


PLAYBACK

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DIXIE CHICKS Flying High!

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Natalie Maines (pictured) and the Dixie Chicks serve up such delicious, sizzling, down-home country music, they ought to include a "wet nap" with every album.

Picking,

In Texas, a state bedeviled by sudden, extreme weather events such as twisters, the National Weather Bureau works around the clock monitoring any suspicious meteorological activity. Well, someone must have been sleeping on their shift in 1998 when a Texas tornado known as the Dixie Chicks not only took the state by storm but the whole country with their spirited bluegrass/country/pop music.

In songs and on stage, ASCAP writer Natalie Maines with sisters Martie Seidel and Emily Robison mix equal parts sass, sex appeal and stunning musicianship. Natalie sings lead with powerful, bluesy gusto, and with Martie and Emily's backing vocals, the resulting harmonies are sublime. All three Chicks play instruments, but it is Martie's fiddle and mandolin work and Emily's banjo and dobro playing that have helped these young women become darlings of discerning music critics as well as the millions of fans who bought their first album, *Wide Open Spaces*.

PHOTO BY STEVE GRANITZ

