

Kennedy Center will host grand Texas fiesta

Washingtonians will taste Tejano, conjunto and swing

Various Texas artists and groups will appear at the Kennedy Center for the performing arts in Washington, D.C., during a Texas Festival June 11 through 22. The event will include groups as diverse as the Texas Playboys, El Paso's Rosa Guerrero International Folklorico, Chamber Soloists of Austin, the gospel group Bells of Joy and the Houston Ballet, the center announced this week.

Texas Roadhouse Cafe
Set up on seven festival nights in the roof-level Encore Cafe and featuring Texas food and drink, the cafe will present Western Swing, Tejano, country, Cajun, blues and folk music:

June 12 — Country: Jerry Jeff Walker (Austin) and Kelly Willis (Austin)

June 13 — Blues/rock: Delbert McClinton (Fort Worth) and the Antone's of Austin team of Angela Strehli (Fort Worth), Marcia Ball (Austin) and Lou Ann Barton (Fort Worth)

June 15 — Blues: Charles Brown (Texas City); Floyd Dixon (Marshall)

June 16 — Contemporary folk/country: Sara Hickman (Dallas); Darden Smith (Austin); Joe Ely (Amarillo)

June 19 — Folk/country: Townes Van Zandt (Houston); Guy Clark (Houston); Robert Earl Keen Jr. (Bandera) Butch Hancock. (Lubbock); Jimmie Dale Gilmore (Lubbock)

June 20 — Western swing: Seven original members of Bob Wills' Texas Playboys: Johnny Gimble (Tyler); Leon Rausch (Arlington); Herb Remington (Houston); Eldon Shamblin (Amarillo); Bob Boatright (Mansfield); Tommy Perkins (Oklahoma City, Okla.); Curly Hollingsworth (Waco)
Plus — Asleep at the Wheel (Austin); Chris O'Connell (Austin); Jody Nix (Big Spring)

Classical, gospel and pop

"A Night of Texas Songs and Songwriters" in the Concert Hall on Saturday, June 22, will feature five-time Grammy winner Willie Nelson (Austin), Rodney Crowell (Houston), and Nanci Griffith (Austin). Making special guest appearances on the program will be Texas' leading Tejano singer, Little Joe Hernandez (El Paso), Kris Kristofferson (Brownsville) and Guy Clark (Monahans/Houston).

Earlier in the festival, the Kennedy Center Concert Hall will host an evening of gospel music in a traditional celebration of "Juneteenth" on June 19, the day of emancipation celebrated by Black Texans since the freeing of the slaves.

This program will feature the Bells of Joy (Austin) and a special Texas Ex's Gospel Choir. Led by the Rev. Donald Vails, the choir members are Texans living in the Washington metropolitan area.

Other festival attractions in the Concert Hall are the Dallas Symphony Orchestra with Alexei Sultanov, the 1989 winner of the Van Cliburn International Piano Competition (June 15), and the Texas Boys Choir (June 16).

Terrace Theater
Two programs in the center's Terrace Theater also are cast in the roadhouse spirit.

The first, on June 15, features Tejano music, with the Texas Tornados (San Antonio) whose members include accordionist Flaco Jimenez, keyboardist/singer Augie Meyers, guitarist/singer Doug Sahm, and singer/guitarist Freddy Fender. The Tornados will be joined by singer/songwriter Tish Hinojosa (San Antonio).

On June 17, an evening of Texas Blues brings balladeer Bobby Blue Bland



COURTESY OF KENNEDY CENTER

Texas Tornados: Accordionist Flaco Jimenez, keyboardist/singer Augie Meyers, guitarist/singer Doug Sahm and singer/guitarist Freddy Fender will make a roadhouse-style performance at Kennedy Center on June 15.

(Houston) and guitarist/singer Albert Collins (Houston) to the Terrace.

Also in the Terrace, a double bill with Rosa Guerrero International Folklorico (El Paso) and Eduardo Montemayor and his Ballet Fantasia Espanola (San Antonio) will demonstrate Hispanic and Mexican dance on June 16.

Another double bill on June 18 features the Touvenel String Quartet, artists-in-residence with the Midland-Odessa Symphony since 1977, and five members of the Chamber Soloists of Austin.

Other presentations are the play "Camp Logan" by Houstonian Celeste Bedford-Walker (three performances June 20 through 22) and "In the West" from Austin's Big State Productions, a theater piece portraying a variety of Texas characters (three performances June 12 through 14).

Eisenhower Theater
The 1956 Cinemascope film adaptation

of novelist Edna Ferber's "Giant" won an Oscar for director George Stevens. A fictional chronicle of several generations of a wealthy Texas family, the movie stars Rock Hudson, Elizabeth Taylor and James Dean.

On June 11 in the Eisenhower Theater, a print from George Stevens Jr.'s private collection will be shown. After the movie, the audience moves to the Roof Terrace for a barbecue and Western dancing.

Other events in the Eisenhower Theater include two performances by the Fort Worth Ballet (June 15 through 16) and four performances by the Houston Ballet (June 20 through 22).

The Houston Ballet's program includes a world premiere ballet choreographed by Paul Taylor to music of the Andrews Sisters.

Texas Festival Fiesta
The center on Saturday, June 15, from noon to 6 p.m., will present a grand Tex-

as-style fiesta. Free entertainment by the Accordion Kings (who perform polkas, conjunto, Zydeco and Cajun music) and the Jim Cullum Jazz Band (San Antonio) will issue from stages placed around the Center's grounds.

The public also is invited to come on down with their string instruments for a Pickin' Jam. In addition a number of different Texas cuisines and beverages will be available for purchase from booths on the center's lawns.

For those who prefer seated dining, Restaurant Associates' Encore Cafe and Roof Terrace Restaurant at the top of the Kennedy Center will provide authentic Texas dining with the assistance of a guest chef from Texas.

Festival education events

Three free events are planned by the Kennedy Center Education Department: A June 14 discussion of the origins of the theater piece "In the West" by director Jim Fritzier; a June 20 discussion and demonstration given by Ben Stevenson, artistic director of the Houston Ballet, and members of the company; and a June 21 presentation of the history and inspiration for "Camp Logan" by its playwright, Celeste Bedford-Walker. These events are free to ticketholders.

Texas Films
Showings of films with Texan themes are scheduled throughout the June 11 through 22 Festival in the American Film Institute Theater.

Exxon, the major corporate sponsor, is supporting the festival with a gift of \$500,000. An estimated \$220,000 generated by the Rosewood Crescent Endowment Fund, established by Kennedy Center Trustee Caroline Rose Hunt, is being made available to the festival.

Other major gifts secured by the Texas Festival include \$100,000 plus in-kind support from FINA, and \$100,000 each from OxyChem and EDS. A pledge of \$150,000 from The Brown Foundation, Inc. will make possible a world premiere ballet from the Houston Ballet.