

Songwriters'
Association
of Washington

SAW E-Notes



April 2008 Edition



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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello everyone,

It's been a while since I felt the need to grace you with some information from yours truly, but I recently found a new venue for independent artists that I thought I should share.

A few months ago, I released my first CD, *Never Broken*, and have spent a lot of time since searching for new and effective ways to promote my music on the net. In my searches I stumbled upon a company called ArtistFirst Radio Network. From their site: ArtistFirst is an independent, worldwide radio broadcaster that plays "[The Best New Music You've Never Heard](#)". They feature live interviews with independent bands, authors, and personalities, as well as a huge play list composed of undiscovered, brilliant artists.

If you're an independent artist with a new CD coming out, contact ArtistFirst and they will set up a ONE HOUR interview just to showcase you and your music. They call you (no phone billing costs to worry about) and chat for you for an hour about YOU, your music, your experiences, etc. Throughout the show they will play as many songs from your CD that you can. What does this cost, you may be asking yourself... nothing but a donation of the amount of YOUR choice. That's it. And it's definitely worth it to keep this kind of venue open for other fellow indie artists.

I had my interview with them on Saturday (4/5) and I had a blast. I think it's a great way to get your music out there to people ALL OVER THE WORLD that may not otherwise know of your existence, especially if this is your first CD.

So check it out! For more information, and to contact them for an interview, go to www.artistfirst.com. Good luck!

Aisha "Raine" Mahy
SAW Newsletter Editor



SAW NEWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

WATCH FOR MASC 25 UPDATES IN YOUR MAILBOX – ENTER EARLY, ENTER OFTEN!
Polish up your songs and start planning now to enter this year's song contest -- our 25th Mid-Atlantic Song Contest (MASC) will begin in May. Watch your mailbox for special prizes and opportunities MASC 25 will be offering to honor our Silver Anniversary winners. Remember—you can't win if you don't enter!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!! SAW ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 14, 2008
Watch for details in May newsletter.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES: Children's Hospital (DC)

Benefit concert/performance opportunities in the atrium or at many of the different outpatient centers. To play at the Atrium at the main Children's Hospital (in DC), contact: Dana Morgan, 202-484-1976, or by email at damorgan@cnmc.org. For outpatient centers (multiple centers in DC, VA, and MD), contact: Heather Stemas, 202-884-3255.

Outpatient Centers are generally open M-F, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm.

Guitars Not Guns

Guitars Not Guns has an ongoing need for volunteers. Classes normally run on weekdays for an hour some time between 4 & 6 pm. Not all volunteer positions require teaching guitar. If you or someone you know is able to volunteer for this very worthy cause, please contact Skip Chaples, President of the Virginia Chapter of Guitars Not Guns, at fchaples@cox.net for more details.

SAW Serves, SAW's volunteer bureau, would like to invite you to sign up for volunteer performance opportunities, or let us know of any charities/events seeking performers. Send an email to president@saw.org.



SAW EVENTS AT A GLANCE

Take out your calendars and jot down these dates! Go to www.saw.org for updates and more information on any of the following events. **Always be sure to check the SAW website for any updates or date changes for these events.**

APRIL 2008

- 4/10 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum
- 4/11 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike **NEW LOCATION**
- 4/12 (Sat)—Open Mike at the Lab
- 4/13 (Sun)—SAW West Market Showcase featuring Bob Sima
- 4/14 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 4/17 (Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 4/21 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 4/22 (Tues)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 4/24 (Thurs)—SAW Greenbelt/New Deal Café Open Mic—**CANCELLED**
- 4/25 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
- 4/26 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Xchange
- 4/26 (Sat)—SAW/Red Rocks Showcase
- 4/26 (Sat)—SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike

MAY 2008

- 5/2 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
- 5/5 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 5/8 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum
- 5/9 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
- 5/10 (Sat)—Open Mike at the Lab
- 5/12 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 5/15 (Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 5/19 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 5/23 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
- 5/23 (Fri)—SAW/Oneness School Songwriter Showcase
- 5/24 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Xchange
- 5/26 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 5/27 (Tues)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
- 5/31 (Sat)—SAW/Red Rocks Showcase
- 5/31 (Sat)—SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike



SAW EVENTS

The information provided below is a brief synopsis of selected SAW events. For more detailed information please visit our Web site at www.saw.org

SAW OPEN MIKES

SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike in Alexandria , VA

Every LAST Saturday, 7 – 9:30 p.m.

