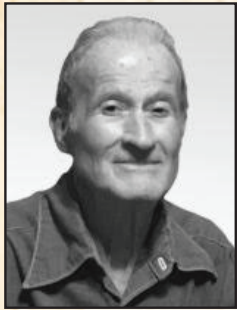
Obviously there's 79 years of living involved here, but stories for another day!

*Continued on page 30*



## In Memoriam

### DON VERNON SMITH (1937-2022)



On March 26, 2022, Donald “Don” Vernon Smith passed away at the age of 85. Don, who spent most of his childhood on a dairy farm in Iowa, moved to the Rocky Mountains in Colorado as a teen and spent nearly the rest of his life there.

Don graduated from Nederland Junior-Senior High School. As the story goes, his graduating class was so small, they were all able to fit in one passenger car when they went on their senior trip. Don earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Education from Colorado University in Boulder. He met Lynda Woodward at the grocery store where he worked during college. They started going across the street with Lynda’s parents to square dance, and they married in 1959. During their 28-year marriage, Don and Lynda had two children. Chet and Lori remember Don as a loving, reliable, consistent, and faithful father, who parented with a strong, quiet style.

Don worked in the roles of school counselor, math teacher, P.E. instructor, football coach, and girls’ basketball coach for the Boulder Valley School District. Several of the players Don coached went on to become professional athletes. Don would say that they did so “in spite of” having him as their coach. A lifelong music enthusiast, Don played the trombone and guitar, traveled to Western music festivals, and listened to recordings of his favorite artists including classical and jazz guitar players. Radio was a special interest during Don’s retirement. He produced radio shows, D.J.’d for a jazz station, and hosted a weekly gospel music radio program for KGUD 90.7 in Longmont, Colorado.

Don also had a KGUD broadcast during which he read the newspaper out loud for visually impaired listeners. He visited residents at the local nursing home and shared his time and resources with many other people and organizations. Don was an active member of several churches over the years, including Coal Creek Community Church (Coal Creek, Colorado), Nederland Community Presbyterian Church (Nederland, Colorado), Calvary Chapel (Nederland, Colorado), and Jamestown Community Church (Jamestown, Colorado). He taught adult Bible classes and led singing.

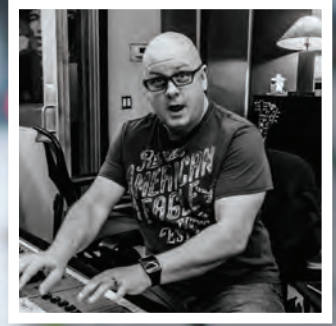
Throughout his life, Don enjoyed outdoor activities such as horseback riding, motorcycle touring, cross country skiing, jogging, and biking. As a teenager, he taught one of his horses, “Rusty,” to perform tricks.

Don loved his home, which is situated on the edge of the Roosevelt National Forest. Except for the last three months of his life, Don was able to live there independently while listening to his vast music collection and enjoying nature. He fed dozens of hummingbirds each summer, and shared his property with elk, moose, deer, and bears.

Don is survived by his daughter, Laura “Lori” Lynn Peery of Merritt Island, Florida, his son, Chet Donald Smith (Rae Anne), of Sewanee, Tennessee, and his stepbrother, Gene Rouse (Joan) of Coal Creek Canyon, Colorado, six grandchildren (Blake Peery, Hannah Peery, Lindsay Peery Jones, Austin Smith, Christopher Smith, and Brian Smith), and five great-grandchildren (Remington Peery, Colton Peery, Harper Jones, Landon Jones, and Layla Smith).

# BEHIND THE STUDIO DOOR

*with Bryan Kuban*



## A Tribute to “Garland Duane Moore” – A Southwest Icon

Our information in Behind the Studio Door is somewhat different this time. Rather than instructional, it is a tribute to someone who successfully made music his life and gathered many friends in the process.

On April 28, 2022, Arizona lost an entertainment icon. Garland Duane Moore Passed from a heart attack at the young age of 58 years. This hit very close to me as I have been honored to share the stage with Duane for over 21 amazing years.

Duane Moore, George Brunson, and David Miller formed the Mogollon band back in 1979 in a small town in Northern AZ called Heber/Overgaard. Duane at the age of 13 moved to the small town with his family and his father was a Sheriff for the community. Very soon after moving to the area, Duane's Father took him on a camping trip with his law enforcement coworker, Andy Brunson and his son George Brunson. The reason for the trip was for Duane to meet a local youngster so he could adjust to the big move to such a small town. Duane and George became friends and George, who played guitar like his father Andy, taught Duane how to play the guitar and a few songs to play. This was the origin of the “Mogollon Band.”

Just a few years later the boys formed their band. With relentless practice and coaching from Andy Brunson who was a fantastic performer/entertainer, they had the tools to move on to a whole new level and were playing shows up on the Mogollon Rim in Northern Arizona Shortly after that they had cut a single called “Ride High Honey.” One day while riding to school on the bus, the band had the epic moment of hearing their song being played on the radio on Holbrook station KDJI Radio on their way to Snowflake High. From this moment the boys were headed into a life of music and entertainment.

Just out of high school the band relocated to the Metro Phoenix area and started dominating the Phoenix Country music scene. They won the National Marlboro Country Music Showdown with a \$5000.00 prize as well as a sponsorship from Anheuser Busch for equipment and tour reinforcement. The band traveled all the major dance halls and honky tonks west of the Mississippi.

After a few failed attempts at cracking the Nashville scene the band, chose to go their own path and garnered a massive following in the Southwest. The group became a staple in the Arizona market with lines of people wrapped around the buildings to attend their shows.

Duane, George and their band had their own unique brand of entertainment which included fun schdicks like “The Fiddle Trick” where George stood behind Duane and they played the fiddle

and guitar with George strumming the guitar while fingering the fiddle and Duane bowing the fiddle while chording the guitar. While most bands were just playing songs with no audience interaction the Mogollon Band was blowing up the stage with great musicianship and powerful entertainment concepts.

The awesome presence and demeanor that Duane played with was reflected in his relationships with people all over the globe. Duane never knew a stranger. He always made everyone he met a part of his life. He took time for every fan and every vendor letting them know how much he appreciated them.

In the past 20 years Duane formed a relationship with Sister Cities Tempe and became a representative and member of the organization. A few years later, Duane wrote a song called “One Friendship at a Time” which became a theme song for the Sister Cities program. Duane lived his best life always showing kindness and respect for all he played for.

On May, 19, 2022 Duane was honored at a memorial tribute concert at “The Monastery” an outdoor venue in Mesa. Approximately 2000 people attended to pay their respects to the Arizona icon. Dave Pratt, respected longtime Arizona personality hosted the event with guest singers and players from Arizona's finest bands collaborating to play the Mogollon Band's originals and favorite songs. There was also a beautiful feature story on KPNX Ch 12 by Bianca Buono.

Duane Moore was the perfect model for inspired and hopeful artists. Duane never played a show without a 100% attitude. I once watched him entertain a crowd of four people with the same energy as if it was a 1000. Duane never called in sick. If he could stand up “The Show Must Go On.” Duane took time for every person who approached him. Duane “Drank the Applause Like Water” and gave it back to the audience ten-fold.

This is just a very small sample of what Duane Moore meant to the Arizona Music and Entertainment community. I've learned recently that there are a thousand more incredible stories that I have not yet even heard. If you are interested in checking out the news feature, here is the link – <https://www.12news.com/article/entertainment/music/community-remembers-duane-moore-arizona-country-singer-who-unexpectedly-died/75-4c2d6a0a-9614-49b4-a681-58d5167e1987> 🐾

**RIP**

**Garland Duane Moore**

**06/30/61 – 05/28/22**





## 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](mailto:ojisikes@gmail.com)

Selecting the "Best of" anything always involves some subjectivity. So please bear that in mind as you look at the list of my picks for the best Western albums recorded by our singing cowboy heroes in the last century, that are still available on CD. You may have a different view, and, if you do, I'd love for you to share it. Unfortunately, some of the "best" material issued in album format, may no longer be readily available, but what's on the list that follows is still around, unless otherwise noted, at least as of this writing.

