

Songwriters'
Association
of Washington

SAW E-Notes



FEBRUARY 2009



IN THIS ISSUE

1. Letter from the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Director
2. SAW Workshops
3. **SAW Events: At a Glance**
4. Other SAW News & Events: Updates & More
5. Other News & Events
6. Member Notes
7. Classifieds
8. Volunteer Opportunities
9. MASC Sponsors



LETTER from the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Director

A great big thanks!!!

The Gala on January 11 was, I believe, a smashing success. Much of that due to the volunteers' incredible generosity of spirit in offering to help staff the event! We had a well oiled no-squeak machine. So much of our audience members stayed with eyes glued to the stage all night and it was very, very exciting to have so many of our top winners there. Thank you so much for all that you did to celebrate the creative—not only in the winners, but in all of the artists present.

Very special thanks are due to Diana Quinn for emceeing! Mike Woods was her gracious assistant and we are indebted to him as well for staying stage-side for the entire evening. Ron Goad and his assistants were great at helping each artist to the stage and working with all the performers. Linda Hiserman and Dan Grove ran front of house. Susan Bates was our official volunteer portrait photographer all night long and Aisha Mahy shot candid. Thanks to both for doing a stellar job.

While we've thanked each volunteer directly, there are too many, way too many to thank individually here. Know that you are appreciated. I have to mention that every board member of SAW who could be there was there, and each took on a task of staffing a spot, presenting awards, or being a "go-to" person all night. Last but certainly not least, Ginger Starling, Assistant Director, was invaluable!

This night was truly a celebration of the craft of songwriting.

UPDATE

Photos & Videos

We will be in touch shortly with you if your photo was taken and will let you know as soon as we have the video as well. We're working on wrapping up everything now, so if you haven't gotten your certificate or need it corrected, please let me know directly at Siobhan@roundhousemusic.com.

SONICBIDS Contestants

I have been told that Sonicbids sent out an automatic update of status for the 25th contest on February 1. We had written a gracious note to contestants (both the placing & non placing songwriters) but the Sonicbids notification was a little cold and dry. We're not sure why that happened and if you received theirs but not the other, please know that those were not our words and accept our hearty apologies. I was quite surprised, and disheartened to see that. I will be taking that matter up with Sonicbids this week and am in the process of sending personal notes to each songwriter who received that notification.

Again, many thanks for supporting the SAW educational programs through the contest.

BENEFITS OF SPONSORSHIP/ 26th Annual MASC

We would like to continue to present the cash prize for each gold winner and are seeking sponsors for the \$100 Gold prizes as well as service and product awards. We already have TWO Golds covered but there are eleven left including the Young Artist Award & the International Award. If you would like to advertise your songwriting business, or just be an amazing community member supporting songwriting—we'd like to talk to you about the benefits of sponsorship. The deadline to be acknowledged in the entry form is April 1. Many thanks in advance for your consideration.

Siobhan Quinn
Contest Director



SAW WORKSHOPS

WORKSHOP: SAW/Spook Handy Presents Simple Measures for Drastic Guitar Playing Improvement (Bring Your Guitar)

Saturday, February 14th, 2009 @ Noon

Takoma Park Presbyterian Church; 7500 Maple Avenue (On corner of Tulip and Maple- 3 blocks from the Takoma Metro!); Takoma Park, MD 20912

Cost: Pre-Registration-\$25 for SAW/WAMA Members, \$30 for Non-Members

It's easy to drastically improve your guitar playing by learning a few simple techniques. Having MCed over 1200 open mics over a 20 year period - and hearing over 3000 performers of all ability levels - Spook has been astonished by how many guitar players do little more than strum their instruments and don't take advantage of simple tools that will make them stand out as accomplished players.

Fortunately, he picked up a few guitar concepts early on from some hot bluegrass players. The fact that he doesn't play bluegrass makes these techniques all the more better, because he applies them to genres where they are often overlooked. Now, he wants to share these techniques, so he put together this workshop for the beginner and intermediate level performer.

