

# TEXAS MUSIC

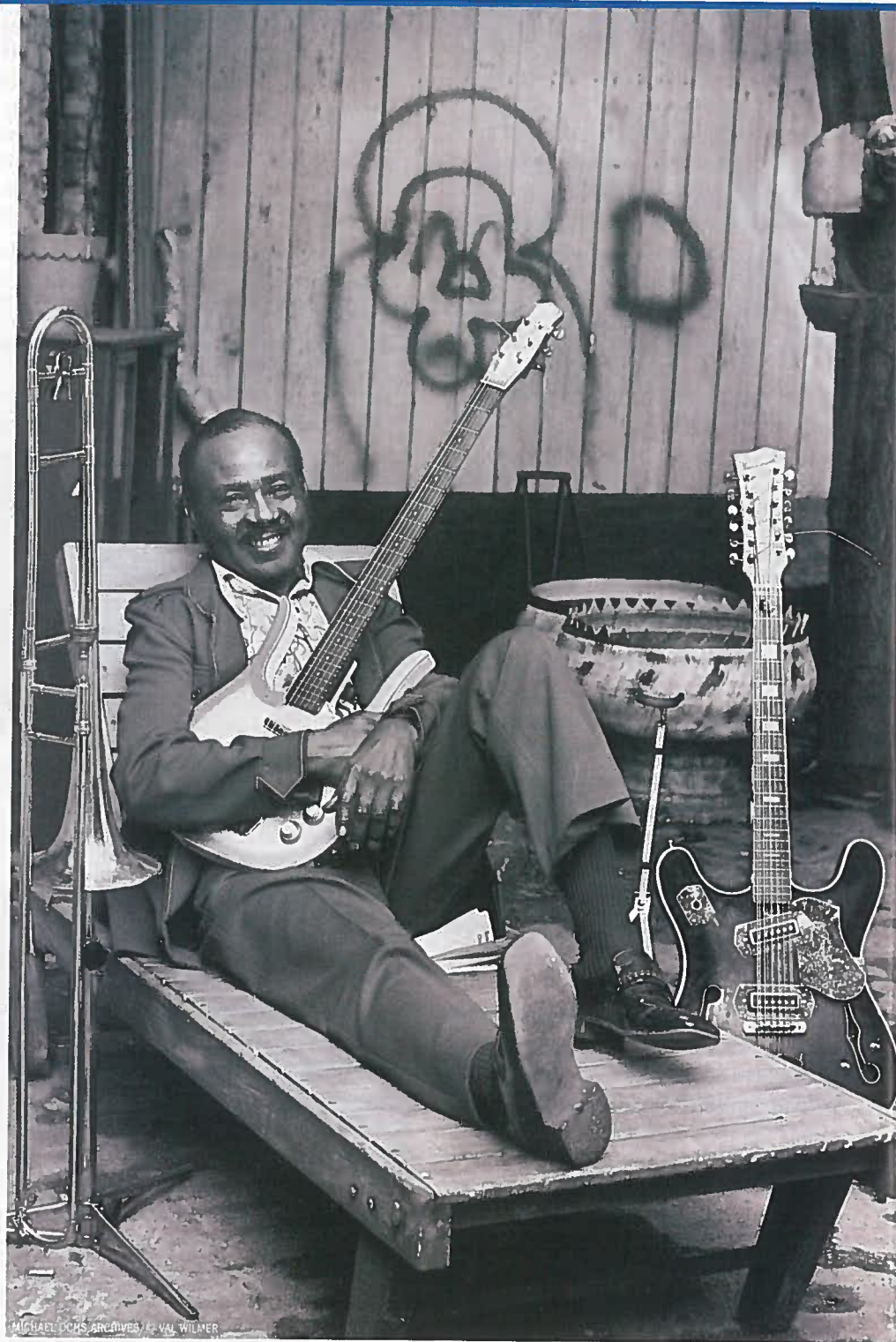
BY DAVE OLIPHANT

EVEN DEVOTED FANS CAN BE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT PROMINENT JAZZ MUSICIANS CLAIM TEXAN ROOTS.



COURTESY MOSAIC RECORDS

Jazz saxophonist Ornette Coleman (above) brings a life in music and major acclaim to the Texas musical pantheon. Right, Eddie Durham, one of the first and most influential Texans in jazz, introduced the electric guitar to yet another Texas legend, Charlie Christian.



MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES / K. VAL WILMER

MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES

TEAGARDEN ESTATE

MOSAIC RECORDS



[LEFT TO RIGHT] Pianist Red Garland, trombonist Jack Teagarden, and trumpeter Kenny Dorham all played with the greats, because, well, they were great, too.

**KNOWN** for many different types of music, Texas is perhaps least recognized for its crucial contributions to the history of jazz. Even devoted fans of this music can be surprised to find that prominent jazz musicians claim Texan roots. This is largely because Texas musicians have left the state in order to earn a living playing jazz professionally. Although most Texas jazz musicians traveled to Kansas City, New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, it was in Texas' small towns and cities that they first heard the music they fell in love with, learned the art of jazz, and performed with regional bands before landing a spot in one of the name bands of the day.

Besides working with organizations led by maestros like Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Benny Goodman, Jimmie Lunceford, Glenn Miller, and Stan Kenton, Texas jazz musicians also joined the ranks of smaller groups led by such stars as Jelly Roll Morton, King Oliver, Louis Armstrong, Charlie Parker, Dizzy Gillespie, and Charles Mingus. But how musicians in outlying towns like Jefferson, Rockport, Wichita Falls, Amarillo, or Texarkana first heard the infectious sounds of jazz and later became members of major outfits still remains something of a mystery.

In Jefferson in 1930, the family of Steady Nelson (1913-1988) owned no radio, and yet by 1940 this trumpeter was a featured soloist in the Woody Herman Orchestra. Kenny Dorham, born in Post Oak, would become one of the most sought-after bebop trumpeters of the late 1940s and of the Hard Bop movement of the 1950s. Indeed, during every period of jazz history, Texans have played vital roles in the development of this music that has captivated listeners around the world.

MICHAEL OCHS ARCHIVES



Woodwind player Jimmy Giuffre cut a distinctive path with a variety of sounds, approaches, and combo configurations.

# JAZZ MAVERICKS OF THE LONE STAR STATE