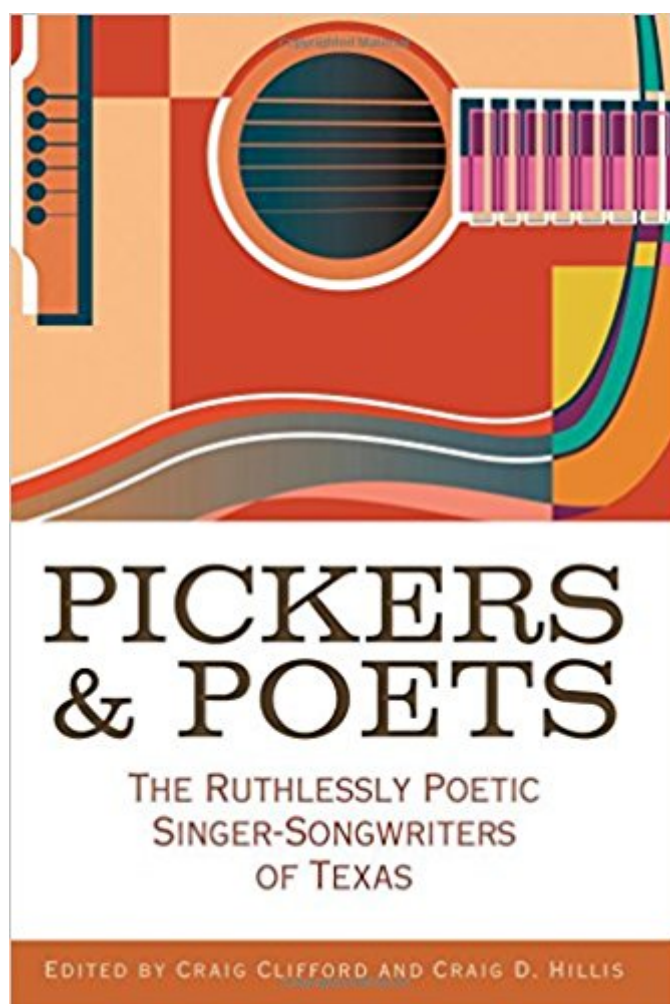


The book was found

Pickers And Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters Of Texas (John And Robin Dickson Series In Texas Music, Sponsored By The Center For Texas)





Synopsis

Many books and essays have addressed the broad sweep of Texas music—its multicultural aspects, its wide array and blending of musical genres, its historical transformations, and its love/hate relationship with Nashville and other established music business centers. This book, however, focuses on an essential thread in this tapestry: the Texas singer-songwriters to whom the contributors refer as “ruthlessly poetic.” All songs require good lyrics, but for these songwriters, the poetic quality and substance of the lyrics are front and center. Obvious candidates for this category would include Townes Van Zandt, Michael Martin Murphey, Guy Clark, Steve Fromholz, Terry Allen, Kris Kristofferson, Vince Bell, and David Rodriguez. In a sense, what these songwriters were doing in small, intimate live-music venues like the Jester Lounge in Houston, the Chequered Flag in Austin, and the Rubaiyat in Dallas was similar to what Bob Dylan was doing in Greenwich Village. In the language of the times, these were “folksingers.” Unlike Dylan, however, these were folksingers writing songs about their own people and their own origins and singing in their own vernacular. This music, like most great poetry, is profoundly rooted. That rootedness, in fact, is reflected in the book’s emphasis on place and the powerful ways it shaped and continues to shape the poetry and music of Texas singer-songwriters. From the coffeehouses and folk clubs where many of the “founders” got their start to the Texas-flavored festivals and concerts that nurtured both their fame and the rise of a new generation, the indelible stamp of origins is inseparable from the work of these troubadour-poets.

