

with Clay Blaker & the Texas Honky Tonk Band from 90-96. He toured nationally with David Kersh from '96-'99, Chris Cagle from 2000 through 2001 and then again 2006-2009. Carroll joined the Joe Nichols Band in 2009; but left Nichols to move back to Texas on 2010 to rejoin Cory Morrow.

"My approach to performing is much like that of most, which is that I take all of the stuff I've heard that's mixed up in my head and put it together to try to serve the song as best as possible. It has to be about the song."

Carroll performed on Chris Cagle's *Play It Loud, Anywhere But Here, My Life's Been A Country Song*, Cory Morrow's *Double Exposure (Live)*, *Outside The Lines, Nothing Left To Hide, Full Exposure (Live)*, *Brand New Me, The Good Fight* (to be released in June).

He can also be heard on Kevin Fowler's *High On The Hog and Loose Loud And Crazy*, Clay Blaker's *Layin' It All On The Line, Rumor Town, Welcome To The Wasteland, Micky Dolenz, Remember, and Gary P. Nunn's Something For The Trail*.

Other recording projects include albums by Ward, Rachel Holder, and many others.

He added, "I also had the honor of playing a couple of tunes with Les Paul and his quartet at the Iridium Jazz Club in NYC back in August '05."

Carroll's main axe is a custom built "Twangmonster" by Shaw Guitars. Others include a custom Tom Anderson, a Fender Strat, and a Les Paul special. The amp he's currently using is a Mesa Boogie TA-30, and a "various assortment of pedals which seems to be changing all the time."

Jerry Don Branch

BORN IN DALLAS IN 1953, Jerry Don Branch spent his formative years in Oak Cliff. Oddly enough, he cut his musical wisdom teeth initially on the drums, but switched to guitar while still a teenager. He learned from the great garage bands that played the Saturday night dances at Candy's Flair as well as the sock hops at schools and local churches. These bands included a virtual who's who of Texas musicians: The Mystics, Southwest FOB, Novas, Dallas City Blues, Derek Jones Party, Brooklyn Underground, and Mint, which included his future musical partner, Jimmy Wallace.

In the early '70s, he recalls, "I was influenced by the Texas great guitar slingers Rocky Athas and Steve Vaughan (as he was called then while playing in a group called Blackbird doing all Allman Brothers). It was a great time and place to grow up musically."

Other influences included Billy Gibbons, Duane Allman, Dickey Betts, Stephen Stills, Jeff Beck, Eric Clapton, Jimmy Page, Jimi Hendrix, Joe Walsh, Bugs Henderson, James Taylor, Robben Ford, and Larry Carlton. Jerry Don received instruction at the University of North Texas from Jack Petersen.

He played in Gunpoint from 1974 to 1982, The 7:00 Lab Band (NTSU) as well as the NTSU Guitar Ensemble from 1984 to 1985, and has played with the Stratoblasters from 1985 to the present time. He has also performed with 4 Way Street from 2011 to the present, The J's from 2011 to 2014, and the Jimmy Wallace Guitar Army from 2013 to present.

Branch has recorded on *Red*

Team (with The Stratoblasters), *The Cliffhanger Project*; with Brownin' Wallace on *One More Mile*; The j's on The j's, *The King of Clubs: A Tribute Album Dedicated To The Music Of Bugs Henderson*; and the soon to be released *Faith* album with Jimmy Wallace.

"I've had the privilege of playing with Jerry Don Branch for more than 30 years," said Jimmy Wallace. "He embodies the pure spirit of Texas music, both through his incredible voice and his amazing guitar playing."

Jerry Don Branch performs with a 1957 Fender Stratocaster, 1972 Les Paul Gold Top 54 Re-issue, a Mark Baker Custom Tele, Dr Z Maz Senior 2x12 combo, Dr Z Maz Junior 2x10 combo, Larrivee OMV-10 acoustic, Takamine NP-15C acoustic, Boss TU-2 Tuner, Ibanez RC99 Rotary Chorus, Boss DD-3 Digital Delay, Red Klon, Radial Tonebone DI, and an Ibanez TS-9 Tube Screamer.

Gary Clark Jr.

TO ANYONE WHO LAMENTS the erosion of the deep roots of Texas blues, Gary Clark Jr. is vibrant proof that all is well; and that there will always be someone ready to sink those roots even deeper. In the three years since Clark released his 2012 acclaimed *Blak and Blu*, it is evident that he is ideally poised to become a part of the legendary landscape of Texas blues. He wears the mantle that others have placed on him easily, in an unassuming manner, not looking for accolades, but well deserving of each one.

For his "Ain't Messin' Round," Clark was nominated for the Grammy Award for Best Rock Song in 2013. In 2014, he won the Grammy Award for Best Traditional R&B performance at the 56th annual Grammy Awards Ceremony for his song "Please Come Home."

A true Texas product, Gary Clark Jr. picked up the guitar at the age of 12. Born and raised in Austin, Clark kicked around locally until he was introduced to another blues luminary, Clifford Antone, proprietor of the Austin music club Antone's. Antone's was the launch pad from which Jimmie and Stevie Ray Vaughan redefined blues at the time. Soon after meeting Antone, Clark began to play with an array of musical icons, including Jimmie Vaughan. *Rolling Stone* declared Clark "Best Young Gun" in its April 2011 "Best of Rock" issue.

He's become a huge live draw,



Gary Clark, Jr.

toured the world multiple times, won a Grammy, played with everyone from the Foo Fighters to the Rolling Stones, got engaged to model Nicole Trunfio and became a dad.

Clark swept the 31st annual Austin Music Awards for 2012-2013, earning "of the year" awards as of/for Band, Musician, Song, Album, Electric Guitarist, Songwriter, Blues/Soul/Funk Artist, and Male Vocalist.