According to individual ability workshop participants will:

- * Learn about bass lines, riff lines and chord embellishments
- * Explore how to add these to songs they already play
- * Learn and practice hammer-ons, pull offs, slides and bends
- * Explore chord inversions and alternative chord structures on songs they already play
- * Learn and practice simple and intermediate finger style techniques.
- * Explore dynamics and contrast
- * Learn why knowing a variety of tuning techniques can make your guitar stay better tuned.

This hands-on workshop is designed for the beginner and intermediate level guitar player. Bring your guitar, paper and pencil and the desire to drastically improve your guitar playing.

About the instructor:

Spook Handy has written hundreds of songs and performed over 2000 concerts in his 20 year career. His songs have been covered by dozens of other artists including Pete Seeger. He has won numerous awards and accolades including "Best Folk Artist" by Upstage Magazine in 2004 and "Best Folk Artist You've Never Heard Of" by About.com in 2006.

Spook has recorded four CDs with his most recent, "Whatcha Gonna Do?" topping out at #12 on the Folk Radio Charts in 2007. His song "Vote" was a top 10 hit on Folk Radio in October 2008. Spook has also written music for theatre and film.

Since 1985, Spook has organized and/or MCed over 1200 musical events including New Jersey's longest ever running open mic, "The Spook Handy Show" which ran from 1985 to 2005. He has MCed "Freehold Idol" in Freehold, NJ and "Idol Search" in Little Falls, NJ. In that time, he's seen over 3000 musicians perform and has developed quite an eye for effective stage presence.
www.spookhandy.com

WORKSHOP: Songwriting Workshop with Grammy Winners Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2009 (10:00am - 2:00pm)

Place: Lab at Convergence, 1819 Crestwood Drive, Alexandria VA

Price \$50 only 50 seats available

www.cathymarcy.com

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer will lead 2 concurrent sessions from 10-12pm, followed by a lunch break. They will then do a session together from 12:30-2pm. Bring paper and writing implements for "in workshop" exercises.

Cathy's session will focus on 3 topics:

- 1) The elements of a great song
- 2) Songwriting practice and exercises
- 3) The intention behind your songs-who/what are you writing for and how does that influence your approach.

Marcy's Session will focus on 3 topics:

- 1) Tools of rhyme and poetry
- 2) Writing with a specific purpose or theme
- 3) Inspiration: where and how it meets art & craft

The session with Cathy & Marcy together will cover co-writing, editing yourself, and getting help from others in editing.

Cathy Fink & Marcy Marxer have been nominated 13 consecutive times for GRAMMY Awards in folk and children's music. They have won 2 GRAMMY Awards for the original CD "Bon Appétit!: Musical Food Fun and "cELLABration: a Tribute to Ella Jenkins". Their song "Scat Like That" took first place in both the John Lennon Songwriting Contest and the ISC (children's music). Cathy's song "Names" placed first in the Mid Atlantic Songwriting Contests "Folk" category. They collectively have nearly 50 WAMMY Awards. www.cathymarcy.com



SAW EVENTS: AT-A-GLANCE

Here is a quick list of upcoming SAW events. **Please check the Web site, www.saw.org, for detailed and up-to-date information.**

FEBRUARY 2009

2/1 (Sun)—SAW Serves at National Rehabilitation Hospital

2/2 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)—Mary Battiata (Rod Deacey's Birthday!)

NEW!→2/4 (Wed)—SAW Showcase at Austin Grill (Centreville, VA)

2/6 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

2/9 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)—Todd Coyle

2/9 (Mon)—SAW Jammin' Java Open Mike (Vienna, VA)

NEW!→2/11 (Wed)—SAW JJ Muldoons Open Mike (Gaithersburg, MD)—Chapter 3 Trio, Folkhead, Christina Van Norman, Alper T. Edwin Doss, Patty Reese

NEW!→2/11 (Wed)—SAW Showcase at Austin Grill (Centreville, VA)

2/12 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum

2/13 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

2/14 (Sat)—SAW Open Mike at The Lab

2/15 (Sun)—SAW Serves at National Rehabilitation Hospital

2/16 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)—ilyAIMY (Ron Hinkal & Heather Lloyd)

2/16 (Mon)—SAW Jammin' Java Open Mike (Vienna, VA)

NEW!→2/18 (Wed)—SAW Showcase at Austin Grill (Centreville, VA)

