

The SAW Buzz: Cutting through the noise...a benefit of your SAW membership.



January 23, 2018

34th MASC Gala and Concert



"The evening was a great celebration of song creation and was a tribute to what we do. Thank you so very much!!" - Tedd Swormstedt

It was another great celebration of song and our songwriting community at the 34th Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Gala and Concert last Sunday. With songs from all genres and performers ranging in age from 15 to...older...it was a night to remember. The new SAW AV club livestreamed a switched [video shoot](#) of the event so you can watch the performances and presentations over again. We managed to take a few [photos](#) as well. Please share both the link to the video and photos.



Our grand prize winners this year are "Dorothy's Alive and Well" by Brian Derek Burrows (3rd Place); "Blood" by Tedd Swormstedt (2nd); and "Aint Enough" by John Wort Hannam (grand prize). Also receiving special Director's Choice awards: Les Hatley for Instrumental Album "Chocolate" and Heather Lloyd for Album of the Year "Message in the Mess". See the complete list of winners [here](#) and listen to the song recordings of the Gold and Silver winners.

Thank You - by Jay Keating

Thanks to all who came to this year's MASC Gala and Concert, and congratulations to all the winners. You have earned a few days rest and then...start writing next year's entries.

The MASC 34 Event was accomplished without paid contractors and that means we have some big thank you checks to write.

To Kelly Diamond, Steve Coffee, Howard Rabach, Gary Jaffe, Steve Pendlebury, Paige Powell, Michelle Murray, Brian Foster, Eryn Michelle, Roberta Keating, Mae Keating, John Keating. A blank check of bottomless thank you's.

To our thorough, yet succinct presenters: Eryn Michelle, Grace Matuszcki, Ron Goad, Diana Quinn, Joel Pomerantz, Dan Magnolia, Steve Coffee, Tom Carrico, Mary Cliff, Domenic Cicala, John Trupp, Michelle Murray, Rob Veale, Scott Moore. You are all SAW Leaders for whom we are grateful.

We did pay Jammin' Java but boy did they earn their stripes. A great show with Lucas and Ben Daniels covering our needs so well.

Finally, to everyone who entered the MASC, you are the true heroes. Songwriting is a lonely blood sport (sweat and tears often accompany). To share your song. To put it out there boldly and confidently is the life's blood of SAW and the MASC. Every person who wins has, in other contests, received letters of condolence that they didn't win. All of them are winners because they did what winners do. They wrote new and better songs until it worked. They wrote their songs because they mattered. They shared them because that is what you do. MASC and SAW salute you for this and oh yes, we want more.

From John Wort Hannam, Grand Prize Winner

"Dear Mid-Atlantic Song Contest,

I wish I could be with you tonight to join in the celebration of song.

Although songwriting began as means to make sense of my life and this world we share, it has also become a way for me to sing out loud the things I have difficulty saying out loud.

I love writing songs. I love the challenge. I love how it makes my head hurt. I love the child-like giddiness I feel when I think I'm onto something good and my pen cannot move fast enough to get it all down before it's lost. More than anything



though, I love the feeling of being part of a songwriting community. Congrats to all the songwriters, regardless of winning or not. To write a song is a feat that deserves jubilation.

Thank you to the Songwriters Association of Washington, judges, sponsors, organizers and fellow songwriters. I hope one day I may meet all of you. Have a great night. - JOHN"

Upcoming Open Mics & Showcases

- [SAW Open Mic at Island Pride Oasis](#)
01/24/2018 7:30 PM
Island Pride Oasis, [617 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877](#)
- [SAW Variety Showcases at The Epicure Cafe, Fairfax](#)
01/24/2018 7:30 PM
[11104 Lee Highway \(route 29\)](#) Fairfax VA
- [New Deal Open Mic \(4th Thurs\)](#)
01/25/2018 7:00 PM
New Deal Café, [113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD](#)
- [SAW Showcase at Bump 'n Grind](#)
01/25/2018 7:30 PM
[1200 East West Highway Silver Spring, MD 20910](#)
- [SAW Open Mic at Island Pride Oasis](#)
01/31/2018 7:30 PM
Island Pride Oasis, [617 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877](#)
- [SAW Variety Showcases at The Epicure Cafe, Fairfax](#)
01/31/2018 7:30 PM
[11104 Lee Highway \(route 29\)](#) Fairfax VA
- [Singer / Songwriter Showcase at Outta the Way Cafe](#)

02/01/2018 8:00 PM
[17503 Redland Rd, Derwood, MD 20855](#)

Upcoming Workshops

- [VA Songwriter's Toolbox Session \(4th Saturday\)](#)
01/27/2018 10:00 AM
[1210 N Highland St, Arlington, VA 22201](#)



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