



Songwriters'
Association
of Washington

SAW E-Notes

OCTOBER 2008



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SAW NEWS & SPECIAL EVENTS

All SAW members are welcome and encouraged to submit articles of interest to the songwriting community for publication in this newsletter. Please send your submissions to sawnotes@saw.org

NEW SONG CIRCLE LOCATION

There will be a new SAW Song Circle location in Olney, Maryland, starting at 2 p.m. on Sunday, October 19th at the home of Michelle Murray, 2822 Thickett Way, Olney, MD 20832 Phone: 301-570-3159. This is an informal group of songwriters playing their songs for each other--basically a songwriters' party. Great opportunity to meet other songwriters, collaborate, accompany, listen, play and have some fun. We would like to encourage Maryland SAW members (and any other interested songwriters) to attend and help build a strong base for this event.

MID-ATLANTIC SONG CONTEST UPDATE

We are so excited by the really wonderful songs submitted to the contest this year. We received 900 or so entries from all over the world for the 25th Annual Contest. Thank you all for supporting the education programs of the Songwriters Association of Washington DC.

The Panels are just getting underway and we have judges from all over the country participating. We will notify finalists in late November of your status, and the Grand Prize panel will convene late in November. Save the date of December 7th for the Awards Gala. The Grand Prize winner will be announced, and all winners will be honored that night.

SAW BOARD MEMBER MICHELLE MURRAY TO DEBUT NEW ONLINE RADIO SHOW FEATURING SAW SONGWRITERS AND PRESENTERS

The show, called Open Stage, will feature the best of local singer/songwriters, including members of SAW and BSA. This live, online radio show will be broadcast on blogtalkradio.com and all shows will be archived in a podcast library.

Michelle's first show, which will air on Wednesday, October 8th at 1 p.m., will feature singer/songwriter Andrew McKnight, who will be leading a SAW songwriting workshop on October 11th.

For more information or to listen to shows, visit Michelle's show page at:
<http://www.blogtalkradio.com/The-Open-Stage>

NERFA OFFERS SAW MEMBER DISCOUNT - SIGN UP NOW! (You'll be glad you did!)

The Northeast Regional Folk Alliance (NERFA) is hosting its annual conference November 13-16 at the Hudson Valley Resort in Kerhonkson, NY. This is a conference for those who are professionally involved in music or those who wish they were. This includes performing artists, agents, managers, presenters, record labels, media, art administrators, festival organizers, folk societies, folklorists and DJs. We've also added a showcase and special workshops on doing family music. We'd love to have members of the Songwriters Association of Washington attend this great conference, so we're offering a special discount. You can get 10% off the registration price. Currently the regular registration price is \$95, but it will be going up as of midnight on Oct. 10th to \$110, so if you want to come - don't delay! Please visit the website at www.nerfa.org. When you register, use the following code: WASA. Or call (215/546-7766) or email (nerfa@comcast.net) with any questions.



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.**

OCTOBER 2008

10/3 (Fri)--SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

10/6 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase

10/9 (Thurs)--SAW Concert at the Athenaeum

10/10 (Fri)--SAW Montgomery County Open Mike

~~POSTPONED 10/11 (Sat)--SAW WORKSHOP: Press Kits--Promoting~~

~~Yourself "Accurately and Awesomely" hosted by Ruthie Logsdon--POSTPONED~~

10/11 (Sat)--Open Mike at the Lab

10/13 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 10/16 (Thurs)--SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
 10/17 (Fri)--SAW Oneness Showcase (Artists: 7:30-Jason Ager; 8:00-Pete and Alex;
 8:30-Brian Franke; 9:00-Joe Shade; 9:30-Jeremy Johnson;10:00-Chapter Three)
 10/19 (Sun)--SAW Song Circle: *Hosted By Michelle Murray*
 10/20 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 10/23(Thurs)--SAW "NEW" New Deal Cafe Open Mike
 10/24 (Fri)--SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
 10/25(Sat)--SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike
 10/25 (Sat)--SAW Songwriters Exchange: *Guest Artist: Greg Vickers*
 10/27 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 10/28 (Tues)--SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night--**PIANO NIGHT!**