Sign-up begins at 6:45 for 15 minute slots. For questions, or to reserve a time slot for an upcoming open mike at this intimate, comfortable venue, contact Mark Austin at mark@markaustinguitar.com

CANCELLED—SAW Greenbelt Open Mike at New Deal Café

Due to ongoing financial difficulties at the New Deal Cafe in Greenbelt, MD, the longstanding SAW Open Mike there has been suspended and perhaps permanently cancelled. We will see what new management brings. SAW would like to thank hosts Julie Kehrl and Keith Thorne for the well-run, popular and fun open mike they built at the New Deal and for putting up with less than ideal circumstances on many occasions. Julie and Keith wish to express their great appreciation to the many fine performers who played at the New Deal Cafe over the past year and made their first experience as SAW hosts such a memorable one.

NEW LOCATION SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

Every FIRST & SECOND Friday, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

Caribou Coffee; Rock Creek Center; 5562 Norbeck Road, Rockville, MD 20853

Signups begin at 7 p.m., open mike starts at 7:30 pm. **Your original songs only!**

For more information call (301) 460-0047 or e-mail michelle.murray6@verizon.net

NEW! SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Showcase

Every FOURTH Friday, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Caribou Coffee in Rockville, 5562 Norbeck Road, Rock Creek Village

The first showcase was a huge success, featuring several local musicians, many of whom work at NIH. This month on Friday, April 25, we will feature, along with fOlkhead, the fantastic duo of Terry Gourley and Tobias Hurwitz from Baltimore. Charles Tolbert, Celtic fiddle player extraordinaire will also do a few tunes. When it's warm enough to move the show outside onto the large, luxurious patio, we'll add an open mike segment to the end of the 2 hours. To book an upcoming showcase slot, contact Jen Elcano at 301-594-6314.

SAW Open Mike at the Lab

Every SECOND Saturday, 7:30 – 10:45 p.m.

The Lab at Convergence is a large, beautiful, acoustically-pleasing room with plenty of chairs and tables, a piano, a stage, a great sound system and a snack bar! The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria VA. (Take the Shirlington exit off of I-395 and follow the signs to Quaker Lane, then take the second left on Crestwood Drive. The Lab is the first building on the left (large brick building), with the entrance facing Crestwood Drive). Sign-ups begin at 7:00pm with the music running from 7:30 to 10:30. Jim Johnson and Cary Whaley are your friendly hosts. If you have questions, or need additional information please contact Jim Johnson at 703-913-7408, or e-mail jimjohnson@verizon.net

SAW SHOWCASES

SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night

Every 3rd Thursday 7:30 – 11 p.m. (times may vary)

Every 4th Tuesday 7:30 – 11 p.m. (times may vary)

Bangkok Blues Restaurant, 926 W. Broad St. (Rt. 7 East); Falls Church, VA 22046; (703) 534-0095. Third Thursday of each month, with varying start times and musical acts. For more

information, or to be considered for future music slots, contact Ron Goad at Mistergoad@aol.com or go to www.saw.org.

Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase

Every Monday, 8 – 10:30 p.m.

Upstairs at Brewer's Alley Restaurant & Brewery, 124 N. Market Street, Frederick, MD 21701
Telephone: 301-631-0089 Fax: 301-631-1874. www.brewers-alley.com

The Monday Showcase includes a featured act who plays a 45-minute set, and up to 7 others playing 3-song guest sets. There is no cover charge, but a tip basket is passed for the featured act. Interested performers may sign up in advance for guest sets by contacting Ron Goad at Mistergoad@aol.com or by calling (703) 266-7060. This is a great room, great crowd—if you're in the Frederick area on a Monday night, stop by!

