

# *Sherri Mitchell*

Is she a “drugstore Texan”? You don’t have to ask this question about Sherri Mitchell, no sir. She’s a rodeo queen, barrel racer, team roper, and a country singer. Sherri just did not embrace this lifestyle to become a country singer; she has lived it from almost day one. She’s “small town Texas.”

Sherri’s musical influence started at 3 years old when her parents would take her to the dance halls on Saturday nights. It’s almost a tradition in Texas to take the kids to those halls where they listen and dance to western swing and country music. There was a lot of crying on Saturday nights if she didn’t get to go to the dances. At home Sherri would listen to her parents’ record collection of traditional country music legends like Lefty Frizzell, Johnny Bush and Ray Price. In her teen years she loved Reba McEntire’s music. Because of these early influences, Sherri’s traditional country music roots were set for life.

After high school Sherri got serious about a singing career and formed a band. At that first gig she was excited, unsure and nervous. When the personal appearances became frequent, Sherri became so nervous and sick before each performance that she carried a bottle of Pepto-Bismol in her attache case to each show. But after a seasoned first year her nerves were calmed, and she settled down to become an energetic and confident vocalist with a rough edge.

“Girls don’t always have it easy,” says Sherri, “they shouldn’t always hide that rough edge. I like to sing songs about being tough-minded and with an attitude, but I’m not ‘Ms. Thang,’ the snob. I’m personable, and I smile and laugh a lot.”

Her vocal music style is strictly Texas Saturday night – where the honky-tonk sounds emit a powerful rhythm of life in the Texas tradition. What type of song does Sherri like to sing? She says, “It’s that good song that kicks off with a fiddle or steel guitar and leads every one to the dance floor.” Sherri can communicate with her audience with an energetic show that is definitely – Texas Saturday night.

Once Sherri captures and captivates you, it is no more easy to escape than one of those Chinese finger puzzles. You pull and you pull, and it gets tighter and tighter. How do you finally get out? You don’t, not unless you loosen up – that’s the Texas tradition of music.

No sir, no “drugstore Texan” here!