

Keen

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program that includes Fort Worth native Townes Van Zandt.

"I've done several things with Guy [Clark] and Townes," Keen said. "We're all on the same label [Sugar Hill], so they like to package us together."

The gregarious Keen and enigmatic Van Zandt seem like mismatched touring partners.

"Townes is like an old Indian," Keen laughed. "He doesn't talk much. You know how you get those old West Texas cowboys, and they don't talk much and it makes you feel really uneasy? He's just like that."

"'Brand new' to you and 'brand new' to me are two different things, aren't they?" Keen said when asked if *West Textures* represents his latest effort. "I've gotten some wonderful reviews, and sold a lot of copies of this album at my shows. I personally liked it."

It's an attempt to showcase Keen's

Robert Earl Keen Jr., Townes Van Zandt

Tonight: 9 and 11, Caravan of Dreams, 312 Houston St.

Tickets: \$15 at the door

Information: 877-3000

serious songwriting and performing efforts, though there are a few of his humorous ditties included.

"It does paint you into a corner," he said of audience favorites such as *It's the Little Things*, *Copenhagen* and *Five Pound Bass*.

Though tonight's show will offer some new, serious music, performance-wise, Keen still relies on his trademark quirky storytelling.

"I always fall back into the bull—trap," he said with a laugh. "It's a real comfort zone for me. It's just real natural, depending on where I am. . . ."

"I know sometimes I'm not taken as seriously, but then sometimes I'm not all that serious."