

BIG TEXAS SWING SCHOOL

Tuesday, July 14 - Saturday, July 18, 2015
NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE, GAINESVILLE TX

Information Packet

The BIG TEXAS Swing School is a five-day Western Swing music camp created for students ages 12 to 17. The primary purpose of the camp is to provide an educational setting for young musicians to learn to play in a Western Swing Big Band. Instrumentation includes Fiddle, Guitar, Steel Guitar, Bass and Drums along with Trumpets, Trombones, Clarinets, Saxophones and Vocalists. If you currently play a musical instrument or sing, know the basics of reading music, and are eager to explore the spirit of improvisation and Western Swing, The Big Texas Swing School is right for you.

Please read the information provided in this packet and, if the Big Texas Swing School sounds like your next great music experience, we invite you to complete the Registration process.

Questions? Please call 214-564-7528, davealex@mac.com

DATES: Arrival: **Tuesday, July 14, 2015 – Check-in begins**

(Note: With advance notice, early arrival lodging (no meals) is available for the evening of Monday, July 14. Room accommodation for that night is \$40.)

Departure: **Saturday, July 18, 2015 – Following the Afternoon Awards Concert.**
& **Check-Out is no later 5PM**

REGISTRATION: Music enthusiasts who are 12 to 17 years old are encouraged to apply and limited exceptions outside of the age range will also be considered. Registration is subject to acceptance. Students aged 12-14 or younger must be accompanied by a guardian. Guardian registration is a one-time fee, regardless of how many students a guardian represents. (See section entitled Guardians for additional information.)

LOCATION: The 110-acre **North Central Texas College (NCTC) in Gainesville, TX** is the ideal environment for a music adventure. Located about two miles from downtown Gainesville on West California Street (US 51), its proximity to the Interstate 35 corridor allows for easy reach from the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and, only eight miles from the Red River, the campus is a mere whistle-distance to southern Oklahoma. In addition to easy access, NCTC features the First State Bank Center for the Performing Arts, a magnificent state-of-the-art domed theater with seating capacity for 360, ample rooms for classes and practice, and the convenience of instrument lockers and a snack bar.



First State Bank Center for Performing Arts NCTC/Gainesville TX

Directions to the Gainesville Campus from I-35: Take the California Street Exit (U.S. Hwy 51, exit 496B), then go west for about one mile. Look for the big white water tower with the City of Gainesville and NCTC logos. 1525 W. California Street, Gainesville, TX 76240. www.nctc.edu

Scholarships: Partial Scholarships are available to select students. Information and scholarship applications are available and ALL students are encouraged to apply.

FEES: The Standard Student fee of \$750 includes meals, lodging, instruction, evening seminars and events, materials, and Awards Concert. The 2014 Scholarship program can reduce the Standard Student fee to \$450. Attendance is available only to fulltime participants.

The Guardian fee of \$125 includes meals, lodging and Awards Concert. A deposit of \$50, applied to the fee, is required with submission of registration. Full payment, minus the paid deposit, is due by July 1, 2015. Payment is by check made payable to Dave Alexander Productions. Refunds minus \$50 per registrant will be given until Saturday, May 15, 2015. After that date, refunds are only available for medical reasons supported by a doctor's letter.

CHECK-IN: 8AM to 9:30AM – Tuesday, July 14 in the lobby of the First State Bank Center for the Performing Arts (the big domed theatre).

10AM – Orientation – you will receive your Welcome Packet and following Orientation, and will be escorted to your dorm room. Parents welcomed.

12PM – Lunch – we will meet at the cafeteria. Students and Guardians.

1PM – First class begins!

HOUSING: On-campus lodging is included with registration. Bonner Hall is a two-story facility separated into two floors: one for boys and one for girls. The building accommodates 52 boys and 54 girls, double occupancy (three with a sleeping bag). Furnishings include bunk style beds, 1 desk, 1 chair, 1 dresser, 2 closets, HVAC units, sink area, medicine cabinet, and shelf storage. Roommates will be assigned according to age and gender, with priority given to preferences listed on the registration form. Lodgers must bring their own bedding.

GUARDIANS: A guardian is required to lodge in the dorm and adhere to the 'lights out' policy. During class times, the guardian is not required to be with his/her students at all times but is responsible for he/she/them and should be available to the student(s) if needed. Activities have not been planned for the guardians; however, Gainesville is a thriving community with much to offer.

INSTRUMENTS: Instrument lockers are available and will be assigned as registrations are received. You will need to bring your own combination lock. Be sure to list on the registration form the instrument you will be bringing and/or if you need special arrangements. Piano and drums will be provided on-site. If you wish to bring a keyboard for practicing, you may keep it in your room. Put a nametag or identifying marker on your instrument case and all other valuables. Take care never to leave your instrument in a car due to the summer heat.

RULES: Only registered participants may attend daily classes. Family members, friends and the general public are welcome at the evening sessions and Saturday's Awards Concert.

Throughout the Swing School, everyone is expected to exercise courtesy, good judgement, and respect for people and property. Anyone exhibiting behavior not in keeping with the best interests of the School, its mission, and the participants may be asked to leave at the sole discretion of the Executive Director. Cell phones and all other electronic equipment such as I-pads and I-pods must be turned off during class. Students are encouraged to audio record their classes; however, video recording is not allowed except during the Awards Concert.

While dress is casual and shorts are allowed, provocative or distasteful clothing is not. Students must remain on campus at all times unless in the care of a Guardian or by special authorization from the Executive Director.

Staff: The Big Texas Swing School is under the direction of bandleader, entertainer and educator, Dave Alexander (www.davealexander.com). A University of North Texas graduate, former member of the renowned UNT One-O'Clock Lab Band, and longtime music director for the Dallas Cowboys, Dave Alexander brings a rich combination of experience, education, talent and dedication to the Swing School. The FOUR time GRAMMY nominee, inductee into the Texas Western Swing Hall of Fame, and 2004 Academy of Western Artists Male Vocalist of the Year has performed and recorded with some of the biggest names in country music and is recognized for creating one of the finest Western Swing Big Bands ever assembled. Dave Alexander's dedication to Western Swing pays tribute to the passions of his grandfather and father and to the originators of this American art form. "My dad played trombone and some trumpet with Johnnie Lee Wills, and sometimes he and the rest of Johnnie Lee's horn section would go on the road with Bob. "I have been fortunate to have traveled my own musical road and to be enjoying it to this day. I can't think of a better summer than to be sharing western swing with young musicians as Executive Director of the Big Texas Swing School."

Curriculum: The Big Texas Swing School curriculum emphasizes the experience of actually playing in a swing band and the magic that happens when expression and improvisation are encouraged. Students will be assigned to a 'band' based on ability, with each band not to exceed twelve members including vocalists. Instructors are experienced musicians with the ability to relate to and teach students. In addition to the band sessions, sessions will be dedicated to specific instrumental instruction.

Instructors will be assigned to those sessions according to the instrument(s) they (the instructor) are most accustomed to. Guest artists and speakers, including some of the original Texas Playboys, will provide the evening activities in addition to documentaries, videos, movies, discussions and jam sessions.

The Saturday Awards Concert will be open to the public as an opportunity for students to perform for an audience and to be recognized for their achievement. At the conclusion of the camp, one band will be formed from all the students to be distinguished as the Big Texas All Star Swing Band. The distinctions will be entitled for one year and it is expected that students will list the accomplishment on their resumes.

Please be sure to complete all of the required registration forms, enclose a check for your deposit made payable to Dave Alexander Productions and mail to: Big Texas Swing School PO Box 288, Era TX 76238.