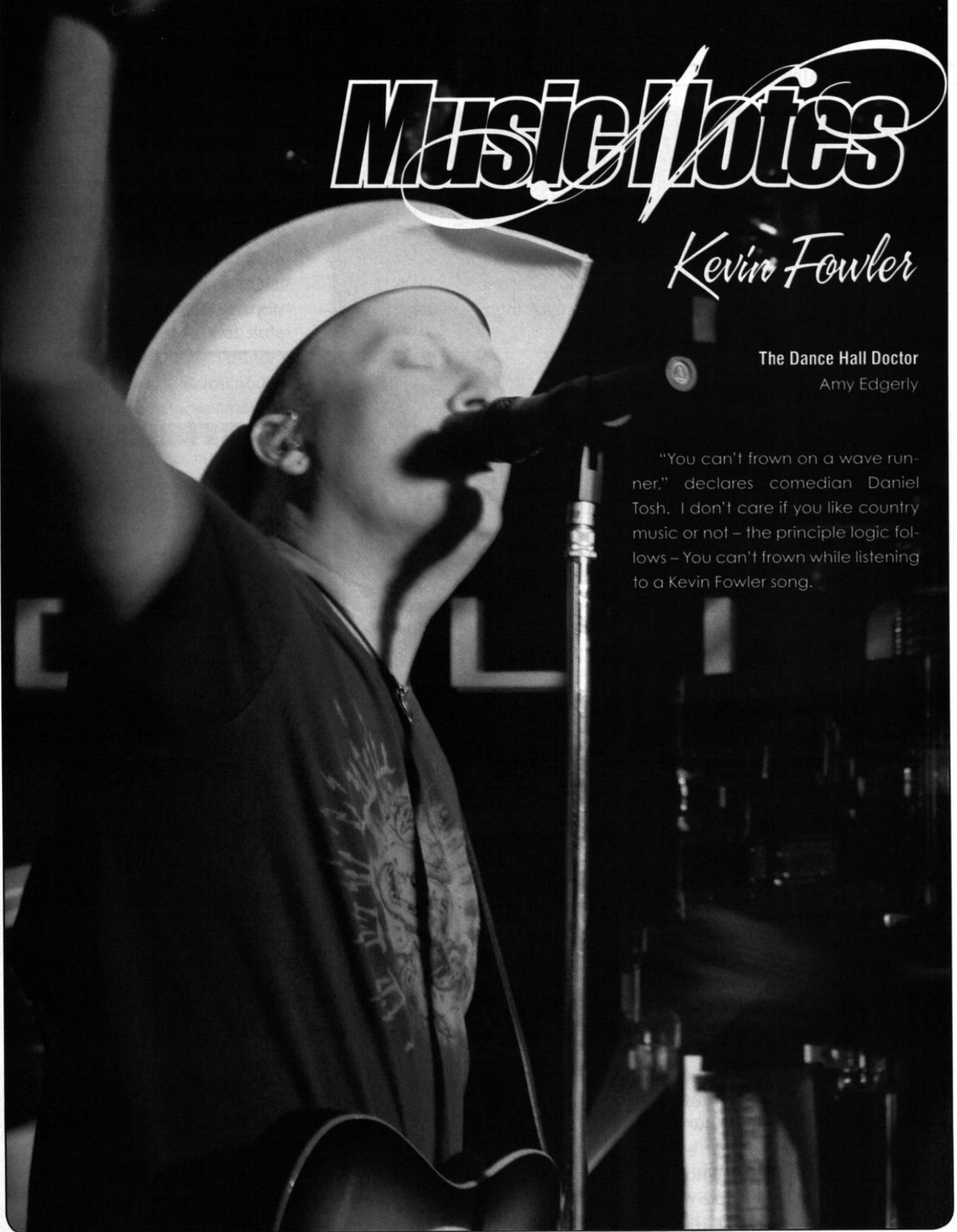


MusicNotes



Kevin Fowler

The Dance Hall Doctor

Amy Edgerly

"You can't frown on a wave runner," declares comedian Daniel Tosh. I don't care if you like country music or not – the principle logic follows – You can't frown while listening to a Kevin Fowler song.

