

**Townes' tome:** Former Austinite Townes Van Zandt signed a deal last month with England's Heartland Records to release an anthology.

"They will release a four-album set, as well as a double CD package," said Van Zandt's agent, Harold Eggers, Jr. "Both will include a book on his life. They are going to record 40 songs, just him and his guitar with an upright bass player and another acoustic guitarist. After that's done, there will be some duets with people like Rodney Crowell, Rosanne Cash, Mickey Newberry, Joe Ely and Guy Clark."

In many ways, the Heartland anthology project will be a self portrait by the prolific Texas songwriter. "He's gonna pick the songs," Eggers said. "It will either be recorded in Nashville by Jim Rooney or in Austin by either Joe Gracey or Steve Mendell."