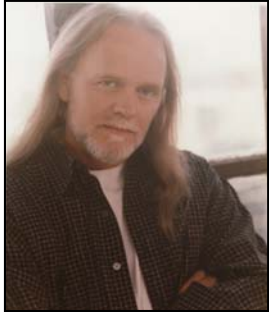


# Award Winning Songwriters

## Aaron Barker



Born in San Antonio, Aaron Barker began his musical career in a "variety band". He stayed with his band for many years and played everything from Bob Wills to Bob Seger. Driving his bus from gig to gig, Aaron began playing with original melodies and lyrics hoping to create his own songs.

Aaron's first attempt, "Baby Blue," recorded by George Strait on the *If You Ain't Lovin', You Ain't Livin'* album, went number one in Billboard. Not knowing what this meant to his future, Aaron continued to work in the band and played songs for anyone who would listen.

Aaron began developing his own sound, and refining his original material in small clubs and cafes where he would play on weekends. One night after a long father and son talk, he wrote "Love Without End, Amen." Believing this would be a song that he would play for his family, Barker decided to see what would happen if he sent it to George Strait. Strait recorded it and it stayed at the number one position in Billboard Magazine for five consecutive weeks.

Aaron Has had many other songs recorded by artists like Clay Walker, Neal McCoy, Doug Supernaw, Lonestar, Willie Nelson and many other artists. Aaron says, "These are real stories about real life, I've lived a lot of life and I also drawn on the lives of people I have crossed paths with." His background and the knack for honest, heartfelt communication has molded Aaron Barker into a songwriter of depth and power, as well as making him a dynamic entertainer.

Aaron was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2007.

## Richie McDonald



Richie McDonald has long been one of music's most accomplished and wide-ranging talents. Recognized as one of country's best singers, he was the face and voice of Lonestar, ranked among the genre's preeminent groups. A polished and engaging entertainer, Richie was the focal point of the group's storied touring career.

As one of the industry's most successful songwriters, he has penned some of the era's most memorable songs and earned a mantle full of awards and nominations.

The list of accomplishments McDonald brings to his solo career is among music's most noteworthy. His was the voice behind songs like "Amazed," "Smile" and "No News," and the pen behind songs like "My Front Porch Looking In" and "Let Them Be Little." He has earned six gold and platinum albums, several CMA and ACM awards as well as BMI awards for songwriting. In writing and singing "I'm Already There," he was responsible for a song embraced so warmly by the military and their families it became an unofficial anthem for U.S. troops serving the Middle East.

He has also written songs recorded by John Michael Montgomery, Clay Walker, Billy Dean, Sara Evans and the Wilkersons, among others.

As he carves out the proper balance between home and road, he is looking forward to the joys and thrills of that connection with his audience. It's a thrill that never gets old for any performer, and for Richie McDonald, it is one he can see both through his windshield and in his rear-view mirror. "I'm grateful every day," he says, "for the chance to continue to do something I love so much."

## Allen Shamblin



Randy Travis' # 1 Version of "He Walked On Water" brought Allen Shamblin to the forefront of the songwriting community seemingly "overnight." This began a string of

award winning songs throughout the 1990's and on into the new millennium such as "Walk on Faith" / Mike Reid, "In This Life" / Collin Raye, "Thinkin' Problem" / David Ball, "Life's A Dance" / John Michael Montgomery, "We Were In Love" / Toby Keith, "Don't Laugh At Me" / Mark Wills, "Live, Laugh, Love" / Clay Walker, "Where The Blacktop Ends" / Keith Urban and Dove Award winner "It's In God's Hands Now" / Anointed. "I Can't Make You Love Me", recorded by Bonnie Raitt was voted the # 8 song of "The 100 Greatest Songs Of All Time" in the August 2000 issue of Mojo Magazine.

Allen has also co-authored two children's books (*Don't Laugh At Me* and *A Chance to Shine*) with his friend and co-writer, Steve Seskin. *Don't Laugh at Me* has been translated into several languages and is being used throughout the U.S. and other parts of the world as an aid against bullying.

Allen was inducted into the Texas Heritage Songwriters Hall of Fame in 2008.

**The Bank CEO Network**

presents a

Singer/Songwriters' Pickin' Party

Thursday Evening, March 25, 2010