Those of you already familiar with the *Dance Hall Doctor* and his music know exactly what I mean. For those of you who have not yet been as sonically blessed, here's a little taste test for you:

***Don't touch my Willie
I don't know you that well
Help yourself to some Haggard or
some Jones
Hell, or anybody else
I don't know what you heard
I ain't that kind of guy
Yeah so don't touch my Willie,
We'll get along just fine***

You're not frowning are you?

I could use lyrics to Kevin Fowler songs to write this whole article and prove my point. I might include a few words from "What I Wouldn't Give For Your Love" (not my new bass boat, not my baseball glove), or "Ain't Drinkin' Anymore" (But I ain't drinkin' any less), or the ageless internal debate over mystery odors set forth in "Beer Bait & Ammo" (was it the catfish bait, or something Bubba had ate, was it those pickled eggs on the shelf). By the end you'd be in stitches, but I would not have done my job to my utmost ability. Nor would I have done Kevin the justice his career warrants. (Well, maybe I would....)

Kevin Fowler is a hard-working, extremely talented, very popular country artist from northwest Texas. He also has a long awaited new CD being released in September entitled ***Bring It On***. As a music journalist, I have those plus a dozen more reasons for choosing to feature Kevin in

this issue, but to be perfectly honest, I chose to do so because I just plain love the guy's songs.

I have been making a public spectacle of myself for years singing along to Kevin Fowler in my car, by myself. I've also humiliated myself in front of many friends and fam-

ily members singing along to Kevin Fowler songs at social gatherings at the top of my key-challenged lungs. I have proven, to myself and those around me over and over again, that it is physically impossible to dislike the man's music. And that's just listening to CD's and the radio – don't get me started on his live shows.

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During my interview with Kevin in late June, he told me what Dierks Bentley said to him about his live performances: **"he said Kevin, you don't play gigs, you hold court."** Kevin went on to say **"I'm always talking out of my a** you know, anything goes on stage and it's just crazy."** I can personally attest to that statement, since I've seen Kevin perform live at least 5 times in the last couple years. One or two of those times was because I was working on a story for an artist Kevin was opening for, but most of those times it was for my own entertainment. A Kevin Fowler show is a good time. Period.

He agrees with me by saying, **"We try to make the shows so they're fun. A lot of guys are overly political or they want to show you that they're artistic, lots of flash. My thing, our whole band, it's about, I'm not going to preach anything, we're not up there to teach you anything. We're up there to do one thing, help you forget about your worries, rock out and have a good time."**

Rock out?, you may be asking. Yes, rock out. Kevin Fowler is a country artist with a traditional country sound, who rocks out. It's a concept better experienced than explained, but we'll do our best here. Kevin himself says, **"If you've ever seen our live show you can tell it. Oh, this guy isn't just a country boy, this guy has got some Aerosmith in him, he's got some Priest in there."** A predictable result of starting out in music as guitarist for the 80's heavy metal rock band from Austin, Dangerous Toys, then making the shift to front a southern rock band called Thunderfoot.



But the songs he was writing himself didn't fit with his rock cohorts. **"All the songs I was writing, it was like 'Dude, those are redneck songs. We can't play those'. And so finally I said well, you know what? Walks like a duck, must be a duck. And here we are 10 years later and we can do the country thing and kick it."**

Also, all the rocking out could have something to do with what he listens to on his own time. Kevin told me, **"I love all music. Really, of all the stuff that's in my iPod, probably 30% of it's country. There's not a lot of what they call country music, anything put out since the 90's, that I like. So I've got Merle Haggard and Metallica right next to each other in my iPod, right back to back. The average Joe, the guy my age that listens to music, he's got Skynyrd and AC/DC right in there with Clint Black and Dierks Bentley."**