The first CD, titled *Cowboy Under the Western Sky* (Jasmine JASMCD 3591) is by **Rex Allen**. It's made up of 2 LPs, *Under Western Skies* and *Mister Cowboy* that initially appeared on the Decca label in the 1950s. The first 12 tracks were with a full orchestra conducted by Victor Young, and legend has it that, when Rex finished singing *I'm a Young Cowboy* (*Streets of Laredo*) on this session, the orchestra stood up and applauded! Tracks 13-26 feature Rex accompanied by legendary guitarist Hank Garland on folk and cowboy songs, some of which he had sung in his movies a few years earlier.

For the 2nd CD on the list, let's go back to an album Rex Allen recorded around 1972. Producer **Jack Clemments** initially titled it *Rex Allen Sings Boney-kneed, Hairy-legged Cowboy Songs*. Rex's friend, **Snuff Garrett**, issued it on CD in 2001, changing the title to *Rex Allen – The Arizona Cowboy* (GME 1014). On this one, Rex sings *When the Work's All Done This Fall*, *"Tyin' Knots in the Devil's Tail*, and other classics, including his narration of *Droop Ears*. This one's available as CD #29 on the website of the [RexAllenMuseum.org](http://RexAllenMuseum.org).

**Gene Autry** had so many hits in the country field, it was always hard to convince his recording company, Columbia, to release more of his Western recordings. So, in 2001, a smaller company, Varase Sarabande, in collaboration with Gene Autry's office, selected 50 Western "classics" from movies, radio and tv, remastered them and released them on 2 CDs: *The*

*Western Collection* (302 066 271 2) and *Goin' Back to Texas* (302 066 272 2). Both are superb examples of Gene's treatment of Western songs, and they are still available via the [GeneAutry.com](http://GeneAutry.com) website.

It's very hard to find **Eddie Dean** recordings these days, but there's one titled *Eddie Dean* (BACM CD 547) which contains songs from Eddie's Western films for PRC Pictures with **Andy Parker & the Plainsmen** and the **Sunshine Boys**, plus Eddie's tracks with The Plainsmen from the Majestic record label. The BACM label also has an outstanding collection of 4 Andy Parker & the Plainsmen CDs, any one (or all 4) of which would make wonderful additions to any Western music collection.

The British Archive of Country Music (BACM) still has 2 CDs of music by **Foy Willing and the Riders of the Purple Sage** in their catalogue: Vol 1 (BACM CD 56) and Vol. 2 (BACM CD 533). The former contains commercial recordings, for the most part, while the 2nd contains transcriptions.

**Roy Rogers & Dale Evans' Westward Ho! Song Wagon of the West** (Jasmine CD 3682/3), is a double CD set that probably contains the most comprehensive collection of original recordings associated with Roy & Dale. It's still widely available, but if you can find a reasonably priced copy of the out-of-print boxed set, *Happy Trails: The Roy Rogers Collection, 1937-1990*, go for that, too! If you're a big fan of the early Roy and the **Sons of the Pioneers**, you may want to invest in the boxed set, *Way Out There, The Sons of the Pioneers – Roy Rogers, The Complete Recordings, 1934-1943* on the Bear Family label.

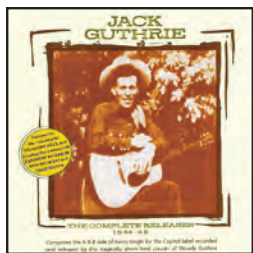
One of the Bear Family boxed sets of early Sons of the Pioneers Standard transcription recordings is also still available, as is their gem, the 4 CD set of Sons of the Pioneers recordings titled *Wagons West* (BCD 15 640 DI), which contains all of the Pioneers' commercial recordings from 1945-1954, except for those recorded with other artists. If large boxed sets aren't your cup

*Continued on page 41*

## JACK GUTHRIE AND HIS OKLAHOMANS

*"Jack Guthrie – The Complete Releases: 1944-1948"*

ACMCD4403



Jack Guthrie was not as well-known as his cousin Woody, but he recorded 25 sides for

the Capitol label in the 1940s, including his most famous (and #1 hit) recording, "Oklahoma Hills." This new CD on the Acrobat label contains all 25 recordings, a mix of cowboy, Western swing and country music. His band included names you're probably familiar with: Cliffie Stone on bass, Porky Freeman and Red Murrell on guitars, with legendary guitarist Jack Rivers coming in on some of the later sessions, and Billy Hughes on fiddle.

Guthrie's voice is something of an acquired taste, but I learned to enjoy it during the first listening. His band was remarkable, and the treatment they give to the selections is first-rate, in spite of Guthrie's occasional tendency to drift off-meter (as did some other, better-known singers). The band never misses a beat! And their arrangements are top-notch.

Guthrie had hits with "I'm Brandin' My Darlin' with My Heart" and "Oakie Boogie," and there are several other Western swing tunes in this collection, including "Ida Red" and "Shame on You." Western songs include "Colorado Blues," "When the Cactus is in Bloom" and "Oklahoma Calling." Widely available, but you might try HamiltonBook.com if you're looking for a new source.

## TEX RITTER

*"Tex Ritter Collection: Hits and Selected Singles, 1933 - 1961"*

ACTRCD9118



Tex Ritter was one of the most prolific of all of the singing cowboys. This collection includes

gems (77 tracks) from most of that long career. Tex's music had wide appeal, beginning with his early interest in authentic Western ballads, which he took to NY, early in his career, singing, recording and narrating on Broadway and NY radio before moving to Hollywood in 1937, where he continued to sing those old songs in his B-Western movies. Soon, he discovered that his movies made good vehicles for publicizing the Western and country songs he was recording for the Decca, Vocalion and Champion labels, before moving to the new Capitol label in the early 40s.

The early years (1933 – 1939) are represented on the first disc in this collection, with classic Western tracks, e.g. Good-bye Old Paint." His big hit records started coming when he moved to Capitol, and you'll hear some of them on the first disc as well, e.g. "Jealous Heart" and "You Two-Timed Me One Time Too Often." Lloyd Perryman's brother led the band that accompanied Tex on his last Decca session, but when he moved to Capitol, he was joined by musicians who would work closely with him for many years to come. You may recognize the names of Wesley Tuttle, Merle Travis (Wes had brought Travis to the label a little earlier), Johnny Bond, who became one of Tex's closest friends and business associates, fiddler Charlie Linville, and Gene Autry's steel

guitarist, Frankie Marvin. Most of this group later became the nucleus of the very popular Town Hall Party/Ranch Party shows hosted by Tex in the 1950s.

The remaining 2 discs include all of Tex's charting records and they are indicative of the scope of his extensive work in the recording studio, with children's songs, inspirational songs and his classic recitations, e.g. "Hillbilly Heaven." His Western recordings are well-represented on all three discs. A few of the original discs were hard to find, and even harder to re-master, but it's a remarkable collection. Widely available.



## DIMITRI TIOMKIN

*"The Movie Music of Dimitri Tiomkin – 1937-1962"*

*Frankie Laine, Tex Ritter, Les Baxter, Billy Vaughn, Dean Martin, Nat "King" Cole, etc.*

2 CD SET ADDCD3417



Dimitri Tiomkin composed music for many kinds of films, and most of those are

represented in this new 2-CD, 55 track set. But he is probably best remembered for his Western themes, including "Red River," "Rio Bravo," "The Alamo," "Gunfight at OK Corral," "Giant," "Rawhide," "Gunslinger" and, of course, the Oscar-winning "High Noon." He won 23 Oscars for his work, and he was the first film music composer to have his songs (4 of them) become Top Ten hits.

