

TEXAS FESTIVAL
AT THE KENNEDY CENTER

Uptown

Townes Van Zandt
has arrived after a
long time on the road

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FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Things we never expected to witness, just a few short years ago:

Post time at Willow Park. Tarrant County fawning over the *Soviet* space program.

Townes Van Zandt being booked into Washington's Kennedy Center — for a show tomorrow night at the Roadhouse Cafe.

The posh Texas Festival is quite an uptown gig for Van Zandt, who spent his first eight years in Fort Worth and many ensuing ones rambling around Texas and Nashville, too.

Van Zandt, of course, always has been a well-respected songwriter, but not very long ago he was called everything from a derelict and a rowdy to (as one New York reviewer put it) the Dean of the Depressed.

But then things began to turn around, Van Zandt began getting into less trouble with the law and lethal substances, and working regular. His songwriting reputation grew legendary, along with that of fellow Texans such as Guy Clark.

It's definitely time, this time, for Van Zandt.

The first time, though, was back in the late '60s, when Van Zandt recorded the first of eight albums on Tomato Records, *For the Sake of the Song*, and amassed a cult following. It was a small cult, yeah, but discriminating.

In his unassuming way, Van Zandt became a Major Influence on the likes of Steve Earle, Lyle Lovett, Jerry Jeff Walker, Mickey Newbury, and Clark, too. His favorite subjects, Van Zandt once said, are boats, horses, mountains, wilderness, gambling and drinking. Songs such as *White Freightliner Blues*, *Loretta*, *Marie*, *Flying Shoes*, *Low as Low Can Be* and *Talking Thunderbird Blues* are among

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