SAW Concerts at the Athenaeum (ath-en-NAY-yum)

Every SECOND Thursday, 7 p.m.

Cost: \$10

The Northern Virginia Fine Arts Association (nvfaa.org); 201 Prince Street; Alexandria, VA 22314. A newly-refurbished, beautiful old building and great music that SAW will be filling it with! Hosted by Ron Goad.

UPDATE:

Thursday April 10

The incomparable **Carey Colvin** with Granger Helvey (www.careycolvin.com)

SAW/Oneness School Songwriter Showcase

Friday, May 23, 2008, 7:30 – 11:00 p.m.

St. John's Episcopal Church, 6701 Wisconsin Avenue, Chevy Chase, MD 20815

Cost: Suggested donation of \$10; Contact: Joel Pomerantz, pomeranj@hotmail.com

Located at the Oneness School at the rear of St. John's Episcopal Church (West Street Side).

This is diagonal from the Fire Station and next to Pier One Imports. Parking available near Writer's Center, two blocks north, at the corner of Bradley Lane (Bradley Blvd). Relaxed coffeehouse atmosphere, with a wonderful Bose sound system--Come and enjoy! As the date approaches, check www.saw.org under "SAW Events" for a listing of who will be playing.

UPDATE:

Line-up for May 23, 2008:

7:30pm - Andrew Kutt

8:00pm - Jason Greenwalt

8:30pm - Jonathan Senna

9:00pm - Ilyaimy

9:30pm - Colin Black

10:00pm - Lori Grigsby and Sandy

SAW/Red Rocks Showcase

Every Last Saturday, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Red Rocks Cafe & Tequila Bar; 13850 Braddock Road; Centreville, VA;

www.restaurant.com/redrocks. Hosted by Ron Goad. Sign up in advance via e-mail to

MisterGoad@aol.com. Use of music stands is encouraged and there are usually plenty of backup singers and/or players available upon request! Check the SAW Web site (www.saw.org) for updates. For more information, e-mail Ron Goad or call (703) 266-7060.

SAW-West Market Concert Series

First Sunday EVERY THREE MONTHS

NEXT SHOW: Sunday, April 13, 2008, 7:15 p.m.

West Market Club

1901 Logan Manor Drive

Reston, VA 20190

Come early to have your own indoor/outdoor picnic BYOB and food. Kitchen and BBQ grill facilities too! Donations up to \$10 per person requested/encouraged

The SAW–West Market Concert Series was founded to provide performance opportunities for SAW's best artists and monthly entertainment offerings for West Market residents. SAW-WM Concert Series will usually be on the first Sundays every three months (on a quarterly basis.) For more information contact: SAW coordinator: Greg Vickers, vickershome@comcast.net SAW Sound & Booking Agent: Ron Goad: mistergoad@aol.com West Market Activities Committee: Karen Fegani: karen@residentialadvisers.com

UPDATE:

April 13

The incredible **BOB SIMA** (BobSima.com) w/ openers Greg Vickers and Michelle Murray

OTHER SAW EVENTS

SAW Song Circle – Sunday afternoons 2 pm – 'til you drop.

April 20th—Andrew Coupe's

May 18th—Jim Johnson's

June, July, & August on summer hiatus. No song circles.

September 21st—Jim Clark's

Jim Clark: 2910 Swanee Lane, Fairfax, VA 22031 (703) 272-7676

Jim Johnson: 6424 Wainfleet Ct., Springfield, VA (703) 913-7408

Andrew Coupe: 14 Middlebridge Ct., Silver Spring, MD 20906 (301) 871-6305

Light refreshments are provided. Bring your instrument and songs to share. Bringing food/beverage is always appreciated, but not mandatory! This event is held monthly and the location rotates between the homes of Jim Johnson in Springfield, VA and Jim Clark in Vienna, VA, and Andrew Coupe in Silver Spring, MD.

