

NEWS RELEASE
January 15, 2018
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

contact Fletcher Clark

fletcherclark3@netzero.net / 512.376.0340

EveningsWithSongwriter.com

Eighth Season for Lockhart Library Songwriter Series!

(Lockhart) Historic Dr. Eugene Clark Library kicks off the eighth season of its *Evenings with the Songwriter*, featuring Frank Martin Gilligan on Tuesday, January 30, 7:00pm. Hosted by Lockhart songwriter Fletcher Clark, the series occurs on this last Tuesday of the month and is free to the public.

Frank Martin Gilligan grew up in New York City, but moved to Beaumont in the late 70's at age 19. He immediately formed MASON DIXON, a Texas vocal group that enjoyed a pretty good run on the charts and on the road in the 1980's and 90's. They played with just about everyone who was big in Country music at the time, racking up thirteen Billboard chart singles, nine #1 records on the Independent Country Music Charts (1983-1987), CASHBOX Magazine's 1987 Independent Vocal Group of The Year, and many other accolades.

MASON DIXON's run lasted until 1993. Frank put music aside then for some time. That might have been the end of it had it not been for a bout with cancer in 2009. Chemotherapy had ruined the nerves in his hands and feet and left him unable to play guitar. When he got his hands back, a lot of good songs came with it. Once again on stage and in the studio, this songwriter has been making plenty of noise since he's been back, as a winner at the 2013 Songwriter Serenade, the 2014 Kerrville NewFolk, the 2015 Wildflower Arts & Music Festival, and a host of other notable achievements and appearances.

Based in San Antonio, Frank Martin Gilligan can be seen and heard all over the state of Texas and beyond these days. His first solo recording 'Silver Dollar' was released in 2015 and very favorably received by independent radio: the title song 'Silver Dollar' spent 4 weeks at #1 on the Roots Americana Chart and was rated #13 overall for the year!

"I enjoyed Frank's appearances at Songwriter Serenade in Moravia and at the Kerrville Folk

- more -

Evenings with the Songwriter: Frank Martin Gilligan, January 30, 2018

Festival,” said host Fletcher Clark. “Frank’s music combines his early career with his second bite at the apple, showing me fresh elements of insight and wonder, with the maturity of a seasoned professional.”

Clark reflected on his path: “I never imagined that when I first took the stage in the Clark Library Lyceum in 2010 that this series would have such a run!” It began with Fletcher enjoying a presentation by author/historian Chuck Parsons, prompting him to ask Library Director Bertha Martinez if he could make a similar presentation focusing on songwriting as a literary form. “After my first evening, I invited a few of my many close colleagues. But then support from my *Friends of the Song* made it possible to reach out to a wider band of artists.” His waiting list now extends over several years out. “Lately requests have come pouring in from European artists touring Texas and the United States, from Nashville songwriters seeking relief from the humdrum professional routine there, upcoming new artists, and from former guests wanting an update return evening.”

In its first seven years, *Evenings with the Songwriter* has featured scores of celebrated artists, including such luminaries as Shake Russell, Tish Hinojosa, Vince Bell, Butch Hancock, Christine Albert, Dana Cooper, Eric Taylor, Shelley King, and Walt Wilkins. This Eighth Season will continue with Susan Gibson, Sarah Peacock, Sharon Bousquet, Steve Brooks, Bill & Mary Muse, KR Wood, Judy Painter & Rose Kimball, Lynn Langham & Doug Gill, Scott Paul, and Rex Foster. “*Evenings with the Songwriter* is not really a performance nor an interview nor a song swap nor a lecture, but elements of all. ‘Exploring ‘the art and craft of songwriting’ in this way and in this special place is a very different experience for these songwriters,” says Clark.

The Clark Library Lyceum is the oldest continually operating library building in Texas. The ambiance of this room offers a special intimacy for *Evenings with the Songwriter*, appreciated by audience and guests alike. The series is presented to the public free of charge on the last Tuesday of the month (except December), thanks to City of Lockhart Library Director Bertha Martinez and her staff. Support comes from local *Friends of the Song* sponsors Todd Blomerth & Patti Payne, Donaly & Clare Brice, and Robert & Esther Wilson.

Additional information available at EveningsWithSongwriter.com and on Facebook.