

# Is Katy a Mecca for Music Education?

Katy ISD's music program sets the stage for a community rich in the arts

Whether learning how to strum a guitar or singing in front of their first big crowd, many talented, world-renowned musicians have gotten their start in Katy and have gone on to build flourishing artistic careers. Their influence can be seen everywhere, from guitarist Sparky Matejka's southern rock sounds with Lynyrd Skynyrd to Wayne Kerr's inspired Christian lyrics to Erin Eder's strong country western vocals.

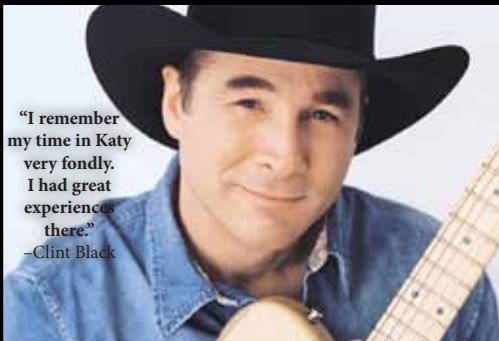
These three music dynamos aren't alone in their artistic endeavors. Every day, more and more Katy ISD students discover a love of singing, playing instruments, and performing as they find their rhythm. Recently, Katy ISD

was named one of the best communities for music education by the NAMM Foundation, which recognizes schools and districts across the U.S. for their commitment to and support of music education.

Earning the honor for the ninth time in the past 10 years, Katy ISD was one of only 12 districts in Texas to receive the recognition for 2012. Students enjoy a variety of enriching music programs, ranging from marching band, choir vocal ensemble, and string orchestra to concert band, full orchestra, and jazz band. With so many amazing opportunities for creative growth, Katy is truly becoming a music mecca of Texas. Sing your heart out, Katy!

## CLINT BLACK

While still a student at Katy High School, country star Clint Black learned to play the guitar and launched a phenomenal music career.



"I remember my time in Katy very fondly. I had great experiences there."  
-Clint Black

## SPARKY MATEJKA

This Taylor High School grad has performed around the world as a guitarist with the rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd.



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Photo Courtesy of Lee Ann Burgess

## KEVIN BLACK

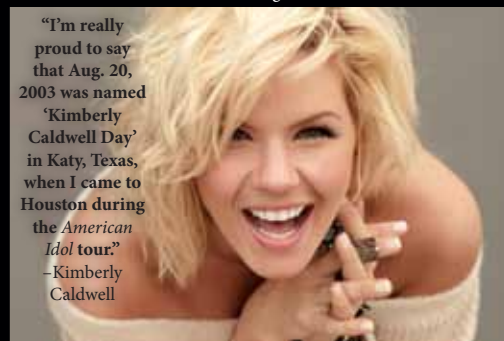
Like his brother Clint, Kevin Black has transitioned his love of music into a successful career. His unique style combines western and rock.



Photo Courtesy of David Clemmings, DWG Photography

## KIMBERLY CALDWELL

After finishing in seventh place on season two of *American Idol*, Taylor High School graduate Kimberly Caldwell worked as a host on the TV Guide Network before turning her focus back to music.



"I'm really proud to say that Aug. 20, 2003 was named 'Kimberly Caldwell Day' in Katy, Texas, when I came to Houston during the *American Idol* tour."  
-Kimberly Caldwell

Photo Courtesy of Ari Michaels

## More Noteworthy Musicians from Katy

**DANIEL JOSEPH BAKER** Performer on season six of *America's Got Talent*

**ED EASON** Lead guitarist for country singer *Carrie Underwood*

**ERIN EDER** Country music singer and performer (See feature on page 56)

**KEVIN SMITH** Banjo player for *Weird Al Yankovic*

**MATT MONTGOMERY (PIGGY D)** Bassist for *Rob Zombie*

**SPARKY MATEJKA** Guitarist for *Lynyrd Skynyrd* (See feature on page 54)

**WAYNE KERR** Christian performer with the *Wayne Kerr Band* (See feature on page 60)

### WAYNE KERR

Performing as part of the Wayne Kerr Band, this Christian musician inspires fans across the country.

See feature  
on pg. 60

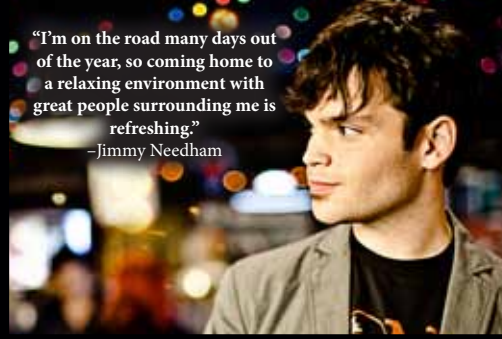
Photo Courtesy of coltmelrose.com



### JIMMY NEEDHAM

A contemporary Christian musician on the rise, Jimmy Needham has enjoyed life in Katy with his wife Kelly for several years. He has released four albums, including his latest record *Clear the Stage*.

"I'm on the road many days out of the year, so coming home to a relaxing environment with great people surrounding me is refreshing."  
-Jimmy Needham



### ROGER CREAGER

One of the Texas country music scene's brightest stars, Roger Creager loves life in Katy. He frequently performs shows around the Katy and Houston areas and recently released his new album *Surrender*.

Photo Courtesy of Traci Coudie



### KADY MALLOY

A graduate of Taylor High School, Kady Malloy first made waves on season seven of *American Idol* when she made it to the top 24.

"The first time I saw the Hollywood sign is when it hit me. I thought, 'I can't believe I have made it this far.'"  
-Kady Malloy