NOVEMBER 2008

11/1 (Sat)--SAW WORKSHOP: The Mechanics of Melody presented by Karl Straub
 11/3 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 11/7 (Fri)--SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
 11/8 (Sat)--Open Mike at the Lab
 11/10 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 11/13 (Thurs)--SAW Concert at the Athenaeum
 11/14 (Fri)--SAW Montgomery County Open Mike
 11/16 (Sun)--SAW Song Circle: Hosted by Jim Johnson
 11/17(Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 11/20 (Thurs)--SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
 11/21 (Fri)--SAW Oneness Showcase (Artists: 7:30-Robert Lovelace (Dear Diary); 8:00-
 Copperose and Bone; 8:30-Winston Carmichael; 9:00-Andy Zipf; 9:30-Steven
 Capozzola; 10:00-American Sinner
11/22 (Sat)--SAW VOCAL WORKSHOP presented by Siobhan Quinn
 11/22 (Sat)--SAW Songwriters Exchange: *Julia Kasdorf & Janet Emma Garbe from One
 Horse Town*
 11/24 (Mon)--Brewer's Alley/SAW Music Showcase
 11/25 (Tues)--SAW Bangkok Blues Music Night
 11/27(Thurs)--SAW "NEW" New Deal Cafe Open Mike
 11/28 (Fri)--SAW Fourth Friday Montgomery County Music Showcase
 11/29 (Sat)--SAW Cameron Perks Open Mike



SAW EVENTS: Updates & More

SAW WORKSHOP

LYRIC & CREATIVE WRITING: A Musical Afternoon with Andrew McKnight

Saturday, October 11, 1-4 pm

At the Round Hill Arts Center, home of the legendary monthly bluegrass jam

6 West Loudoun St. in the center of Round Hill, VA 20142

INFO/REGISTRATION: 540/338-5050 or www.roundhillarts.org

\$25 in advance online or by phone, \$35 at the door.

Nationally acclaimed singer, writer, guitarist and recording artist Andrew McKnight is known for his exceptional lyrics and his creative use of music to tell evocative tales with heartfelt passion. Open to anyone interested in poetry, lyrics and other forms of creative writing. Move mountains of

writer's block, and let rivers of expression flow through your head and hand. For more about Andrew please visit www.andrewmcknight.net

Round Hill is just west of Purcellville, 50 miles west of DC and 30 miles south of Frederick

Co-sponsored by Round Hill Arts Center and Songwriters Association of Washington
FOR INFO AND TO REGISTER: www.roundhillarts.org or 540-338- 5050

SAW WORKSHOP

The Mechanics of Melody--presented by Karl Straub and SAW

Saturday, November 1st, 2008, 11a.m. – 2 p.m.

The Lab at Convergence

SAW Members: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door

WAMA/NSAI/BSA: \$30 advance; \$35 door

General Admission: \$35 advance; \$40 door

Do you want more tricks and techniques needed to write an unforgettable melody? Do you want a better understanding of how the same melody can sound completely different with a different chord progression? Would you like a greater understanding of where chords and melodies work together to help you in situations where "waiting for inspiration" is taking too long?

If you want answers to these questions and more, join Karl Straub and SAW for a workshop on The Mechanics of Melody.

Karl will work in a group format, demonstrating the basic concepts of writing a memorable melody. (Some of these melodic techniques were used by composers like Mozart and Beethoven, who wrote melodies that are still popular a few hundred years later. You don't have to have years of training to use these methods, though. This workshop will give you the skills to start using melodic development technique right away.) The class will write some chord progressions and melodies as a group, and later Karl will work with students individually as they practice writing their own melodies. To get the melodies on paper, a simple number system (easily understood by those who don't read or write music) will be used.

After this class you will have a greater understanding of how melody and chords work together and be much more effective at writing memorable melodies of your own!

Karl Straub has written songs for Last Train Home, The Kennedy's, Lisa Moscatiello, The Virginia Coalition and Little Pink. He also has a degree in Music Education from Howard University. After penning three CD's for his old band The Grave Robbers, Karl is currently writing and recording a new CD with Eric Brace from Last Train Home in Nashville Tenn. as well as recording a CD with his current band, The Karl Straub Combo.

SAW WORKSHOP

FLEXIBLE VOICE WORKSHOP: It's All About the Song!--With Siobhan Quinn

November 22, 2008, 11:00am – 1:00pm

Sign up early! The class is limited in size.

