

SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Entertainment GUIDE

It's a
*Kaiser
Family*
Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 23
9 p.m.
Antone's on
Crockett Street

THE EXAMINER
December 15-21, 2006

Celebrate Christmas with the Kaisers

By Melissa Tilley
Staff Writer

Texas country stars and brothers Jimmy and David Lee Kaiser have had decades of Christmases together to practice throwing an all-out festive celebration, and they are giving all Southeast Texans the opportunity to come gather around the Christmas tree with them at Antone's on Crockett Street on Saturday, Dec. 23 for the third annual Kaiser Family Christmas concert.

"This is our one big show together every year," said younger brother David Lee. "We try not to play together much so that this gives us a reason to get together and have a really special performance."

Older brother Jimmy agreed that if there were one show for people to attend to get the full-on Texas country experience mixed with pop and rock from the Beaumont boys and their friends, this would be it.

Joining the Kaisers on stage at the Christmas concert will be other local musical talents Jamie Talbert, Spencer Marks, Damian Giglio and Lee Pelly, all close friends of Jimmy and David Lee. Josh Langston, a Texas country artist from College Station whom they call their adopted little brother, will also share the stage for the special concert.

"These guys are all our friends and people we have been playing with for a long time," said David Lee.

The mix of the Kaiser's brand of country music with the hard rock coming from Pelly provides for a cool and interesting show, according to David Lee. Both Kaisers sang on tracks for Lee's band Knuckle Deep and the group has all performed acoustic shows together. "It is really cool for rock fans to know who we are and the other way around," said David Lee. "We can get people out to their shows and they do the same for us. That is why Beaumont is so great."

The Christmas concert will include each musician taking the stage with their respective bands and performing some of their hits and crowd favorites. Then everyone will take the stage together for a dynamic finale performance that is possibly seen only once a year at this concert.

"It is just a really good time," said Jimmy. "Last year was a fun concert and everyone had a great time."

This year, the Kaisers plan to put more of a holiday spin on the concert, and might even break out some Christmas carols. "We'll definitely do Robert Earl Keen's Christmas song



Jimmy Kaiser

(‘Merry Christmas from the Family’). And I plan to sing a Christmas song, too," Jimmy added, to the surprise of David Lee.

Surprising and entertaining each other is nothing new for the Kaiser brothers. Playing together in bands while growing up in Beaumont, Jimmy on bass and David Lee starting out on drums and moving to guitar, both boys knew they had a love for music. "Our uncle taught us both how to play guitar and really first got us interested in music," said Jimmy.

But music was put on the back burner for each as they earned degrees from Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Jimmy graduated with a degree in psychology and returned to Beaumont, taking a well-paid job in pharmaceutical sales. A few years later, David Lee earned his degree in advertising and returned to Beaumont to work in advertising sales.



Courtesy photos

David Lee Kaiser

Finding free time from the grind of work, the Kaisers joined the group Honky Tonk Jones with friend Marks. Their love for music was reignited and both realized that the corporate world was not for them, giving up the security of their day jobs to pursue their dreams of making music.

To make extra money aside from Honky Tonk Jones gigs, Jimmy and David Lee played acoustically at local venues. When it came time to go to the studio and record an album, the brothers found themselves as a duo and writing their own songs. The Kaiser Brothers made their debut at the 2003 Girls' Haven Gumbo Festival at Crockett Street and began to amass a great fan base in Southeast Texas.

"We threw a band together with all new guys in one week to play at that Girls' Haven event," said David Lee. And so the Kaiser Brothers band was formed and their first album "Spurlock Road," named for the street they grew up on and where they played their first gigs for family and friends as youth, was released in 2003.

The album, described as an incorporation of Americana with influences such as Jerry Jeff Walker and Robert Earl Keen, thrust the Kaiser Brothers onto the Texas country music scene and out on the road to bring their music to the people. "Spurlock Road" produced two Texas Music Chart hits and new Texas anthems like "Best Times," "Ringo," "Looking At Cows" and "Galveston Lights."

By the fall of 2004, though, the brothers realized that in order for each to grow, they must go it alone. So Jimmy took his more country sound of music, and David Lee his more rock

sounds and each recorded their own albums and scheduled gigs with separate bands.

Jimmy's first solo album, "I'm Gone," was released in 2005 and demonstrated the maturity he had as a musician. The album combined classic country, bluegrass and a 1970s Waylon Jennings sound infused with alternative rock and country influences.