2/19 (Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night: Eric Scott, Tom O'Connor, Patrice Moerman, The Big Cheese (extended set by Larry Rice, Shannon Rice & Lea Mae Rice), The Jim & Ashley Cash Band, and Annie Sidley

NEW!→2/19 (Thurs)—SAW Beans in the Belfry Open Mike (Brunswick, MD)

2/22 (Sun)—SAW Serves at National Rehabilitation Hospital

2/22 (Sun)—SAW Song Circle @ Michelle Murray's Home (see www.saw.org for details)

2/23 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)—Gina DeSimone & the Moaners

2/23 (Mon)—SAW Jammin' Java Open Mike (Vienna, VA)

NEW!→2/25 (Wed)—SAW Showcase at Austin Grill (Centreville, VA) 2/25 (Wed)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night

2/26 (Thurs)—SAW New Deal Café Open Mike

2/28 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters XChange—Guest Artist: Laura Baron

~~2/28 (Sat)—SAW Open Mike at Cameron Perks~~ **CANCELLED**

MARCH 2009

3/1 (Sun)—SAW Serves at National Rehabilitation Hospital

3/2 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)

3/6 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

3/9 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Night (Frederick, MD)

3/9 (Mon)—SAW Jammin' Java Open Mike (Vienna, VA)
NEW!→3/11 (Wed)—SAW JJ Muldoons Open Mike (Gaithersburg, MD)
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3/15 (Sun)—SAW Serves at National Rehabilitation Hospital
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3/23 (Mon)—SAW Jammin' Java Open Mike (Vienna, VA)
3/25 (Wed)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
3/26 (Thurs)—SAW New Deal Café Open Mike
3/28 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters XChange

March Notes:

—SAW Showcase at the Austin Grill dates TBD

—SAW Song Circle date & location TBD

(see the March SAW e- newsletter or www.saw.org for updates)



OTHER SAW NEWS & EVENTS: Updates & More

NEW!

SAW Showcase at Austin Grill
Wednesdays from 8 – 10 p.m.; Starts Wednesday, February 4, 2009
Austin Grill; 5825 Trinity Parkway; Centreville, VA 20120

No cover charge. Includes performances by the hosts of each show

February 4: Hosted by Sol Roots (<http://www.Sol-Roots.com>), including Demetrios Jam (<http://www.myspace.com/DemetriosJam>)

February 11: Hosted by Folkhead (<http://folkhead.org>)

February 18: Hosted by Patty Reese (<http://PattyReese.com>)

February 25: Hosted by Folkhead (<http://folkhead.org>)

Attend and support The Austin Grill shows above and the series may continue beyond Feb.

NEW!

SONGWRITER'S SHOWCASE PRESENTED BY SAW/BMI IN GAITHERSBURG, MD
Second Wednesday Every Month @ 8 p.m.

JJ Muldoons; 16143 Shady Grove Rd; Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877

Beginning Wed. February 11, 2009, the second Wed. of every month will be dedicated to showcase our areas best songwriting talent. The evening will begin with a short set by host Patty Reese followed by 1/2 hour to 45 min. sets by pre-scheduled artists. To sign up contact Patty Reese at patty@pattyreese.com.

NEW!

SAW OPEN MIKE IN BRUNSWICK AT BEANS IN THE BELFRY
Every Third Thursday, 7 – 9 p.m., Starts February 19th

SAW-Sponsored Monthly Open Mic
Tomy Wright Hosts
Beans in the Belfry
122 W. Potomac St. | Brunswick, MD
301-834-7178
www.beansinthebelfry.com

**SAW BOARD MEMBER MICHELLE MURRAY HOSTS ONLINE RADIO SHOW FEATURING
SAW SONGWRITERS AND PRESENTERS**

The Open Stage, an online radio show on BlogTalkRadio hosted by SAW Board Member Michelle Murray, features the best of the Washington D.C./Baltimore area singer/songwriters, including members of the Songwriter's Association of Washington. Each show will feature an interview and music from a different songwriter, and we'll talk about song inspiration, the songwriting process, and of course, tracks from artists' CDs and upcoming shows to attend.

