

SongWritersNotes

The Newsletter for San Diego Songwriters

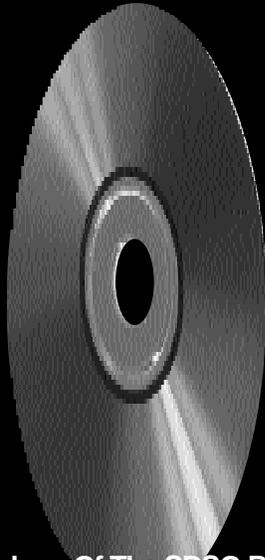
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**The San Diego
Songwriters Guild**

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Dale Kawashima at SDSG Monday, February 12, 2001

PUBLISHING HEAVYWEIGHT!

Formerly President of Michael Jackson's ATV Music and President of the publishing division of Irving Azoff's Giant Records, **Dale Kawashima** has represented the publishing catalogs of Bruce Springsteen, Prince, Bob Dylan and Burt Bacharach. We're proud to welcome Dale to San Diego for a song critique and Q&A.

This 20-year publishing veteran is launching a major website for songwriters, called SongwriterUniverse.com. Dale's Advisory Board writers include Billy Steinberg ("Like a Virgin", "True Colors"), Allan Rich & Jud Friedman ("Run To You", "I Don't Have The Heart") and Jeff Silbar ("Wind Beneath My Wings")

Dale will be speaking with us at the Doubletree on February 12, and will conduct a critique session as well. Registration begins at 6:30 for this 7:00 PM meeting. The Doubletree is located in Hazard Center, Mission Valley, just east of the 163.

Song submission is \$10.00, limited to one submission per writer or team of writers. SDSG members are admitted FREE, non-members' admission (required to submit a song) is \$20.00.

SDSG memberships are always available at the door. For \$45.00, you can be a part of San Diego's premier songwriter's organization!

**Party Time... Song Contest Winners to be Announced!
Monday, January 29. For your invitation, see Page 4.**

SDSG PRESENTS

INTERSCOPE

*Tony Ferguson, VP of A&R for Interscope Records
with the San Diego Songwriters Guild*

Tuesday, February 27, 2001.

What a pitch opportunity!

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE

From the Editor's Desk . . .

Happy New Year! I was starting to feel like a perennial millennial, what with the disparate opinions re: the "true" millennium. Although there wasn't nearly the hoopla this time around, I still get a kick out of the Purists who insist the millennium really started January 1, 2000 or 2001. Me? I am a purist, too, but I don't give a damn about the date.



It's our music that matters.

We all know about the compromises. Someone says "too sweet" and somebody else says "too loud" and then we try to please 'em both and end up with a less than satisfying watered-down remnant of a song. Maybe we've been caught trying to make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. Why don't we just keep the moo in the music and please the heifers? We can always hit the loom of creation again later and, with a sensuous twist, weave that delicate silken lace filagree that will send shivers down the spine.

I am not about to suggest we can't learn a thing or two from the critic, particularly if the critic has track-proven experience. As much as the San Diego Songwriters Guild is here to promote the interface between songwriters and industry professionals, with the goal of enabling commercial success, this organization is about learning. But I want us to keep the big picture in mind. Because without the big picture, we ain't got nothin' to write about.

So, is it here we go again, let the chase of the elusive "Hit" begin? I propose we write from the heart and do what feels right in our music. And instead of accepting criticism as an impediment, we'll take it for what it is, one person's opinion. Filter reviews through our own value system, and keep the concepts that are valid for us individually. Discard the rest. Dump the baggage. But while we're at it, let's keep writing, keep expressing our feelings moment to moment, even during the times we're "recovering" from criticism. What magic may leap from our minds and be freed to reap untold dividends if we are courageous?

I can't wait to hear.

- Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley

What's Going On?

