

# HOUSTON

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Only in  
Houston!Kareem Salama at Steve Archer  
Quarter Horses in Richmond

## Thank Allah, I'm a Country Boy

Meet Kareem Salama, cowboy crooner

He's a lawyer with a chemical engineering degree, a classical poetry fan and a faithful Muslim. It's hard to pin a label on **Kareem Salama**, except one: He's *all* country, from his thick accent and horse-riding hobby to his new music career. After moving to Houston to practice law, the Oklahoma-raised crooner recently cut his first record, the radio-ready *Generous Peace*—the translation of his Arabic name—at top recording studio Sugar Hill, and it's set for spring release. Salama sees more complement than contradiction in his country style and his Muslim faith. “[Most country music is] rooted in the Christian ethos which, after all, is pretty similar to the Islamic ethos.”

### FAB 5



#### 1. 'Sum' of its Parts

Houston-based neuroscience researcher and writer **David Eagleman**—whom *Houston* profiled in June—is in demand. He's still getting kudos for his novel *Sum*, and his new non-fiction *Plasticity: How the Brain Rewires* hits later this year. After that? He'll tour the U.S. with his pal (and U2 producer) Brian Eno for a series of readings in 2011, during which Eagleman says he'll “tell his story” as Eno plays tunes.

#### 2. The Man Event

The MFA's “One Great Night”—an old-school, men-only party that typically raises seven figures for new museum acquisitions—has friendly competition this year. Inspired by founding diva Dominique de Menil's idea to host a pool-playing, cigar smoker 30 years ago, The Menil hosts its debut “**Men of Menil**” March 3. 7PM. [menil.org](http://menil.org)

#### 3. Daring Debs!

Galas are serious biz, but you can count on **DiverseWorks** art space to come up with their own cheeky twists on tradition. Expect a throng of tacky vintage ball gowns, hordes of running shoes and general mayhem at this month's “Debutantes Run Wild!” soiree. Feb. 19, 7:30PM. [diverseworks.org](http://diverseworks.org)

#### 4. They Kick, They Score?

The four-year-old **Houston Dynamo** won back-to-back championships its first two seasons in Major League Soccer. And yet they still host games at U of H's cheap-but-cheerful stadium. Buzz is that a new stadium will break ground this year and open in 2011.

#### 5. Best Bayou

Who needs white-sand beaches when you have, er, **Buffalo Bayou**? Mayor Parker lists the bayou as one of her favorite spots: “[It's like] you're not in the city anymore.” This month a new pontoon cruise featuring a history lesson by city expert Louis Aulbach launches; he'll point out homes, wildlife and breweries. [buffalobayou.org](http://buffalobayou.org)