

Guy Clark, Van Zandt r

By STEPHEN POWELL

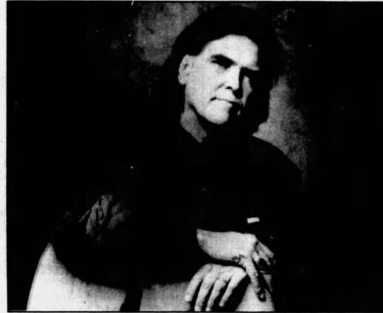
In Texas, the line between country and folk performers is being erased by a new breed of musician, the "singer-songwriter."

Guy Clark and Townes Van Zandt are fitting representatives of the profession. What they share is a Texan upbringing, a Nashville home and a nationwide tour. On Saturday, they'll share the Club West stage from 7 to 9 p.m.

Clark has become a kind of father figure for Texas songwriters. He has penned a slew of classics, from *Desperados Waiting For A Train* to *L.A. Freeway* and *Hearbroke*. And yet he hasn't received nearly the national attention of the artists (Jerry Jeff Walker, Ricky Skaggs) who have covered his songs.

Clark's latest release (*Old Friends*, Sugar Hill, 1988), his first in five years, aimed to reverse that trend. Featuring Roseanne Cash, Rodney Crowell and Emmylou Harris harmonizing on vocals, the guest artists offer a kind of tribute to the many years of husky-voiced, sardonic wit Clark has given to country music.

"I'm just trying to write good songs, raise it to a literate level," Clark said. "With such a wide range of influences growing up in Texas, I've been influenced by



Guy Clark: A father figure for Texas songwriters

CLOSE-UP

What: Guy Clark & Townes Van Zandt
What: Folk/country
When: Club West
Where: 7-9 p.m. Saturday
Tickets: \$10

them all — blues, country, Mexican music."

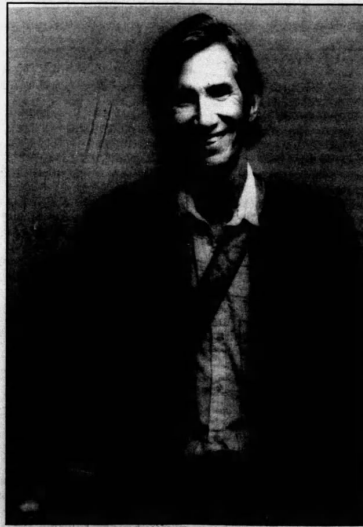
Clark and Van Zandt have known each other and played together for 20 years, but only decided to share a stage in the past six months. They take turns talking and trading songs, sometimes backing each other up, other times

singing together.

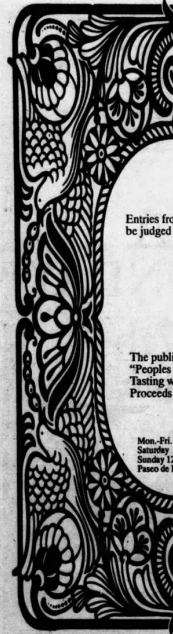
It is a predominantly improvised show, a revitalization of the spontaneity that acoustic performance in the 1960s was all about.

"Acoustic music has always been there," Van Zandt said. "It's just that the music-consuming public is again becoming more aware of it."

Like Clark, Van Zandt's writing has achieved legend-



Townes Van Zandt: A Texas legend



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