

Songwriters'
Association
of Washington

SAW E-Notes



May 2008 Edition



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SAW NEWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

WORKSHOP—ANNUAL MEETING—PARTY—PLAY!!!!

SAW has a very exciting day planned for Saturday, June 14, 2008, in Alexandria, VA, and we want you to join us for some or all of the festivities. This will be an opportunity to meet and mingle with fellow songwriters in several different settings (but conveniently, all at the same place!) Non-members are also welcome to attend.

We will start off the day with a lively, informative and very relevant workshop presented by Scott and Jen Smith of the band Naked Blue. Known and loved by many in the DC area, Scott and Jen will delve into Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting (see article below) from 1 - 4 p.m.

At 4:30 p.m. we will hold our long-anticipated SAW Annual Meeting, voting on proposed bylaw revisions and electing the 2008/2009 Board of Directors. We need a quorum, so please plan to attend this meeting. You will also hear what's been going on with SAW and have a chance to provide input. There will be door prizes and drawings! We will try to make this meeting as brief as possible so we can get on to the.....

PARTY! Starting around 5:30 p.m., SAW would like to invite you to be our guests for dinner (we will provide everything--no need to get your casserole dishes out, thanks to our sponsor, BMI)!

We will be sending out an invitation via email with RSVP, so please be looking for it within the next week or so. After we have all had our fill, then it will be time to PLAY!!!

Our regularly scheduled monthly SAW Open Mic will begin at 7:30 pm with an opportunity for all to hear and be heard!

All of this will take place at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA, a very comfortable space with a great sound system and stage. We look forward to seeing you there!

Jean Bayou, President
email: president@saw.org

WORKSHOP: Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting

Saturday, June 14, 2008, from 1 – 4 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to get your songs into television, film or in the hands of successful recording artists? Are you looking for focus on where you'd like your songs to end up and what you can do to get them there? Are you concerned that your work isn't "refined" enough to be appealing, or if you should commercialize to appeal to the masses?

In SAW's upcoming workshop, Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting, successful songwriting veterans Jen and Scott Smith of the band Naked Blue will share their experiences as writers in the "industry". The workshop will begin with a discussion of the joys & conflicts they have experienced while making (and trying to make) money from their songs. Jen and Scott will deconstruct a hit song and define the elements that make it broadly appealing. You will have an opportunity to have them help you apply some of those concepts of "craft" to your songs. So be sure to bring copies of your lyrics and a guitar or recording of the song you want to work on. They will conclude the workshop with a Q&A time on practical and legal issues affecting songwriters in today's market. If you have ever paid for a consultation with an entertainment lawyer to answer questions about today's legal issues, you will realize that this part of the workshop alone makes it well worth the price of admission!

By the end of the session you will have gained some focus on where you'd like your songs to end up and what you can do to help get them there.

Scott & Jen Smith have written hundreds of songs, released 5 CDs and co-written and/or worked with a few high profile artists including Anton Fig, Ivan Neville, Gary Nicholson, Kenny Rogers, Pete Brown & John & Sally Tiven. They've had songs recorded by MCA recording artists Evangeline, Telarc Records recording artist Troy Turner and have appeared on compilations including The British at Midem, A Taste of AAA, Paste Magazine Sampler 2 and 3, Recording Magazine Playback 18 and 3 Best of Taxi compilations, to name a few. Their most recent CD peaked at #105 on FMOB. Scott & Jen have also had song placements in 14 films & TV shows to date.

Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2008

Time: 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Place: The Lab at Convergence (1819 N Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA).

Cost: \$30 SAW members / \$40 non-members if registered by June 6.

\$40/\$50 after June 6. Please go to the SAW website (www.saw.org) to register or email Patty Reese with questions at education@saw.org.

MASC CONTEST UPDATE

Submissions to SAW's 25th anniversary Mid Atlantic Song Contest will open online June 1. Our final **deadline will be August 15**. We will have many of the great prizes you look for each year plus some extra special ones to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Our goal this year-- along with getting the winners cash to reward and to help their songwriting career-- is to provide prizes which will assist them with marketing their songs. We're working on some last minute touches but they will likely include video production, demo, web promotions and educational opportunities. This is going to be an exciting year. Since you are a SAW member you will get an application in your mailbox. If you would prefer to opt out of the mailing and submit online (Sonicbids or www.SAW.org), please let us know and we'll try to save a tree or two.

Most importantly: If you know of anyone, from beginning songwriters to professionals making less than \$5,000 from songwriting (that's royalties) each year, please pass on this information to them and encourage them to enter. They can email masc@saw.org with their contact information or any questions they may have. Please also email us at the same address with any updates/changes in your contact information to help us to reduce the number of returned mail pieces. Proceeds from the contest, after prizes and expenses are paid, help support SAW's activities—so enter early and enter often. We're so excited about this year's contest that we are singing with glee!!

