

Singing a different song of the South

Townes Van Zandt's mournful voice and sidelong delivery may be an acquired taste. But there's absolutely no denying the power of a quarter-century of song and poetry from this Nashville bard, who comes by way of Fort Worth, Texas. Perhaps best known for penning the Merle Haggard/Willie Nelson country hit "Pancho and Lefty," his compositions have been covered by an amazing array of artists, from Nanci Griffith and Emmylou Harris to Cowboy Junkies and Seattle rockers Mudhoney.

Most recently, Nashville songstress Jonell Mosser expressed the obsession many fellow musicians have for Van Zandt's sometimes Gothic, often

PREVIEW

Townes Van Zandt
9 and 11 p.m. Sunday. \$10. With Michael Catalano. Blind Willie's, 828 North Highland Ave. 404-873-2583.

sardonic, and always unflinchingly human songs by recording an entire album's worth of them, "Around Townes" (Winter Harvest, 1996). Meanwhile Van Zandt's latest release, "No Deeper Blue" (Sugar Hill, 1995), finds the master Southern storyteller in Ireland, traveling even further into the mystic.

— Bob Townsend

■ To hear Townes Van Zandt, call 511, enter 8600, then access code 426.



Sugar Hill

Townes Van Zandt's new album has Irish flavor.