As a young man, he played piano in silent-era movie theaters, and, as he watched the action develop on

*Continued on page 41*





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.

## BARNEY BENTALL

### *"Cosmic Dreamer"*



Canadian singer/songwriter Barney Bentall is known worldwide for his 80s

& 90s era band The Legendary Hearts, whose albums attained Platinum sales status more than once. Artistically over the years he has ventured into various genres, and his fans are accustomed to the trips.

This newest release finds the Juno Award winner plying his semi-Bob Dylan semi-James Taylor vocal tone onto definitely Taylor-esque arrangements. In other words, it's predominantly gentle acoustic. The principal players are Bentall (vocals/harmonica/guitar), Kirby Barber (bass/vocals), Geoff Hicks (drums/percussion) and Adrian Dolan (piano/keyboards/accordion/mandolin/mandola/fiddle) with twelve "guest" musicians sprinkled onto various tracks for very good measure.

The arguably Western or at least Western-tinged picks are "Cody

Road," "Potter's Wheel" (with Ruth Moody supplying harmony), "Whiskey Jack [Home]," "Why Are You So Sad" (co-written with Mike Crozier) and even a Bob Dylan cover "You're Gonna Make Me Lonesome When You Go" has a certain Western quality to it. Valentino Trapani provides vocal harmony on that one.

Overall, I would label this outing "Mellow Americana" except, of course, it's "Canadiana!" And I also label it "Recommended."

CD: Available through [truenorthrecords.com](http://truenorthrecords.com) and download from most of the usual sources



## TERESA BURLESON

### *"Between the Sun and the Moon"*



The prolific Texas Cowboy Poet Teresa Burleson again takes us there – into the daily

doings of chores, into history, into the core of rural survival. Being

the Director of the Stockyards Museum, she is surrounded by inspirations, but she also lives the life.

As a rule, Teresa Burleson's poems are direct with instantly approachable images, and this collection of her works is no exception. Since she also sings (and quite well), a couple of poems here are musically framed. One of them called "Jenny's Regret" features parts of Michael Burton's famous "Cowboy's Lament" providing bookends as the "girlfriend back home" it mentions states her side of things. More picks include "Breaking The Ice" (on a cold winter morning), "Don't Tell My Wife" (a true tale of no horse sense), "Fake Meat" (the real 'where's the beef'), "What About Me?" (a secondary status that is all too familiar) and "If Those Pens Could Talk" (the Chamber of Commerce won't approve).

This CD from Teresa Burleson is particularly recommended for those who take their Cowboy Poetry straight-no-chaser! Thirteen tracks.

CD: \$17 ppd through [teresaburleson.com](http://teresaburleson.com)

## SHERL CEDERBURG

*"Wisdom in the Wind"*



The newest CD from South Dakota poet Sherl Cederburg features her animated

delivery of observations and perspectives gained largely from true life experiences. Once again they are supported ably by music and sound effects from producer Butch Hause.

In choosing her subject matter, Cederburg steps into and out of the specific show ring of Cowboy Poetry. But in all cases worthy points are made. Some picks include "Authentic Cowboys Boots" (the fancy and the ranchy), "Ol' Pard" (the truest kind, you'll agree), "Daddy's Girl" (which pair of eyes speaks more to the heart), "Nebraska Wind" (no meteorologist could call it better...and it was reprinted in the *Spring Western Way*, by the way), "First Day" (watch for a perfect O Henry-style ending) and "Storyteller" (she's a spellbinder alright)! You would be presented with a nice set of thoughts with this one should you choose to acquire it, so I will recommend you consider doing so. Eighteen tracks.

CD: \$15 plus shipping through [sherlcederburg.com](http://sherlcederburg.com)

## GRACE CLARK

*"Dancin' With Swingitude"*  
(4-Song EP)



Grace Clark's distinctive contralto voice anchors the Swingitude vocal

harmonies into the mellow lower registers of the scale. It's one of those effects you may come to be able to recognize each time you encounter it.

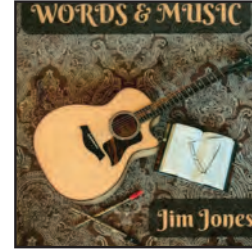
On this four-song EP, Clark & company offer pleasant combo swing takes of two Cindy Walker songs "Take Me In Your Arms And Hold Me" and the more frequently covered "It's All Your Fault," wherein Joyce Woodson's harmony is also heard. The IWMA charter founder also appears on the band's title song "Dancin' With Swingitude." The fourth track offered here is the beloved Johnny Mercer classic "I'm An Old Cowhand." Other players on the project include Lisa Burns (bass fiddle), Dave Rietz (fiddle), Jimmy Spero (lead guitar), Billy Wilson (pedal steel guitar), Sylvia Herold (vocal harmony), and Grace's son Scott Clark (drums). A liner note quote from Grace sums it up: "It takes a lotta years to figure out just who you are and not what other people tell you you oughta' be." In other words...she's showing swingitude! Recommended for her fans.

CD/downloads:

[GraceAClarkMusic.com](http://GraceAClarkMusic.com) or call (925) 443-5217

## JIM JONES

*"Words & Music"*



They say there are no new ideas, but... 'gotta say I've never encountered this one!

As a

performer + songwriter + novelist, Jim Jones finds himself in the position to offer an unusual insight into a creative process. In each case on this release either the song came from a novel or it became one. "The Lights Of Cimarron" was a song first, "The Big Empty" was a book. So, dramatically delivered over music supplied by Jones' multi-instrumentalist pard in The Cowboy Way Mariam Funke, we hear words that alternately inspired or were inspired by the song that follows each reading. 'Got it? Good. I'm out of space to explain further!

Beyond the songs mentioned, the remaining four tracks are "Moon" tunes (no worries... "June" and "spoon" are nowhere in sight): "Rustler's Moon," "Colorado Moon," "Waning Moon" and "Halo Moon." Lest you think Jones has a lunar fixation, these made up one of his Western novel series. Beyond its intrinsic value, this ain't a bad way to entice folks into acquiring additional Jones product! Seriously, Jim Jones is a recognized multi-award winner in a number of the Western disciplines, so you can rightly expect this one will be worth your time as well. Twelve tracks total (or six, depending on how you look at it!). Definitely recommended.

CD: Available through [jimjoneswestern.com](http://jimjoneswestern.com))

*Continued on page 36*



## VERNON HUSKEY

### *"Ghost Riders In The Sky"*

(Single)



It's good to know that some of the Traditional Country genre artists aren't afraid to release a

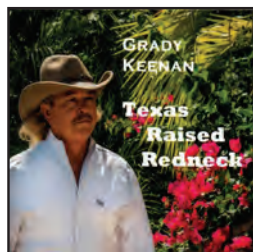
Traditional Western genre song! In this case, it's veteran baritone Vernon Huskey giving us a solid, chugging rendition of Stan Jones' famous vision inspired by a Death Valley sunset and a story told to him by a fellow park ranger.

Song purists will more than likely take note of certain lyric variations that have wandered in over the years, but I've heard worse than the ones found here! This time around they include "tryin' to catch *this* devil herd" rather than Jones' "the devil's herd" and the often found "yippee I yo...yippee I ay" rather than the original single call of "Yippee I Oh...I Ae" (spelling notwithstanding). But, at least a perfectly serviceable version of the Western standard is ready to be heard by a new crowd. I wouldn't necessarily have said that about a couple of the Rock arrangements I have come across!

Single: Download information not available

## GRADY KEENAN

### *"Texas Raised Redneck"*



Producer/  
session  
musician  
Bobby Flores  
is well-known  
for issuing  
topflight  
Western

Swing and Texas Traditional Country releases. The former genre is not present in Grady Keenan's new one. The latter, along with some Hot Country chart-targeted material, is.