SDSG'S SONGWRITER SHOWCASE IS AT JAVA JOE'S ON SUNDAY, MARCH 4, FROM 9 TO 11 PM. Java Joe's is at 1956 Bacon Street in Ocean Beach. Leave a message at the Hotline if you are interested in performing.

SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 10AM-6PM. NSAI SPECIAL EVENT WITH PRO WRITER JASON BLUME, author of "Six Steps to Songwriting Success." Jason's recent credits include songs recorded by The Backstreet Boys, Britney Spears, Colin Raye and John Berry. He has had songs in TV and film, and is one of the most respected songwriting teachers in the country. The event will be held at the Stratford Inn in Del Mar. Cost is \$50 for NSAI and SDSG members, \$55 for non-members (both advance registration) and \$60 at the door. The price includes the all-day workshop and song critique session, lunch, snacks, paper and pen. Call (858)481-5650 or e-mail EAxford@aol.com to register.

MONDAY, JANUARY 22, 2001, 7:30-10PM AND MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2001, 7:30-10PM: NSAI MONTHLY WORKSHOPS at the home of Liz Axford. Song critiques, writing exercises. Call (858)481-5650 or e-mail EAxford@aol.com for directions and to RSVP.

NSAI ORANGE COUNTY COLLABORATION SEMINAR WITH NASHVILLE'S JON MICHAELS JANUARY 20, 9AM - 5 PM IN IRVINE. Jon Michaels is being called "The next Gary Burr". He writes with such Nashville notables as Kostas, Jeffrey Steele, Richard Leigh, Gary Burr, and Jimbeau Hinson. Jon will tell us how to get to the next level through collaboration. Cost: NSAI \$15.00, Non-Members \$20.00. RSVP Bev Nelson (949) 733-2717.

TONY TARAVELLA HOSTS AN ECLECTIC MUSIC SHOW AT [HTTP://WORLDMUSICRADIO.COM](http://worldmusicradio.com) Thursday, January 18, from 5 to 8 pm PST. Tony will be playing music from all over the world, including music from some of San Diego's finest artists. To listen you need either Real Player or Windows Media Player on your computer. Please feel free to email your requests or comments to: dj@worldmusicradio.com



Interscope Records Pitch Session

*Tentative Date:
TUESDAY, February 27, 2001
at the Doubletree
in Mission Valley*

Aim high, achieve and attend this major label visit to SDSG. We're pleased to welcome **Tony Ferguson**, Senior Vice President of A&R for **Interscope Records** back to San Diego for an artist/song pitch session. Part of the Universal family of companies, Interscope will be playing a big part in the creation, production and marketing of music for years to come. Tony's last visit with us at SDSG was in March of 1999, and we're excited to have him back Tuesday, February 27, 2001.

A man of action, Tony signed **No Doubt** (\$18 million in worldwide sales) and **Bush** to Interscope, and is responsible for **Snoop Dog** and **Brian Setzer**, among others. Before his ten years at Interscope, Tony was a hit performer in **Unit 4 Plus 2** and **Christie**, and served as producer, manager and record exec with Stiff Records. In the 80's, his management company handled **Grand Funk Railroad** and **Steve Winwood**.

Interscope is artist -not publishing- oriented. Performers and vocalists are the company's focus. Tony will be listening for **outstanding vocal artists, singer/songwriters** and **bands**, or that rare, unique hit song. Styles which will be considered are Rock, Pop, Alternative AAA and Metal, R&B, Hip Hop and Country. Tony is not looking for instrumental music.

Submit your very best on CD or cassette (cued carefully please!). A maximum of one song per individual or team or artists or writers may be submitted. Pitch fees are \$10.00 per song for members and non-members. Admission is free for SDSG members, \$20.00 for non-members. Non-members must pay admission fee to pitch. SDSG Memberships will be available at the door. No more than 70 entries will be accepted.

Registration for this event starts at 6:30 PM and closes at 7:00 PM at the beautiful Doubletree Hotel in Hazard Center, near the 163 and Friars Road. **Do not miss** this unique opportunity to have your music heard by industry heavyweight Tony Ferguson.

