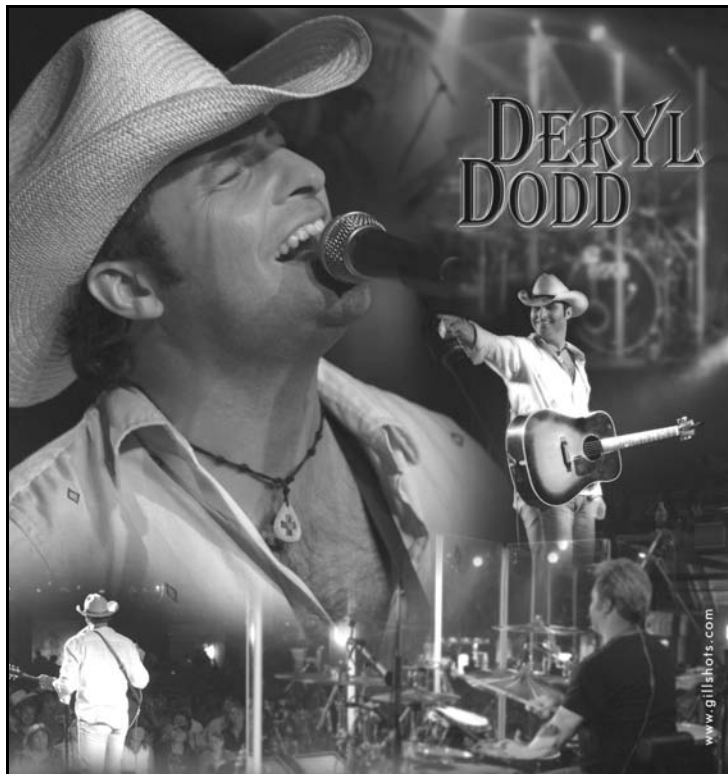


by: Chelsea Anderson

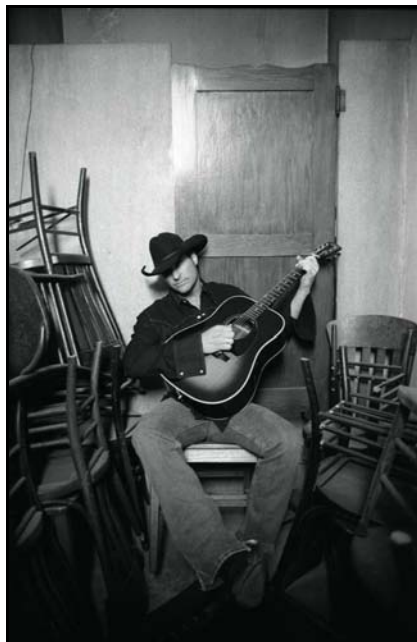


**N**o matter how much we all love music, most of us can't imagine standing up in front of a crowd and belting out a Merle Haggard song. As a child, Deryl Dodd would definitely have been counted as one of those people. When his siblings would take the stage to sing at church, Deryl would stand behind his sister to not be seen. Yet, despite his shyness, music was always surrounded him, keeping his life richly colored.

In the Dodd house, each member of the family played music and sang, from the grandparents down to the children. Deryl was only six years old when he started to play guitar, and by thirteen he started putting together his own songs. Even though music was "more than a hobby" for him, he never defined himself as a musician until much later. "What I really wanted to do was play football," says Dodd of his high school aspirations. "But music was always there on the side, and I kept getting drawn back to it."

Throughout his school career, and into college, Deryl played guitar, steel guitar, and banjo in various bands. The breakthrough at the microphone finally came just after college, when a group of friends were out at a local club on a Thursday night. Peer pressured into taking the stage, he sang two songs for the crowd, who responded favorably. Deryl was offered his first official gig as a solo artist on the spot, to sing every Thursday night for four hours, for twenty bucks.

Once he started singing, it didn't take long to realize it was exactly where he belonged on stage. Regardless, being the front man did not sit well with him at first. Added pressures and young egos flared around him, and he wasn't prepared for it. "I'm not that kind of guy, I don't have the 'all about me' attitude," says Deryl. As any veteran performer can surely relate, a comfortable environment doesn't happen until you get to a certain level of maturity, where everyone's goal is just making great music.



