

Roots music's depth unmistakable

By Shirley Jenkins
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

Bluegrass and roots music, Texas swing and Louisiana Cajun tunes -- they're not your grandfather's music anymore, as a sold-out Bass Performance Hall crowd proved at Monday's stellar *Great High Mountain* tour stop.

"People once thought this type of music was on its way out," musician Dirk Powell remarked during the three-hour show, "but that's certainly not the case."

Obviously.

People gathered outside Bass Performance Hall before showtime, asking to buy any extra tickets. Inside, every seat was filled.

The stars -- headed by Alison Krauss and Union Station, Ralph Stanley, The Whites, The Cox Family, Nashville Bluegrass Band, and Norman and Nancy Blake -- were augmented by a remarkable number of gifted teen-aged performers, another indicator of roots music's long-term health.

Fort Worth-bred producer-visionary T-Bone Burnett kicked off a new revolution of traditional music in 2000 with the soundtrack of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?* and its sequel album and tour, *Down From the Mountain*.

Monday's concert included work from those compilations, as well as Burnett's latest triumph, the soundtrack from *Cold Mountain*.

The show's highlights came in wonderful small moments, and not just the Union Station standouts.

There were powerful, reverent Sacred Harp harmonies and exuberant Creole instrumentals. Musician Tim Ericksen delivered a raw, Celtic-flavored *Wayfaring Stranger*, and the eclectic band Ollabelle performed an exquisite Carter Family standard, *Storms Out on the Ocean*.

Burleson's own Quebe Sisters played a bright, tri-fiddle *Oklahoma Hills*. The Reeltime Travelers ignited the crowd with clogging and lightning-fast bluegrass. Dan Tyminski drew cheers with the *O Brother* anthem, *Man of Constant Sorrow*. Krauss drew sighs with the purity of her voice during *Down to the River to Pray*.

Norman and Nancy Blake contributed quiet moments, while dobro wizard Jerry Douglas, fiddle virtuoso Stuart Duncan and, of course, Krauss gave big, all-out punches.

It was a night to cherish, every step of the way.



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Alison Krauss and Union Station band member Dan Tyminski perform the Soggy Bottom Boys' hit *Man of Constant Sorrow* from the movie *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*