
Cody Hubach Was The Real Deal

By John Casner

Cody Hubach was the real deal. Just ask anyone who knew him. A singer, a songwriter, a gifted folk, country, and blues guitarist, and an entertainer who captivated audiences with his heartfelt, honest, and powerful songs. Long before “Americana” became a musical genre, Cody’s music embodied and intermingled the roots of country, folk, and blues.

Born in 1944, Cody grew up in the rural outskirts around Austin. He learned about ranching, cowboying, and taking care of things for himself. Along the way, he became a skilled carpenter, mechanic, welder, sculptor, electrician, and outdoorsman. Cody could fix anything and didn’t need to rely on the local grocery store to feed himself or his family.

Cody started playing in the bars and honkytonks in and around Austin in the mid-sixties and established himself as a regular fixture in the early days of the Austin music scene. Cody played many of the iconic old Austin clubs including the One Knight, Red Lion, Threadgill’s original filling station, the Split Rail, Southern Comfort, Spellman’s, Checkered Flag, Texas Showdown, AusTex Lounge, Y’All Comeback Saloon, Cheatham Street Warehouse in

San Marcos, and many others. Later, Cody was a regular performer at the Austin Outhouse and Giddy Ups.



Cody’s recording career began in 1969 at Sonobeat’s studio in Austin. Sonobeat recorded a 45 RPM single in 1969 on the Dixietone label and a 10 song LP in 1972. Mad Yak Records released a 45 in 1978 with Bill Wilson’s “Death Row Blues” on side one and Jesse Winchester’s “Black Dog” on side two. In 1980, BBEL Records released a 45 with covers of “Cocaine Blues” and

“Down and Out.” The Mad Yak and BBEL 45’s were favorites on the Austin Outhouse’s juke box, which featured a wide range of Austin and Texas recordings. In 1980, Cody appeared in Willie Nelson’s “Honeysuckle Rose” feature film.



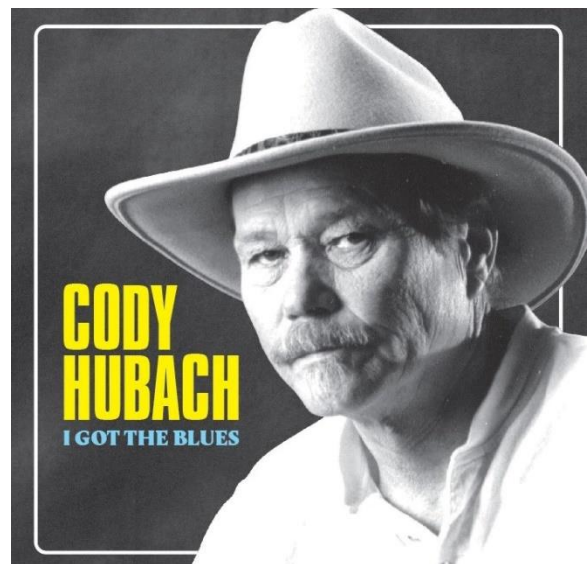
Cody & Blaze at the Austin Outhouse.

Through the 80’s and 90’s, Hubach maintained a regular schedule of gigs in Austin and Central Texas clubs and performed at music festivals around Texas. He frequently appeared on stage and hung out with his compadres Blaze Foley, Jubal Clark, Calvin Russell, and other members of the Austin’s renegade songwriter’s circle. Several live performances at the Austin Outhouse, Poodie’s Hilltop, and other venues were filmed by videographer Hank Sinatra and originally broadcast on Austin’s public access channel.

In 1999, Cody recorded and released a 15 song CD titled “I Got The Blues.” By then, Cody had been diagnosed with cancer and his live performances were becoming less frequent. “I Got The Blues” was independently released and served as a fundraiser for Cody’s

family’s increasing medical and financial burdens. The CD received positive reviews and was featured on local radio programs, such as Larry Monroe’s “Texas Radio” on KUT-FM. Cody’s last public performance was broadcast live on Austin’s community cable channel from Austin City Hall on October 24, 2002. Prior to his performance, Cody was awarded a proclamation from the mayor and city council declaring October 24th “Cody Hubach Day.” Cody passed on February 6, 2003 with his wife Cathy and son Buck, in the rustic cabin Cody built on Hubach Lane in far south Austin.

Before Bill Bentley became a music producer and publicist (Neil Young, Los Lobos, Elvis Costello, Lou Reed, Roky Erickson, etc.) and a major label record executive, he was the music editor for the Austin Sun in the mid-70’s. The Austin Sun preceded the Austin Chronicle as Austin’s weekly music, arts, and counter-culture bible. Bill cited



Cody’s music as a perfect example of Austin’s burgeoning music scene back in the 70’s and early 80’s and listed “I

Got The Blues” as his favorite record of 1999 in Hit’s Magazine. Bentley remembered listening to Cody and being transfixed by the emotion and honesty of his songs and his powerful delivery.

The re-release of “I Got The Blues” by [Lost Art Records](#) is intended to share with the world an important part of Austin’s musical legacy and hopefully

develop a new generation of fan’s drawn to the grit and power of his singing and playing. Songs heralding the virtues and struggles of the common man and his family, beautiful ballads with poetic imagery of love and loss, modern day cowboy songs, and rough-edged, down-to-earth blues. Cody Hubach is still the real deal.
