



Photo by Dave Becker

Three musical journeymen who have performed around the world individually and together for over a quarter of a century, have now made it official. Texas music fans, keep an ear to the ground for the trio's second release called **The Outlaw Firm II**. This trifecta of Texas Hill Country singer/songwriters includes **Mike Blakely, John M. Greenberg and John Arthur Martinez**. The "Outlaws" are releasing their second album and are currently touring around Texas, New Mexico and Colorado and beyond. While the band may be relatively new, the three founding members have been collaborating for nearly three decades, writing and performing in Texas and as far away as Europe.

Floyd Tillman, member of the Country Music Association Hall of Fame, introduced Blakely, an award-winning novelist by day, to Martinez in 1987 at "Floyd Tillman's Pickin' in the Park," a concert series hosted by Martinez in Marble Falls, Texas. Blakely had penned a feature on Floyd Tillman's life for *Texas Highways* magazine. Blakely and Martinez teamed with Alex Harvey (composer of "Delta Dawn," "Reuben James" and more) to co-write "Seguro Que Hell Yes" which landed on the Grammy-winning album, *Flaco Jimenez* by Flaco Jimenez (Arista). A few years later, Larry Nye – owner of Lazy L Studio in Kingsland, Texas – introduced Greenberg, the new kid in town (Marble Falls), to Blakely and Martinez. Nye produced solo albums for the three songwriters over the following years. Greenberg's songs, "Boxcars of Reynosa," and "I Don't Think About You," earned him a spot in the Kerrville New Folk Finals, 1998 & 2000. In 2006 he and Walt Wilkins co-founded The Mystiqueros releasing *Diamonds In the Sun* and *Agave*; both achieved Americana and Texas Chart success.

Last year, the trio made the decision to form The Outlaw Firm. They recently recorded their first self-titled album at Martinez's studio near Austin, Texas. The independent release consists of nine original songs written by the band members, and a tenth number penned by up-and-coming songwriting phenom, Jake Martin. The album is now available for digital downloads and in USB format, with a vinyl LP version soon to come. The success of the first led to The Outlaw Firm II, which features more collaborations, several written on the road during their previous tour.

The three popular Texas frontmen have fused their collective talents into a high-energy musical experience. The Outlaw Firm's sound incorporates all that is sacred to Texas Music fans, embracing country, blues, folk-rock, conjunto, western swing and Tex-Americana. The trio features precise three-part harmonies, multiple stringed instruments, and heart-pounding percussion. "Outlaw boredom and escape the mundane," Blakely insists. "Come ride the desperado fringe with The Outlaw Firm!"