Keenan's pleasant Country baritone carries the CD's collection of predominantly original writes and co-writes. An exception happens to be an album pick. A cover of Ian Tyson's famous "Someday Soon" is neatly adapted as a duet for Keenan and Amanda Bryant. Its lyrics smoothly become statement and answer lines for the pair. I've encountered this approach before, but none done this effortlessly. Other arguably Western-inclined songs are the title track "Texas Raised Redneck" and "Back Home In Texas." The remainder of the release adequately serves the needs of the two-steppers.

For the type, the album is expertly done in all departments. Frankly, Bobby Flores wouldn't have let it out the door if it didn't pass muster. Ten tracks, recommended.

CD: Information not furnished

## PAUL KELLY

### *"Sugarfoot"*



Out west  
"Sugarfoot"  
was a step  
below  
"Tenderfoot."  
On TV it  
was Will  
Hutchins. Its

online definition goes as follows:  
"Noun. Term of endearment for a sweet, well-meaning, mild-mannered, somewhat slow... boyfriend (?!!)" And don't open the slang definition. You don't want to know.

As a general rule, Paul Kelly's vocal styling bubbles with fun. In this release (his first in around ten years) the Santa Fe singer/songwriter's lyrics and arrangements are equally engaging. Ten other accomplished musicians and a dog join in the acoustic doings to good effect. Kelly's moments of amusingly off-kilter imagery come off like caffeine shots for the ear. All of the songs were co-written by Kelly with his friend Buddy Guido. Specific Western picks include "The Moon Plays Mandolin," "A Gal And Her Pony," "Enchantment," a fine duet with Sarah Ferrell "A Heart Like Barbed Wire,"

the swinging "Socorro [Festival Of The Cranes] and the ragtime feel of "High In The Sky."

An enclosed booklet offers the lyrics for any artist who might like to cover a song or two, and they should! Ten tracks, very highly recommended.

CD: \$15 + \$3 s/h from Paul Kelly, StoneYodel Music, PO Box 421, Santa Fe, NM 87501

**Learn more about the  
International Western Music Association at  
[iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org)**

## STEVE MARKWARDT

### *"She Took Me Back"* (Single)



As that eminent observer of the scene Jed Clampett many times said,

"Welllll doggies!!" Texan Steve Markwardt has proven it is possible to write a Western Swing song that's about non-cheating love, although technically it may be a positive outcome of a cheating aftermath. Most likely. Anyway, it's a fine one and a feel-good winner!

Although he had performed earlier in life, apparently it wasn't until age 59 that this Fort Worth resident really focused on writing and recording. Currently he has two albums available, but as of this writing "She Took Me Back" is only out as a single.

Tonally Markwardt's voice has a bit of Rex Allen Jr. about it, particularly in the higher registers, which sure ain't a bad thing! The playing and the production are top notch, but the song itself really should get him plenty of attention and airplay on the Swing-friendly shows. Not often do I find one that has me humming the melody after a single play. For my money, it has every element required to click with the Western Swingers. Highly recommended if you can find it.

Single: As of press time download info was not available. Site: [markwardtmusic.com](http://markwardtmusic.com)

## DOC MEHL

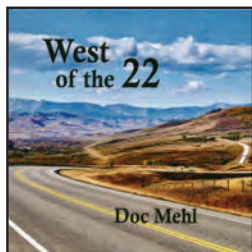
### *"Tried and True" and "West of the 22"*



The inimitable Doc Mehl re-emerges from a period of guesting and session playing to take the main mic on

two new releases.

"Tried and True" is a mix of new acquaintances and old friends, musically speaking. The former group includes "Going To The West" (the story of a friend making a critical decision), a nutty parody "Long Long Johns" (look away, Jimmy Dean!), the inflammatory "Throw Another Banjo On The Fire," the NOT autobiographical "I'm Superficial," "Every Day Of My Week Ends In Why" and "Old Cars Old Jeans." Then some Mehl-lifluous faves reappear here including "I'd Rather Be," "Twenty Pounds Over," "Happy Trail Mix" and more. Doc's perspectives are consistently literate and wry, perhaps justifying calling him a "Twain Of The Refrain!" Fourteen tracks.



"West Of The 22" is the more specifically Western of his two 2022 releases. All of the tracks are

heretofore unheard. Doc's original (and we do mean "original") Western picks here are the true account of an ex-slave found in The Ballad Of Clara Brown," "Coulda Been A Cowboy" (if only he'd hung with the right 'pokes early on), his title track "West Of The 22", a co-write with Cori Brewster drawn from an Ian Tyson remark made to her "When The Owl Calls Me Home," the Irish "I Married Molly Harper," the enigmatic

"Somewhere West Of Yesterday" and "Simple Pleasures," a co-write with his wife, the renowned Canadian poet Doris Daley. Considering these two releases, I am oddly tempted to say (so I will) if it brings out this level of output from Doc Mehl, we need pandemic sequestering more often! Thirteen tracks. Both releases are recommended.

CDs: \$17+ \$3 (ea) from Doc Mehl, Box 1552, Black Diamond, Alberta Canada T0L 0H0



## KEITH PHILLIPS

### *"Songs I Wrote"* (4-Song EP)



Of the four 'songs' Keith Phillips 'wrote' on this sampler, one is definitely Western ("Old Pony"), one

is arguably Western ("Mama On My Mind"), one is most assuredly Western Swing ("Look Right Here At Me") and the fourth is...um...shall we say Christmas Swing ("When You Say Merry Christmas")!

Phillips is an expressive, Country-toned singer and the performances are tight and professional using the customary Country and Western Swing instrumentation. Focusing on "Old Pony," the lyrics on issues of change ("old pony, what're we gonna do... there's no place in this here world for me and you") convey the prevailing sentiment of those who make their living in the working saddle.

Happily, all of the songs are strong which is the least you should expect from a grouping intended to showcase its creator's best work.

CD: Sales and downloading information not available at press time

*Continued on page 39*



## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 18*



*The team providing poetry at the Hays, KS event 2022.*



*The team of poets at work at the Fredonia, KS event 2022.*

Cowboy Poetry Contest and the Junior Showcase both became live events once again, following two years of having been done virtually. Preliminary rounds were held in Fredonia and Hays, with the finals at the Flint Hills Discovery Center in Manhattan in conjunction with the annual Symphony in the Flint Hills. For more information, go to <https://2021cowboy-poetry.wixsite.com/my-site>. Annie Wilson, of the group, Tallgrass Express, is our new treasurer, and Martha Farrell has agreed to finish out the year as vice-president, in place of her late husband, Jim.

### NEW MEXICO CHAPTER

**President: Dennis Russell**  
[drnpoet@gmail.com](mailto:drnpoet@gmail.com)

It looks like The New Mexico Chapter has a busy summer ahead after a fairly busy spring. Dave Levenson is continuing to keep everyone tuned in by hosting the Online Song & Poetry Corral on Face book Live the first Monday of every month, and the Live Song & Poetry Corral at the Hopper on the third Monday of every month. Any

western(ish) performer is welcome to get in touch with him and share a few songs or MC one of the broadcasts. As Kacey and Jenna Thunborg head into their senior year of high school, they have scheduled a busy summer ahead. Starting with the Cowtown Opry Music Camp in Weatherford, Texas and ending with an opening performance for Kristyn Harris at the Day of The Cowboy at the Best Western Plus, Rio Grande Inn in Albuquerque, with many opportunities in-between. The girls are looking forward to a summer filled with learning, music, and performance. Valerie Beard released her first CD 'No Better Life' and it was well worth the wait.



