

Photo courtesy of Kolonowski Studios



Country music has always been a constant in Trahan's life

Cy-Fair's *Dixie Trahan* Sings Country Music for Local Audiences

Written by Gail Collins

Photography by Amy Floyd

The band tumbles off the stage of the Dosey Doe Coffee House, full of the happy energy that transfers from singer to listener and back again. "The people ate us up," seems the general consensus of their acoustic set, opening for the Real Life, Real Music event. "This is the target, this is our niche," says Dixie Trahan of her music and of the night. "We got off the stage just grinnin'."

Land of Dixie

Welcome to the Land of Dixie. Dixie Trahan, that is. She says, "Country music has always been a constant for me, whether it's a love song or a hell-raisin' song. It fits just about any mood. It just lets you express so much emotion." Originally from Kansas, the singer, as the bumper sticker says, "Wasn't born in Texas, but got here as fast as I could." Only 12 days later. Trahan has been singing for as long as she can remember. The petite, sandy-haired singer with a generous smile says, "I grew up in a preacher's home, but my dad was a closet music fan. When I was bitty, Barbara Mandrell had her show, and I thought, I want to do that!"

Music in the Blood

Her father retired from the church when Trahan was nine years old and drove the family of four around in a van, singing in venues all over North America. After three years of wandering, they bought a fixer-upper in Missouri to serve as a home base during many more years of touring. In fact, Trahan met her future husband, Skeeter, in Louisiana performing. After a letter-writing campaign, Skeeter came to Missouri and learned to play the bass from Trahan's brother. "He called his mother and said, 'I'm staying.'" Trahan says with a laugh. "He even went on the road singing and playing with our band for about 16 months."

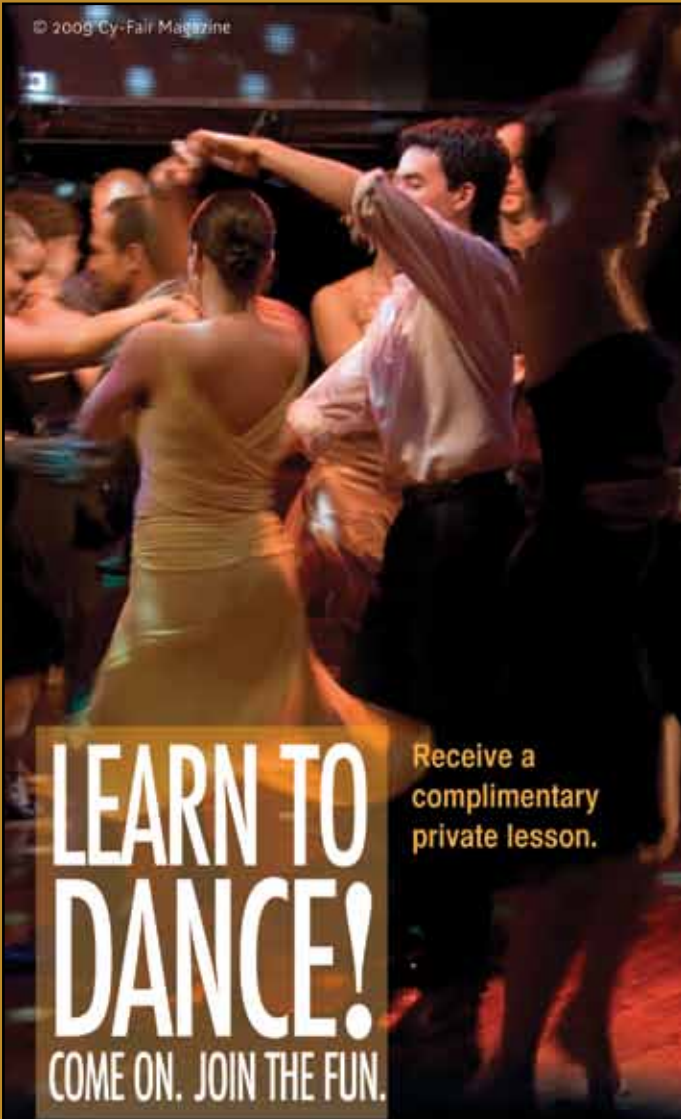
"We began a family and took a break from music to be normal," she says of her stay-at-home mom decade. Still, the Trahans treated music as a lifestyle. Her sons, at 15 and 17 years old, and 12-year-old daughter were all trained in classical violin. "The boys have a band – guitars now, you know – but my oldest can saw on a fiddle," she says proudly. But as children grow, so can dreams. "We always enjoyed writing and singing and playing. One night, Skeeter called me in and said, 'This is silly. This is what we love. Let's find a spot and jump in. Let's find out if there's anything to it (music).'"



Trahan's original songs often touch people on a personal level

Making it Happen

Three years ago, they met someone who offered Trahan an introduction in Nashville. She says, "We hit it off on the phone, and the man said to me, 'Next time you're in Nashville...' Well, I didn't know anybody there and wasn't going to just be in Nashville, so I made it happen. The following week was Spring Break, so we packed up the kids and went to Tennessee." The Nashville man sat with his arms crossed and gave Trahan the hard story on singing for a living, but he offered her a chance to practice and record two of her original songs and two others. Trahan sat in their van with an iPod learning the music in one



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hour before spending the next six hours in the studio creating her album. Trahan says, "We kinda' did it backwards. We weren't gigging. So, we put a band together with friends, but we met pros along the way – people who play music for their day job. We needed flexibility and people who have time to practice."

