

## Chris Duarte Group.

### Texas guitarist's history rooted in jazz, blues, punk

By ANN STACK  
Senior Reporter

Just call him a chameleon, because that's the only label guitarist Chris Duarte is truly comfortable with.

The musician from Austin, Texas, is best known for his skill as a blues guitarist, however, and is currently out on a mini-tour on the heels of his 1994 debut album, "Texas Sugar/Strat Magic."

His tour will make its Nebraska stop tonight at Omaha's Ranch Bowl.

Originally from San Antonio, Duarte took off for the more music-friendly climate of Austin at age 16 after a mere two jazz lessons. He was a quick learner, though, and began playing in a jazz outfit a year later.

"When I moved to Austin, that's when I started getting into the blues," he said. "I was a jazz snob at the time. I thought blues was so easy. Then I finally got in a blues band and realized that wasn't the case at all. But me being the prideful individual I am, I wanted to be good at it."

But the stamp of jazz guitarist seemed to be etched in indelible ink.

"I don't really consider myself a blues or a jazz guitarist; I'm just a musician," he said. "But I couldn't get the label of jazz guitarist off my back."

But before the jazz, before the

blues, the raw primal power of punk and early heavy metal made its mark on Duarte's musical DNA. Listen hard, and you can hear that aggressive edge of influences like Black Sabbath, the Dead Boys, Sex Pistols and AC/DC in his explosive blues rock.

He began touring as lead guitarist with Junior Medlow and the Bad Boys, and through that had the opportunity to play with some of his blues idols, including Albert Collins, Buddy Guy, and Howlin' Wolf guitarist Hubert Sumlin. This whet his appetite for forming his own band.

"We appealed to the younger kids because we were so aggressive and in-your-face," he said.

Since forming the Chris Duarte Group more than a decade ago, he's toured almost nonstop, building a strong fan base in his quest for world domination. One man from Lincoln has helped in his quest, Zoo Bar owner Larry Boehmer.

"Lincoln is one of three places that's been an epicenter in my career," he said. "It spread by word of mouth, and all because Larry Boehmer gave me a break."

Although Duarte didn't tour as much last year as he would have preferred to because of making the new album, he plans to make up for any missed time on the road as soon as possible.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILVERTONE RECORDS

CHRIS DUARTE and his band, the Chris Duarte Group, will bring their Texas-styled blues and rock 'n' roll to Omaha's Ranch Bowl tonight in a 21-and-over show.

"I love touring. I know not many people can do what my band does," he said. "I'm here for my fans. They want to see crazy, aggressive music, and we try to deliver it with passion."

The most obvious comparison Duarte's music brings up is to the late guitar virtuoso Stevie Ray Vaughan.

On his album, he pays homage to the Vaughan brothers, Stevie and Jimmie, on "Shiloh."

The Chris Duarte Group will perform Friday at 9 p.m. at the Ranch Bowl Entertainment Center, 1600 S. 72nd St., in a 21-and-over show. Tickets are \$13.

In addition to his past favorites, Duarte will also give the crowd a sampling of new material from his album, which is to be released in late May, he said.

"It leans more toward rock; we're trying to explore more musical directions."

## Fugitive Kind shines eclectic

### Missouri roots-rock band brings Americana sound to Lincoln

By ANN STACK  
Senior Reporter

The Webster's New World Dictionary defines "Americana" as having to do with the United States, its people and its history.

That term can also be applied to the Columbia, Mo., band Fugitive Kind. This roots-rock group, named for a 1960 Marlon Brando flick, will play Sunday night at Hangar 18, 1118 O St., with Lincoln's Shithook.

The band literally embodies eclecticism — the members range in age from 21-50 — and have influences as varied as their ages. But those all blend together to form an unholy matrimony on their new album, "Glory Road."

"We recorded at the same place Blue Mountain and Wilco did," singer and guitarist Eddie Boster said. "Lou Whitney of the Skeletons produced it; he's a good roots-rock producer. I was kind of in awe of him — he'd done so much of the stuff that I listen to."

Fugitive Kind formed in late 1991, from the ashes of another Columbia band called Dreams About Guns. After relatively few lineup changes, the band consists of co-singer/songwriter and acoustic guitarist James Kamp, bass and

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We push as hard as we can without making anyone lose their job.”

EDDIE BOSTER  
singer/guitarist

banjo player Matthew Bossaller, guitarist Nathan Stammeyer and drummer Bryan Foote.

"We used to tell people we were roots-rock when we first started, but we couldn't find a term we were comfortable with," Boster said. "We get booked with alternative-country bands, and generally we're more rock 'n' roll."

That's where the Americana fits in — the twangy sounds of Appalachian hillbilly combine with Midwestern folk-rock, Kentucky bluegrass and early New York punk to create a smorgasbord for the ears.

Of course, there are traces of certain St. Louis bands on "Glory Road." Boster said he's never sure how to take those comparisons — he considers it a sacrilege to cover Uncle Tupelo (and its subsequent off-shoots).

Fugitive Kind has done shows

with several card-carrying members of the No Depression set — Blue Mountain, Ditch Witch, All the Starkweathers, the Bottle-Rockets and the Palace Brothers.

Although Fugitive Kind's music may be considered No Depression, Boster's lyrics aren't quite in the same vein.

"We have a running joke that every time I bring a song to the band I say, 'OK, here's my most cynical one yet,'" he said. "I've had plenty of trying life experiences."

Fugitive Kind are true weekend road warriors, because all the members have day jobs — Kamp is a physical therapist — or are in college.

"We push as hard as we can without making anyone lose their job," he said.

The band pushes into Hangar 18 Sunday, taking the stage around 10 p.m.



MATT HANEY/DN

### Cold ducks

From Staff Reports

Saturday afternoon marks the continuation of one of rural Nebraska's most eccentric and entertaining festivals, the Avoca Quack-Off.

The event, which started 17 years ago, is the first outdoor festival of the year in Nebraska and for the most part entails the racing of ducks across an ice-covered tennis court. The ducks — with wings clipped — are urged across the ice by human participants who may do anything other than touch the duck to move it across the finish line.

Cash prizes are given to the top three finishers, and a good time is had by all. But the real winners every year are the members of the Avoca Volunteer Fire Department, who have raised over \$20,000 for the department since the event began.

Other activities include the "Duck Drop" and a whole lot of eating and drinking.

Avoca is located about 25 miles east of Lincoln on Hwy 34; just follow O Street east until you see the billboard that says "Avoca, Home of the Quack-Off," and take a right. Registration for the event begins at 10 a.m. in the Avoca Town Hall, and the races start at the tennis courts at 1 p.m.