

BILLY MATA & The Texas Tradition



Billy Mata is a veteran of over 35 years in the San Antonio music scene and is celebrating more than a quarter of a Century making music with his own band, **The Texas Tradition**. Two time Academy Of Western Artists Western Swing Vocalist of the Year and winner of the Academy's Entertainer Of The Year award, Billy Mata delivers authentic Western Swing and true traditional country music.

Mata started his recording career in the 1970's singing Billboard charted, Top 40 Country music. However, in the 1990's, he declared his intention to stick with his passion; what he calls "real country music." Beginning with his 1998 (third) album release, *Keepin' The Tradition: A Tribute To My Heroes*, Billy insisted on using his own stage band as his recording band to properly perform the music he truly prefers: real Bob Wills (and Billy Mata) Western Swing and traditional country music from the rich roots of Texas music, inspired by the masters of the style who thrived when Texas music rivaled Nashville music on the radio. The result was awards and new radio exposure. He kept his music on the radio with two subsequent CD album releases; *Traditionally Yours, Billy Mata* in 2004 and *Domino Effect* in 2006 with Grammy winner, Floyd Domino.

In 2008, a very special project, *This Is Tommy Duncan, Volume One*, was released, as a tribute to the 'Voice of Western Swing'. It included guest appearances by some of the patriarch/creators of the Western Swing phenomenon. Designed to bring attention back to the Bob Wills vocalist who lived in the shadow of the king, the CD was awarded **2009 Western Swing Album of the Year** by the Academy of Western Artists. The album sparked interest by award winning videographer, Curtis W. Callaway at Baylor University's Department of Journalism and Media Arts to start production on a major documentary about Tommy Duncan and his legacy.

Billy Mata & the Texas Tradition

have become a reference to the genre.



THIS IS Tommy Duncan VOLUME TWO

Sirius/XM satellite radio currently carries Mata's music in regular rotation on *Willie's Place*. **Volume Two** of *This Is Tommy Duncan* is set for release in the Spring of 2011.

The Texas Tradition is a remarkably dedicated band. They are a handpicked collection of professional musicians from a wide area of Texas who were gathered together by their common interest in Texas Swing and the opportunity to play with the best of the best. Three of Mata's musicians are now at or past their 18th year with the band. One is in his 22nd year. They play like family.

Billy Mata & the Texas Tradition aren't just another "human jukebox" on the stage. When they play, it's just natural and fun, the way it should be.

Bob Wills knew that. Tommy Duncan knew that. Billy Mata knows that. The audience gets it.

Billy Mata & the Texas Tradition are:

From San Antonio, **Billy Mata** singing lead vocals
New Braunfels, **Richard Helsley**, fiddle and harmony
San Antonio, **Roger Edgington**, steel guitar
Victoria, **David Waters**, electric guitar
Wharton, **Bill Holt**, upright bass and harmony
Brackettville, **Rocco Fortunato**, drums and harmony

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