

Meet Rosehill

Cy-Fair duo Blake Myers and Mitch McBain rock their roots, while taking the country music scene by storm

Written by Amy Williams Lacey | Photography by April Pizana Photography

There's a sense of pride when you hear about a couple of Cy-Fair boys that make it to the big time. After years of writing music and playing in bands, having two music videos in rotation on CMT seems huge to the fans of the Cypress-based band Rosehill. To the duo Blake Myers and Mitch McBain, it's more than the big time. It's a dream come true.

Roots in Cypress

Myers and McBain grew up together on Cypress Rosehill Rd. and were classmates at Cy-Fair High School. It wasn't until their senior year that the very beginnings of their band were born, when McBain picked up a guitar at a friend's party and asked Myers if he knew any Texas country music. The pair decided to play Pat Green's song "Nightmare," and much to the amazement of their friends, and even themselves, they were a hit.

In 2003, following the encouragement of friends and family, the duo started a band called Texas High Life with brothers Keith and Kevin Binder and friend Cory Pendleton. Texas High Life played gigs all over the state and released their first album *Stand up and Stay Awhile* in 2004. "We loved being in a band," says Myers. "We thought we were rock stars. We had the idea that we were a party first, a band second."

Bittersweet Beginnings

Playing together as Texas High Life throughout college proved difficult, however. McBain and Pendleton were going to school in San Marcos, while Myers and the Binder brothers were in College Station. The band was going strong, getting radio play, booking gigs, and opening for Texas music greats like Honeybrowne and Bleu Edmondson when tragedy struck.

On Sept. 23, 2005, the morning south Texas was preparing for Hurricane Rita, McBain got a phone call that drummer Keith Binder had committed suicide. "The rest of that week was like a dream you can only slowly piece together," recalls McBain. At Keith's funeral, his brother Kevin told the rest of the band they had to continue to play – Keith would want them to.

That same day, the band asked Derek Honsel, childhood friend of McBain and Keith, to be their drummer. "Derek knew our music, and we were all friends, so it was an easy fit," says Myers. "It was hard to keep going, but we all knew Keith wouldn't have it any other way."

The band began working on their sophomore album *Yellow Bird* and released it in 2007. Despite its sunny name, McBain describes it as a dark album. "It wasn't meant to be dark, but it needed to be done," he says. "There were a lot of emotions below the surface that we all didn't want to reveal or deal with, but the music helped us get through it."

Rising from the Ashes


After the release of *Yellow Bird*, McBain and Myers realized something needed to change. "[Blake and I] were on this journey to find the right music for us, and we didn't feel like Texas High Life was who we were anymore," says McBain. "At one point, we stopped booking gigs and focused solely on writing new material."

Through trial and error in writing together, McBain and Myers say they learned a lot about who they wanted to be as artists. Soon, an acoustic compilation of their songs landed in the hands of a well-known Texas country artist. "We got a call from Radney Foster telling us we had an interesting little demo, and would we like to hop on a jet to come to his house in Nashville to talk about it," says Myers. It was an easy decision for the duo to make.

Once in Nashville in early 2009, Foster suggested the two become a musical duo, but McBain didn't classify himself as a singer. He was the guitarist. "But I thought, 'If Radney thinks we're a duo, maybe we are,' so I started singing, too," says McBain.

Rosehill Is Born

With the shift in musical style, it was also time for a new band name. "We came up with about a hundred different names, but kept coming back to Rosehill," says McBain. "It just felt like home to us."



Rosehill duo Mitch McBain and Blake Myers began playing together by chance at a friend's party and have been going strong since, recently releasing the band's debut album and having two music videos make their way on to CMT

“The GUITARS ARE POETIC, the WORDS INTRIGUING, and the ROCK ‘N’ ROLL KINETIC. These guys have real potential to make a positive impact on this scene, and now is the perfect time to GET ON THAT ROAD TO ROSEHILL.”

-Lindsay Rothrock, Lone Star Music Magazine

Both McBain and Myers still call Cypress home



Mitch McBain



Blake Myers

“McBain and Myers HAVE GOT IT GOING ON, and White Lines and Stars looks like the FRONTRUNNER for country debut of the year.”

- David McGee, The Bluegrass Special

facebook

Become a Fan of Cy-Fair Magazine's Facebook Page

CY-FAIR PEOPLE ARE TALKING And they're talking on Cy-Fair Magazine's Facebook Page

Join 2,500+ other Cy-Fairians and stay in the know about what's going on at Cy-Fair Magazine's fan page. No other Cy-Fair specific page has so many fans and so many Cy-Fairians connecting.



CY-FAIR magazine™

"Cypress Rosehill was the street we grew up on," adds Myers. "It's where it all began. It reminds us of where we came from, where our roots are." Rosehill started recording their debut album in January 2010, splitting time between Houston and Nashville studios. They released their much-anticipated album *White Lines and Stars* in 2010, and the title track was a hit on Texas radio.

Going National

On a whim, the duo decided to make a video for their next single "Midnight America." CMT picked it up, and the video began being played on the fan-voted CMT Pure 12 Pack Countdown, which is determined by fan votes. Rosehill's second single, "Dream It All over Again," was also picked up for the same show, and both videos have been in the voting poll since early 2011.

Since the videos hit CMT, Rosehill has seen a huge upswing in the number of their fans, not just in Texas, but all over the country. "We've seen more fans on Facebook and at shows, and they're singing along to the songs!" says Myers.

They're getting noticed outside of shows, too. "Blake gets recognized all of the time. They're like, 'Aren't you that guy from Rosehill?' But it never happens to me," laughs McBain.

Cypress Will Always Be Home

Even with national exposure, Rosehill is still true to their hometown. "We love Cypress; it's where we grew up," says Myers. Myers, his wife Christen, and their two children live in Cypress and have no plans to leave. McBain is ready to begin a new chapter in his life in Cy-Fair. He and his wife Jennifer were recently married in Houston in September and have settled down in Cypress.

"People ask us why we're staying in Cypress," says Myers. "Musically, it doesn't make sense, because Houston has a reputation for being a bad music town. But we take pride in putting good music out from the Houston area and will continue to do so for as long as we can." CFM

AMY WILLIAMS LACEY grew up in Cy-Fair and still lives in the area with her husband Greg and daughters Prestynn and Ayden. She is also a longtime fan of Rosehill.



White Lines and Stars

Rosehill's debut album, *White Lines and Stars* will have even non-country fans tapping their toes and singing along with the catchy lyrics. Their single, "Dream It All over Again," is the ideal blend of modern and classic Texas country music - perfect for turning up while driving down a country road, like Cypress Rosehill, the road the band was named after.

KELLER WILLIAMS
REALTY

WE'VE MOVED!

**WE SELL HOUSES
GET THE PICTURE?**



BUYING, SELLING, LEASING
We are here for all of your real estate needs!

19708 NW FWY,
STE.2800
(Corner of Hwy 290 and FM 1960)

281-856-0808
frontdesk63@kw.com

 Become a fan of our Facebook page
Keller Williams Realty Greater Northwest

Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated

© 2011 Cy-Fair Magazine

www.kwhouston.com