

SongWritersNotes

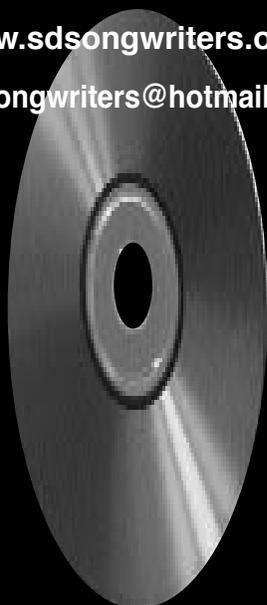
22 Years Supporting San Diego Songwriters

Volume XXIII • April 2005

The San Diego
Songwriters Guild
3368 Governor Drive
Suite F-326
San Diego, CA 92122

www.sdsongwriters.org

sdsongwriters@hotmail.com



SDSG Pitch Session, FRIDAY, April 8

KYE FLEMING

Here's your chance to meet publisher Kye Fleming. She is a looking for new material and is flying in to San Diego to hear the local talent! Kye will be here for an SDSG pitch session on Friday, April 8 and again on Saturday, April 9 for one-on-one song critiques. Kye has been awarded over 45 BMI awards in her career, making her one of the most celebrated songwriters in country music history. Other awards include: 3 time BMI Country Songwriter of the Year, 2 time BMI Pop Songwriter of the Year, 2 time NSAI Songwriter of the Year, 2 time Billboard Song of the Year, 10 BMI Millionaire Awards, BMI Burton Award for Song of the Year, CMA, ACM, DOVE and GRAMMY nominations for various songs, and the CMA Triple Play Award. Her songs have been recorded by Ronnie Milsap, Barbara Mandrell, Tina Turner, Bette Midler Joe Cocker, Willie Nelson, Wynonna, The Judds, Vince Gill, Amy Grant, Janis Ian, Kennedy Rose, jazz artist Dianne Schuur, and flutist James Galway. As a publisher she has 8 ASCAP and BMI awarded songs including the 2002 ASCAP song of the year recorded by Faith Hill. Kye currently runs the ever popular songwriting website SongJourney.com with publisher Mark Cawley. They offer song critiques, publishing deals, song contests and other amazing opportunities for songwriters.

Come to the Doubletree Hotel in Hazard Center, at the intersection of Friars Rd and 163 for this super SDSG Session! Admission on Friday, April 8 is free for SDSG members, \$20 for non-members. Pitch fees are \$10 per song, maximum two submissions per writer or team. Only SDSG members may pitch, but memberships are, as always, available at the door. Check our Pitch Session/FAQ webpages for general pitch info. **Pitch Focus: Country emphasis, and some Pop/Rock.**

If you would like to schedule a **one-on-one song critique** with Kye on **Saturday, April 9**, please contact **Cristina** at CristinaMusic@gmail.com. The price is \$50 for a 1/2 hour session, or \$100 for a full hour session. **Don't pass up this chance to have your songs heard by one of the industry's best!**

Special Thanks to SDSG Industry Liaison Cristina Sanchez for coordinating this session.

SongWritersNotes

The San Diego Songwriters Guild

3368 Governor Drive, Suite F-326

San Diego, CA 92122

Address Corrected Requested

From the Songwriter's Desk . . .

Your Art and Your Day Job

By Harriet Schock © 2004 - All Rights Reserved



It's almost a joke line, "Don't give up your day job." It usually means "Whatever you're trying to do, you're not good enough at it to make a living, so don't give up your day job." First of all, Charles Bukowski kept his day job at the post office even after he was highly respected and making money as a poet. There is a case to be made for day jobs, like having money for demos, not having to give up your publishing, not having to make creative compromises, etc. And just because someone keeps it, that doesn't mean he's not good enough at a creative endeavor. He could just be smart. But this article isn't about how keeping your day job could benefit your career. It's about the converse of that.

I believe it's important FOR your day job, as well as the rest of your life, not to give up your art and your dreams. I've had a number of students tell me that they wanted to write songs but their day job required so much time that between work and their families, they gave up the writing. Of course, that usually happened ten years ago-during which time they aged about twenty years. They then come dragging in knowing there's something terribly wrong and wondering if it could be a good idea to start writing songs again. Not only is it a good idea, they should have never stopped in the first place. As I said in my article (now a chapter in my book), "WRITING IN SPACE," songs are not written in time but in space, so you can't use the old excuse that you have no time. That won't fly.

Your art fuels your soul which is what's running the show. Without your creative life, your day job will suffer, your family will suffer, all because your soul is not being fed. Of course, not everyone needs to write songs. Some people go through life perfectly happy with day jobs and families and they never write a song. But these people are not songwriters. Songwriters need to write songs. And if they don't, they'll have hell to pay. You know this if you're an artist of any kind and have abandoned your art. It takes a toll on your soul, and thereafter, everything else. It's like removing the generator from your car and still expecting the battery to work endlessly. Where are you going to get the energy to do all the work your day job requires if you have cut off your power supply? Of course, some people will make anything they do creative and that will fuel their lives. But I've seen so many songwriting students come in on their last leg and the minute they start creating again, they become enthusiastic (the Greek word for spirit is similar to the word for enthusiasm). Without enthusiasm, it's all just drudgery. Your art can give you that enthusiasm, or in some cases, give you back your enthusiasm-for life, for getting out of bed in the morning, even for your day job. After all, you have to get from home to the workplace. And isn't that drive more fun when you're thinking about your new song on the way?

The good news is that it doesn't really matter how much time has elapsed for the writer, the flame never really goes out. The embers of creativity can be fanned into a full-fledged fire. Of course, the skills may need some work, but the desire will still be there. All that's needed is some real hope, not even of success, but just hope that the process can continue. You can write a song and someone will listen. You may not realize how many other rooms in your life will be warmed by that fire and it's not important that you know. But having seen so many writers get the fire back after so long a time away from writing, I can speak with certainty, that much good will come of it.

Nik Venet, the legendary record producer, used to tell his classes "If you drive a cab and write songs, then you're a songwriter. Driving a cab is your hobby." Whether you subscribe to that point of view or not, there is truth to be learned from it. If you respect songwriting as your chief endeavor, then you will see that it feeds the other areas of your life, like your day job.

I have a student who is a wonderful songwriter/singer. She's also an excellent accountant. But I believe that if she were not also a songwriter, she'd have pulled her hair out long ago from looking at so many numbers. She's a calm, cool, collected comptroller. Probably in the back of her mind at all times is a song. And that song keeps her smiling, keeps the engine running. Her boss is happy. She's happy. The numbers add up. Everybody wins.

Harriet Schock is a gold and platinum songwriter/recording artist whose songs have been recorded by numerous artists, nominated for a Grammy and used in films. Her fourth, fifth and sixth solo CDs, "American Romance," "Rosebud" and "Harriet Schock Live" are in current release, as well as her book, BECOMING REMARKABLE: For Songwriters and Those Who Love Songs, published by Blue Dolphin. She recently released a CD of 19 of her students, called "Schock Futures." As well as performing worldwide, Harriet Schock speaks, teaches and consults in person and via the Internet. She teaches a correspondence course in songwriting to writers all over the world. For further information about her book, CDs, concerts, correspondence courses, classes or consultation, go to <http://harrietschock.com/> or call (323) 934-5691.