



Playin' to Win Country Band

Patricia (Johnson) Fox- Bass player---from San Antonio, was born and raised in Floresville. Her parents, Edwin and Louise (Warren) Johnson, were raised there also, as Pat has deep roots in Floresville. As a child, she took a liking for western music during its heyday in the 40's, 50's and 60's. At the age of 7, she performed with "Red River Dave" McHenry on the stage of the Arcadia Theater in Floresville and sang a song with him, "Sue City Sue". From then on, she knew she would be involved with the western style music. As she grew older, she played in the Floresville High School band and that furthered her love of music. Music has always held a deep fascination and finally at the age of 51, she took up playing bass guitar with friends in San Antonio. She learned to play the bass guitar and has played in several country music groups. Most recently, she has taken up acoustic rhythm guitar. Her heart is "steadfast" with Old Country Classic Music. She is thrilled and excited to have been asked by the Wilson County Historical Society to assemble a "House Band" for the Floresville Opry and to be a part of the band itself. Ever since, she started playing country music, a dream has been of "coming back" to her home town and performing in front of her friends from the past. It is finally a dream come true. She considers herself "blessed".

Dave Demeny-Lead Guitar-from Seguin, was born just months before WWII in Neenah, Wisconsin and was at an early age fortunate to have heard his aunts and uncles playing and singing country music. His interest in playing guitar began while in the Navy, where he had a shipmate that taught him basic chords and progressions. Several years later, he was transferred by his company to Del Rio, Texas. It was there he became interested and taught himself to play the electronic organ. After joining Motorola and moving to Seguin in 1973, he discovered the country music jam scene and his interest in country music and guitar was re-kindled. Since the 90's, he has been heavily involved in playing guitar, fiddle, mandolin and singing. Since retiring, country music has pretty much dominated his life. Though he is "the new kid on the block" musically, he has had the privilege of being invited to perform on a number of country music shows and to play with many talented musicians.

Eleanor Shore-Keyboards -- from San Marcos, is excited to be a part of the Floresville Opry house band! Playing country music is a large, gratifying part of her life. She became involved in it through a good

friend's encouragement and guidance, about ten years ago, following her husband's death. She quickly became "hooked" on it and has since played in numerous places, including various opries around central and south Texas. She currently plays in the house band at the Kingsbury Opry . Music has been an integral part of Eleanor's life since childhood. Born and raised in Austin, piano lessons began at age 7, followed by organ lessons as a teenager, and soon began playing professionally. Since that time, she has served as organist in many different churches and continues in that capacity at this time. She enjoys a full, pleasurable life with many friends, her five children and their families, including eleven grandchildren and five great grandchildren, many of whom, by the way, have inherited her musical talent.

Diane Farley- Rhythm Guitar-- from New Braunfels, was born in a small town in Minnesota. She taught herself to play the acoustic guitar at the age of 12 years. She played and sang with a band for approximately 5 years as a teenager. After her husband, Roy Farley retired from the Army; she started her music career again. She played the guitar and sang with a Bluegrass Band for about one year, then joined the Lone Star Country Jamboree Show, as a singer and harmonizer. She, also, performs as a solo artist on a number of Opry shows around South Texas and currently performs every Friday night at the Kingsbury Opry as a rhythm guitar player and singer. Approximately 3 years ago, she and two other ladies, Priscilla Speed and Suzie Watts formed the "Two and a Half Angels" trio and they have become highly respected all over South Texas. She is very excited about performing on the Floresville Opry and is looking forward to being part of the band and a singer as well.

George Smith-Fiddler--from San Antonio, was born Feb. 1932 in Bastrop, Texas. He graduated from Bastrop High School in 1949 and joined the US Air Force in 1950. He was honorably discharged in 1954. He went on and attended the University of Texas in Austin in 1959. His hobbies include Music, Music, and more Music. Also, he enjoys working on computers. He is always available for musical jams or Opry shows when asked. George serves on the UFA (United Fiddlers Assn.) Board of Directors. George started out fiddling at an early age and has been fiddling for 65 years.

Robert Renschel-Steel Guitar-from Gonzales, Texas, graduated high school and attended The University of Texas. He returned home, married and worked thirty six years in the family lumber business. He started playing steel guitar at age 30, played with the O'Neal Brothers Band for 10 years and with Jess DeMaine in Austin for 3 years. He became active in Country Music Opries in Lockhart, Seguin, Floresville, Pilgrim and Gonzales. He continues to enjoy playing country music on steel guitar and remains actively involved in various Opries. He is looking forward to being a part of the upcoming Floresville Opry.