SAW Membership Has Its Advantages

Our greatest asset in the Songwriters' Association of Washington is our members. The SAW Members Directory, distributed monthly via email only to current SAW Members, is not just a listing of names and phone numbers--it is a great networking tool.

Each listing is tailor-made to include only the information you wish to be shared. For example, some members prefer not to list their home phone or street address. Some prefer to be contacted by cell phone or email. If you opt not to include an address, note that listing at least your city and state is encouraged, because members are more likely to call someone who is a short drive away. Some members list MySpace addresses and/or Websites, inviting other members to visit.

Along with their listing, members are encouraged to include a FREE ad, limited to 20 words or less. Examples of ads include, "Looking for drummer and bass player" or "I have a small studio with discount prices for SAW members" or "Want to collaborate with someone good at writing music" or "I teach keyboard lessons". This way, members are inviting others to contact them. Combining our strengths and skills helps us become better songwriters, better musicians, and better promoters of our songwriting.

The SAW Members Directory is managed and updated monthly by Paige Powell, the SAW Membership Administrator. Feel free to contact her to check on or update your membership status or with any changes or questions you may have at melodiesbypaige@earthlink.net.

SAW Welcomes New Education Director

SAW would like to welcome and profusely thank our new Education Director, Patty Reese. Patty has jumped right in and planned and coordinated the upcoming **Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting** workshop for June 14. She has many things up her sleeve, so be watching for some exciting things coming your way!

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

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 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

Due to space constraints, we will no longer be providing a detailed listing in the newsletter for ongoing SAW events, but they are all listed, in detail, on our website at www.saw.org. We will feature any new events and provide updates here.

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
- 5-18 (Sun)--SAW Song Circle @Jim Johnson's
(*On Summer Hiatus—June, July, & August--September 21st @ Jim Clark's*)
- 5/19 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
- 5/21 (Wed)—SAW Studio Sessions
- 5/23 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
- 5/23 (Fri)—SAW/Oneness School Songwriter Showcase
Line-up:
 - 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 Moyer
- 5/24 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Xchange
Guest Artist: Tom Dews
- 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

JUNE 2008

6/2 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
6/6 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
6/9 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
6/12 (Thurs)—SAW Concert at the Athenaeum
6/13 (Fri)—SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
6/14 (Sat) —Workshop: Balancing the Art, Craft & Business of Songwriting (1 – 4 p.m.)
6/14 (Sat)—SAW Annual Meeting
6/14 (Sat) —Be SAW's guest for dinner
6/14 (Sat)—Open Mike at the Lab
6/16 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
6/18 (Wed)—SAW Studio Sessions
6/19(Thurs)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
6/23 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
6/24 (Tues)—SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
6/27 (Fri)—SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
6/28 (Sat)—SAW Songwriters Xchange
Guest Artist: Bill Williams
6/28 (Sat)—SAW/Red Rocks Showcase
6/28 (Sat)—SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike
6/30 (Mon)—Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase



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.

Golden Sound Studio Presents “A Night of Notes” to Benefit Hungry for Music Charity Concert—SAW Members Discount

Show your SAW member card for an \$8.00 admission, a \$2 dollar savings!

Golden Sound Studio Presents “A Night of Notes” to Benefit Hungry for Music; Sunday, June 1, 2008 at 7:00pm (doors open at 6:30pm); Kensington Armory; 3710 Mitchell Street; Kensington, MD 20895.

Enjoy an evening of live music performances from Golden Sound Studio recording artists: Sarah Swanner, “Friday Nights,” Taylor Carson, “Tangled in Truth and Standing Alone” and Scott Harlan, “The Best is Yet To Come.” For more information, please contact: Scott Harlan, Golden Sound Studio, (301) 962-1119, GoldenSoundStudio@gmail.com, www.GoldenSoundStudio.com

Sounds in the Square Concerts to Rock Farragut Park—Summer Concert Series Kicked Off May 8

Downtown is going to heat up this summer when DC's hottest bands take the stage during the free “Sounds in the Square” concert series, sponsored by the Golden Triangle Business Improvement District (BID). Held in Farragut Square Park Thursday evenings in May and June from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., the series commences May 8 and promises to rock the business district like never before - lawyers will become rock stars after work and post-concert parties at area bars

and clubs will keep the vibe alive into the wee hours. In addition, interested guests will have a chance to win an Epiphone guitar or a scooter from Coleman PowerSports.

"This year's concerts are going to transform Farragut Square Park into the summer's top post-work destination," said Leona Agouridis, Executive Director of The Golden Triangle BID. "Our event production and promotion team have booked some of the most popular acts in the area and with the 75,000+ people working within walking distance of the concerts, this is a great opportunity to see an amazing show each week this summer."

Kicking off the series is No Second Troy, a band that Spin Magazine says "burns bright as the sun" and who received a nod from The Washington City Paper as one of DC's best local bands in 2008. Other acts in May and June include the Kelly Bell Band, voted "Best Blues Band" six years in a row by Music Monthly, and Junkfood, Washington City Paper's 2008 Best Local Band.

