

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



December 26, 2017

The Trail of Volun-Tears

by Jay Keating

Ok, so you have survived the holidays, (so far) and are bracing for the new year. Work, family, friends, loved ones all require your attention. So does songwriting, the loneliest struggle for mass attention ever invented.

So where do I get off trying to tell you to volunteer? For SAW? With other songwriters?

There is a not so secret truth about songwriters. We are, put kindly, a solitary lot. The best of us are often painfully shy and self-absorbed. It helps to whittle your way to the whip smart words if you have a rich interior life. Hyper social loners are a tough breed to herd and very hard but fun group to know.

But there are stories, meaning and self-knowledge to be found in the simple act of volunteering. Ask anyone who does. To help run a show, to arrange a song circle, to serve a meal at SAW serves (Sat Jan 13th in Reston we serve dinner and sing...read about it [here](#)) to write with another songwriter, fundraise for SAW. To just show up at an open mic, toolbox or other event and participate well. All these things make you better at being a songwriter and understanding how to reach people with your words and music.

Our goal for this year is to do more for, be more useful to and learn better from....you. Each of you collectively and individually have things to share and give. More than you know. Less than your fear. SAW needs you to be a working part of things. And SAW plans on being a better part of your process, access and insight.

So make this the year you give more than you take. Help SAW become the volunteer powerhouse that brings light and attention to the idea of songwriters, the reality of creativity in our midst as a way to make ourselves and our creative work...better.

To find out how to volunteer and where, write to president@saw.org.

34th MASC Judging is nearly complete! Winners will be announced [online](#) December 31



Email notifications will be sent out over the next few days to those who entered the MASC this year. Category Awards & Young Artist Recipients will be announced [online](#) December 31.

Grand Prize & Overall Winners will be announced at the Award Night Gala on January 21, 2018.

Get your tickets today for the 34th SAW MASC [Awards Gala](#) & Concert Sunday, January 21 at Jammin' Java. Join us for a magical night, as we celebrate the power of great songs to touch our heart and recognize the songwriting talents of all the entrants. Prepare for amazing performances and a few surprises too.

New SAW AV Club to offer multi-camera switched video shoots...are you in?



StreamCatcher the sequel: At SAW, we are always looking for ways to give you the tools you need to promote your songs. And for selling yourself to venues, there is no better tool than great video.

The all-new SAW AV Club, headed by Steve Pendlebury and Jay Keating, is offering to help you take your visual presentation layer to the next level with a high quality, switched camera shoot. We will provide the

place, the sound, the lights and cameras, and video your live performance of two songs. Musicians will get a finished copy for streaming, showcasing or auditioning purposes that belongs to them for only \$100 (plus \$50 extra for bands, generally). Sign up [HERE](#) to be guaranteed one of the early slots. It's first come first serve so reserve your space for no money down.

If you know someone who loves music who would like to be part of our AV Club (sound, lights, camera, switching) tell them to write to president@saw.org.

NEW! Open Mic at Elk's Lodge in Rockville

Brian Foster is starting a new open mic at the Elk's Lodge in Rockville, starting Friday, January 5. The open mic will be twice a month, on the 1st and 3rd Fridays. See the [event page](#) for more details.

More volunteers needed for our next [SAW Serves event](#) on Saturday, January 13



Please consider joining the team of SAW Serves volunteers for our visit the Embry Rucker Community Shelter. We are still looking for volunteers to help with food preparation, serving, performing/entertaining, and/or clean-up. Set-up starts at 3:15pm; dinner is served at 5:00 and the music is from 6 - 8pm. You'll be glad you did! Please contact Howard Goldberg at 1959hjg@gmail.com with any questions and to volunteer.

Upcoming Open Mics & Showcases

- [SAW Open Mic at Island Pride Oasis](#)
12/27/2017 7:30 PM
Island Pride Oasis, [617 S Frederick Ave, Gaithersburg, MD 20877](#)
- [New Deal Open Mic \(4th Thurs\)](#)
12/28/2017 7:00 PM
New Deal Café, [113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD](#)
- [Black Squirrel Open Mic](#)
01/02/2018 8:00 PM
Black Squirrel Music, [2670 Avenir Place, Vienna, Virginia 22180](#)
- [Acoustic Open Mic at Politics and Prose \(first Wednesdays\)](#)
01/03/2018 8:00 PM
[5015 Connecticut Ave NW, Washington, DC 20008](#)
- [New Deal Open Mic \(1st Thurs\)](#)
01/04/2018 7:00 PM
New Deal Café, [113 Centerway, Greenbelt, MD](#)
- [Open Mic at Elk's Lodge \(1st & 3rd Fridays\)](#)
01/05/2018 7:30 PM
Elk's Lodge, [5 Taft Ct, Rockville, MD 20850](#)

Upcoming Workshops

- [DC Songwriter's Toolbox Session \(1st Saturdays\)](#)
01/06/2018 12:00 PM

Tenley-Friendship Neighborhood Library, [4450 Wisconsin Avenue, Washington, DC 20016](#)

Upcoming Song Circles and Concerts

- [Song Circle at Electric Maid](#)
01/06/2018 3:00 PM
[268 Carroll St. NW, Takoma Park](#), Washington, DC 20012
- [34th SAW MASC Awards Night Gala](#)
01/21/2018 6:30 PM
Jammin' Java, [227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna, VA](#)

Upcoming SAW Serves

- [SAW Serves Meal and Concert](#)
01/13/2018 2:30 PM
Embry Rucker Community Center in Reston



Songwriters Association of Washington

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