Lonnie Castleman-Drummer-from San Antonio is the son of the late Bernie Castleman who was a highly respected musician for over 50 years. Lonnie started playing drums at the age of 10 starting out @ Mann's Hoedown. Lonnie played in a family band for 13 years with his father Bernie on Lead Guitar and Fiddle, his cousin Charles (Bimbo) Castleman rhythm guitar and vocals and cousin Joey Castleman (deceased) on Bass Guitar. Lonnie has also played with Fiddling Frenchie Burke, Darrell McCall, Clifton Jansky, Adolph Hofner, Phil Pacheco and also had his own band "The Right Combination" for many years. Lonnie's life centers around music 24 hours a day. If he is not playing music, he is selling and repairing music equipment at Texas Discount Music in San Antonio, Texas.



April Hall--- **Singer/songwriter** from South Texas who was influenced early on by her musical family singing the sweet southern sounds of country and Gospel. Southern Gospel and Christian music was a big part of her family music, where she was inspired heavily by Amy Grant but was also drawn to and inspired by singers like Patsy Cline, Bing Crosby, and Willie Nelson. All through her teenage years, she worked on her vocal abilities through her involvement in choir. After high school, she pursued a music degree. Not long after that, she met her soon to be husband, Jason, who was playing guitar in a blues band. She moved to Austin, got married and started listening to the many different styles of music. Through the years, she has been writing songs, recording, performing, and being a mom to a wonderful little girl and nephew. April

knows her gift and love for music comes from God and hopes to reach people through her passionate voice in every song she sings.



Bill (Bebop) Barrington-Singer-- from New Braunfels was born in Goodrich, Tx. As a young man, he worked for and bought his first guitar from a pawn shop in Houston. His Mother agreed to teach him how to play, provided he'd play and sing some Jimmie Rodger's songs. Bebop claims to have three lives. His first life was coaching football. In 1960, after losing four straight games in regular season, he took his team to the state finals. He was voted runner up to the Texas High School Coach of the Year by the Texas Sportswriters Association. Poised to launch a career in coaching, guess what he did. He quit coaching and returned

to school to become a psychologist which was his second life. Most of those years as a psychologist he spent wondering why he ever left coaching. One of the greatest things to happen to him was retiring and moving to the Hill Country where his third life began. He has found many good musicians and friends to play country music with. You will find him every Friday night at the Kingsbury Opry. He has appeared at various opry's and private parties in surrounding towns. The other great thing was when his wife, Shannon, agreed to marry him. They'll be celebrating their 60th anniversary soon.



Leon Payne, Jr.-Singer from Canyon Lake, formerly of Floresville, is the son of one of the most prolific and gifted singer/songwriters in country western history - Leon Payne. Leon Payne wrote such greats as I Love You Because, Lost Highway, You've Still Got A Place in My Heart, Teach Me to Forget, and They'll Never Take Her Love from Me (to name a few) and was covered by such greats as Jim Reeves, Hank Williams, George Jones, and Elvis Presley (to name a few). He received numerous awards from BMI and was inducted in to the Nashville Songwriters Association Hall of Fame. His son,

Leon Payne Jr. was introduced to country singing at an early age and will be singing as a tribute his Dad's songs at the Floresville Opry. He said, "His wife's favorite song is, I Love You Because". Leon hopes everyone will enjoy the good classic country music, food, dancing and fun at the Floresville Opry on February 2nd that is benefiting the **Wilson County Historical Society**.



Sally Carlson-Singer from Geromino is no stranger to the Texas Opry scene. She started over eighteen years ago with the opening show in Giddings. She has since added Yoakum, Edna, Victoria, Cuero, Corpus, and Lockhart, just to name a few. Sally has been blessed to be a member of several bands over the past 30 plus years. Some include The Circle C Band from San Antonio and Southern Express from Hallettsville. She currently has her own band called Best Friends. Sally also plays in the band for the New Braunfels Opry on the third Tuesday of each month. She was raised on a farm south of Seguin and now lives on 10 acres with her two children, Kyle and Jennifer in the Geromino area. Her children attend a private Christian Home School in New Braunfels where Sally teaches Science, History and Math. Sally enjoys shooting hoops with her kids, camp fires at the creek, working in the garden, driving the tractor and just about anything else that has to do with being outside.



Bonnie Byrne-Singer from Floresville grew up in Giddings, a small town 60 miles east of Austin and has been involved with music most of her life. She started piano lessons at a young age, progressed to choir and band in the fifth (5th) grade, continued through high school and then sang in choral groups at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas. Bonnie was introduced to C & W music in 1969 when her suitemate at SHSU was dating an Aggie Corpsman. Her blind date listened to Eddy Arnold, Ray Price, Merle Haggard; all the oldie singers. Forty plus years later, she is still listening to the oldies music. Her four (4) daughters have been exposed to a wide variety of music (i.e., religious, modern, dance, classical, big band) but country and western is what she listens to the most. Bonnie keeps returning to music, singing and playing at churches wherever she moves. Prior to relocating to Floresville in 2006, she played the keyboard with the church group from Corpus Christi who annually plays for the Czech mass in Jourdanton. Currently she helps with music at Sacred Heart Church in Floresville.