



Playing for Tips, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Nashville, Tennessee, 1974, Gelatin Silver Print ©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery

## Y'all come! **HonkyTonk**

**HONKY TONK: Portraits of Country Music 1972-1981**  
An Exhibition of Photographs by Henry Horenstein  
March 25 - April 25, 2004

**Opening Reception:** Thursday, April 1, 5:30-7:30 pm at the PRC Gallery  
Afterparty at the Paradise Lounge until 10 pm, 969 Commonwealth Ave.  
Featuring the music of John Lincoln Wright and the Sourmash Boys

**Lecture and Booksigning:** Wednesday, April 7, 6:00pm  
Boston University Communications Building, 640 Commonwealth Ave. Room 101  
Free for PRC members / \$5 for Non-members

This spring, the PRC's *Northeast Exposure* exhibition series focuses its spotlight on the country music photographs of the renowned photographer, educator, author, and New Bedford native, Henry Horenstein. For his recently published book of the same name, *Honky Tonk*, Horenstein unearthed countless treasures from his early days as a photographer in the 1970s: pictures of country western greats, famed honky tonks, the original Grande Ole Opry, country and bluegrass music parks, as well as, locales and performers around New England.

The PRC's presentation will include over 30 selections from the larger book project, including black and white photographs from each thematic section. From Nashville to Boston's own backyard, you'll find portraits of famed musicians—including Charlie Monroe, Doc Watson, Lester Flatt, Roy Acuff, Joe Val, and Minnie Pearl—during the time that has been called the last "great" decade of country music. Besides the stars decked out in their rhinestones, Horenstein also aimed his lens at barrel houses and bars, festivals and concerts, and those who made it all possible, the fans.



Dolly Parton, Symphony Hall, Boston, Massachusetts, 1972, Gelatin Silver Print, ©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery



Patron, Hillbilly Ranch, Boston, Massachusetts, 1972, Gelatin Silver Print, ©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery

The PRC's images were chosen specifically with an eye for the lesser-known roles of Boston and the Northeast in country music. In fact, many celebrated figures frequented country music parks located in Western Massachusetts and New Hampshire as well as local clubs, including the former Park Square Boston landmark, the Hillbilly Ranch. Along with items of Horenstein ephemera on display, you'll find Waylon Jennings during a 1975 appearance at Cambridge's Performance Center and Dolly Parton at a 1973 Symphony Hall concert.

Horenstein currently lives in Cambridge and is a professor at Rhode Island School of Design. He has published over thirty books including classic instructional photography texts (*Black and White Photography: A Basic Manual*) and monographs (*Racing Days, Creatures, Canine, Aquatics*). Horenstein's work has been exhibited worldwide and is in numerous collections, including the Smithsonian, Harvard's Fogg Art Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, and the High Museum of Art.

**"It's as if Diane Arbus found herself lost in the American South and decided to go hear some music."**

- Paul Kopeikin,  
Kopeikin Gallery

**"When I first became interested in country music, I was struck by the accessibility of the artists to their fans and the bonds this created. Honky Tonk captures this mutual love relationship and reminds us of what country music was and should be about."**

- Ken Irwin, Co Founder  
Rounder Records

## PHOTOGRAPHIC RESOURCE CENTER at Boston University

Initially educated as a historian at the University of Chicago, and later as a photographer at RISD, Horenstein has always brought this urge to document forgotten places, cultures, and people to his photography. Armed with press and backstage passes and a good dose of passion, Horenstein thus offers a fresh contrast to the country music industry of today. Stepping into the PRC gallery will be just like stepping into a "honky tonk," as his rich and rowdy images bring this music and era to life. Horenstein's honest portrayals are also just plain fun, giving us a glimpse behind the bar and beyond the jukebox.

Selections from the companion book have been touring the country, making stops in

- ★ Nashville (Country Music Hall of Fame)
- ★ New York City (Sarah Morthland Gallery)
- ★ Houston (John Cleary Gallery) ★ Los Angeles (Paul Kopeikin Gallery)
- ★ Philadelphia (The Print Center) ★ Charlotte (The Light Factory)

Beginning in 2005, SITES, the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service, will tour a larger, historical exhibition along with selected artifacts from the National Museum of American History.



Lovers, Tootsie's Orchid Lounge, Nashville, Tennessee, 1975, Gelatin Silver Print  
©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery



**Honky Tonk: Portraits of Country Music 1972-1981** by Henry Horenstein is published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco

Foreword Nashville's WSM-AM disc jockey and Grand Ole Opry announcer, Eddie Stubbs

Afterword by Curator of American Popular Culture, National Museum of American History, Charles McGovern

Visit [www.honkytonkbook.com](http://www.honkytonkbook.com) for a virtual experience of the book and for more information.

Ramona and Grandpa Joe, Grand Ole Opry, Nashville, Tennessee, 1974, Gelatin Silver Print,  
©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery

*"Henry Horenstein made a career of loving, quirky, honest engagement with the small subcultures hidden from the mainstream. These music photos offer a vision of enduring art in a slowly changing world. His work thus takes its place in the larger process of preservation and memory that is central to country music's history, and indeed central to American Culture."*

- Charles McGovern, Smithsonian, National Museum of American History

### FOR MORE INFORMATION AND A PRESS KIT CONTACT:

Leslie K. Brown, Curator, Photographic Resource Center at Boston University  
832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215  
617-975-0600 (tel), 617-975-0606 (fax), email: [lkbrown@bu.edu](mailto:lkbrown@bu.edu)



Henry Horenstein, Charlie Monroe, Take it Easy Ranch, Calloway, Maryland, 1973, Gelatin Silver Print,  
©Henry Horenstein/Robert Klein Gallery

An excerpt from the book and interview will be published in the PRC's March/ April newsletter, *In the Loupe*, and also available online at [www.prcboston.org](http://www.prcboston.org). Press images can be provided digitally, via email or cd, to meet specifications.

**Who and where we are:** The Photographic Resource Center is a non-profit organization that exists to facilitate the study and dissemination of information related to photography. Operating from the campus of Boston University, it provides a highly acclaimed exhibition program, a bi-monthly newsletter, lectures, workshops, special events, and a 4,000-volume resource library to our members and the general public. It is supported by grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Boston Cultural Council, as well as by numerous private foundations, and the ongoing generosity of its members. The Photographic Resource Center is located at 832 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA, 02215. Public transportation: Take the Green B Line Train, outbound, to the BU West stop. Hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10 to 6pm, Thursdays from 10 to 8pm, Saturday and Sunday 12-5pm. Admission is \$3/general public, \$2/students and seniors and free to all on Thursdays and on the last weekend of every month. The PRC is always free to members, children under 18, and to school groups with appointments. For more information on exhibitions and educational programming, visit our website at [www.prcboston.org](http://www.prcboston.org). The PRC is fully accessible.