

The Gimbles

The Gimbles are three generations of musicians rolled up in one Texas-style symphony of swing and country music. Emily, Dick and Johnny Gimble are each powerhouse musicians in their own right but together as a family package they resonate with the very roots of Western swing, while looking forward to the future by adding a fresh and vibrant new vocal sound. Still, while the lineage of this tuneful threesome is beyond impressive, it is their music that carries the day.

Emily, the most recent recruit to the family business, grew up regularly singing a tune or two with her father and grandfather on gigs close to home. And though she has studied music, her finest lessons have been homegrown. Following in her father and grandfather's footsteps as an instrumentalist, she sometimes takes an outing on guitar or mandolin but her main axe is indisputably the piano. In this configuration she occupies center stage with her vocal selections and arrangements and brings an entirely new sheen to the Gimble family musical legacy.

Dick Gimble was born while his dad, Johnny, was on the road with Bob Wills and grew up with the swing beat and the sweet sound of fiddle in his blood. As the music educator in the family, it is only right that his interest in playing really caught fire in high school and college, when he played in both his own band as well as with his father. He studied jazz at the University of Texas and did a stint as a session man in Nashville, but for the last 25 years he has been a faculty member in the Commercial Music Program at McLennan Community College in Waco. His performing and recording career has included work with such musical luminaries as Bob Wills, Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard, Charlie Pride, Tom T. Hall and Merle Travis.

National Heritage Awardee and 2005 Texas State Musician, Johnny Gimble grew up in rural East Texas with four musical brothers and started playing on the radio with them in the 1930's. Perhaps best known for his successful stint with "Bob Wills & His Texas Playboys," a big part of the Johnny Gimble legend grows from the fact that he is consummate sideman and session artist as well as a stellar band leader. Named "Instrumentalist of the Year" by the Country Music Association 4 times and "Fiddler of the Year" by The Academy of Country Music eight times, he has also been nominated 3 times for a Grammy and won two.

These collaborating kin celebrate their musical partnership with the self-release of "A Case of the Gimbles." The CD showcases the father/son duo that makes their brand of Western swing a favorite for all fans of the genre and introduces Emily's new role as vocal centerpiece for the ensemble. Without a doubt, the confidence of her delivery and the quality of her vocals steals the musical show and signals the The Gimbles are not just three generations of great swing music but a new generation altogether!

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