There is a yahoo list for the Song Circle, which is used primarily for announcements. Members can either add their name to the list by sending e-mail to SAWSongCircle-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or remove their name from the list by sending e-mail to SAWSongCircle-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com

SAW Songwriter Xchange

Every FOURTH Saturday, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria VA. (Take the Shirlington exit off of I-395 and follow the signs to Quaker Lane, then take the second left on Crestwood Drive. The Lab is the first building on the left (big brick building), with the entrance facing Crestwood Drive)

Participants bring a song-in-the-works to share with the group for friendly, constructive feedback. Songwriters can either play their songs live (a piano is available, and there are always guitars around), or bring a recording to play on a boom box. You are encouraged to bring lyric sheets to distribute, too, which will be returned to you, often with helpful comments. Even if you get substantial co-writer-quality input on your song from the group, the copyright remains exclusively

yours!

Each month a different guest artist hosts the first hour of the Xchange. The guest can lead a discussion about the songwriting process, offer a lesson, or actually write a song on the spot. Guest artists usually play three or four songs during their portion of the Xchange, and then help critique your songs-in-progress. There is no fee, but we pass a tip jar around for the guest artist.

The coordinators for the Xchange are Dan Grove and Paige Powell and can be contacted at songxchange@comcast.net or melodiesbypaige@earthlink.net.

UPDATE:

Guest Artists:

April 26 - Rick & Audrey Engdahl of Sense of Wonder

SAW Studio Sessions

April Date TBD, (please contact Eric Weinberg at [703-969-8039/studio@ericweinberg.com](tel:703-969-8039) or check www.saw.org for updates)

May: Wednesday, May 21, 2008 from 7 – 9 p.m.

Golden Sound Studio, 3843 Farragut Avenue, Kensington MD 20895. Contact Scott Harlan at 301-962-1119 or email at ScottHarlan@verizon.net to SIGN UP for May SAW Studio Session

Hosted by Scott Harlan and Eric Weinberg, this event offers SAW members a new outlet for elevating their songwriting. Rather than playing for an audience, come share songs with your peers and with a producer/engineer in a professional recording studio environment. Four or five performers who sign up in advance will convene in the big tracking room, where there will be a combination of room mikes set up to capture conversation, and performance-position microphones set up to capture the individual performer. We'll do two "rounds," where each person performs one song followed by an optional critique by the attendees. You will also have the option of taking a recording of the evening home with you if you provide a blank CD.

THE RULES:

- 1) No bands, and no extra/unnecessary accompaniment.
- 2) Original songs only!
- 3) Performers will be scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- 4) There will be NO "punch-ins"/edits/re-takes. This is the equivalent of a live recording!



OTHER NEWS & EVENTS

SAW Members: send your news for inclusion in this section to Aisha at sawnotes@saw.org.

Must be submitted on a MONTHLY BASIS for inclusion.

NSAI – STEVE SESKIN WORKSHOP/HOUSE CONCERTS

A full-day workshop and song critique session on Saturday, April 19th

Two house concerts – Friday, April 18th and Saturday, April 19th

Hosted by Nashville Songwriters Assoc. International (NSAI) Tyson's Corner, VA/ Washington , DC Chapter

All Day Workshop: Saturday, April 19th Approximately 10AM – 6PM

Clarksville , Maryland (near Columbia , approx. 40 minutes south of Baltimore – exact address to be provided.) **Topics:** *The Curse of the 2nd Verse* - The place where most writers seem to get

stuck. Strategies that can make your 2nd verse even stronger than your 1st; and Melody – Prosody; Exploring the overall vibe of the music, choosing a melody that milks the emotion the writer wants the listener to feel from the lyric; Phrasing and accents to stress the right syllables and help drive home your point; Effective use of rhythm and range.

Afternoon Session: *Song evaluations – each attendee will have one song evaluated by Steve.*
Two House Concerts: Friday, April 18th in Springfield , VA , and Saturday, April 19th at the workshop location. Space is very limited.