As most serious, pursuant country musicians do, Deryl Dodd went to Nashville to chase the stars. His friend, producer, and frequent songwriting partner Brett Beavers started out as his band mate, when they both played for Martina McBride. About their long term success as a team, Deryl says ultimately he respects Brett, "as a man, a friend, a musician, a husband, and a father. You don't find a lot of who he is in the music business." Of course, coming from similar musical backgrounds helps the two have harmony in the type of music they want to create. "You could say we were cut from the same cloth," Deryl adds.

Being a major label artist wore thin on Deryl quickly. As his team of corporate advisors rallied around him, he stood his ground and stayed as firm as he could to make the music he wanted to. He recalls that one of his most loved singles "How I Got to Memphis", was considered "TOO country" for his album. Dodd released two albums on Columbia before he got "tired of the fighting", and made a split for independence, and an independent label.

Life dealt Deryl an unexpected and dangerous turn when in the middle of his singing career, he was diagnosed with Viral encephalitis, inflammation of the brain caused by a

virus. He spent six months on twenty-four hour bed rest, and it took even longer to get his strength back mentally and spiritually. Deryl became keenly aware of his need to get back in touch with the spiritual background that living a touring musicians' life had drawn him away from.

Deryl Dodd's music has been a welcome addition to the greater family of Texas music. His album "Pearl Snaps" produced two number one singles on the Texas Music Chart, and Stars of Texas readers should be no strangers to the huge success of the live track, "Things Are Fixin' to Get Real Good." His latest album, "Full Circle", marks his sixth recording to date.

A key ingredient to Dodd's success has undoubtedly been his ability to build strong, dependable relationships with his team. From the aforementioned Beavers to his management team, captained by Mike Williams of 3 Leaf Entertainment, Deryl's company of support are his friends and family first, above all else. When Williams and Deryl met, they developed a bond around an intense passion for the promotion of great country music. Eventually, the joined forces and have nurtured Dodd's cult following to the fullest, and are expanding his fan base at every show.

While listening to "Full Circle", one can't help but hone in on the track "Song of the Family". An autobiographical tale of a family deeply rooted in music, Dodd sings of his parents and grandparents, "the music that they made still lives in me." "Full Circle" clearly demonstrates that traditional country sounds do indeed have a home in him, and he has the rare ability to allow his influences to guide his steps, but not control him.

Deryl recites the names of all of country music's finest, like George Jones and Merle Haggard, as his musical foundation. We talked a little about more recent bands that have caught his attention, and interestingly he quickly brought up some of his favorite rock bands, like 3 Doors Down, John Mellencamp, and Lenny Kravitz. "Those people and groups that have a classic sound, but have made it their own thing, that's what I gravitate toward. If you heard three random songs in my playlist, it could be anything from 3 Doors Down to Buck Owens to the Black Crows."

Despite the success of his career, from number one singles to songs recorded by Tim McGraw, Deryl Dodd possesses a calm and sincere spirit to him. His audience can feel it in the warmth of his delivery, a strong handshake, and a sincere smile. Delving deeper into his lyrics and melodies you can draw out that, quite simply, he loves music. "Full Circle" contains all the vital signs of a well constructed country album, which was built from the heart, not from any false pretenses. Deryl Dodd can create country music because he has lived country music, not because it was taught to him by a team of trained professionals. The music does live in Deryl, and it will live on through "Full Circle."

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**CATCH DERYL AT ONE OF HIS UPCOMING TEXAS SHOWS LISTED BELOW & VISIT HIS WEB SITE AT WWW.DERYLDODD.COM FOR MORE INFO**

8/10/2006 The Ranch Midland

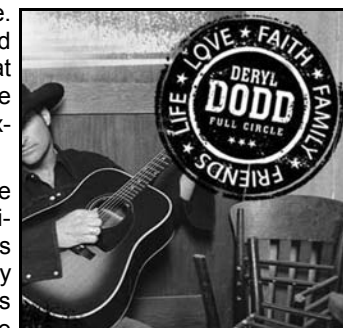
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