David Lee's first solo album, "Twelve," was released in 2006 and has helped him do what he loves — writing, singing and playing his own songs. The track "Psycho" from the album reached No. 17 on the Texas Music Charts, an accomplishment that David Lee is very proud of.

As for why they both gravitated toward Texas country music instead of the mainstream Nashville brand of country, David Lee said that it just fit with them. With Keen, Walker and Pat Green as large influences, they felt that Texas country was a more real-life musical style.

"Texas country is not polished. It is rough around the edges, and we like that," said Jimmy. "It was also more out there in our area and attainable."

Both brothers agreed that Texas Country music had developed a lot since the genre was first introduced. "Everybody was doing fun songs and 'floating down the river' songs like Pat Green at first," Jimmy added.

"But now Texas country songs are becoming deeper and better," said David Lee. "The Texas Music Charts are nationally respected and recognized now, and Nashville is even giving respect to what we are doing."

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The Kaisers also added that they have much admiration for Keen and Green and what they have done for the Texas country genre. Both hope to follow in their footsteps and earn a deal with a major record label.

Jimmy and David Lee Kaiser admit that being musicians and making it in the business is tough, but both agree that it is what they have chosen to do and are hoping to ride it to the top. Both are also thankful to have received such a quality education and have the business sense earned at Texas Tech University, which has helped them understand and work with the business of the music industry. They also give a lot of praise to their fans in Southeast Texas for providing them with such a great home fan base.

"It is so great to have a home to come back to after touring all over Texas and into Oklahoma and other places," said David Lee. "It

is good to know that we can always come back here and play at all these great venues with our family and friends."

Just as the Kaiser brothers plan to come back together from their busy touring schedules every year for the Kaiser Family Christmas concert, they also plan to reunite sometime in the future for another duo project. "I can definitely envision recording something together in the future," said David Lee.

The Kaiser Family Christmas concert will begin at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance and available at the Crockett Street administration office, 444 Main; Sartin's West, 6680 Calder; and Cocomo Joe's, 2024 Calder, all in Beaumont. Tickets at the door are \$10 each for ages 21 and up, and \$15 each for ages 18-20. For more information, call the Crockett Street administration office at (409) 832-2944.

Learn how to paint in 2007

By **Melissa Tilley**
Staff Writer

Aspiring artists and beginners alike will have the opportunity to make the first strokes on clean canvases as the year 2007 begins with several oil painting and watercolor instructional classes to be hosted by the Texas Artists Museum in Port Arthur and the Nederland Art Guild.

The Texas Artists Museum, 3501 Cultural Center Drive in Port Arthur, will host children's oil painting classes to begin on Saturday, Jan. 6, and continue every Saturday.

The subjects taught will include how to begin and finish an oil painting using the student's own reference materials. The instructor for the classes will be Sharlene LaFleur. LaFleur has been painting and studying art for many years and has studied under the supervision of many well-known instructors such as Ann Bell, Dot Chauvin, Shirley Peel, Dick Turner,

Dalhart Windberg, Tom Windham and Bruce Williamson. In an effort to deepen her knowledge of the trade, LaFleur participates in many workshops and classes and is currently still enrolled in weekly classes with James Black and Frank Gerrietts.

Children in first through sixth grades are invited to attend. The cost of the children's oil painting classes is \$100 per month with supplies included.

Also beginning Jan. 6, the Texas Artists Museum will host watercolor classes for children as well. Pre-registration is required, and the cost is \$100 per month with supplies included. The instructor will be Dot Chauvin.

Students interested in either class can register at the museum or mail payment in the form of a check to the museum. For more information, call (409) 983-4881, visit www.texasartistsmuseum.org or e-mail tam@texasartistsmuseum.org.

Chauvin will also be the instructor for the Nederland Art Guild classes in the months of January and February 2007. Class sessions are held each Tuesday evening from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Texas Artists Museum.

The subject of the January and February classes will be landscapes. Students are asked to bring their own photo reference, with a stream and back bushes. For questions pertaining to the reference material, call Nederland Art Guild President Barbara Haviland at (409) 962-1681. The medium will be oil and a basic palette will be used. Basic art supplies and a canvas are required to take this class.

Cost per class session is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members.

Memberships are available at the classes.

The Nederland Art Guild is a member of the Lone Star Art Guild, online at www.lonestarartguild.org.



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