SAW Members: \$25 in advance; \$30 at the door

WAMA/NSAI/BSA: \$30 advance; \$35 door

General Admission: \$35 advance; \$40 door

We will cover 1) vocal/breath warm-ups 2) physiology of the voice, how to use each part-- knowledge crucial to getting the most out of your instrument, and vocal health issues 3) specific issues & exercises for songwriters/guitarists such as posture with instrument, lack of breath,

singing flexibly within your range, positioning and strengthening exercises to shake out the unsteady parts of your voice. We'll spend the first part of our time on the basics & physiology to get everyone onto the same page--then hit the ground running vocally, focusing on excellent technique to capture your best performance. We will work as a large group and in smaller groups--but everyone will learn crucial vocal and performance skills from everyone else.

Siobhan has been the primary Vocal Clinic Master Artist at the prestigious Swannanoa Gathering since 2004, and has taught at WUMB's Summer Acoustic Music Week, Rocky Mountain Song School, Kerrville Folk Festival, and done vocal coaching at Summersongs and Wintersongs retreats for songwriters.

She also teaches privately in Alexandria, VA when she is not performing with her music partner and husband, songwriter Michael Bowers.

GREG VICKERS APPEARS AS GUEST ARTIST FOR OCTOBER 25TH SONGWRITER EXCHANGE

The next Song Xchange is Saturday, October 25, and we're very happy to have Greg Vickers as our guest artist.

A previous coordinator for the Xchange, Greg is a prolific songwriter who can be so funny and outrageous that it's best not to drink anything during his sets, since a quick lyric trick from him can redirect the beverage to your nostrils. He also writes songs that will move you deeply. In trying to describe his music, Greg says, "I write songs about emotional stuff like love, anxiety and my perpetual state of confusion over why things are the way they are. There's plenty of material there... I am too easily outraged by ignorance. And writing songs is less confrontational than saying 'you're an idiot' to each and every stupid person I encounter." He writes about "silly semantic details he's obsessed with. Or about people he finds irksome. Or about the overwhelming patheticness of modern American culture."

Greg's debut CD, Not Quite There (<http://cdbaby.com/cd/gvickers>), was released in 2004. He's a SAW board member and a multiple award winner in the Mid-Atlantic Song Contest. See you on the 25th!



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.*

SPEED NETWORKING FOR THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

A WAMA Workshop hosted by Human Factor

Thursday, Oct 16, 2008 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

(This event will start right on time, late comers may not be admitted, and it must end on time)

Jane Lang Recital Hall at Levine School

2801 Upton Street, NW, Washington, DC 20008

Free off-street parking at the school or take Metro Red Line to Van Ness-UDC stop. Walk two blocks south on Connecticut Avenue. Turn left on Upton Street.

\$5 WAMA members

\$10 SAW, BSA & NARAS members

\$20 all others.

Broaden your DC industry connections by meeting 10 times the number of contacts in the time it would usually take to meet one, and receive practical suggestions to advance your career with:

1. Round-table discussions to break the ice.
2. Talk with a variety of music industry players in a fun and relaxed atmosphere: artists, lawyers, record labels, managers.
3. Bring your demos to play and plenty of business cards
4. Express your own opinions and hear from others in the industry.
5. Learn unique networking techniques and how to put them to use.
6. Benefit from the combined experience in the room.
7. By the end of the session, you'll have met everyone in the room, and will have learned what they can or can't do for you.

Afterwards, we'll adjourn to a local restaurant for some more informal networking. To pre-order tickets go to: <http://wamadc.com/wama/seminars.html> Early registration is recommended.

If you would like to sponsor and/or host a table at this or future networking events, or any other WAMA event, please contact dcmusic@wamadc.com.

SECRETS THE BIG ENGINEERS KNOW--A LITTLE SCIENCE, SIMPLE TECHNIQUES

A WAMA Workshop hosted by Greg Lukins

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Taking place at Washington Professional Systems, 11242 Grandview Ave, Wheaton, MD 20904

-Limited to 30 people

-\$25 WAMA members, \$30 SAW, BMI & NARAS members, \$35 all others

Learn tips to make mixing more successful. You'll learn techniques to verify the quality of what you've recorded, and to minimize mistakes. Hear about the methods engineers use to shape the sound so that the tracks mix well together. Note - this workshop is not software specific. These concepts are applicable to any recording software or hardware.

To pre-order tickets go to: <http://wamadc.com/wama/seminars.html> Early registration is recommended.

