

Listen With Your Heart

The Power of Song and Story in Our Lives

"The most important story we know is the one we are living in now and we each are given the opportunity to create a masterpiece!"

About the Program

Through immersive, entertaining and educational stories and songs of Texas heritage and culture, the audience joins sixth generation Texan Austin Ladd Roberts in his journey across the rich landscape of Texas History. From Texas rattlesnake to Texas Ranger, from Comanche to Circuit Rider and all points between, each vignette is "discovered" and brought to life with narrative and song.



The performance is appropriate for all ages and tailored to the audience... be it museum, classroom, church or theater and can be as short as a single story or, as a full play, two hours. Often, discussions are held after the performance to share thoughts about the roles of story and song in our lives, finding your own "voice", story writing and listening, song writing, Texas culture, history and heritage.

Listen With Your Heart is part of the larger work *Shall We Gather* - a "one man musical" theater performance. All narrative and music is written and performed by Austin Ladd.



*I've an old photograph - from days gone by
It's good for a laugh - It's good for a cry
And life hurries on - it's a memory come and gone
Hold those things most dear - most long*

*And picture yourself with that someone else
That you should not forget - could not forget
Be they family be they friend
Let them live again
And keep them close to heart - close to heart*

from the song "Old Photograph"
music and lyrics by Austin Ladd Roberts

Austin Ladd Roberts
4 Pawnee Dr., Ingram, Texas 78025
(830)353-1419

Testimonials

“Austin is an awesome storyteller and musician. ...One of the most important things he left us with was, “You are in charge of writing your life’s story”, a great message for young people.” **Stuart Caulkins, Division of Continuing and Innovative Education, University of Texas**



“I would enthusiastically recommend Mr. Roberts to visit any school that is interested in providing an enrichment activity for their students would enthusiastically recommend Mr. Roberts to visit any school that is interested in providing an enrichment activity for their students.” **Roy Feliciano, KIPP Aspire Charter School**

“Austin Roberts, an extremely talented musician, has put together an inspiring program that captures and enlightens the hearts and minds of children....His “Listen with your Heart” program is one you want young people to experience.” **Becky Loop/Elementary Music Teacher; Ingram Elementary, Ingram, Tx**

“...I was so moved by your efforts to make a difference in the lives of our young people. I have worked as a special education teacher for twelve years...Thank you so much for coming out to the San Antonio Lighthouse for the Blind. We truly enjoyed it.” **Elizabeth Maldonado, Lighthouse for the Blind**



“Austin Ladd Roberts is a talented performer who blends history, storytelling and music in an engaging style that will not only have students riveted, but also inspire them to develop their own creativity in a similar fashion. He shows students how family history is shaped by historical events, and he performs vignettes that students of diverse backgrounds find relevant today. I highly recommend his work!”

Debi Christensen, Executive Director, John H Woods Charter District

“I just wanted to write and tell you what a wonderful living piece of history you presented in Listen With Your Heart. So often our students read about these events in their textbooks, but your presentation made history come alive. Well done!” **Vicki Philson, Curriculum Specialist, McGraw Hill**

“Your message in *Listen With Your Heart* can be a vehicle for families across cultural and geographic lines to make connections. ...We need to know our roots – our family stories and see how those stories help us become who we are today. You were able to weave your family’s story through prose and song beautifully. I feel that your message is an important one to share with everyone – especially the young people.” **Christine Lamm, Professor, Child Development and Educational Studies – Social Sciences, Fullerton College**