In the coming months, Michelle will feature many talented musicians, including Patty Reese, Lori Grigsby, Lisa Taylor and Daryl Davis. Past shows have featured Jon Carroll, Laura Baron, Dulcie Taylor, Andrew McKnight, Jean Bayou, and Tom Dews.

This live, online radio show will be broadcast on blogtalkradio.com and all shows will be archived in a podcast library. You can listen to all archived shows and get updates on upcoming shows by visiting Michelle's show page at:

<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/The-Open-Stage>.



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.*

THE 23RD ANNUAL WAMMIES AWARDS

Sunday, February 15, The State Theatre, Falls Church, VA

SAW will once again be a co-sponsor of the Wammie award for 2008 Songwriter of the Year, and will have a table at the Wammies. Go to <http://wamadc.com/wama> to purchase your Wammies tickets before they're sold out!

FUTURE OF MUSIC POLICY DAY

All day-Wednesday, February 11th, 2009 at the National Geographic Society Grovesnor Auditorium at 1145 17th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 at 17th and M. Interesting discussion and forums of changes wrought by regulatory and technological changes upon the music community. Admission \$50 with cocktail party to follow immediately after at the Black Cat. Free admission with Student Scholarships, some of which may still be available. Also, a Pho dinner the night before Tuesday the 10th in Clarendon in Arlington, VA. For further details, please see the website at www.futureofmusic.org.

JPFOLKS ROADTRIP SHOWCASE

Brian Austin Whitney, President of JPFOLKS is organizing a JPFOLKS roadtrip showcase of musicians and songwriters during his short visit to DC. JPFOLKS is a worldwide online networking and support forum and organization and website for musicians that can be visited at www.jpfolks.com/. They are still looking for musicians to perform. The showcase will take place on the night of Thursday, February 12, 2009 from 7 PM to Midnight at the new venue "CoffiHouse" at 8433 Lee Highway (corner of Prosperity), Merrifield, VA 22031 near the Dunn Loring Metro Station. They may still be looking for a group with a backline. The phone number of CoffiHouse is 703-677-8290 and their website is www.coffihouse.com/. To sign up for the showcase, contact Brian at jpfolkspro@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 ANY TIME before the end of the month for inclusion in the next month's newsletter.

None submitted for February 2009.



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. 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.***

For Sale, 2 digital recording systems

1 Presonus Firepod - \$200.00: <http://presonus.com/products/Detail.aspx?ProductId=3>

1 Lexicon Omega - \$100.00: <http://www.lexiconpro.com/ProductIndex.aspx?ProductID=6>

Email larry8049@yahoo.com



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SAW SERVES

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.

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 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

UPDATED!!! SAW SERVES AT NATIONAL REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

On June 1, 2008, Jeff Silberberg of Olney, MD began hosting Live Music Sunday at NRH in the ground floor cafeteria of the National Rehabilitation Hospital, 102 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC. Showcases are held once a month on Sunday afternoon, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. In September 2008 he began also hosting showcases once a month in the second floor cafeteria of Adventist Rehabilitation Hospital, 9909 Medical Center Drive, Rockville, MD. Advntist Rehab showcases are Sunday afternoon, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Musicians interested in performing at either venue can contact Jeff Silberberg at jeffrey.silberberg@verizon.net or 301-775-6468. This activity is in conjunction with the Songwriter's Association of Washington (SAW) and SAW Serves.

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.

The NEW DC Chapter of Guitars Not Guns is making progress in its establishment and will be welcoming volunteers. You will be helping to enrich the lives of many foster care children and at risk youth in the DC area. Donations will also be accepted. Contact Gregg Hammond at gregguitarlessons@yahoo.com to help make a difference.



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

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:
Friday, February 27, 2009 by 5 p.m.**



SEND US YOUR NEWS!! This newsletter will be as good as SAW members want to make it. If you have something to share, please send it in!

To make sure your item, event, member note, or classified is included in the next issue of *SAW Notes* send your information to me RIGHT AWAY. I will make sure that it gets in. But the absolute final deadline is the one listed above. Please e-mail your submissions for the next e-newsletter to Aisha Mahy at sawnotes@saw.org