WRITING LYRICS TO MELODY WITH SONGWRITER PAT PATTISON

Saturday, October 25, and Sunday, October 26, 10 am – 4 pm each day

\$125 for the 2-day workshop

There is no use writing a great lyric and a great melody if they don't work together! An unfortunate setting of a word or phrase can sink the emotion of the song, calling your listener's attention away from WHAT you are saying to HOW you are saying it. This two-day seminar with Pat Pattison, a distinguished professor of poetry and songwriting at the Berklee College of Music, will reveal how to get the most out of your lyrics by combining them accurately and effectively with melody.

Levine School Of Music; 2801 Upton Street, NW; Washington, DC 20008

www.levineschool.org; 202-686-8000

Purchase online at:

<http://www.levineschool.org/site/Calendar/1473923045?view=Detail&id=103361> or call 202-686-8000.

Fridays in October in Baltimore

725 West Lombard Street

Outdoor lunchtime concerts at The Institute of Human Virology (IHV)

Noon-2pm October 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31.

SAW fully supports and is an active participant in this joint effort between The Baltimore Songwriters Association and BMI to raise awareness of the [JACQUES Initiative](#), which provides testing and patient support coupled with education on HIV, therapies available and the importance of strict drug adherence. Most of all, it is about communities and hope; there are many moving testimonials to the success of this program from its participants. Thanks to SAW Board member Fred Cannon for facilitating music coming into play as an integral partner in this process. If you would like to get involved in this initiative, contact president@saw.org.

Dental Screenings for the Music Business

MusiCares, in conjunction with Dr. Robert Mantoni, will be providing dental screenings, teeth cleaning, dental x-rays and other basic treatments to clients and others in the music business in need of these services, on November 12th. The treatments will be provided free of charge to pre-screened, pre-approved clients, upon establishing eligibility. The services will be provided at the dentist's Silver Spring office, a first-class facility with a caring and professional staff. Call MusiCares toll free at 877-303-6962 or 212-245-7840 for details and to schedule an appointment.



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.

MASC'S 2007 YOUNG ARTIST AWARD WINNER SELECTED AS NOMINEE FOR INDEPENDENT SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION SONGWRITING CONTESTS

Adam Swink, winner of last year's MASC Young Artist Award, has been selected as a nominee in the Independent Singer Songwriters Association Songwriting Contest in the "Fan Favorite" category. The outcome is determined by votes from fans. Please help him win by voting for him at www.issa-music.org. His second EP, "Seasonal Delivery," has been winning other awards as well. Adam was a youth showcase artist in the Mountain Stage New Song Contest and performed with other SAW members finalists, Luke Brindley, Eric Weinberg, and Lisa Taylor at Eddie's Attic in Atlanta. You can listen to Adam's music at www.myspace.com/adamswink



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.***

NERFA RIDE & ROOMATE... seeking rides, roommates, and a possible SAW contingent or SAW room for the upcoming NERFA conference (Northeast Regional Folk Alliance Conference)

in Kerhonkson, NY from Thursday, November 13, 2008 through Sunday, November 16, 2008. For further details, please see the NERFA website at www.nerfa.org/ or contact Joel at pomeranj@hotmail.com or 240-383-9732.

SOUND PERSON NEEDED to run sound and/or bring sound equipment for the show on *November 21, 2008*. A \$50 or more fee will be paid to someone who can do this. For details please contact Joel Pomerantz at pomeranj@hotmail.com or 240-383-9732.

VOLUNTEER FOR ONENESS SHOWCASE... set-up volunteer assistance in presenting the Oneness School Showcases at St. John's Episcopal Church in Bethesda, MD on Friday October 17th and/or November 21st and possibly beyond. Need transportation to obtain and transport refreshments prior to the show as well as volunteer help at door. Should be available not later than 6 p.m. on those Fridays. For further details, contact Joel Pomerantz at pomeranj@hotmail.com or pomeranj@yahoo.com or 240-383-9732.

NEW VENUE NEEDED. Seeking a non-commercial replacement venue in MD or DC beginning January 2009. Oneness School location is no longer available. Please contact Joel Pomerantz at pomeranj@hotmail.com or pomeranj@yahoo.com or 240-383-9732.



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.

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 being scheduled for Sunday afternoons, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.. Musicians interested in performing are being asked to 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.



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, October 31, 2008 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