*Valerie Beard*

Jim Jones and Mariam Funke hosted a song writing workshop to a focus group last month and spent the day sharing tips on how to write award winning songs and I will say as one of the attendees they had a lot of great ideas. The NM Chapter members will be holding two separate 'Day of the Cowboy' events this year on Saturday,

July 23. At the Best Western Rio Grande Inn, you can celebrate with Kacey and Jenna Thunborg who are opening up for Kristyn Harris. For those of you that cannot make it to Albuquerque join Doug Figgs, Floyd and Valerie Beard, Lindy Simmons, JJ Steele, The Ramblin' Rangers, and The Russellers to celebrate the Day of the Cowboy at the Historical Jones Theater in Westcliff Colorado. The NM Chapter, with the help of David Nidel, will be hosting 'Western Heritage Days on Stage' in The Ford Pavilion at the New Mexico State Fair. Save the date and come and perform with us from 10AM until 6PM on September 15. Bonnie Rutherford prepares a music schedule each month for friends and acquaintances who enjoy live Western music. The schedule lists events in the central New Mexico area for the coming month. The schedule lists local country, western, and bluegrass performers. The list is sent out to an email list of over 100 individuals. Any performers wishing to be added to the schedule should contact Bonnie at: [bonray2@gmail.com](mailto:bonray2@gmail.com). The list of New Mexico venues for Western performers is available on the New Mexico Chapter webpage at: [westernmusicnm.com/about](http://westernmusicnm.com/about). Sign up for this very useful program and at the same time let Bonnie know how much we appreciate her efforts.

*Continued on page 40*

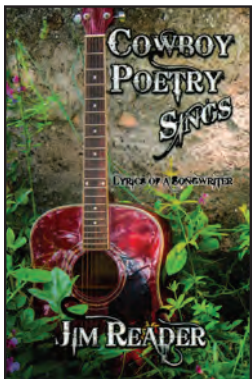


## JIM READER

**"The Last Best West" and  
"Cowboy Poetry Sings" (Book)**  
ISBN 978-1-00-683797-5



We hope Canadian Jim Reader's long awaited new CD "The Last Best West" is not so-named to signal a finale of his efforts! As was the case in his release from a decade back, sophisticated, engaging arrangements from Reader and producer/performer (and cartoonist) Ben Crane are the watchword of the new release. And for me, Reader's vocal sand lends an air of authenticity to the proceedings. Picks include "Bear Child-Jerry Potts," "Western Heroes," "Footprints Of 1880" (the Canadian land rush), "Cowboys & Pioneers," a striking recitation "The End Of The Buffalo" (featuring flutes and drones supplied by Karl Hanson), "Gone Are The Days," "Ride Where The Angels Fly" and his 'bonus track' recorded at home "The River Runs Cold." Highly recommended. And at the same time, Jim Reader has supplied us a "reader" of sorts!



His book "Cowboy Poetry Sings" contains most of his lyrics from the newest CD and favorites from his exalted earlier release as well. Each song refrain is presented in boldface (appropriate because he has one)! They are grouped into sections whose titles sum up the

Reader creed purty durned close: "The Old West," "Reflections," "The New West," "Critters" and "Making My Point." If those names don't encompass it, the lines of "Ride Where The Angels Fly" certainly might! Reader says he has come to the realization that, as a creator, he is a poet first. Sounds like another fellow I know of. 'Last name of "Nolan." 'Had a little group called "The Sons of the" something or other....

Fifty-six poems on eighty-nine pages. Very highly recommended.

CD & Book: Available through [jimreader.com](http://jimreader.com) or by contacting [jr@jimreader.com](mailto:jr@jimreader.com) for info



## COURTNEY HALE-REVIA

**"Growing Pains"**



Positioning herself interestingly as a "Country & Western artist," Courtney Hale-Revina

numbers among the newer class of self-marketing performers who

bypass the deadly old grinder that has chewed up and spit out so many aspiring talents. And she does 'em one better! Not only does she record and release on her own imprint, she maintains her own Texas performance venue called "7 Oaks Event Garden!" One of her CD tracks was recorded there "live." We assume the others come from various credited studios near where she was appearing.

Vocally Hale-Revina possesses the same kind of edge that a Carly Simon or Carole King offered back in the day. In other words, confident and firm. The accompaniments feature a strong beat and electrified guitars with acoustic elements included. Specific Western picks by content are the multi-tempo song "Lavender Cowgirl" and the tough-minded imagery found in "The Sheep Who Sleep With Wolves." Arguably Western are the picks "One Way Out," "They've Poisoned The Well" and her father James T. Hale's fine "Bloom Where You Are."

Twelve tracks total, recommended.

CD: Available through [courtneyhalereviamusic.com](http://courtneyhalereviamusic.com) 🐾



**The Real West**  
Patty Clayton

- Prairie Passages
- Long Gone Out West Blues
- A Call For Brides
- This Flat Land
- Red Buffalo
- Prairie Dog Blues
- Wagonhound
- One Lone Man
- The Lilacs & The Roses
- Buffalo Chips
- Before the Prairie Met the Plow

**Brand new CD by Patty Clayton!**  
CD or download now from [www.pattyclayton.com](http://www.pattyclayton.com)



# Chapter Update

*Continued from page 38*

## OKLAHOMA CHAPTER

**President: Robert Maxwell Case**  
**robert@robertmaxwellcase.com**

One of our cowboy poets, Dale Page (2021 Special Achievement Award, Western Wordsmith Chapter), received communication from the Oklahoma Arts Council in April. Director of Marketing and Communications Joel Gavin is "interested in identifying cowboy poets across Oklahoma, as we are anticipating opportunities to promote and/or present some in the near future." Our chapter was able to provide Joel with a pretty good roster from current and former members, even some who have moved out-of-state. A word-to-the-wise, please be sure to keep your biographical and contact information updated. Susie and Robert Maxwell Case (A Little Farther West) attended an appearance by Kurt Russell in Oklahoma City. The beloved actor and his late father, Bing Russell, were inducted into The National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum's Hall of Great Western Performers on April 9 and he took part in a "Q&A" attended by several hundred western movie fans. Although his music might have slowed to a crawl because of



*"The Desperate Dance" by Donnie Poindexter*  
(Courtesy of the artist)

the pandemic, Donnie Poindexter didn't. He simply applied himself to his western art. His drawing, "The Desperate Dance," placed third in the Cowboy True Art Show in Wichita Falls, Texas in April where he also got to perform with his good friends Devon Dawson, Jesse Robertson, Teresa Burleson and David Holcomb. He was also the Featured Artist for the month of May at the Hidden Talent Fine Art Gallery in historic downtown Fort Smith, Arkansas.

## TENNESSEE CHAPTER

**President: Gary Holt**  
**Gih50@live.com**

Greetings from the IWMA Tennessee Chapter!!!

We are so grateful to our existing members and all the new ones joining us everyday!!! Thank you for continuing to preserve the integrity and cultural importance of western music across our land and abroad! A lot is happening in Tennessee since the last issue of *Western Way*! Back in April, at the Western Heritage Awards in Oklahoma City, IWMA-TN's Mary Kaye Holt, a past two time Wrangler Award Winner, was a panelist for the songwriters Q&A session on Friday morning. On Saturday evening, she was a presenter for this very prestigious event. Well done Mary Kaye!!! The Commodore Grille on West End Avenue in Nashville is famously known for Debi Champion's Writer's Nights and is now hosting the IWMA-TN Songwriter Nights bimonthly. The first to perform were Mary Kaye Holt, Bobby Marquez and Claudia Nygaard and June featured Tecia McKenna and Templeton Thompson. Incidentally, Templeton Thompson and her husband Sam Gay, have just been signed to the Australian label, ORiGiN Music Publishing. Congratulations to you both!!! Also in June, The IWMA-TN hosted our First Songwriters Workshop!