Lest we get too rocked out, we must make it clear, there are no screaming guitar solos or 20-minute drum solos anywhere in Kevin's music. It's pure country, and he IS a country boy. Outside of music, his passion is, well, Outside. **"I have a ranch out in Junction that I like to get out to at least one day a week. I spread myself too thin, but hunting and fishing is my big passion on the side."** And instead of motorcycles, **"I'm an ATV fanatic! That's my thing you know. I got a Yamaha, I have a Can-Am. I love them both."**

Fowler's love of the great outdoors has spawned new ventures and adventures as well. He has his own website dedicated exclusively to hunting and fishing, kevinfowler-outdoors.com. But he isn't stopping there. He has decided to combine his two passions, hunting/fishing and country music, to produce and host

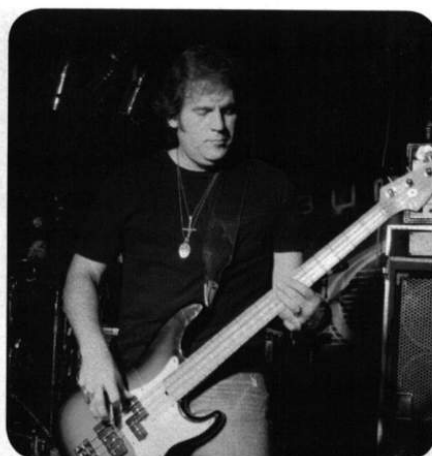


a new television show to be aired on the GAC (Great American Country) channel. Another hunting and fishing show?, you may be groaning. Well, no. Kevin describes the concept:

"It's definitely NOT going to be like a hunting and fishing show, and it's definitely NOT going to be a music show. I want it to be really crazy and fun and entertaining. I watch hunting and fishing shows all the time and they're boring as hell. So I'm hoping to make something exciting and fun and spread the music through a fun avenue."

"Each week I'll have another country artist with me, and I'll be the host. And we'll be picking at a campfire or hunting and fishing, or boating or whatever that artist is into. Everything's all lined up, all we gotta' do is get our sponsors now. Everything's done except for that. It should start airing next July.[2008]"

While the television show sounds like an exciting new direction for Fowler, we don't have to wait until next year to hear from him professionally. His 4th original collection CD



is due to be released this September, ***Bring It On***. An apt title for the red-neck musician who seems to have done it all, or at least isn't afraid to try to. Kevin Fowler fans have had to wait 3 years for this record, since his 2004 release of *Loose, Loud & Crazy*. He assures us it will be well worth the wait.

"One thing I really like about this record, I really had the time to make a great record. This is the first record where I can't find anything on it I don't like. Normally I write 13 songs, and that's a record. This time we came in with 40 songs, so we really had a lot to choose from. It's the strongest thing we've done."

If those statements are true, and I have no doubt they are, then I can't wait. Kevin assures me that his signature double entendres and tongue in cheek humor will abound on the new record as it does in his past work. He went so far as to cite some examples:

"The first single is going to be a song called "Long Line of Losers". [As in] I come from a long line of losers. Talking about a bunch of white

trash in your family doing stupid stuff. It's awesome."

I got a song called "Cheaper to Keep Her". Divorce song. Cheaper to keep her than it is to let her go. Just can't seem to say good-bye to half of everything I own."

Did a duet with George Jones, which I'm very proud of that. It's called "Me and the Boys". We're hoping to do a video maybe later, put him in it."

So it runs the full gamut of the early Kevin Fowler real honky-tonk dance hall stuff all the way to more rockin', like the live show. I'm just so proud of this record."

It's true that Kevin Fowler has come a long way from his black-sheep-in-the-family status to where he is now in country music. He has reason to be proud of his accomplishments, and so does the extremely religious, wholesome family that raised him. The parents that never once set foot in a bar, now frequent them 5 or 6 times a year, not only to see their son perform, but they also support other original Texas artists such as Randy Rogers and Jason Boland. Kevin isn't sure if he brought the gospel of honky tonk to them, or if he brought them down with him. But one thing is certain, Kevin Fowler is an ever expanding work in progress, and the good Lord, who "Loves The Drinkin' Man", is nowhere near finished with him yet.

Visit www.kevinfowler.com for tour information, music and merchandise.