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Music

Kevin Fowler back at Concrete Street

By Lisa Hinojosa

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Kevin Fowler has a new album hitting shelves Sept. 25.

CORPUS CHRISTI — Guitar-slinging frontman Kevin Fowler will throw down his hybrid style of Southern rock and country music tonight at Concrete Street Amphitheater.

Special guests Reckless Kelly and Drew Kennedy will round out the lineup.

Fowler played Concrete Street in late May when he rode the wave of the fourth annual Texas Uprising. But at the time, the normally laid-back rocker had a reason to feel antsy.

Before Fowler took the stage, his wife gave birth to their third daughter, Kambry. Fowler burned it up on stage with his usual party vibe before rushing home to the new little party that awaited him in Austin.

"We got to stay a whole day before we had to take off again," Fowler said.

Since then Fowler's band has toured Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico. Last week, the band was gearing up for a trip to Louisiana to promote the Sept. 25 release of its latest album, "Bring it On." Life on the road certainly takes its toll, but Fowler knows the importance of his mission.

"One state at a time, we're going out there and spreading the word of the honky-tonk," he said.

The crusading crooner recorded his latest album in whatever spare time he could muster between shows. "Bring it On" marks the first full-length album Fowler has released in three years. He calls it an exercise in patience.

"I just hate the fact that it took me three years to get it done, but I love the fact that I got the time to refine the songs," he said.

Thirteen of 40 tracks made it through production and onto the album, Fowler said. Surprisingly, the habitual songwriter wrote only one.

"Also, we recorded three outside songs. That's something that's new to me," he said.

Fowler, who studied at L.A.'s Guitar Institute of Technology, said he initially was resistant to co-writing.

"I thought, 'I'm a singer/songwriter. I'm cool -- that's how I do it,' " he said. Three years later, Fowler is a changed man.

"Now (co-writing) is the only way I'll do it. I think it really helps me not get stuck in a rut. As a songwriter, everybody has a style," he said. "I think (co-writing) really helps get me out of my zone."

Still, his zone is difficult to pin down. Fowler has acknowledged appreciation for styles such as Metallica and Merle Haggard.

"I'm a fan of all the outlaws," he said.

And he's never been shy about revealing his admiration for classics such as the Man in Black. Fowler said he has seen the Johnny Cash biopic "Walk the Line" several times.

But the rockin' father of three places himself in a different class. When asked whom he could see playing the role of Kevin Fowler in a biographical film, he needed only a second to think -- "probably Larry the Cable Guy."

If you go

What: Kevin Fowler, Reckless Kelly, Drew Kennedy

When: 7 p.m. today

Where: Concrete Street Amphitheater, 800 Concrete St.

Cost: \$20

Information: 884-8085; www.ticketmaster.com

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