IWMA-TN's Micki Fuhrman and New Mexico's Jim Jones conducted it. Watch for future workshops and registration information on the IWMA-TN Facebook page. Artists are touring again!!! The crowds and performers are excited and appreciative!!! With that, we just received word, thanks to the efforts of members Jennifer Herron and Bobby Marquez, that in 2023, on the Grand Ole Opry Stage of the Tennessee State Fair, there will be a Western Night hosted by the IWMA-TN! In other News, coming to you straight from the Riders In The Sky camp; "Eminent Country Scholar, Bill C. Malone and his wife, Bobbi, have undertaken the writing of the official *Riders In The Sky's Biography*! A wonderful tribute to our legacy, such as it is. They are undertaking many interviews as I write! Also, during quarantine, I began an investigation of the life and work of Carson J. Robinson ("Carry Me Back To The Prairie" and 300+ others); happy to say, Vanderbilt University Press will publish it in the Fall of 2023! So, that's our good news! Happy Trails!" ~Ranger Doug~ Congratulations Riders in the Sky and Ranger Doug, we look forward to riding on this journey with y'all! Well deserved indeed!!! Plans continue moving forward for the RENDEZVOUS 2022 at the Circle E Guest Ranch in Winchester, TN, later this Fall! Make sure to check the Equestrian Legacy Radio Website and the IWMA-TN fb page for all the details!!! It's going to be grand this year!!! We're looking forward to seeing y'all soon!! Saddle up!!!

## UTAH CHAPTER

**President: Brian Arnold**  
**saddlestrings@live.com**

The Utah Chapter has been semi-dormant as a collective chapter concerning meetings and socials during the last two years. Many of us were fortunate to stay quite

*Continued on page 45*

## O.J. SIKES MUSICAL NOTES

*Continued from page 32*

of tea, and if you enjoy the “sound” from the mid-40s through the 50s, Jasmine’s double CD, *Let’s Go West!* (JASMCD 3602/3), will surely meet your needs. It contains 69 tracks, mostly from the classic LPs, *25 Favorite Cowboy Songs*, recorded in the mid-40s, and *Cool Water* from ’59, plus songs from several other LPs from the years in-between.

Lots of **Tex Ritter**’s music is still available, but the best summary of his work is probably his new release on the Acrobat label, reviewed in this issue. If Tex is your favorite, check the Bear Family catalog for his comprehensive boxed sets. Bear also still has copies of the excellent **Wesley Tuttle** boxed set, *Detour* (BCD 16416 EK), which includes a DVD of one of his movies with **Jimmy Wakely**, along with the 4 CDs.

Jimmy Wakely – *The Singing Cowboy*, initially issued on LP by Jimmy’s own company, Shasta, is now on the Varese Sarabande label and is still available on CD (online, e.g. Amazon.com). Wakely was a very popular country music star and recorded successfully in the pop field as well, and there are several excellent CD collections of his music readily available, but this single CD is his best Western album still available today. The BACM label recently issued an expanded version of this CD under the title *Twilight on the Trail – The Shasta Transcriptions*, Vol. 5 in their Wakely series. And we can’t leave out the superb **Jimmy Wakely Trio**, also called the **Rough Riders**, Volumes 1 (*Moon Over the Trail* #102) and 2 (*Ride, Ride, Ride* #384) on the BACM label.

These recordings are, in my opinion, the top of the heap of what’s still available representing the recorded work of yesteryear’s singing movie cowboys. But the last century closed with some extraordinary music that led us into the 21st Century, even though we may not be able to find our old favorites singing at *The Strand* anymore. So I’d like to mention a few of those musical landmarks, too: **Riders in the Sky** have recorded so many great albums, it’s hard to choose just one, but *Always Drink Upstream from the Herd* is hard to beat, and it’s still available from [RidersintheSky.com](http://RidersintheSky.com). In 1982, **Rex Allen, Jr.** recorded an LP titled *The Singing Cowboy*, and it was issued on CD for today’s audiences in 2017 on BPR Records. Unfortunately, at this writing, this CD is no longer available, so if you find a second-hand copy, grab it! It can be downloaded from [Cdbaby.com](http://Cdbaby.com)

**Rusty Richards**’ outstanding CD, *The American Cowboy* is now available as a download on Amazon.com. My favorite **Don Edwards** CDs are out-of-print, but I’d suggest *Goin’ Back to Texas*, if you don’t have it (see [DonEdwardsMusic.com](http://DonEdwardsMusic.com)). Finally, look for **Michael Martin Murphey**’s *Cowboy Songs* album online at [michaelmartinmurphey.com/music](http://michaelmartinmurphey.com/music), and **Joni Harms**’ CDs can be found at [JoniHarms.com](http://JoniHarms.com), but it’s tough to choose just one favorite. Best bet is to go online and listen to some of the songs. If that’s not enough for you, I’d go with Joni’s *Let’s Put the Western Back in the Country*.

If you have gaps in your collection of vintage material, now’s the time to fill them! 🐾

## O.J. SIKES REVIEWS – DIMITRI TIOMKIN

*Continued from page 33*

the screen, he began to improvise, composing music as he played to match the action and mood he perceived in the movie. This helped him develop the skills he was to put to use later as a film composer.

This 2-disc set includes hit recordings and different versions of songs from a wide variety of films, ranging from “The High & the Mighty” and Pat Boone’s “Friendly Persuasion,” to recordings of the theme from “High Noon” by both Frankie Laine (who had the first hit record of it) and Tex Ritter (who had the most enduring recordings). You’ll find the opening theme from John Wayne’s “Red River” interesting because the melody later became the same melody Tiomkin used for “My Rifle, My Pony & Me,” sung by Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson in “Rio Bravo” (also in this collection).

Widely available, but you might try [HamiltonBook.com](http://HamiltonBook.com) if you don’t have a favorite source. 🐾





# 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](mailto:olreed.com@gmail.com)

My childhood spanned the 1950s into the early '60s, and, like many who grew up in that era, my love for all things Western was shaped by the profusion of western TV shows and movies of that period.

That's the theme that connects the two books I write about here, one a novel based on a movie about a past-his-prime western TV star and the other a nonfiction book that offers one man's assessment of western films and a few TV shows.

### QUENTIN TARANTINO

#### *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*



Author  
Tarantino wrote the screenplay for and directed the 2019 movie version of *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, which I watched three times

within 10 days.

Yeah, I'm a fan of the movie, which earned Brad Pitt an Oscar for best supporting actor. But I'm a fan of the novel, too, and that's different because the book, while built on the same framework of characters, setting and plot as the film, is different.

For example – not giving anything away for those of you who have not seen it – the film's gripping climactic scene is dealt with in just two or three sentences early in the novel.

The book and the movie are set mostly in 1969 Hollywood. The main characters are Rick Dalton (Leonardo

DiCaprio in the movie), once the star of a hit TV Western titled *Bounty Law*, but now reduced to playing guest villain roles on other TV shows, and Cliff Booth (Pitt in the film) who is Rick's stunt double, chauffeur and gofer.

Real-life personalities who have roles in Tarantino's novel include Hollywood starlet Sharon Tate, her film director husband Roman Polanski, ex-con psycho Charles Manson and his misfit hippie disciples, martial arts movie icon Bruce Lee, actor/director Sam Wanamaker, film actors Steve McQueen and Aldo Ray and on-the-rise TV star James Stacy, one of the leads in 1968-'71 western series *Lancer*.

I admire and thoroughly enjoy the way Tarantino presents 1969 Tinsel Town in both the film and the novel. In the latter, he tells us what hit songs by what musical artists are playing on what Los Angeles radio station hosted by what DJ as Cliff drives his Karmann Ghia or Rick's 1964 cream-yellow Cadillac Coup de Ville through the city's streets.

Before he got into the business himself, Tarantino was a movie geek and, after directing 10 films, including *Reservoir Dogs* and *Pulp Fiction*, apparently still is. What I like best about the novel is the entertainment industry lore that seeps out of many of its pages, much of it about western films such as *Stagecoach* and western TV series such as *Gunsmoke*.

So, yeah, for me it's the Hollywood insider stuff and the late '60s vibe that makes the novel a mesmerizing adventure to read. That and the fact that Cliff Booth, somewhat darker in the novel than in the movie, is one of the coolest characters I've come across in a while.

