

## **BABY BOOMERS DISCOVER A NEW WORLD OF MUSIC**

### **“I take my coffee black and my music live”**

Did you love listening to Jim Croce, James Taylor, Joni Mitchell, Carly Simon, Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young?

Think those days are over? Well, not according to many baby boomers who have discovered the wonderful underground world of “Listening Rooms” and “House Concerts”.

These places are, of course, not really underground, but you will not hear about them on "top 40" radio stations, and the shows they produce will not be aired on national television. Folks discover these wonderful little musical venues through the good ole fashion way... of word of mouth.

Today, many touring singer/songwriters are likened to the ones named above. Those we grew up listening to are out there making a living performing in intimate arenas such as private homes and a hand full of public venues that call themselves “Listening Rooms”.

You may think to yourself, “Well if I haven’t heard these folks on the radio, then they must not be very good”. Don’t be fooled. Most of the singer/songwriter types that you would hear at these newly discovered locations have... without a doubt... penned some of your favorite songs. They are just not the person that the record companies are buying makeup for, but the record companies do buy their songs.

The more privately run "House Concerts" are dotted across the nation, and artists travel from one to the next performing for typically groups of 50 to 100 people. The "House" host usually has a website and offers advanced ticket purchases by mail, or they might just accept reservations with a simple phone call. If you make reservations, make sure that you show up, because seating is limited and no one likes empty seats! Usually, the artist is given 100% of the concert donation. Host will often offer free food and beverage to their concert goers, or they may do it "Pot Luck" style, where you are asked to bring a dish. Either way, you will experience some wonderful music and meet new friends.

On the public side of these unique music venues are the “Listening Rooms”. Listening rooms are rare in a public setting by the simple reason of the overhead. Obviously, if one is presenting concerts outside of their home, then the expense of doing so rises and most utilize outside resources for financial assistance. They may open as non-profits, or they may be subsidized by other music lovers. You might question why do they not make enough money on their own. Well, for example: The venues intentions ... though they may sell sodas, beer, wines and coffee drinks ... do not rely on the artists ability to MOVE Drinks. That is how your typical bars, clubs and honky-tonks survive. You know how it can go in those smoky joints. The band leader holds up a shot of tequila and wails through the mic, “ Everybody, down the hatch”. A true listening space is all about the music and the lyrics of the songwriter, and the folks that frequent these establishments are not there for the scene or to get drunk. They are there to devote their full attention to the performer.

Okay, I have educated you on the basics; now, let me talk about a specific listening room that I recently discovered. Comfortably housed in an WW II Army barrack, nestled under some ancient oaks sits The Bugle Boy. The Listening Room is located in La Grange, Texas, centered in the triangle of Austin, Houston and San Antonio near the Hwy 71 & Hwy 77 junction. (60 miles East of Austin, 90 miles West of Houston, 120 miles East of San Antonio)

The Bugle Boy is a "Listening Room," and offers a wide variety of original, independent musical experiences that include jazz, swing, blues, rock, country and singer/songwriters. They book regional, national and international talent.

The Bugle Boy takes its name from the Andrews Sisters' 1940's hit "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy". The barrack originated from the [WW I I Camp Swift Infantry Base](#) in Bastrop, Texas. In 1948, the La Grange Sons of Hermann purchased the building from the U.S. Army and had it relocated to La Grange, where they conducted their meetings until 2004.

Today, the Bugle Boy is owned by Lane Gosnay, and she operates the intimate concert hall with a small group of volunteers. Lane is a true purist when it comes to holding the “Listening Room” title, using a WW II Navy slogan, “Loose Lips Sink Ships”

"I recently visited the Bugle Boy, and had not been to a concert in sometime nor had I ever experience one in such a wonderful environment. Everyone was mesmerized by the performers and were extremely respectful. The sound quality was phenomenal. I was not familiar with any of the three artists sharing the stage that night, and I was truly impressed with their talent. Their songs were awe inspiring. I found myself taping my feet to one, laughing to another and tearing up on the next. The connection that the artist and audience had was spiritual, in the sense that we could all relate in some way or another to every song. For myself, it was a memorable night and I look forward to going to many more concerts in such environments"

The Bugle Boy not only offers high quality entertainment, but also serves great coffees, espresso, fine wine and beer. So, are you interested in experiencing your music live again? I hope so.

Go google House Concerts, or take a little trip to what Texas Music magazine calls, "The Best Little Listening Room in Texas", The Bugle Boy.

Located at 1051 N. Jefferson St. (Hwy 77 ) La Grange, Texas 78945 / 979-968-9944.  
Check out their musical line up at [www.thebugleboy.com](http://www.thebugleboy.com)

The Bugle Boy  
Lane Gosnay / Owner  
1051 N. Jefferson St.  
La Grange, Texas 78945

Purchase Tickets: 1-800-838-3006  
Venue #: 979-968-9944  
Fax: 979-968-2304  
email: [lane@thebugleboy.com](mailto:lane@thebugleboy.com)  
website: [www.thebugleboy.com](http://www.thebugleboy.com)

"The Best Little Listening Room In Texas"--Texas Music magazine, Spring 2007 Issue

COOL STUFF TO SHARE ABOUT THE BUGLE BOY:

Watch the Audio Slideshow by Ricardo Brazziell of the Austin American Statesman  
<http://www.austin360.com/news/content/music/interactive/index.html>

Bugle Boy article in the Austin American Statesman by Michael Corcoran  
<http://www.austin360.com/music/content/music/stories/2007/08/0811bugleboy.html>