

Illuminate the Rock

Rotary
La Petite Roche



RCLR Tuesday, August 2, 2022

About the Program

Next week, Tuesday, August 2, legendary Texas singer-songwriter Gary P. Nunn, one of the founders of the Austin country music scene, will join us for a fun presentation about his career. He is best known for his song "London Homesick Blues," the theme for Austin City Limits for many years. Several musicians have recorded his songs over the years too, including Jerry Jeff Walker, Michael Murphey, David Allan Coe, Roseanne Cash, Willie Nelson and Chris Stapleton. Please make plans to join us... I'm even betting he might sing a song or two as well. You won't want to miss it.



Gary P. Nunn

11:30 a.m. Networking and Buffet Open
Program at Noon
Great Hall, Clinton Center
Virtual Option: Zoom

As a founding father of the progressive country music scene in Austin, Texas in the 1970's, Gary P. Nunn helped change the face of popular music. With a career spanning half a century – and no plans for stopping anytime soon - Nunn is a proud ambassador for the state of Texas, singing about his love of everything Texas in dance halls around the state and on concert stages around the world. His extraordinary gifts as a prolific songwriter and performer have established Gary P. Nunn as an icon of Lone Star music and earned him the respect of his peers and the admiration of countless country music fans worldwide. Garth Brooks called Nunn "a quintessential Austin troubadour" when talking about episodes in the Austin City Limits archives that were "like my childhood" by formative influences that included Nunn, Merle Haggard, Townes Van Zandt and Jerry Jeff Walker. It's no wonder that All Music Guide hails him as "a Texas music institution."

Nunn was a member of the legendary Lost Gonzo Band, a group of musicians who pioneered the progressive country movement and played an integral role in creating the music that first earned Austin the designation of 'Live Music Capital of the World.' Rolling Stone called the Gonzos' self-titled debut record one of the best albums ever to come out of Austin. The Lost Gonzo Band played and recorded with some of the most iconic and colorful musicians in the history of Texas Music including Jerry Jeff Walker, Michael Martin Murphey, Steven Fromholz, Rusty Weir and Ray Wylie Hubbard.

Gary P. Nunn's signature Texas country song, "London Homesick Blues," was a breakout hit on Jerry Jeff Walker's landmark ¡Viva Terlingua! Album, selling over one million copies, became an anthem for the state of Texas with its internationally known "I wanna go home with the Armadillo" chorus, and was the theme for the PBS concert TV show "Austin City Limits" for nearly three decades.

Nunn went on to release 17 albums, write over 200 songs and earn multiple gold and platinum records for writing, publishing and performing. Nunn's self-penned classic, "What I Like About Texas" became a second anthem for the state of Texas and was the inspiration for the Texas Travel Industry Association's #What I Like About Texas campaign, encouraging Texans and visitors to share their favorite people, places, music, food, and events from all over the state. In August 2019, Nunn made his debut on the Grand Ole Opry stage, joined by over 900 proud Texans in the crowd.

Nunn's lifetime achievements in country music were honored in 2018 with his selection for the prestigious Musicfest "Tribute to a Legend" honor and The CMA of Texas Living Legend Award. Nunn was also selected to be one of the artists featured in **Outlaws and Armadillos**, a new exhibit spotlighting the outlaw country movement at the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville which opened in May 2018. In April 2019, Governor Greg Abbott, The Texas House of Representatives and Texas Senate, all honored Nunn for his lifetime achievements to Texas country music and his outstanding contributions to the state of Texas.

Other honors include Governor Mark White naming Gary P. Nunn the state's Official Ambassador to the World and Governor Rick Perry declaring Gary P. Nunn Ambassador of Texas Music. Nunn was also inducted into the Texas Hall of Fame, honored in the West Texas Walk of Fame in Lubbock, and chosen to be included in The Texas Department of Commerce and Tourism's roster of Lone Star Greats, created to recognize leaders in the fields of art, athletics and music.

Gary P. Nunn's memoir, **At Home with the Armadillo** was released in January 2018. An homage to Texas, the rich history of Austin music, and to all the musicians and other personalities he met on the way, Nunn recounts the story of his life from a humble childhood in Oklahoma to his move to Texas where he got started playing music and what it was like in the beginning of the Austin music scene in the early 1970s.

Gary's latest CD, **Friends For Life**, is a collection of duets featuring new versions of 12 of his songs by an all-star lineup by some of Texas' most loved artists including Robert Earl Keen, Lyle Lovett, Cody Johnson, Kevin Fowler, Bruce Robison, Wade Bowen, Cory Morrow, Cody Canada, Roger Creager, Kimmie Rhodes, Dale Watson, Sunny Sweeney, and Red Steagall.

Did You Miss? Governor Hutchinson



In his eighth and final appearance to our club as Governor of Arkansas, Governor Asa Hutchinson highlighted the economic progress he has made for Central Arkansas during his tenure in office. He also expressed his interest in continuing his public service career with a pledge to return to our podium. You can watch the video of his remarks here.

During my closing remarks, I was proud to bestow upon him a rare Honorary Membership in the Rotary Club of Little Rock for his steady leadership of our state, along with our shared commitment to literacy, and his dedication to our club. [include photos]

This year's "Illuminate the Rock" speaker gift has a connection to our signature literacy focus. A collection of books will be given to public elementary schools and resource centers by authors with Little Rock connections in honor of all our speakers for the 2022-2023 year. Each week, one of the books is presented to our speaker with a custom bookplate to explain the significance of the gift and more about our club.

We also introduced Dr. Jamell Wright, the new Little Rock School District Superintendent, as our newest member. More light was shed on the Bright Broadway bridge project and a unique opportunity to bring a coding competition for area school students to our community. Check out this video of a similar virtual experience highlighting a student coding project for the Light the Hoan bridge in Milwaukeee.

Zoom login for August 2, 2022

Club 99 | Social



Upcoming Programs

August 2022

- 2 Texas Country Singer Songwriter Gary P. Nunn
- 8 OIYP Welcome Reception (evening social)
- 9 Little Rock's Growing Homeless Crisis Panel Discussion
- 16
- 30 Envisioning 30 Crossing Design and Ideas Competition Winners

September 2022

- 6 Superintendent Dr. Jermall Wright, Little Rock School District
- 13 Showtime's The Circus, Mark McKinnon & Jennifer Palmieri
- 20 Commissioner, Greg Sankey, Southeastern Conference
- 27 Club 99 Dinner Parties (evening event replacing Tuesday noon meeting)