

## KEN GAINES Singer/Songwriter

Never quite got over Woodstock  
Or November '63  
And the things I learned at 21  
Put a big ol' hole in me.  
Never worried much about the bomb  
Not a whole lot I could do.  
I'll never get over losin' Mom  
And I'll never get over you.

— © Ken Gaines from  
"Never Get Over You" 2006

"There are a lot of things I've never gotten over, especially my love of the song and it's performance. I can't remember when I didn't sing and, from a very early age, was fascinated with writing songs even as I learned and sang classic folk, rock, jazz, theatre and choral works. I've come to the point in my life where I have nothing better to do with it than write and perform on my own or with the people I love."

Houston area singer, songwriter, guitarist, and producer Ken Gaines has the goal of writing great songs in just about every genre and

style. You won't be able to put a finger on what he does from sweet lyrical ballads, to double entendre blues, to swingin' jazz, and redneck rock. "For all of the great songs that have been written I belong to a wonderful group of people who believe there are at least as many great ones still to be written." His voice has the range to cover all of these styles and his supple guitar work lays down arrangements instead of just chords. His lyrics are both powerful and poetic and highlight his skills as a story teller and observer of life. In 2005 he was voted Singer Songwriter of the Year by the Academy of Texas Music and in 2007 his song was nominated Song of the Year and the Texas Music Awards.

Onstage Ken is both into the song and the moment. "Live performance for me is the culmination of all my thinking and practice. It's like a religious experience. I want you to laugh and cry on the same night and I hope you go home feeling like you've fallen in love all over again with someone or something you hold dear". Ken is available for concerts, house concerts, club shows, and festivals. He's often sharing the stage with one or both of his musical partners, Wayne Wilkerson & Karen Mal. His tour schedule takes him all across the US as well as his home state of Texas.

Ken has two solo CD's and a live cassette to his credit. His latest, "Catfish Moon" 2006 on the Songdog record label is a real taste of what it's like to hear Ken with Karen, Wayne, and co-producer Bill Ward with guest appearances by Gary Sapone, Jeff Duncan, & Ron Rebstock on several cuts. The previous CD, "Real Men", 2002, established Ken as a national act. Along with the live cassette "No One Else", 1991 he has songs on several compilations including "The Silverwolf Homeless Project" 1995, My Texas Music Radio Ready Vol. 2, Peace From the Porch, Vol 1 2004, and Uncle Calvin's 25th Anniversary Compilation, 2008. Through the years he's worked on numerous other recording projects and written for stage and film projects notably the feature film, "Blue Days Lost" and two co-written children's musicals, "Noah and the Ark" and "Journey of the Wise Men" produced by the Excellent Theatre Company in Houston.

Since the fall of 1998 he's produced and hosted a songwriters' series at Houston's legendary Anderson Fair. These Thursday night productions have become a must for traveling artists from all over North America who are breaking into the Texas territory, as well as a way to hear many of Texas' best singer/songwriters. "Talk about a great way to keep your edge as a performer. I love these shows!" says Ken. "Each night is a different mix and allows me to bring out a different aspect of my performance as well as the opportunity to feature and interact with so many talented people."

Need an MC? Calling on earlier training in theatre Ken is now the "voice" of the Texas Music Awards. For 4 out the past 5 years he's worked as announcer for this prestigious event and enjoys it so much he's decided to add that skill to his repertoire again. If your looking for someone to MC or announce your event give him a call.

Ken was chosen to open the Kerrville Folk Festival in 2009, where he has been a regular around the song circles for many years. He's a former board member of the Academy of Texas Music, a Wheel member of the Houston Association of Acoustic musicians, and a proud member of MyTexasMusic.com where you can find his music and hundreds of other Texas artists.





**KEN GAINES**  
Singer/Songwriter

*"A singer/songwriter with a beautifully clear voice and articulate guitar accompaniment, Ken has played and studied a lot of music, but it's obvious that he's also studied himself and his craft and is committed to finding what's original and at the same time, universal in his experiences."*

— Max Biedenharn  
MisMississippi Coast Magazine

*"He is incredible. I don't mean, 'gosh, he's pretty good'...I mean he's INCREDIBLE. When you hear his buttery voice slide through song after song of the most original stuff you've laid ears on, you'll thank us for the turn-on."*

— Jinelle Boyd  
founder, MyTexasMusic.com

*"I've said this before and I'll say it again and I'll keep saying it until someone who can do something hears me. Ken Gaines is the best ballad writer in Texas today! And when you hear him perform with Wayne Wilkerson on guitar and harmony vocals, it hits you right in the heart...You'll see...you'll see."*

— Darrell Harkins  
Dateline Texas for the Roots Music Report

*"Ken's music brings an audience up...Strong guitar playing and overflowing charisma allow Gaines to own the stage and he shares himself with his audience...I went away singing..."*

