



# WILL ARRINGTON

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This story started in Garland Texas when Will, at three years old sang *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* for a Church talent show. Will was always singing something no matter what he was doing. He grew up listening to George Strait, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Journey and Dean Martin. This variety of music influenced his future writing as he refused to be put in a box or category.

Starting out as a drummer in Jr. High Jazz Band thru High School Pop Show Band, Will gained an appreciation of the hard work it takes to make a band sound great. Guitar and songwriting became his passion the last two years of high school.

**SPRING 2011** Will completed his first EP, *In a While* with his mentor and producer, Wes Martin. *Blue Eyed Angel* from the EP has become one of his trademark songs and is requested at shows still today. The completed EP pushed Will into playing solo acoustic shows at local coffee houses.

**FALL 2011** Will enrolled at Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. He was not sure what to do about his music until he discovered Kent Finlay's *Cheatham Street Warehouse* just south of campus. Kent Finlay, a legend in the Texas music scene is a long-time supporter of up and coming songwriters. Wednesday Songwriter Nights became Will's outlet for new music and songs. With Finlay's encouragement, Will continued playing and writing, bringing a new song to the stage each week.

**SPRING 2012** brought on major changes when Kent asked Will to open for Cody Johnson, Sons of Fathers and Cory Morrow. Regular openings and being included in Big Fest allowed him to put his time in and work on showmanship.

**SUMMER 2012** A great Texas songwriter, Mark David Manders, came into Will's life at *Love & War Texas*. Mark hosted Monday Songwriter Nights, took Will under his wing and challenged him with on-the-spot songwriting. As the summer went on, a friendship grew and songs were written. *Miles Left to Go* by Mark and Will is the title track for Will's new album to be released Spring 2013.

**FALL 2012** Back to San Marcos, *Cheatham Street* and the *Woodshed Studios* to record Will's first full length CD, *Miles Left to Go*. Between college, recording, songwriting and playing, Will managed to put together a full band: A group of hungry young guys, ready and willing to practice hard for their big break.

Their first big break came in the form of Kent Finlay asking Will and his band to play the reputable Tuesday night shows at *Cheatham Street Warehouse*. They played their first show and knocked it out of the park. The second and fourth Tuesday night shows will continue on for the coming year.

**TO BE CONTINUED...**

# BIOGRAPHY



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**JANUARY 2011** *Coffee Generator*, Garland, Texas

**APRIL 2011** *Wylie Opry*

**MAY 2011** *Relay for Life*, Garland, Texas

**JULY 2011** *Marcus Cafe*, Richardson, Texas

**SEPTEMBER 2011** *First Wednesday Songwriter Night*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**NOVEMBER 2011** *The Black Stiletto book signing*, Houston, Texas

**SPRING 2012** *Open for Owen Temple, Cody Johnson & Sons of Fathers*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**APRIL 2012** *Open for Cory Morrow*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**JUNE 2012** *Monday Songwriter Night with Mark David Manders*, Love & War Texas

**JUNE 2012** *Belize Benefit*, Lucas, Texas

**JUNE 2012** *Hunt County Fair*, Greenville, Texas

**JUNE 2012** *Big Fest*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**AUGUST 2012** *Songwriting with Mark David Manders*, Love & War Texas

**AUGUST 2012** *Open for Kyle Bennet*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**SEPTEMBER 2012** *Open for Kyle Park*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**OCTOBER 2012** *Open for Six Market Boulevard*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**OCTOBER 2012** *Front Porch*, Bulverde, Texas

**NOVEMBER 2012** *First Tuesday Night Show [Will Arrington & Band]*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

**DECEMBER 2012** *All Over but the Crying Fest*, Cheatham Street Warehouse

# PERFORMANCE RESUME



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Bearded, barrel-chested and tattooed, Will Arrington looks suited for a New England fishing dock, and the anchor inked on his forearm screams out sailor, not singer. However, Arrington, 19, is about as far from being a fisherman as Garland is to Cape Cod. ***With his acoustic guitar and Southern-fried lyrics, the 2011 Garland High graduate is making a name for himself in Central Texas on the singer-songwriter scene.*** Every Wednesday night he grabs his six string, slips on his boots and makes his way to Cheatham Street Warehouse in downtown San Marcos to try out a few new verses of a piece he penned on his own. The venue has hosted such musical heavyweights as Stevie Ray Vaughn, Hal Ketchum and George Strait — all before they became stars. “It’s surreal being on a stage like that,” Arrington said. “You see Randy Rogers on that same stage. You see the same Texas flag. You see the same Shiner Bock sign.” ***His talent has given him the opportunity to open for artists such as Cory Morrow, and he has also had the chance to have his music featured in the literary world as the promotional song for the book *The Black Stiletto*.*** I had the pleasure of seeing Arrington perform live at a songwriter night at Love and War, a country bar and grill in Plano. While that was the first time I saw the young man saddle up to the mic, it was far from the first time members of our neighborsgo staff had heard of him. His father, Pat Arrington, reached out to neighborsgo about a year ago with an announcement about the Black Stiletto song, and columnist Sue Watkins took advantage of the opportunity and wrote a short piece about the young man’s career to that point. However, following the adage of “everything’s bigger in Texas,” there was ultimately a bigger story. And that is where this week’s cover feature about Will comes into play here. ***He has spent a year in the heartland of Texas music, learning more about himself and the art of songwriting, and while Nashville’s lights might seem distant, the buzzing neon Shiner Bock sign at Cheatham Street has let him pluck his own way in singer-songwriter history.***

