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Nashville recording artist, Dana Cooper gives an extraordinary performance last Saturday at The Lazy Days Canteen at Roddy Tree in Hunt, Texas

Posted by [Rod Ames](#) on January 18, 2010 at 3:50pm

Nashville recording artist, **Dana Cooper** has had an amazing career spanning over four decades. His wide vocal range, along with his incredibly intelligent and poetic lyrics, and just the whole process of composing has helped him to create a very strong cult following around the globe. A faction of that following was in attendance at **The Lazy Days Canteen** in Hunt, Texas as they proudly presented Mr. Cooper in a performance at their acoustically sound venue this past Saturday. The show went way beyond my expectations, and I was expecting a lot.

Before the show, Mr. Cooper took some time out to sit down with me and answer a few questions. It actually turned out to be a discussion between two men who adore roots music. One of us, however, is about as talented as one could ever hope to be, the other simply struggles to put two sentences together. I would be the latter just in case anyone was wondering.

We spoke about everything from touring to recording, to writing, and joked about our aging and the both of us having terminal cases of CRS (Can't Remember Stuff). One of the exciting things he told me about was his upcoming CD "**Conjurer**", which is due for release in late March.

Dana Cooper tours almost constantly. He said, "It's a way of life. I'm on the road at least two-thirds of the year with 180 – 200 gigs per year average. A lot of tours are predominantly house concerts."

He went on to say, "Over the holidays I took a little break. I did some private parties that people ask



me to come up and do. Last weekend I went down to Atlanta and then Gainesville, Florida. Then I went back to Nashville and did a gig there. This is the first part of a lengthy tour. I'll be in Texas until the end of the month with gigs in Houston, Galveston, and Austin. I'll be in Johnson City later this month at the **Silver K Cafe**. It's

different, a very small and intimate setting over there."

"I'm working on a couple of videos from the CD with some friends of mine in Texas and then there are ongoing collaborations with other songwriters. I tend to co-write more than I used to. I also plan to go overseas and tour in August in Copenhagen, Denmark and other parts of Europe."

I asked him about the audiences in Europe, and how he is received when he travels abroad. He said, "In most of the European venues there tends to be a much younger audience than I see Stateside. When I can get younger folks in the audience over here they tend to enjoy the show, but they really love us over there. I work with a band over there from Denmark called **the Sentimentals**. In locales such as Sweden, Ireland and other stops, they really love our culture and the performers love to emulate us. It's really nice to see. People always really treat us nicely."

He added, "I've been writing some short stories and writing some things down about my parents who were a great inspiration to me. My Dad was a frustrated musician and my mother was a painter. I used to paint, and will probably start doing that more sometime, but for now I'm on the road and enjoying myself. It's always good to be here, especially in this part (The Texas Hill Country) of Texas".

Finally, I asked Mr. Cooper about his longevity. He's been a successful singer/songwriter and has really excelled over the years as a live performer. He had this to say about that, "You know, it's a real gift to keep doing this as long as I have. If I can remain pertinent as an artist, that's the greatest thing of all to me. I've always just been into the expression of art and it has helped everything to transcend into my performances. It's sort of a spiritual experience to me. It gets me into an actual state of ecstasy. You know, you can get involved in the music business and decide you will make a bunch of money. In 1973 when I lost my deal with Elektra Records, then was eventually able to see that was probably the best thing that could have happened to me."

He went on to say he was going to be working with **Ray Wylie Hubbard** in May at **WSM**, the radio home of The Grand Old Opry. Overall, I would say **Dana Cooper** is going to be a very busy live performer and recording artist for many years to come. He has absolutely discovered the secret to longevity. That secret is simple, stay close to the people. That, my friends, he does very well.

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