— Kathleen Hudson  
"Texas Heritage Music Series", Kerrville Daily Times

*"If the world had any inkling of how good Ken Gaines really is, he would be playing the big places and we wouldn't be able to have him here. So we keep him our secret and get him up here as often as possible."*

*Take a big bunch of powerful and compelling original songs, (we're talkin' high protein stuff) add a big soaring tenor that raises goose bumps, then blend in his strong and supple guitar work. Finally, mix in a big helping of the great Wayne Wilkerson's truly amazing lead guitar, and you will not want these guys to ever stop."*

—Tom Noe  
Acoustic Concert Tours

*"Imagine the voices of Bing Crosby and Jim Morrison; imagine their voices singing as one, Then imagine that voice in one body. Your imagination has just created Ken Gaines"*

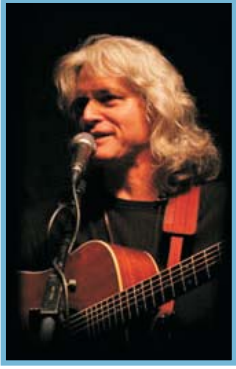
— John Davis  
Walden Coffee House, San Antonio

*"If you'll put on 'Kengaines' I'll dance for you."*

—Aislinn Oxford, age 4

kengaines.com





## KEN GAINES

Singer/Songwriter

### Sample Venues

McGonigel's Mucky Duck, Houston  
Anderson Fair, Houston  
Writers In the Round Concert Series, Houston  
Second Saturday Concerts, Houston  
Uncle Calvin's, Dallas  
Acoustic Concert Tours, Wylie, Texas  
Wildwood Coffeehouse, Tyler, Texas  
The Palomino, Los Angeles  
Ghengis Cohen, Los Angeles  
Caffé Lena, Saratoga Springs, New York  
Night Eagle, Oxford, New York  
Eighth Step, Albany, New York  
Cornell Folk Song Society, Ithaca, New York  
Speakeasy, New York City  
Chicago House, Austin, Texas  
Waterloo Ice House, Austin, Texas  
Rouse House Concerts, Austin Texas

Urban Campfire Concert Series, San Antonio, Texas  
Texas Nights House Concerts  
Trail's End Concerts, South Padre Island, Texas  
Cousin Andy's, Carbondale, Illinois  
Songbird Sanctuary Concerts, Houston  
Floribama, Pensacola, Florida  
Acoustic Sounds Café, Little Rock, Arkansas  
Luckenbach, Texas  
Texas Firelight Theater, Houston  
The Loft, Columbus, Georgia  
Blue Door, Oklahoma City  
Music At The Gap, Copperas Cove, TX  
The Artichoke Bar, Wichita, KS  
Live Oak Coffeehouse, Austin, TX  
Americana Unplugged, Davis, OK  
River Concerts, Hannibal, MO  
Lupus General Store, Lupus, MO

### Festivals

Kerrville Folk Festival (feature performer 2009)  
North American Folk Alliance (feature performer 2006)  
Texas Wildflower Festival  
San Antonio Folk Festival  
Tucson Folk Festival  
Peter Anderson Festival, MS

South Padre Island Folk Festival  
SW Regional Folk Alliance (featured performer 2006)  
Caffé Lena Folkathon  
Green Mt. Energy Festival  
Atlanta Dogwood Festival  
Marble Falls Music Festival

### Appearances/ Openings

Caroline Aiken  
Jack Williams  
Tom Paxton  
David Roth  
Shake Russell & Jack Saunders  
Bill Staines  
James McMurtry  
Townes Van Zandt  
Jerry Jeff Walker  
Johnsmith  
Ruthie Foster  
The Laws  
Erika Lockett  
Valdy  
Bill Ward

Beth Wood  
Sam Broussard  
Southpaw Jones  
Small Potatoes  
Back At The Ranch  
Gordy Quist  
Abi Tapia  
Matt The Electrician  
Woody Russell  
Karen Mal  
Rachel Bissex  
Louise Taylor  
Freebo & Photoglo  
The Malvinas  
Clive Gregson  
Reg Meuross

### Radio/TV

WVBR, Bound For Glory, Ithaca, New York  
Radio KUT, Austin, Texas  
KHOU Channel 11 Houston, Texas  
KTRU, Chicken Skin Music, Houston, Texas  
KNON, Dallas, Texas  
WTUL, New Orleans, Louisiana  
KRCC, Colorado Springs, Colorado  
KKFI, Kansas City, MO

KMississippi Public Radio,  
KFAN, San Antonio, Texas  
KPFT, Houston, Texas  
KEOS, Bryan/College Station, Texas  
Public Access Television Performances in Austin, Houston,  
& San Antonio  
Mississippi Outdoor, Mississippi ETV  
KOPN, Columbia, MO  
WSIU Carbondale, IL

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