

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



**January 30, 2018**

### **Crys Matthew's "Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers"**



Crys Matthews is one of the most exciting things to happen to local music recently. She was the grand prize winner for this year's [New Song contest](#), performing at Lincoln Center in NYC, won several [MASC awards](#), and recently performed at the Sundance Film Festival. And she's been winning the hearts of listeners locally and regionally. We asked Crys if she would be willing to share the story behind one of her songs with SAW members:

*"Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers" has been very good to me this past year, so I thought it would be nice to share a bit of the story behind it.*

*It was inspired by six very specific muses — my mom, Michelle Obama, Nelson Mandela, Rita Mae Brown, Julia Ward Howe, and Eva Cassidy (via Curtis Mayfield.)*

*After the outcome of the 2016 election, I was floored. I am an out, black, lesbian woman living in the south. I was terrified, which made me angry. My mom reminded me that she has seen many presidents come and go in her lifetime and is still standing. Love and faith guide her and that, she reminded me, should guide me.*

*"An army of lovers shall not fail" is a Rita Mae Brown quote that has come to mean a great deal to me. It's really just an amazingly beautiful sentiment that doesn't really need much context beyond that.*

*"When they go low, we go high" — as was famously spoken by former First Lady Michelle Obama — was my mantra going in to 2017 and will be something I will try every day to embody during the next four years.*

*Nelson Mandela very eloquently said, “No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”*

*The meaning of the 1965 song “People Get Ready” (written by Curtis Mayfield) was amplified by the climate in America during the civil rights movement. Eva Cassidy's cover of it has always resonated with me.*

*And last, but not least, which leads me to the title of the song... Julia Ward Howe is the woman who wrote the “Battle Hymn of the Republic” (aka “Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory”). Later she was a suffragette. She wrote, "let us live to make men free".*

*I thought if these few principles could guide our government and our citizens we might all make it to 2020 in one piece (and maybe even in peace). And so, out of those ideas, “Battle Hymn for an Army of Lovers” was born.*

Visit Crys’s [website](#) and see her at the Pearl Street Warehouse on [March 10](#).

**Did you miss the 34th MASC Gala and Concert this year? Watch the [livestream](#) on YouTube**



It was another great celebration of song and our songwriting community at the 34th Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Gala and Concert on Sunday, Jan 21. 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 (there was a slight glitch with the audio at first; it starts about 3:00 in) and we managed to take a few [photos](#) as well.

 **Grace Notes: Songwriters on songwriting - Gleanings from Grace Matuszeski**

I often wonder what it would be like to be Bob Dylan in a bookstore and see an entire shelf of books written about you by people you have never met. *Dylan Goes Electric, Newport, Seeger, Dylan, and the Night That Split the Sixties (2015)* by Elijah Wald,

---

is a 300-page book about a four-song set Dylan performed at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965. Some people booed the set and this book explains why. It seems the folk traditionalists in the audience were upset by Dylan's electric, loud and rock and roll adjacent performance. In the early sixties, folk music was high on the records charts. Although most folk traditionalists welcomed Folk music's popularity, they thought success also compromised quality. They also had a low opinion of rock and roll. By 1965, folk musicians had for the most part been pushed off the charts, which were instead dominated by the British Invasion led by the Beatles. One exception was Bob Dylan, who was not only popular, but a genius. He was seen as folk music's salvation. His influence spread everywhere even to Beatles' songs like "Hide Your Love Away." Dylan's move towards rock and roll, even rock and roll as complex as "Like a Rolling Stone," was seen as a betrayal by folk traditionalists, and they booed it.

## Upcoming Open Mics & Showcases

- [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](#)
- [New Deal Open Mic \(1st Thurs\)](#)  
02/01/2018 7:00 PM  
New Deal Café, [113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD](#)
- [Singer / Songwriter Showcase at Outta the Way Cafe](#)  
02/01/2018 8:00 PM  
[17503 Redland Rd, Derwood, MD 20855](#)
- [SAW Open Mic at Rockville Legion Hall \(1st Fri\)](#)  
02/02/2018 8:00 PM  
Am Legion Post 86, 2013 Viers Mill Road, Rockville, MD
- [Black Squirrel Open Mic](#)  
02/06/2018 8:00 PM  
Black Squirrel Music, [2670 Avenir Place, Vienna, Virginia 22180](#)
- [Acoustic Open Mic at Politics and Prose \(first Wednesdays\)](#)  
02/07/2018 8:00 PM  
[5015 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)
- [Original Songs Open Mic at Cafe Sazon \(2nd Thurs\)](#)  
02/08/2018 7:30 PM  
Cafe Sazón [4704 Columbia Pike](#)
- [Open Mic at Elk's Lodge](#)

02/09/2018 7:30 PM  
Elk's [Lodge, 5 Taft Ct, Rockville, MD 20850](#)

## Upcoming Workshops

- [DC Songwriter's Toolbox Session \(1st Saturdays\)](#)  
02/03/2018 12:00 PM  
Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library, [4450 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC 20016](#)

## Upcoming Song Circles

- [Song Circle at Electric Maid](#)  
02/03/2018 3:00 PM  
[268 Carroll St. NW, Takoma Park, Washington, DC 20012](#)



### **Songwriters Association of Washington**

[4200 Wisconsin Ave, NW, PMB 106-137, Washington, DC 20016](#)

[Facebook](#) • [Twitter](#) • [Instagram](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

Copyright © 2016 Songwriters Association of Washington. All rights reserved.

Contact email: [president@saw.org](mailto:president@saw.org)

You are receiving this message because you opted in at <http://www.saw.org/>