*Bounty Law*, the TV series that made Rick Dalton rich and famous, is fictitious, but Tarantino goes to pains to make it seem otherwise. The deluxe hardback edition of the novel includes a script from a *Bounty Law* episode titled "Incident at Inez" and a *Mad Magazine* parody of the series called "Lousy Law: Loser's Last Ride," as well as movie posters from Dalton's imagined career and color photos

from the set of the movie version of *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*.

Lancer, however, was an actual series and Tarantino brilliantly weaves Dalton into a guest part as the nasty leader of a vicious outlaw band that has kidnapped the 8-year-old daughter of a wealthy rancher. Series star Stacy plays the rancher's gunfighter son as well as a major part in Tarantino's novel.

It is in the Lancer portions of the book that Tarantino works in healthy portions of TV Western trivia, insights into the relationship between series stars and actors making guest appearances and in which Dalton's ebbing career gets a charge thanks to the prodding of the "snotty little dynamo" who plays the young kidnapping victim.

She calls him at his home at midnight to run lines from their scene together. When he objects, she counters, "You know, Rick, they don't just pay us to do it. They pay us to do it great."

With his career on something resembling a rebound, Dalton gets a gig making spaghetti Westerns in Europe, which gives Tarantino the opportunity to school us some on that genre.

It is sometimes difficult to tell where fiction ends and reality begins in this novel, but you get the sense that one remains eerily close to the other.

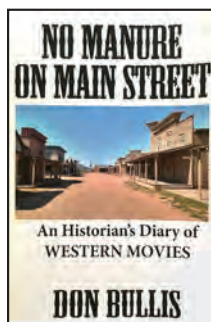
After a day working on Lancer, Stacy invites Dalton to join him for drinks. Cliff drives Rick to the bar in the Cadillac, but Stacy rides there on his motorcycle.

In real life, in 1973, a drunk driver crashed into Stacy's motorcycle, killing the actor's girlfriend and resulting in the amputation of Stacy's left arm and leg.

**("Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," 9780063112568; hardback, 400 pages, \$30; Harper; available at Barnes and Noble, Target, amazon.com and other bookstores and outlets.)**

## DON BULLIS

### *No Manure on Main Street* *An Historian's Diary of Western Movies*



Full disclosure right here at the start. I wrote the introduction to this book, but I did not get paid for that. Nor do I get any cut of proceeds from sales of the book.

I include it here because I find it a revealing, often humorous, occasionally annoying but consistently engaging look at about 250 western movies and a few western TV shows through the eyes of author Don Bullis.

Bullis, is best known for writing newspaper and magazine columns and books about New Mexico history. In 2012, the New Mexico State Library named him the state's Centennial Author.

It's no surprise that he looks at Westerns through a historian's lens. Each movie entry includes a commentary section that details plot and cast; a rating section in which Bullis delivers his verdict on the film; a history section in which he analyses the movie's historical accuracy or,

usually, the lack thereof; and a trivia section that serves up interesting tidbits about the making of the movie or the lives of cast members.

His overall contention is that while Westerns are meant to be entertaining, they often present "a skewed picture of life on the American frontier."

Hence the book's title, which refers to the fact that horse droppings are never seen on the streets of western towns in movies. He also likes to point out that John Wayne fires his six-shooter 13 times without reloading in the final gunfight in *The Sons of Katie Elder*.

Bullis and I both live near Albuquerque, N.M., and (full disclosure again) are friends. But that said, we don't agree on much.

Here is what he has to say about my favorite Western, 1956's *The Searchers*, directed by John Ford and starring Wayne.

"There is no mitigating the fact that I really do not like this film. I'm a click away from saying I hate it, but I try to avoid the passion that hatred suggests. ... I wouldn't recommend even watching *The Searchers* even once."

**("No Manure on Main Street," 9781943681389; paperback, 461 pages, \$32.95; Rio Grande Books; available at [RioGrandeBooks.com](http://RioGrandeBooks.com).)** 🐾

## ★ IWMA 2022 ★ SONGWRITING CONTEST HURRY...DEADLINE – JULY 31

Check out the Contest Rules and Information  
at [www.iwesternmusic.org](http://www.iwesternmusic.org) (Events Tab)  
There is still time so don't delay.



# 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

**Bobbi Jean Bell**

*"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  
bobbijeanbell@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**

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

**Peter Bruce**

*"Under Western Skies"*  
KAFF Country Legends  
FM 93.5/AM 930  
1117 W. Route 66  
Flagstaff, AZ 86001  
928-556-2650  
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**JJ Steele***"Cowboy Corral"*

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KLZR

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tommy@idavend.com

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## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 40*

busy with performances throughout the pandemic. Several members were affected by the virus, either personally or caregiving. Our recent cowboy gatherings in the Utah/Idaho area were quite successful and well attended. The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Cache Valley Cowboy Rendezvous was held during mid-March at the Cache County Event Center (CVCR) in Logan, Utah. Dale and Dawna Major put on a first class gathering of western music performers and Cowboy Poets. The Education Outreach Program funded by the Sorenson Legacy Foundation is an integral part of CVCR. Poets and musicians perform in schools throughout the week of CVCR. These poetry and music educational programs reach over 7,500 K-12 students! The following IWMA members participated in the program: Tom Swearingen, Mark Munzert, Eli Barsi, John Cunningham, Doug Figgs, Dave Anderson, Colt Blankman, Brian Arnold, Laurie Morgan and Chris Mortensen. Dave Stamey headlined the event and played to a sold-out audience! The Wordsmith Chapter

of the IWMA sponsored the buckle award for the "Professional" division of the Patriotic Poetry Contest. Brian Arnold was the winner. In late March and early April, the Utah Chapter also teamed up with the Cowboy Poets of Idaho to put on Gatherings in both Malad and St. Anthony, Idaho. Both events were well attended by Chapter members and fans of Western Music and Poetry. Congratulations to Colt Blankman and Vanessa Carpenter, both nominated for the IWMA Crescendo Award. Colt's "Wagon Train" was among the nominees for Cowboy Poetry Album of the year. Vanessa won the "Team Penning" Award at the IWMA Convention, co-writing and performing the winning entry with Dan McCorison. Looking forward to the rest of a busy and successful year in 2022. See you all down the trail!

### WESTERN WORDSMITHS CHAPTER

**President: Mark Munzert**  
markmunzert@gmail.com

Sherl Cederburg was named the 2022 recipient of the Steve Thorpe award by the Hill City Arts Council on March 26. (Hill City, South Dakota) The award was named after



*Sherl Cederburg receives Steve Thorpe award.*

Steve Thorpe, a street musician in Hill City who gave away harmonicas to children passing by and taught them to play. Sherl received a brass harmonica and a monetary award. Micki Fuhrman received her first Western Writers of America Spur Award for Best Western Song for "You Oughta See Wyoming" (MyMyMy Music), while also earning a finalist honor for "What a Moon" (MyMyMy Music). Both songs were released as singles in 2021 and appear on her 2022 album Westbound (Great Planet Records). Since 2015, Micki has twice been named a finalist for short fiction under her Vonn McKee pen name. Kimberly Kaye, long time singer/songwriter released her first cowboy poetry book and CD of the same

*Continued on page 47*



# Western Charts

## TOP 30 COWBOY / WESTERN ALBUMS

1. The Real West – Patty Clayton
2. The Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs
3. Good Days Are Comin – Jim Jones
4. Between a Horse and Me – Almeda Bradshaw
5. Westbound – Mikki Fuhrman
6. American Outlaw – Chris Guenther
7. Range of the Buffalo – Kerry Grombacher
8. She's Leaving Cheyenne – John Lowell  
Me and Les – Dan McCorison
10. Times Like These – Randy Huston
11. Sugarfoot – Paul Kelly
12. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
13. Doin' What We Do – The Cowboy Way
14. Rancher's Paradise – Barry Ward
15. Devil on My Tail – The Hot Texas Swing Band
16. Frontier – Mary Kaye
17. Family Shiloh at the Gold Copper Ranch –  
The Family Shiloh
18. Old West Requests – Pioneer Pepper
19. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
20. Mile After Mile – Carol Markstrom
21. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
22. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
23. Once Upon a Desert Night – Richard Elloyan &  
Steve Wade
24. I See You – Gabrielle Gore
25. Cow Pony – Ryan Fritz
26. Turn 'Em Loose – Susie Knight
27. The Last Best West – Jim Reader
28. Sarah's Quilt – Janice Deardorf
29. One More River to Cross – The Ramblin' Rangers
30. Ride My Pony – Chris Mortensen