Please be sure to confirm this pitch's date, either by calling the SDSG hotline or checking the SDSG web site. Tony will be confirming the date on February 16.

Randy Fischer and Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley

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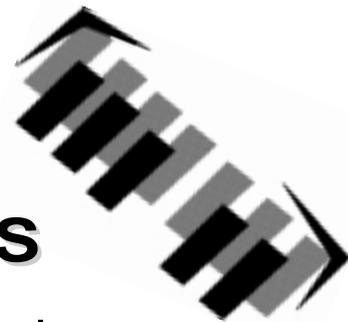
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PARTY!

SONG CONTEST WINNERS



2000 SDSG Contest Prizes To Be Awarded Big Party... You're Invited!

SDSG's Song Contest 2000 Awards Ceremony will be held at the Doubletree Hotel on Monday, January 29th. Festivities begin at 7 p.m. The winners of our contest will be announced and prizes awarded. Raffles too, so everyone has a chance to win. We will play the prizewinning songs for your listening pleasure. And for other pleasures, a cash bar will be fully stocked. There is no admission fee and all are welcome, friends and family alike.

Please join us!

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SDSG News Makers

Check out my new web page: <http://www.stevewhiteblues.com>

What do you think? Thanks, Steve White.

SDSG's Gary Day reports on his experience with the TV show "YOUR BIG BREAK"... "it is kind of an upgraded or second generation of "Star Search". The angle is that you have to be able to sound like a famous vocalist with visual likeness being secondary. They do the before and after. First, a camera crew follows you around for a day, catching you in your natural habitat with an interview. In my case they came to my place of employment and allowed some of my co-workers to be filmed. Then they followed me home and completed the interview. The star I portray is kept a secret. Then, starting August 20 of this year they owned me for four days at NBC Studio 1 in Burbank next to the "Tonight Show" set. They assigned a vocal and dance coach and began to work on the transformation. Neil Diamond's hair stylist did my hair. On the 23rd, my show was taped in front of a live audience of 300 people. The singing is 100% live to tracks and there were two female violinists and two male horn players on stage. My segment was a period piece. ('69 Neil Diamond doing "Sweet Caroline") Although the show is a showcase of talent from all over America, the theme of a contest is used to increase viewers. There are six contestants per show and I can't say who "wins" until it airs. The winner gets a plaque (no money or prize) and advances to the semi finals. The winner of the season does get a record deal and \$25,000 cash." **Watch for "Your Big Break" on ABC in San Diego. Good Luck Gary!**

HC Markus has been hard at work in the studio again, this time with inspirational rapper **Exodus**, tracking the tunes that accompany Exodus' life manual *Be Thou Transformed*. The tracks are going smoothly into the digital system at **Studio 69**, and coming out, the groove is very deep.

Markus Van Such's Sweet Bites is just ready for the presses, featuring **David Van Such** on the soulful horns and strings. Taste tests coming soon.

SDSG's "Love Notes" CD is still available. Proceeds from sales go to **Children's Hospital**. If you'd like to hear this great CD for yourself, and support music for kids, please send your \$15.00 check or Money Order payable to SDSG to 3368 Governor Dr, Suite F-326, San Diego, 92122.

John Shore, Editor of **D-Town 92101** says "if any of you are WRITERS looking for freelance work, let me know. I'm the editor of "D-Town 92101," a new weekly newspaper downtown. We've only put out a few issues so far, and so I'm still hunting for my cadre of freelancers. So far, we're running about 5 pages of calendar events at the end of each issue. But, man, we're having a bear of a time getting in decent photos of bands or whatever--ANYBODY doing ANYTHING downtown. **If you're in a band or anything like this--if you or anybody you know EVER plays downtown, a photo would do us both a lot of good. And put us on every show/event broadcast fax known to man, too.** Thanks."