Contents
Introduction, by Craig Clifford and Craig D. Hillis | 1
Part One. The First Generation: Folksingers, Texas Style
Too Weird for Kerrville: The Darker Side of Texas Music | 17
Craig Clifford
Townes Van Zandt: The Anxiety, Artifice, and Audacity of Influence | 27
Robert Earl Hardy
Vignette • The Ballad of Willis Alan Ramsey | 36
Bob Livingston
Guy Clark: Old School Poet of the World | 39
Tamara Saviano
Kris Kristofferson: The Silver-Tongued Rhodes Scholar | 49
Peter Cooper
Vignette • Don Henley: Literature, Land, and Legacy | 59
Kathryn Jones
Steven Fromholz, Michael Martin Murphey, and Jerry Jeff Walker: Poetic in Lyric, Message, and Musical Method | 61
Craig D. Hillis
Vignette • Kinky Friedman: The Mel Brooks of Texas Music | 83
Craig Clifford
Billy Joe Shaver: Sin and Salvation Poet | 85
Joe Holley
One Man’s Music: Vince Bell | 92
Joe Nick Patoski
Vignette • Ray Wylie Hubbard: Grifter, Ruffian, Messenger | 101
Jenni Finlay
The Great Progressive Country Scare of the 1970s | 103
Craig D. Hillis (interview with Gary P. Nunn)
Plenty Else to Do: Lyrical Lubbock | 109
Andy Wilkinson
Roots of Steel: The Poetic Grace of Women Texas Singer-Songwriters | 115
Kathryn Jones
From Debauched Yin to Mellow Yang: A Circular Trip through the Texas Music Festival Scene | 136
Jeff Prince
Vignette • Bobby

Bridger: "Heal in the Wisdom," Creating a Classic | 145 Craig D. Hillis (interview with Bobby Bridger) Interlude: What Do We Do with Willie? | 148 I. Willie (An Early Encounter) | 148 Craig D. Hillis II. Willie (On Everything) | 151 Craig Clifford and Craig D. Hillis Part Two. The Second Generation: Garage Bands, Large Bands, and Other Permutations "Gettin' Tough": Steve Earle's America | 161 Jason Mellard Lyle Lovett and Robert Earl Keen: Cosmic Aggies | 166 Jan Reid Vignette Walt Wilkins: Spirituality and Generosity | 174 Craig Clifford (interview with Tim Jones) Lucinda Williams: Poet of Places in the Heart | 176 Kathryn Jones Rodney Crowell: Looking Inward, Looking Outward | 185 John T. Davis Vignette Sam Baker: Short Stories in Song | 192 Robert Earl Hardy James McMurtry: Too Long in the Wasteland | 193 Diana Finlay Hendricks Part Three. Epilogue: Passing of the Torch? Drunken Poet's Dream: Hayes Carll | 203 I. Good Enough for Old Guys | 203 Craig Clifford II. Good Enough for Young Guys | 207 Brian T. Atkinson Roll On: Terri Hendrix | 209 Brian T. Atkinson From Riding Bulls to Dead Horses: Ryan Bingham | 212 Craig Clifford (interview with Shaina Post) Bad Girl Poet: Miranda Lambert | 218 Craig Clifford Challenge to Bro Country: Kacey Musgraves | 221 Grady Smith Beyond the Rivers | 224 Craig Clifford Notes | 231 Selected Sources | 233 Contributors | 243 Index | 251

Book Information

Series: John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas

Hardcover: 280 pages

Publisher: Texas A&M University Press (December 24, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 162349446X

ISBN-13: 978-1623494469

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 0.9 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.4 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 5 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #737,565 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Theory, Composition & Performance > Lyrics #364 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Folk & Traditional #365 in Books > Arts & Photography > Music > Musical Genres > Country

Customer Reviews

"filled with thought-provoking insights" The Midwest Book Review

Ã Å (The Midwest Book Review)Ãçâ –Å“This book promises a tantalizing feast to satisfy avid readers of nonfiction musical history.Ãçâ –Â• Ãçâ –â œElmore Magazine Ã Å (Elmore Magazine)

CRAIG CLIFFORD, author of *In the Deep Heart*Ãçâ –â,,çs *Core: Reflections on Life, Letters, and Texas* and other titles, is a professor of philosophy and directs the Honors College at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, Texas. With his group, the Accidental Band, he performs and records classic Texas singer-songwritersÃçâ –â,,ç music, along with his own songs. Based in Austin, CRAIG D. HILLIS toured and recorded as guitarist with Jerry Jeff Walker and the Lost Gonzo Band from 1972 to 1976. A member of the Lost Austin Band, he maintains active involvement in the stateÃçâ –â,,çs live music scene.