**MARCUS MURPHREE, DALLASNEWS.COM: NEIGHBORSGO BLOG**

**WILL ARRINGTON’S MUSIC CAREER TAKES HIM ON PATH FROM GARLAND TO ICONIC TEXAS VENUES**

**AUGUST 9, 2012**

# REVIEWS



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...Will Arrington ([www.willarringtonmusic.com](http://www.willarringtonmusic.com)) and Brett Hauser ([www.reverbnation.com/bretthouser](http://www.reverbnation.com/bretthouser)) are two of the upcoming songwriters who have been opening shows for the likes of Cory Morrow and other Texas music stars, and have formed their own bands. Kent Finlay has given them a residency on Tuesday nights, the night he has reserved for bands he thinks have the potential to be the next big thing. Midnight River Choir ([www.midnightriverchoir.com](http://www.midnightriverchoir.com)) was the last band to headline a Tuesday night at Cheatham, and they have turned into one of the most popular young touring bands in Texas. Two weeks ago, I attended the first of many Tuesday night shows by this pair of bands. It was a cold Tuesday night, but I was one of about 150 fans that turned out. ...***The Will Arrington Band came next, mixing Arrington's original songs with a diverse set of covers of songs by Brooks and Dunn, Cake the Elephant, and Outkast. Yes, I did say Outkast, as the band had fun playing a funky version of Hey Ya! Arrington's songs are more traditional country than Texas country, and the band puts a newer hipper sound to the traditional lyrics. They played his originals Coming Back Around, Better Days, Come Home, My Old Friends, Blue Eyed Angel (which had most of the crowd singing along), and many others. His rhythm section of Luke Williams on bass and Daniel Head on drums has a funkier feel than you would expect at a country show, and Wes Maxwell on lead adds a nice touch.*** Arrington just recently finished recording his first full length cd, and it will be released in early 2013. The one thing that stood out to me at this show is that you would have never known that these bands were playing their first shows together. ***They played like season veterans, and the crowd went away excited at what they had seen.*** I know I will be attending many of these Tuesday nights over the next few months, and you should too. The shows are free now, but I can't say how long that will be the case. When you see one of these bands on late night television in the future, you can tell everyone you saw them back when.

**THOMAS MCALEER, EXAMINER.COM**

BRETT HAUSER AND WILL ARRINGTON AT CHEATHAM ST WAREHOUSE

NOVEMBER 27, 2012

# REVIEWS



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Last Thursday (April 12) night, Cory Morrow ([www.corymorrow.com](http://www.corymorrow.com)) appeared at Cheatham St Warehouse ([www.cheathamstreet.com](http://www.cheathamstreet.com)) for a special acoustic performance, accompanied by his guitar player John Carroll. Cheatham St is the perfect setting for acoustic shows, as it has always been all about the song there. Kent Finlay's venue has always been known as a place where the fans can see an intimate acoustic performance, with no televisions blaring the latest sports event.

*The show was opened by two young songwriters who have been cutting their teeth at Finlay's Songwriter Circle, Brett Hauser and Will Arrington. These two are young people to keep an eye on. They ran through a set of originals and covers, helping each other by playing lead on each others songs.* Arrington is only 19, and Hauser just 22, yet these two **pulled off the opener like long time stars**. Each had a sizeable amount of fans in the audience, who sang along with their songs. They provided the perfect opener for Cory Morrow, as their songs were obviously influenced by the current Texas music scene, of which Morrow and Pat Green are two of the founders.