John Shore-Editor *D-Town 92101*, 121 Broadway, Suite 536, San Diego, CA 92101
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" THE PITCH SESSION "

PRODUCERS, PUBLISHERS, A&R REPRESENTATIVES, MANAGERS and ARTISTS may screen for a specific recording project. They use these events to find songs, singers, musicians, etc. Our guests may critique your song and give you valuable feedback on how you could improve upon it if time permits. The guest may "pick-up" your song which means they would like to hear it again for further consideration.

Submission Rules

- One song per Guild Member will be listened to before those of Non-Members.
- On exceptionally busy nights, we reserve the option to limit the number of tapes submitted by an individual to any event. This option applies equally to those members submitting tapes by mail. We ask that writers number their tapes, #1 being your first choice, #2 your second, so that we may play them according to your priorities.
- Due to time limits, we cannot guarantee that your song will be heard in the Pitch Session.

Fees

- For the submission price of \$10 per song (limit 1 to 2 songs per writer, varies with guests), you may enter your song(s) for the Pitch Session. Members may sign up songs in advance.
- You may join The San Diego Songwriters Guild on the night of an event for a \$45 yearly membership fee.
- Non-members are charged a \$20 door fee in addition to tape submission fees. The door fee must be paid by non-members wishing to pitch songs.

How It Works

- Bring neatly typed lyric sheet and CD or cassette cued to the beginning of the song you want heard.
- Tapes will not be accepted for the Pitch Session after the start of the event.
- Be sure to include your name and phone number on both your lyric sheet and your tape or CD because they may get separated.
- The Pitch Session is limited to 70 tunes. Once event is filled, sign up is closed, even if the event has not started. SDSG reserves the right to limit the number of submissions further.
- When you check in your song, sign in all names of writers, song title and phone number, so that others who hear your song can contact you.
- Submissions will be referred to by song title. Writers may or may not remain anonymous during the Pitch session depending on our guest for that event.

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On the Value of Collaboration

One of the main benefits I have gained from Guild Membership is the opportunity to exchange musical ideas in an atmosphere of interest and acceptance.

Perhaps as songwriters we too often work in an isolated fashion and settle on our compositions as carved in stone. Sharing ideas as they arise with our fellow songwriters and musicians can bring us to musical territory we would have never explored on our own. And someone hearing our music for the first time may be able to suggest a new spin on our ideas, helping us develop a new hook, a new bridge, a melody, a rhythmic twist. And we can do the same for them.

Sometimes our ideas shine brightest when we ask others to help polish them.

- Matthew Camp

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Your Career.
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I'm a singer/songwriter based in NYC but I am planning a small tour in California in early April/May. I've been to San Diego before and absolutely loved it. I would like to play a venue there, but need some musicians... can you recommend some working/session players? If you need any info on me, check jennifermaione.home.mind-spring.com Thanks! jennifermaione@mind-spring.com

Help!
Wanted:
Wanted:
Wanted:
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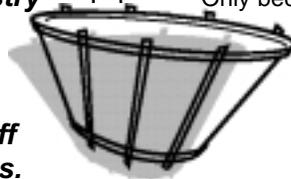
*Meet the songwriters and artists of the community at *Special Events *Live Showcases *FREE on-line postings *FREE postings in our newsletter. Friends of the Guild include NSAI, SLAMM, and many, many San Diego studios, music merchants, producers, venues and industry professionals.*

DISCOUNT on TAXI

SDSG Members get a \$50 discount off their first-year TAXI membership dues.

BEGIN or RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

Get your member discount at this year's events.



S D S G 2 0 0 1

Song Contest Party!

**Monday, January 29
7:00 at the Doubletree**

Only become a musician if there is absolutely no other way you can make a living.
-- Kirke Mecham on his life as a composer

**Call (619) 225-2131 or
check sdsongwriters.org**

SongWritersNotes

The San Diego Songwriters Guild

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Address Correction Requested

Please check your membership expiration date below

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