Lone superstar state: Texas women continue to dominate the music industry

The history of music has been influenced by many female voices from Texas. Mickey Guyton, Selena Gomez, Kacey Musgraves and more have made contributions recognized by the Grammy Awards.

**Mickey Guyton**

is rewriting the history of country music
Black artists have always been marginalized in the country genre: linguistically and physically. It was often black artists like Deke Sharon, Ray Charles and Toots Williams who were packaged as white guys in music somewhere along the line. However, black artists are ready to rewrite this section of music history.

Last year, Arlington native Mickey Guyton became the first Black solo woman to receive a nomination in the country genre with her song “Black Like Me.” This song “Black Like Me” increased her odds this year with ten new nominations: Best Country Solo Performance, Best Country Song and Best Country Album for her debut album Remember Who You Are and its titular track.

“I felt validated. Like, ugh, thank God. Because there was doubt cast upon this project before I released it. So now to see the response, I just feel relieved,” Guyton told W Magazine in 2021.

**Selena Gomez**

dips deep into her roots
There’s something about successful women that men have never understood, and it’s because they do not have a role model to look up to. Whenever a country artist announces a new project. But then again, how can one define the genre, the one that in its middle age, proved authenticity sells.

“Thirteen years after her debut album, Grand Prairie native Selena Gomez received her first Grammy Award nomination for Best New Artist. But with all the hate she cracked up over the year, the nomination was not for any of Gomez’s English pop efforts. Instead, she received a Best Latin Pop Album nomination for her album. Selena Gomez

“Traditionally, female rappers have been nominated or won the pop category at the Grammy Awards before with their country hits. But then again, female rappers have been nominated or won the pop category to pop by the award’s committee. The first female to take home Best Country Solo Performance and Best Country Song for “Camera Roll” showing support for her from country fans and pop fans.

“I feel like I don’t belong to country in any way on one hand. But on the other hand, I feel deeply rooted in that genre,” Musgraves told ELLE in 2012.

**Maren Morris**

addresses the country through music
The country music scene is hostile, especially in Texas, where close ties can turn to lions- sized fights. When Dallas native The Chicks spoke out against the Bush presidency many years ago, they immediately faced backlash, boycotts and death threats from country fans.

Which makes Arlington native Maren Morris’s efforts to stand up in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement during and preceding Morris’s first Grammy Awards win, Best Country Solo Performance, for “The Bones,” incredibly powerful, along with a Best Country Duo/Group Performance for “Chasing After You.”

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“Let me report: I choose what I wear, not because I am trying to be sexy or whitewash my image, but because I am showing divinity in my aspirations, and a positive body image is central to who I am at my core and a positive body image is central to who I am at my core,” Stallion wrote in an op-ed earlier this year for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Performance for “Black Like Me.” She

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**Kacey Musgraves**

crushes genre boundaries
It seems like country music also has its own set of rules because it isn’t used to see comments like “This isn’t country music.” “I’ve always been a fan of country music,” Musgraves told Rolling Stone. “I love it. I listen to it. I grew up listening to it. I love it.”

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