Once again it was a great show at the home of songwriters, Cheatham St. I recommend that if you want to see songwriters in a venue that allows a songwriter to shine, Cheatham is the place. **and while many people were there to see Cory Morrow, they got to see two young songwriters they can follow. One or both of them may be the next star. Watch out for Will Arrington and Brett Hauser.**

**THOMAS MCALEER, EXAMINER.COM**

A REVIEW OF CORY MORROW AT CHEATHAM ST WAREHOUSE

APRIL 18, 2012

# REVIEWS



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Armed with a couple guitars, his size-12 Ariat boots and college-bound optimism, Arrington moved south to San Marcos to attend Texas State University. ***Not shy, he walked into the tin-roofed Cheatham Street Warehouse for a Wednesday night Songwriters Circle and performed several self-composed pieces for about a dozen music fans and musicians.*** “It’s surreal being on a stage like that,” said Arrington, 19. “You see Randy Rogers on that same stage. You see the same Texas flag. You see the same Shiner Bock sign.” It was August, and he had a long semester ahead of him, but the songwriter lifestyle had him hooked. ***“For a lot of [performers], the first time to sing on a microphone is there at the Songwriters Circle, and it’s a process that obviously works,”*** said Cheatham Street owner Kent Finlay. ***“I’m not a genius, but when people are together and like to do the same thing, they help each other get better.”*** Arrington showed up at Cheatham Street every week and began to perfect his craft in front of an audience. “The hardest part is having enough confidence to play what I feel,” he said. Finlay noticed the teenager who couldn’t legally order a beer but could write powerful songs about empty bottles scattered on a floor. ***With more than 40 songs of his own, Arrington was proving he had a knack for music, and like the artists who had taken to the dusty barstools at Cheatham Street before him, Finlay decided to give the bearded freshman a chance to play in front of larger crowds. Arrington opened for Owen Temple, Sons of Fathers, Cody Johnson and Texas country music’s increasingly-popular Cory Morrow.*** “Randy [Rogers] started at songwriter night himself, and when we have another young one that is following in those footsteps, it’s kind of the same thing,” Finlay said. “One of the main reasons we are here is to help grow some of these songwriters, musicians and bands, and that’s always one of our missions.” On a balmy Monday night, Arrington shares the stage of Plano’s Love & War in Texas with 17-year-old Zach Tressler, putting together an improv song made of lyrics from random, and somewhat PG-13, audience suggestions. ***“I enjoy writing songs, and I like when it’s something great enough to make someone cry, and it’s awesome to make people laugh,”*** Arrington said.

**MARCUS MURPHREE, DALLASNEWS.COM: NEIGHBORSGO BLOG**

WILL ARRINGTON’S SONGWRITING CAREER TAKES HIM ON A SIX-STRING JOURNEY FROM GARLAND TO SAN MARCOS  
AUGUST 9, 2012

# REVIEWS



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The tattoo on his left arm reads “sink or swim.” Will Arrington has done the latter. ***The singer/songwriter has become increasingly visible in the Texas country music scene after moving to San Marcos from Garland a year ago. His catchy sound and heartfelt lyrics have helped secure him as the opening act for big names such as Cory Morrow and Cody Johnson.*** Every Wednesday night, Arrington goes down to the Cheatham Street Warehouse in downtown San Marcos for the Songwriter’s Circle. By making it a routine, Arrington landed his first gig at the venue. “My dad heard something about songwriter night. So, I went and checked it out. After that, I just went to it every week for the entire school year,” Arrington said. “That got me tied into Cheatham Street. The owner, Kent Finlay, came up to me one night and asked if I would be interested in opening.” ***Arrington, a 19-year-old management freshman, has been playing the guitar for five years and writing his own songs for three.*** Arrington started by showing his parents his skills, then progressed by playing some cover tunes for his church youth group. He then eventually moved to playing his own public shows in places like coffee houses and restaurants. “Is this just us, thinking that our boy is that good at this music stuff, or is he really talented?” Pat Arrington, Will Arrington’s father, said. “When other people started telling me and my wife about how much they enjoyed Will’s stuff and that they were connecting with his music, we realized it wasn’t us. It was him. He was that good. At that point, we decided to let him go as far he could possibly go with his music.” ***As far as his own music goes, Will Arrington pulls his inspiration from other songwriters and the kind of stories they are telling. He said he loves to get together with other artists such as his close friend, Brett Hauser, or Dallas songwriter and musician, Mark David Manders, with whom Arrington has written two of his newest songs.*** Wes Martin and Kent Finlay are just a few people in the music industry Will Arrington looks up to, along with Randy Rogers, Stoney LaRue and George Strait. Will Arrington said these men have helped shape him into the artist he wants to be. “The coolest thing is when you are playing a show, and everybody is paying attention. They start learning the words and singing along,” Will Arrington said. “That comes with taking the initiative. Just really being persistent and pushing. If you are networking and playing as often as you can, that’s on the right track.”

**RANDI BERKOVSKIY, UNIVERSITY STAR**

FRESHMAN, LOCAL MUSICIAN BREAKING INTO MUSIC SCENE

SEPTEMBER 20, 2012

# REVIEWS



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