

LITTLE TEXAS

by Tamela Meredith Partridge
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When it comes to country music, Little Texas fans agree that "God Blessed Texas."

"God Blessed Texas is just one of many chart-topping hits Little Texas will perform at Nashville North USA on Saturday," says Nashville North USA co-owner, Mike Myers. "They've maintained a loyal fan base throughout the years, and if times allows, they'll be signing autographs after the show."

Little Texas originated in 1988 when Dwayne O'Brien and Tim Rushlow formed a band in Nashville with Duane Propes, Porter Howell, Del Gray, and Brady Seals.

Little Texas, originally named Possum Flatt (in reference to road kill), derived their name from a street sign located in a hollow south of Nashville where people used to hide out from the law during the 1920's through the 1950's.

"In the very early days, we rehearsed and wrote songs eight hours a day out of a trailer located at the end of Little Texas Lane in a hollow called Little Texas," says original founding member, Duane Propes. "One day, as we individually walked into the trailer for rehearsal, we each made the same arriving comment, 'What about calling our band Little Texas?' And we've been Little Texas ever since."

Influenced by the soaring harmonies and tight instrumentals of Restless Heart, Alabama, Poco, and the Eagles, the six-member Little Texas band developed a seasoned, yet fresh sound by blending elements of honky tonk, country rock, pop, R&B, and bluegrass.

"We were young, didn't know all the rules at the time, and ended up breaking some of them as a result," Propes says.



Little Texas, known at one time as "the hardest working band in country music," toured extensively for three years without a bus, driver, or label support.

"Being on our own and hitting the road as hard as we did was a music education in itself," Propes says. "We didn't have a lot of bills, so we were able to just focus on the music, build a fan base, and make friends within the music industry. That, and our reputation as being incredibly easy to work with, is what eventually earned us a major label recording contract."

Little Texas's five albums have resulted in the '91 debut single, "Some Guys Have All The Love," and such Billboard Top Five hits as, "You And Forever And Me," "What Might Have Been," "God Blessed Texas," "My Love," "Kick A Little," "Amy's Back In Austin," and "Life Goes On."

"Our first consideration for writing or choosing songs is audience appeal and participation," Propes says. "It's important that our music not only pertain to us, as individuals, to make it real, but be something that the audience can grasp hold of and believe in as well."

Disbanding in 1997, Little Texas re-united in 2002 with a current line-up consisting of Propes (vocals, bass), O'Brien (vocals, guitar), Howell (lead vocals, lead guitar), and Gray (drums).

"Taking a five-year hiatus allowed us to get our lives back together, our heads back on straight, and gave us a new appreciation for each other as a band," Propes says. "It took trying new things outside of the band, although they were great opportunities, for us to realize the chemistry and fun we originally had as Little Texas."

Current endeavors for the '94 ACM Vocal Group of the Year include recording an album of new material, touring over 100 Little Texas dates a year, and performing a number of dates with Restless Heart and Blackhawk in the "Triple Threat Tour."

"Restless Heart is one of the reasons we wanted to be a country vocal band in the first place," Propes says. "And Blackhawk, along with Tim McGraw, were opening acts in our first headlining tour back in '94-'95. With that history, the Triple Threat Tour should be a fun and nostalgic show for us all."