As a songwriter myself and a huge fan of the Texas songwriting tradition I can't recommend this book enough. There is a tremendous amount of insight into the work of each writer as well interesting historical bits that go beyond the usual coverage of these titans. A well done worthy undertaking of a topic that rarely gets it's just attention outside of a small circle of rabid fans.

This book was a gift that I thought I would leaf through, but it turned out to be a page turner and I bought it as a gift for other music loving friends. Awesome!

Gift for husband.

An academic and musicians perspective on American Folk Art. Truly enjoyable reading.

Interesting book for fans of Texas Music. Offers insightful chapters on some of the songwriters you don't hear much about, like Townes Van Zandt, Joe Ely, Steve Fromholz, and lots of others. Some of the artists I'd never heard of but enjoyed reading about them. Even the chapters on better known artists such as Kris Kristofferson offer fresh material and insights. The Willies and Waylons take a backseat to the more obscure songwriters of the era, and the book is all the better for it. Why rehash well-trod material when you can dig deeper and come up with something fresher? What's cool about the book is there isn't one author. It's a collection of essays and interviews by a dozen different writers. Some are better known like Jan Reid, who wrote the cult classic "The Improbable Rise of Redneck Rock" in the early 1970s; and Joe Nick Patoski, who has written excellent biographies on Willie Nelson, Selena, and Stevie Ray Vaughan. Other writers I never heard of, but it seemed like

everyone involved in this book brought something interesting to the conversation.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

Pickers and Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas Music History, Texas State University) Pickers and Poets: The Ruthlessly Poetic Singer-Songwriters of Texas (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) Without Getting Killed or Caught: The Life and Music of Guy Clark (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas Music History, Texas State University) Deep Ellum: The Other Side of Dallas (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas Music History, Texas State University) Without Getting Killed or Caught: The Life and Music of Guy Clark (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) I'll Be Here in the Morning: The Songwriting Legacy of Townes Van Zandt (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) Delbert McClinton: One of the Fortunate Few (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas) Words to Rhyme with: For Poets and Songwriters (The Facts on File Writer's Library) Robin: Lady of Legend (The Classic Adventures of the Girl Who Became Robin Hood) Solo: Women Singer-Songwriters in Their Own Words Freshwater Fishes of Texas: A Field Guide (River Books, Sponsored by The Meadows Center for Water and the Environment, Texa) Music Journal: Blank Sheet Music, Lyric Diary and Manuscript Paper for Songwriters and Musicians (Gifts for Music Lovers) Blank sheet music: Music manuscript paper / staff paper / perfect-bound notebook for composers, musicians, songwriters, teachers and students - 100 ... splashes cover (Music lover's notebooks) Blank sheet music: Music manuscript paper / staff paper / perfect-bound notebook for composers, musicians, songwriters, teachers and students - 100 ... notes, notes cover (Music lover's notebooks) Texas Seashells: A Field Guide (Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies Series, Sponsored by the Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies, Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) Garage Band Theory & GBTool 17 Triad Inversions for Guitar, Mandolin and Banjo: Music theory for non music majors, livingroom pickers * working musicians ... Tools the Pro's Use to Play by Ear Book 18) The Great Poets William Blake (Naxos Great Poets) Kayaking the Texas Coast (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) Lighthouses of Texas (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi) A Texan Plan for the Texas Coast (Gulf Coast Books, sponsored by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi)

[Contact Us](#)

[DMCA](#)

[Privacy](#)

[FAQ & Help](#)