Dixie's Tunes

"I'm not really a club singer – though I sing in clubs – and we're not a dance band – we don't do weddings – but Alison Krauss..." says Trahan trailing off. That best self-describes her style. On a ballad, Trahan's voice mimics the bowing of a fiddle – clear and arching with lilting, quick notes and warmth in the lower range. Original song titles include: Life Had Other Plans, Too Far Gone, I Would Have Missed You, Picture Perfect, You're the Ticket, Fallen Angels, which generally brings audience members to her afterwards with their personal stories, and more. Trahan made the ballot last year for the Houston Press Music Awards, and says, "We're writing and playing every chance we get. And keeping busy with Drywater Band when they need me." She sings covers with Drywater to expand her horizons. "That's what we do."

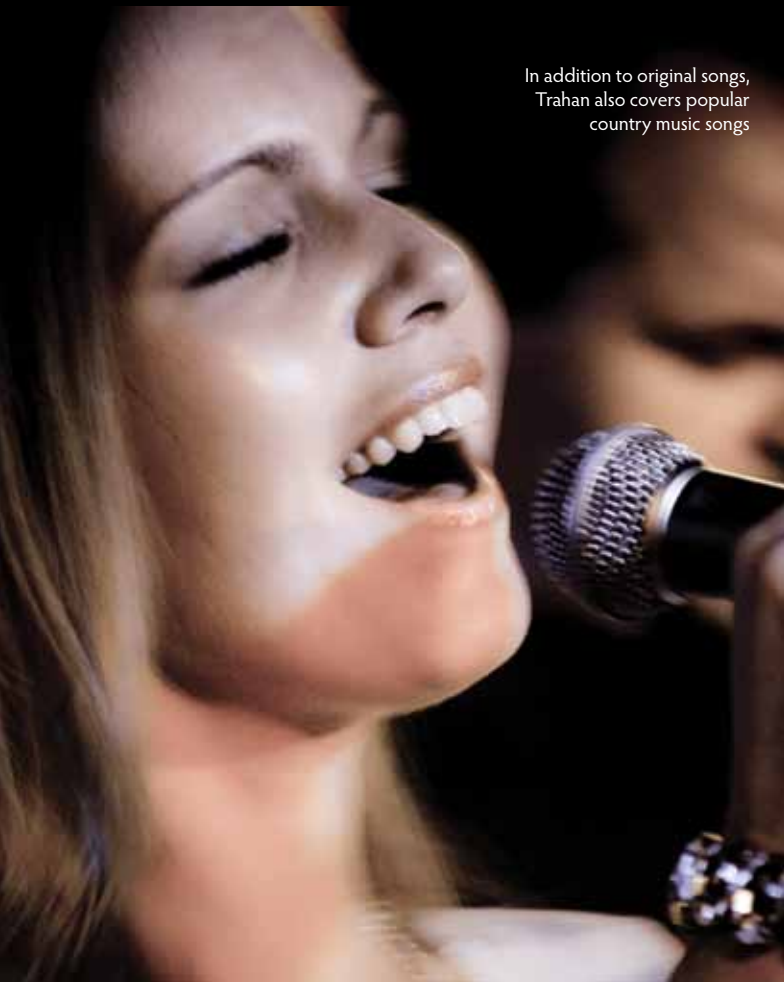
Down the Road

"If we can spend our days and nights doing what we love, we'll be extremely happy. Doing music all the time, if we can make it. I love being at the studio. When a lyric comes to you in the shower, then, comes together, to fruition, with the tune... Ah, that's amazing." Hear and download her songs at dixietrahan.com. CFM

GAIL COLLINS writes for magazines in Houston and Arizona and fell hard for country music back in college.



Trahan was on the ballot for the Houston Press Music Awards last year



In addition to original songs,
Trahan also covers popular
country music songs

Dixie sings

Dixie's own songs include:

- "I Would Have Missed You"
- "Fallen Angels"
- "Life Had Other Plans"
- "Little Soldier"
- "You're the Ticket"
- "Too Far Gone"
- "Back To Me & You"
- "Picture Perfect"
- "New Moon"
- "Show Me How"
- "Miss Me"

Trahan's set list includes songs by:

Terri Clark Dixie Chics, Sheryl Crow, Billy Currington, Katrina Elam, Sara Evans, Alan Jackson, The Judds, Allison Krauss, Miranda Lambert, Martina McBride, Jo Dee Messina, John Randall, Bonnie Raitt, Sugarland, Taylor Swift, Trick Pony, Shania Twain, Keith Urban, Leeann Womack, The Wilkinsons, and more.



Where To Hear *Dixie*

Check schedules to see Dixie Trahan
at these locations:

- Cullen's, Clear Lake
- Lonestar Saloon, Richmond
- Ragin' Cajun Restaurant, Sugar Land
- Sugar Land Town Square
- Fort Bend County Fair
- Woodlands Arts Festival