

shoulder to the stone

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Contact: Brian Kalinec
281-782-3115
info@shouldertothestone.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

HOUSTON MUSIC COMMUNITY LAUNCHES "SHOULDER TO THE STONE" PROJECT

(Houston, TX) In response to the recent devastation to the country of Haiti, a group of songwriters, musicians and visual artists from Houston, Texas decided to pool their collective talents into a multi-faceted musical project known as "Shoulder to the Stone", to raise money for both an orphanage and a Haitian relief worker. The earthquake leveled the home of Jimmy Jean-Noel, killing everyone in his family except one brother. The Orphelinat Petit De L'Enfant Jesus De Prague is devoted to the care of 35 children whose parents are deceased or otherwise unable to care for them. The small orphanage was seriously damaged by the earthquake, forcing the staff and children onto the street in tents, and in search of water and basic necessities.

Shoulder to the Stone began as a simple CD compilation fundraising effort by area songwriters, but rapidly expanded into other areas as more of the Houston production community became involved. Soon an original song was co-written by songwriters/artists Saylor White and Jack Saunders, and then the concept expanded again into forming a group of singers to record the song to include on the compilation disc. A video documentarian came into the project to capture the spirit of the team effort during the recording session.

"When I thought about writing a song", White commented, "the phrase, 'sometimes we feel broken by nature or by man' came to me, but the song never quite got to the stage that it felt complete. Jack Saunders agreed to meet me and read the lyrics and possibly take part in finishing the song. He solved the problem with his first thought when he said this whole thing is about putting a 'shoulder to the stone'."

The CD compilation portion of the project is complete and will be available for sale at a special event Saturday, April 3rd at 8:00pm at JP Hops House, 2317 S. Hwy 6, Houston, TX 77077. The CD features eighteen songs contributed by some of Houston's top Folk and Americana singer/songwriters, along with the group recording of the signature song, "Shoulder to the Stone". The event will feature live performances by some of the artists featured on the CD and a group performance of the title song. The entire event will be filmed and recorded for an upcoming documentary. The event is free and open to the public. The cost of the CD is \$15.00.

The website for the project has recently launched, featuring the stories of the making of the CD, the creation and recording of the song and all the artists, musicians, vocalists and production personnel who contributed to the effort. For more information, visit www.shouldertothestone.com

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