## TOP 10 WESTERN SWING ALBUMS

1. A Place to Land – Kristyn Harris
2. Yearnin' – Jim Winters
3. Texas Star – Lori Beth Brooke
4. Devil on My Tail – Hot Texas Swing Band
5. Little Bit of Texas – Carlos Washington
6. Swingin' Open Range – Barbara Nelson
7. Harmony Grits – Ida Red
8. Rhythm Rides Again – The Hanson Family
9. Dancin' With Swingitude – Grace Clark
10. Bye, Bye Blues – Susie Blue & the Lonesome Fellas  
Lone Star Fiddler – Ridge Roberts

## 10 MOST PLAYED SONGS BY WESTERN MUSIC DJS

1. If I Had a Horse – Almeda Bradshaw  
Long Gone Out West Blues – Patty Clayton  
Prairie Passages – Patty Clayton
4. Yellow Horse – Doug Figgs
5. Sacramentos – Doug Figgs
6. What a Moon – Mikki Fuhrman  
Ride the River – Jim Jones  
Welcome to Wickenburg – Dan McCorison
9. Angus MacKenzie – John Lowell
10. Ways of Another Time – Doug Figgs  
Old Horses and Old Men – Jim Jones

## 10 MOST PLAYED POETRY ALBUMS

1. No Better Life – Valerie Beard
2. Between the Sun and the Moon – Teresa Burleson
3. Wisdom in the Wind – Sherl Cederburg
4. The Best Horses in Heaven, They Have No Tails –  
Miska Paget
5. New Mexico Stray – Dennis Russell
6. Horse Tales and Cow Trails – Floyd Beard
7. The Journey – K.C. LaCourse
8. Fillin' Tanks – Susie Knight
9. I'll Ride Thru It – Deanna Dickinson McCall
10. Born to Ponder – Sherl Cederburg  
They Come Prancin' – A.K. Moss  
Pensive and Playful – Mark Munzert

**\*A missing number in the list  
represents a tie for that spot.**

**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](mailto:meoteo@aol.com).

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.

# International Western Music Association

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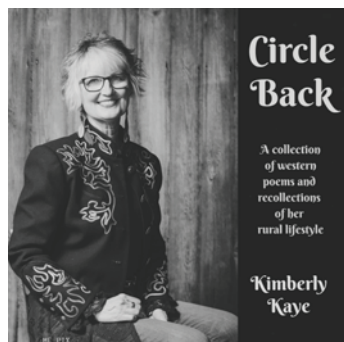
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## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 45*

name in April. "Circle Back" is a collection of her original western poetry and recollections of her rural life. She has partnered with Salty Cowgirl, an online Kansas based western wear purveyor for women. They are providing entertaining western illustrations and meme's for the publication. Take your choice or both, book or cd! Both



*Circle Back CD cover*

can be found on her website: [www.kimberlykayebachman.com](http://www.kimberlykayebachman.com). On April 1, as part of Western Wordsmiths' Supporting Youth Cowboy Poetry Program, the Western Wordsmiths shipped twenty books from various Western Wordsmith authors to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch. 'Cal Farley' will again be sending a delegation of youth poets to the Convention. Along the same reins, our donations to the Cache Valley Cowboy Poetry Youth Poetry Contest helped to a great result and fantastic involvement with over twenty-five youth participants. Crossroads Cowboy Poetry Gathering brought Wordsmiths: Geoff Mackay; Peter 'PW' Conway (via live feed); Smokey Culver, and KC Lacourse to a talent filled Gathering. Speaking of Crossroads Buckle Winner Smokey, he's gone Hollywood, well almost, as part of a movie filmed. At the George



*Smokey*

Ranch Historical Park. The Kansas Cowboy Poetry Contest is underway and includes Wordsmith' entrants Scott Wiswell and Jeff Davidson. Wordsmith Tom Hawk recently completed a performance tour along the route of the Chisholm Cattle Trail in Kansas, May 5-15, as the guest of the International Chisholm Trail Association. Tom had very successful performances at

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## Chapter Update

*Continued from page 47*

the Caldwell, KS, Annual Chisholm Trail Days, at Cowtown in Wichita, KS, and at Wordsmiths' officer Ron Wilson's Lazy T Ranch in Manhattan, KS. For Facebookers, check out Ron's weekly Lazy T Ranch adventures in the Flint Hills page. Ron does a great job of educating and entertaining (Agritourism & Agitainment) from his Historic family ranch in the Flint Hills. Mike Blakely, winner of the 2019 Working Cowboy Song of the Year Award, has released a new album of his original tunes. The album, titled "GEMSTONE," includes the new western single, "On Up The Trail," about a man and his horse riding through a blizzard. All the new tunes from GEMSTONE are available for download in the usual places and the CD is for sale through [www.mikeblakely.com](http://www.mikeblakely.com). Stars of television, Devon Dawson and Jessie Robertson, performed



*Devon Dawson and the Outlaw Jessie*

'live' as part of the Good Morning America show's feature of the Fort Worth Herd broadcast in front of the Livestock Exchange Building. A two-fer, from Livingston Montana: John Lowell's most recent recording – "She's Leaving Cheyenne" – was named 2021 recording of the year by Wyoming Public Radio that's based out of Laramie, [www.johnlowell.com](http://www.johnlowell.com); and; TJ Casey is a nationally recognized western, western-swing, singer-songwriter-poet. He has performed with Merle Haggard, Ian Tyson, and Dierks Bentley to name a few. TJ's most recent Hit song was #5 on the Top Ten Western Swing Charts. Check out the cowboy at [TJCasey.homesteadcloud.com](http://TJCasey.homesteadcloud.com).



*John Lowell's "Cheyenne" cover*

Terry Nash is spurring to again bring fine western entertainment to Grand Junction, Colorado. The Western Slope Cowboy Gathering is November 4th and 5th. The Arizona Cowboy Poets Gathering welcomes back Western Wordsmiths: Floyd

Beard; Valerie Beard; Gary Kirkman; Deanna McCall; Mark Munzert; Terry Nash; Miska Paget; and Tom Swearingen. The Gathering returns to the Yavapi College after last year's Gathering held at the Prescott Rodeo Grounds, August 11-13.

### YOUTH CHAPTER

**President: Jenna Thunborg**  
**[wmayouthpresident@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthpresident@gmail.com)**

Young Performer Education Scholarships are currently available to Youth Chapter members in good standing who would like to advance their Western music or cowboy poetry performance skills. Scholarships will be awarded for instrumental, vocal, or song/poetry-writing private instruction, music camp session or class instruction at a music school. Information on how to apply can be found on the IWMA website at: [iwesternmusic.org](http://iwesternmusic.org); Membership; Youth Chapter. Also, please consider investing in our young people by donating to the Youth Chapter to support the future of the IWMA, Western music and cowboy poetry. Contact Marsha Short for donation information at: [marsha@westernmusic.org](mailto:marsha@westernmusic.org). For more information on the Youth Chapter contact: President, Jenna Thunborg, [wmayouthpresident@gmail.com](mailto:wmayouthpresident@gmail.com) Facebook: @westernmusicyc Instagram: [iwmayouthchapter](https://www.instagram.com/iwmayouthchapter) YouTube: IWMA Youth Chapter Music and Poetry 🐾

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