

The Songwriting Legacy Of Mickey Newbury John And Robin Dickson In Texas Music

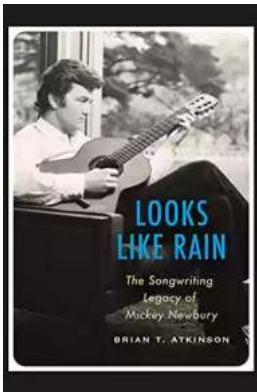


When it comes to the rich history of songwriters in Texas, there are few names that stand out as prominently as Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson. Their contributions to the Texas music scene have left a lasting impact on both the

industry and the countless fans who have been touched by their emotive and poetic compositions.

The Untold Story of Mickey Newbury

Alt attribute: Mickey Newbury singing at a live concert in Texas



Looks Like Rain: The Songwriting Legacy of Mickey Newbury (John and Robin Dickson Series in Texas Music, sponsored by the Center for Texas Music History, Texas State University)

by Brian T. Atkinson (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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Mickey Newbury was a visionary songwriter who remained relatively unknown to the wider public despite his immense talent and influence. Born in Houston, Texas, Newbury began his musical journey in the 1960s, crafting songs that would go on to be recorded by some of the most iconic names in music, including Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, and Johnny Cash.

While his songs were finding commercial success through other artists, Newbury himself struggled to achieve the recognition he truly deserved. Known for his

introspective and deeply personal lyrics, Newbury's songs often reflected his own struggles, including his battle with alcoholism and personal demons.

However, his lack of commercial success didn't deter Newbury from pursuing his craft with unwavering dedication. Throughout his career, he released over 20 albums, each showcasing his unparalleled songwriting abilities and his unique blend of country, folk, and pop sensibilities.

John Robin Dickson: A Musical Partnership

Alt attribute: John Robin Dickson performing with his acoustic guitar

John Robin Dickson, often referred to simply as Robin, was a close friend and musical collaborator of Mickey Newbury. Together, they formed a vibrant partnership that would result in some of the most captivating songs ever written in the Texas music scene.

Robin's bluesy guitar-playing style provided the perfect accompaniment to Newbury's heartfelt lyrics, creating a harmonious blend of emotions that would resonate with audiences across the state. Whether it was performing as a duo or contributing his guitar skills to Newbury's solo work, Robin's musicality always left a lasting impact.

The Influence on Texas Music

Alt attribute: Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson album covers

The songwriting legacy of Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson extends far beyond their individual careers. Together, they paved the way for countless Texas musicians, inspiring generations of songwriters to approach their craft with honesty, vulnerability, and fearlessness.

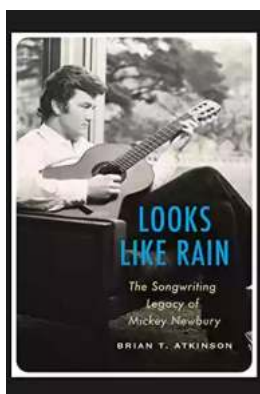
Their songs captured the essence of Texas, its people, landscapes, and emotions, resonating with listeners who craved authenticity in their music. From heartfelt ballads to soul-stirring blues, Newbury and Dickson's compositions continue to shape the Texas music landscape, ensuring their place in the state's rich musical heritage.

Remembering the Legends

Alt attribute: Memorial plaque in Texas honoring Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson

Although Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson may no longer be with us, their songwriting legacy lives on, reminding us of the power of music to connect deeply with our souls. Their contributions to Texas music are everlasting, and their influence will continue to inspire future generations of musicians and songwriters.

So, the next time you find yourself humming along to a Texas troubadour's heartfelt melody or singing along to a soulful ballad, remember the names Mickey Newbury and John Robin Dickson. Their impact on Texas music is immeasurable, and their songs will forever hold a special place in the hearts of fans and music lovers alike.



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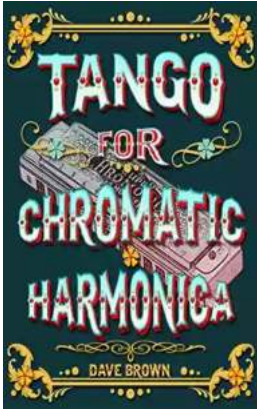


Mickey Newbury (1940–2002) grew up in Houston and moved to Nashville in the early 1960s, following his muse. He wrote top hits for many well-known artists, including Don Gibson, Andy Williams, Kenny Rogers, Tom Jones, and others. He is probably best known, however, for being name-checked in the song “Luckenbach, Texas (Back to the Basics of Love)” by Waylon Jennings. Newbury has been cited by Jennings, Kris Kristofferson, Townes Van Zandt, and many other eminent singer-songwriters as a primary influence.

In his own independent fashion, Newbury helped to loosen the grip maintained for decades by the Nashville studio system, thus paving the way for later innovators like Willie Nelson, David Allan Coe, and others. He is still the only songwriter to produce hits on four different charts in the same year in 1968: “Just Dropped In (to See What Condition My Condition was In)” on the pop/rock charts, “Sweet Memories” on easy listening, “Time Is a Thief” on the R & B charts, and “Here Comes the Rain, Baby” in country.

Following the successful pattern established in his previous works on Townes Van Zandt and Ray Wylie Hubbard, veteran music journalist Brian T. Atkinson has interviewed artists such as Kris Kristofferson, Bobby Bare, Ramblin’ Jack Elliott, Steve Earle, Rodney Crowell, and many others to learn how Newbury’s influence continues to shape the musical and artistic approach of both seasoned and newer performers. Forewords by Larry Gatlin and Don McLean set the stage for a

fascinating look back at one of the most revered songwriters and musicians of recent decades.



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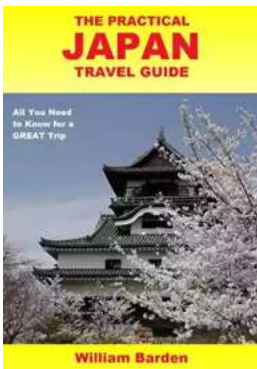
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