COSTS:

Workshop - Members of NSAI, SAW, WAMA and Baltimore Songwriters Assoc. \$50. Non-members: \$60

House Concerts - \$15 each concert (members and non-members). You may purchase multiple spaces if you are planning to attend with a guest. Please indicate which concert, if any. Full address(es) provided upon confirmation.

To Reserve a Space for Workshop or Concerts: Please write checks to “NSAI DC Chapter” and mail to: Don Micallef, 13967 Shalestone Dr., Clifton, VA 20124. Please include your email and phone number. If you have questions or can volunteer to help out at any of the events, please contact Don Micallef at donjmicallef@aol.com.



MEMBER NOTES

This section is open to any type of music announcement SAW members would like to make. Just send your message to sawnotes@saw.org a week before the end of the month for inclusion in the next newsletter.

LYNNE REVO-COHEN WRITES/PRODUCES SONG FOR HILLARY CLINTON CAMPAIGN

Lynne Revo-Cohen, SAW Board member, in collaboration with Annette Rodrigues of "Latinas for Hillary," has written and produced a song and video for the Hillary Clinton campaign, called "Hey Hey Hill/OYE Hillary". This song was initially used for inspiring and turning out the Latino vote in the California primary, but was then successfully used in both the Texas and Ohio primaries as well. It will be used again in the Pennsylvania primary coming up on April 22nd. The song is attached or you can go to the following links on YouTube to hear it:

SPANISH VERSION: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nf1aH0mdJIY>

ENGLISH VERSION: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o9i7G4Hqmxk>

Great vocals can be heard from SAW Board member, Danielle Westphal, and local vocalists Meritxell Negre, Nina Harley, and George Diaz. The campaign loves this song and plays it at voting places, at fundraisers, and at speaking events for the Clintons and their surrogate speakers.



CLASSIFIEDS

Classified Ads are charged PER WORD. They are **FREE TO SAW MEMBERS** and \$0.25/word for non-members. Please send your classified ad to sawnotes@saw.org for inclusion in the next e-newsletter. **Classifieds MUST be submitted on a monthly basis for inclusion AND WILL ONLY BE ALLOWED TO RUN TWO MONTHS IN A ROW AT MAX. If you have a print-ready ad, send it right away to make sure you are in the very next newsletter. It is your responsibility to resend the ad each month, for as long as you need it.**

AISHA RAINE ISO GUITARISTS AND BASSIST

Singer/songwriter Aisha Raine released her alt/rock album, *Never Broken*, in December 2007. She is currently looking for musicians to play live with. If you can play music in the styles of bands like Evanescence, Paramore, Linkin Park, and Breaking Benjamin, contact Aisha at Aisha@aisharaine.com. To check out her songs in advance, they can be found at her official site: www.aisharaine.com or her MySpace page: www.myspace.com/aisharaine

SAW Members Special!

SAW Members receive 25% off their first session. For more information and to schedule a studio tour, please contact: Scott Harlan, Golden Sound Studio, (301) 962-1119, GoldenSoundStudio@gmail.com, www.GoldenSoundStudio.com



SAW'S MASC SPONSORS

BMI: Music Licensing
www.bmi.com

CF MARTIN & COMPANY (The Martin Guitar Company)
<http://www.martinguitar.com>

MARY CLIFF & Traditions radio show on WAMU
<http://marycliff.net>

FOLK ALLIANCE
www.folk.org

Jammin' Java: Concert Venue
www.jamminjava.com

MASTERWRITER: computer software for songwriters
www.masterwriter.com

Oasis CD Manufacturing
www.oasiscd.com

Omega Recording Studios
www.omegastudios.com

SONGWRITER'S MARKET 2007
www.songwritersmarket.com

Taxi: The World's Leading Independent A&R Company
www.taxi.com



NEXT NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
EARLY DEADLINE: Friday, April 25, 2008 @ 5 p.m.
Please e-mail your submissions for the next e-newsletter to Aisha Mahy at sawnotes@saw.org