"It's rare to have this caliber of musicians perform for free in public," Agouridis continued. "We hope people stay around for the after-concert events that will be going on each week in the neighborhood."

WHAT: Sounds in the Square, Summer Concert Series
WHEN: Thursdays, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
May 8, 15, 22 and June 5, 12, 19, 26
WHERE: Farragut Square Park, Connecticut Avenue & K Street, NW
WHO: JUSTIN JONES & THE DRIVING RAIN, EVERYONE BUT PETE,
JUNKFOOD, KELLY BELL BAND, CROWDED STREETS, and THE REFLEX
COST: FREE
WEBSITES: www.goldentriangledc.com or <http://www.ontaponline.com/sounds>

UPCOMING IN THE CONCERT SERIES:

May 15: Justin Jones & the Driving Rain, Country, www.justin-jones.com

May 22: Everyone But Pete, Rock, www.everyonebutpete.com

May 29: No concert

June 5: JunkFood, Rock, www.gotjunkfood.com

June 12: Kelly Bell Band, Blues & Funk, www.phatblues.com

June 19: Crowded Streets – Dave Matthews Tribute, www.myspace.com/crowdedstreets

June 26: The Reflex, Popular 80s Retro, www.reflexlive.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.

Meg Baker Performs Benefit Concert for Her New Release "Red Jacket Road"

Composer/Songwriter and former SAW President Meg Baker is celebrating the release of her CD Red Jacket Road with a 2:00 PM Benefit Concert on June 1st at St. Paul's United Methodist

Church, 10401 Armory Avenue, Kensington, MD. The concert will feature her piano works, some of which will include percussion, bass, guitar, woodwinds, and strings. Harp music, also her own, will be a part of the program as well. Suggested donation is \$20, which will support A Wider Circle, a non-profit grassroots organization whose mission is to help the impoverished in the Washington DC metropolitan region lift themselves out of poverty (www.awidercircle.org). Every dollar donated will be matched 100% by undisclosed benefactors. The event will conclude with a reception on-site. For more information, go to www.megbaker.com or phone 240-723-6642.

Focus Inn Alexandria presents Ellis, with Bob Sima

Focus Inn Alexandria presents Ellis, with Bob Sima on Sunday, June 8, at 7 p.m. at Church of the Resurrection, 2280 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, Va. 22311. \$15 general, \$12 members.

Contact: Herb at herbcl@earthlink.net, 703-380-3151, or log onto www.focusmusic.org.

The June 8 show, a co-bill of Ellis (Ellis Bergeron, a Texas native now based in Minnesota) and Bob Sima (formerly of the Stereopool power trio out of Annapolis) closes the Focus Alexandria season until September.

Ellis created a buzz after being voted "Most Wanted to Return" and performing on the Falcon Ridge (N.Y.) Folk Festival preview tour in 2006. This talented singer, songwriter and guitarist has since been invited back to several première listening rooms including Club Passim, Outpost in the Burbs, Caffè Lena and P.A.C.E. She also has opened for established artists such as Patty Larkin, Richard Shindell, Cheryl Wheeler and Todd Snider. Known for her vibrant and open-hearted nature and contagious sense of humor, Ellis' music is described as joyful, unpretentious modern folk with a slight hint of country inspired by her southern roots.

Although she tours nationally more than 130 dates each year, she continues to retain a devoted following in Minneapolis where she was voted Best Musician for five consecutive years and named 2007 Best Musical Artist by readers of the Minnesota Women's Press. She is also a favorite on college campuses, and students recently nominated her as 2006 Best Female Performer in Campus Activities Magazine.

Bob Sima, of Woodbine, Md., has embarked on a solo acoustic career. Very much influenced by Van Morrison, his 2006 CD "Pour It On" is full of funky acoustic guitar, rich piano, a taste of gospel, folk and great storytelling. Last year he performed in emerging artist showcases at the Falcon Ridge (N.Y.), Avalon (W.Va.) and Takoma Park (Md.) folk festivals; this month, he's a New Folk finalist at the Kerrville (Texas) festival. Bob also hosts and books a singer-songwriter in the round at Austin Grill in Rockville, Md.

Performers' Web sites: www.ellis-music.com, www.bobsima.com. You can also hear sound clips at their MySpace sites, myspace.com/ellismusic and myspace.com/bob_sima.



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 Guitarist

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 hear her check out www.aisharaine.com or www.myspace.com/aisharaine

Recording Special for SAW Members

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

Musician ISO Band

Melobar slide guitar/Dobro and Pedal Steel player looking for country, country rock, folk or ? to play with in Northern Va. Also play passable rhythm guitar. My band just broke up and I need to keep my chops fresh. Please contact Thierry at thierry@sagnier.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, May 30, 2008 @ 5 p.m.**

Please e-mail your submissions for the next e-newsletter to Aisha Mahy at sawnotes@saw.org