

# East Texas Comes Together for Eighth Annual East Texas Music Awards

**For Immediate Release** – August 28, 2018. - **The Eighth Annual East Texas Music Awards is Set for September 10, 2018 at the Gilmer Civic Center, Naming Lifetime Achievement Recipients** – Gilmer, Texas

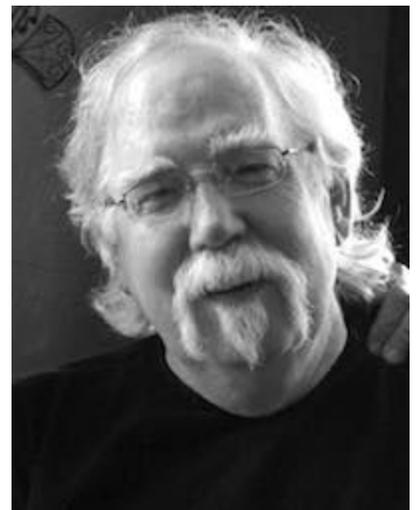
The East Texas Music Awards is coming to the [Gilmer Civic Center](#) on September 10, 2018. ETX Music returns to Gilmer after last year's successful partnership with NBC's [America's Got Talent 2018](#), an event held at Gilmer's newly renovated civic center. This year's East Texas Music Awards is a family-friendly event featuring nominee performances covering many genres, including Americana, country, rock, and more.

Recipients of the ETX Music Award from previous years include [Don Henley](#), [RIP Kidd Kraddick](#), [Neal McCoy](#), among many other notable regional acts like [Kadie Lynn](#), [Darrin Morris Band](#), [Cody Wayne Band](#), [Rockett Queen](#), and much more. The [ETX Music Awards 2018](#) event is focused mainly on independent talent in Texas, while the nominations and voting processes are open to the public each year.



Cohost of the upcoming event, [Kadie Lynn](#), singer-songwriter and featured artist on America's Got Talent Season 11 said, *"I'm thrilled to return to Gilmer as a Cohost of another great ETX Music event. The Gilmer community is one of the best audiences I've seen; it's a perfect reason to bring East Texas together for this red carpet event."*

Covering a special award category, [John DeFoore](#) will be honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his work. The Founder and lead instructor of [The DeFoore Music Institute](#) Institute, John Defoore was born 1946 in [Greenwood, Mississippi](#). Finishing High school He Joined the [United States Air Force](#) in 1964, Serving all of his time in the service overseas. During his time overseas he attended the [University of London](#), and the [University of Maryland](#) Overseas Extension. After his discharge in 1968 he remained in London England until 1973, at which time he returned to the USA. He then enrolled in the University of McMurry in Abilene, Texas and made his living playing and singing in several bands as a professional musician. John moved to Dallas Texas 1979 To play with United Artist Label Singer Tim Holiday (Champagne Lady, Two More Bottles of Wine). In between touring dates John taught songwriting and guitar at Frets And Strings. It was during this time that he met a taught a young lady from Gilmer, Texas who later adopted the stage name of [Michelle Shocked](#) and recorded for Mercury Records, among others.



After playing and teaching for 10 years in the Dallas area John moved to east Texas 1989, and started Teaching in Mineola. Students include [Kacey Musgraves](#), Michelle Shocked, [Casey Rivers](#), [Jon Wolfe](#), Jeff Allen, Miranda Lambert, Ryan Beaver, and multiple ETX Music Award nominees or past recipients including Kadie Lynn, [Riley Redding](#), [Chris Colston](#), Billie Jo Sewell, Trinity Wennerstrom, and many more. DeFoore said, *"It has been an honor and a blessing to get to work with so many talented people here in East Texas..."*

Another deserving recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award is Ken Chinn of the [Chinn Guitar Project](#). A love for music and a sick child was the inspiration behind the charitable organization known as The Chinn Guitar Project. Ken Chinn and his daughter, Tara, began this charity when Tara was in [Texas Children's Hospital](#) in Dallas being treated for epilepsy. They found out about a need in the music therapy department for guitars and wanted to help. Six years and thousands of guitars later the Chinn Guitar Project has donated instruments to hospitals, schools, memory care units, veterans, private organizations, missionaries, and other organizations across the globe. This is all done to encourage and inspire others with the healing powers of music.



Categories for the East Texas Music Awards includes Lifetime Achievement, Country Artist, Americana/Roots Artist, Female Vocalist, Male Vocalist, Album, Song, Songwriter, Video, Radio Station, Radio DJ, Venue, and much more.

The founder of ETX Music, Nathan Hunnicutt says, *"The event has piqued quite a bit of interest over the past several years. One reason is the wide range of involved artists, fans, producers, and other industry professionals. Of course, the talent in East Texas runs deep, and everyone loves the incredible live performances we feature."*

**A complete list of this year's nominees** can be found here: <https://etxmusic.com/etx-music-awards><sup>TM</sup>

**ABOUT** – The East Texas Music Awards aims to foster, promote, and engage growth in all aspects of music production and performance in East Texas. The first year for awards voting was in 2011, and the first event was in 2012. The Eighth Annual East Texas Music Awards is scheduled for the evening of September 10, 2018 at the Gilmer Civic Center in Gilmer, Texas.

**ONLINE** – Website: [ETXMusic.com](http://ETXMusic.com) Facebook: [Facebook.com/ETXMusicAwards](https://Facebook.com/ETXMusicAwards)  
Twitter: [Twitter.com/ETXMusicAwards](https://Twitter.com/ETXMusicAwards) #etxrocks #etxmusic

# # #