

# Dixie Chicks

Compiled by Christine Reed

**Members:** Natalie Maines; sisters Martie Seidel and Emily Erwin

**Their name:** originally known as Dixie Chicken from the Little Feat song of the same name; "But Martie didn't want to be a chicken!" says Natalie. Later changed name to Chix and, finally, to Dixie Chicks

**Getting started:** 1989, sisters Emily, then 16, and Martie, then 19, started playing for tips on a downtown Dallas, Texas, street corner with two other original band members; after several lineup changes, Natalie joined the sisters in 1995

**Early style:** the band originally wore Dale Evans-type western wear when they performed and were known locally as a "frilly cowgirl act"

**Musical influences:** Bela Fleck, Bob Wills, Chubby Wise, Sam Bush, Mark O'Connor, Alison Krauss, Bonnie Raitt, James Taylor, Patty Loveless, Dolly Parton, Indigo Girls, Linda Ronstadt and Emmylou Harris

**Trademark:** they originally planned to get a small chicken footprint tattoo for every significant career achievement; however, they've achieved so much already they'll only get tattoos in recognition of No. 1 hits

**Early success:** before entering the national spotlight, Dixie Chicks was one of the most sought-after bands in Texas; they opened shows for Garth Brooks, George Jones, Alan Jackson, George Strait and Emmylou Harris, and earned prestigious bookings at the Grand Ole Opry and Tennessee's 1993 Inaugural Ball for President Clinton

**Special honors:** *Wide Open Spaces* is the fastest rising debut album for a country group since the SoundScan retail tracking system began in May 1991; they are 1998's best-selling debut act in country music

**Platinum album:** *Wide Open Spaces*, released in January 1998, had sold 1 million copies by the end of August

**CMA awards:** 1998 Horizon Award and Vocal Group of the Year

**Billboard Top 40 hits:** "I Can Love You Better" (No. 7, 1998); "There's Your Trouble" (No. 1, 1998); "Wide Open Spaces" (No. 3, 1998)

**Name:** Emily Erwin

**Birth date:** Aug. 16, 1972

**Birthplace:** Dallas, Texas

**Hair:** blonde, worn long with soft layers around her face

**Eyes:** hazel

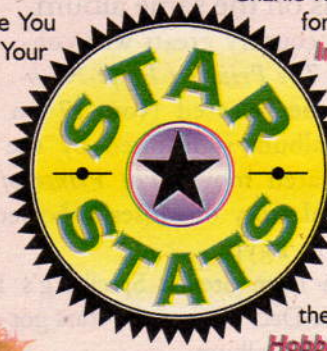
**Marital status:** engaged to singer/songwriter Charlie Robison, wedding tentatively set for May 1999

**Instruments:** Dobro, banjo, guitar

**Early talent:** learned banjo at age 10 and picked up the Dobro and guitar soon after

**Early performances:** toured with her sister Martie as part of a teen bluegrass band, Blue Night Express, for six years before helping to found the Dixie Chicks

**Hobbies/interests:** listening to live music, especially country acts



**Name:** Martie Seidel

**Birth date:** Oct. 12, 1969

**Birthplace:** Dallas, Texas

**Hair:** blonde, worn short

**Eyes:** blue

**Marital status:** married to Ted Seidel, a pharmaceutical salesman

**Instruments:** fiddle, mandolin

**Early talent:** began playing fiddle at age five

**On Dixie Chicks' evolution:** "We went from street corners to dance halls, from jeans and boots to tailor-made cowgirl get-ups with rhinestones. Finding Natalie was the best thing that ever happened to Emily and me."

**Hobbies/interests:** skiing, horseback riding and golfing

**Name:** Natalie Maines

**Birth date:** Oct. 14, 1974

**Birthplace:** Lubbock, Texas

**Hair:** platinum blonde, worn short

**Eyes:** blue

**Marital status:** married to musician Michael Tarabay

**Famous father:** Texas steel guitarist and producer Lloyd Maines, whose Maines Brothers Band charted several country songs in the 1980s

**Instruments:** lead vocals, guitar

**Early talent:** started singing at age 3; began playing piano at age 12; won a vocal scholarship to Berkeley School of Music

**Hobbies/interests:** reading, decorating her home and watching movies

**Dixie Chicks Fan Club**

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Natalie, Emily and Martie