Clark uses an Epiphone Casino, Gibson ES-330, Gibson SG, and Fender Telecaster electric guitars and Epiphone Masterbilt and Gibson Hummingbird acoustic guitars. Clark uses a Fender Vibro-King amp

Chris Claridy

CHRIS CLARIDY SAID THAT his greatest influences have always been family and friends. He was born on January 6, 1968, in Oak Cliff—home of many of Texas' greatest players.

Musically, his dad bought him a record player and three double live albums for Christmas when he was 12. They were Kiss' *Alive*, Peter Frampton's *Frampton Comes Alive*, and Elvis' *Aloha from Hawaii*.

At 13, his grandfather bought him his first real guitar, a black Les Paul copy and a Peavey Backstage amplifier from McCords Music in downtown Dallas. "I remember that day so clearly and I still own the guitar and amp to this day."

Claridy began playing parties and clubs around 18 with Nikos Brisco and Bryan Wakeland in a band called Aspirin Damage, which later evolved into the iconic Fever in the Funkhouse.

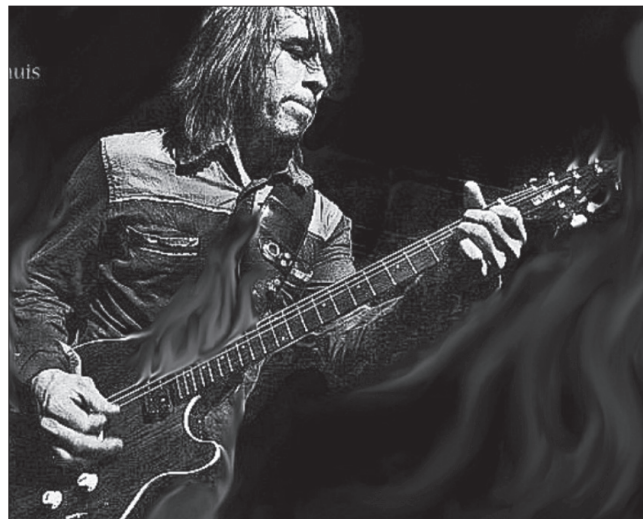
He toured and recorded

with Jack Ingram in the mid '90s. He then played bass for a short turn with Kim Pendleton and Paul Quigg in Vibrolux, followed by a year with Clay Pendergrass and Earl Darling in American Horse. He joined up with Matt Hillyer and Steve Burg in Eleven Hundred Springs for almost four years between 2001-2004. He performed on the Springs' *Broken Dreams* and *Bandwagon* CDs, and the Jack Ingram album *Livin' or Dyin'.*

Claridy worked at Lancaster Music for a year and met Darren Kozelsky through Texas Tornado drummer Bruce Alford, whom he had known from his days with Eleven Hundred Springs. He later played on Kozelsky's debut record and toured with him for six years. He toured with TJ Broscoff before joining Cody Jinks last year and is still currently tour with Jinks. He also toured with Reckless Kelly, Chris Wall, Ten Hands, Ali Dee, Ted Russell Kamp, Zach Edwards, and Shy Blakeman. He added that he had one gig with Bo Diddley.

"The Texas music scene/family has been so good to me for many years and I feel super blessed to get the chance to do what I do," Claridy stated.

He has two G&L ASATs and a custom Fender telecaster that he uses live through a Soviet Mig



Chris Claridy

50 or a Top Hat Ambassador. Studio guitars include an all-rosewood Music Man Axis and an Epiphone Casino which was a gift from Steve Earle.

Jason Elmore

JASON ELMORE IS A DALLAS-based guitarist, singer, and songwriter who has been fronting the band Jason Elmore & Hoodoo Witch' since 2008. Elmore is also a busy solo acoustic artist. Before Hoodoo Witch, he played with various metal bands in and around the Texoma area.

Elmore's influence list is long, and as varied as his musical styles. They include Gary Moore, Jerry Reed, Don Rich, Freddie King, Bugs Henderson, Jim Suhler, Dimebag Darrell, Charlie Batty, Tommy Emmanuel, Tony Iommi, Charlie Christian, Andy Timmons and Sean Costello. Expect a high-energy show filled with variety and fun when you go see this band.

Often labeled as a "blues" player, Elmore is not one to be pigeon-holed into any single genre. He prefers to call his sound "American Music," a throwback reference to both Bugs Henderson and Gatemouth Brown.

A fan of everything from Blind Willie McTell to Buck Owens to Black Sabbath, Elmore is able to seamlessly blend elements of jump blues, vintage soul, R&B, hard rock, and old-school country into a sound that is undeniably blues-based, but at the same time original and fresh. "I have always been a fan of Dimebag Darrell from Pantera and in my earlier years I played a similar style before I became obsessed with blues music. Pantera is as Texas as it gets, as is Kings X, ZZ Top, Freddie King, and Wayne 'The Train' Hancock."

Jason Elmore & Hoodoo Witch is Elmore, Brandon Katona on bass and Mike Talbot on drums.

While he is always striving to improve and expand his knowledge of the guitar, he places equal emphasis on strong vocals and creative songwriting.

He has released two CDs of his own, *Upside Your Head* (2008) and *Tell you What* (2013). In 2014, he performed "Between Midnight and Day" on Jim Suhler & Monkey Beat's *Panther Burn*.

Elmore's main weapon is a custom-built Telecaster with a B-bender. He also uses a Gibson SG, tuned to open G for slide work. Depending on the gig, he'll usually either take along an American Stratocaster and/or a '78 Gibson Les Paul. Elmore's main amp is a Mesa Boogie Lonestar (clean channel) which he supplements



Jerry Don Branch