

Songwriters Notes

25 Years Supporting San Diego Songwriters

Volume XXV • October-November 2007

The San Diego Songwriters Guild

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SDSG at the Belly Up

By Bridget Brigitte, President, SDSG

About thirty local songwriters submitted songs for SDSG's 2007 **Performing Songwriter's Competition** held at **Studio West** in August. Six groups were selected to play at the Belly Up on September 5, with the grand prize being a coveted eight hour session at Studio West's beautiful recording facility in Rancho Bernardo. The finalist lineup included **Santa Maria**, **Brian Darnell**, **Diane Waters**, **Steven Ybarra**, **Candice Graham** backed by EndOxi, and **EndOxi** fronted by guitarist **Chris Wilson**.

The night got off to a great start when **Jason Santa Maria** took the stage with his band **Santa Maria**. Having recently arrived from



the Bay Area of Northern California, Jason is quickly making a name for himself in San Diego music circles. He writes both lyrics and music and blends driving rock rhythms with catchy melodies that leave listeners eager for more. Jason's songs carry that rare blend of poetry and rock that captures so effectively the pangs and sweetness of being in (or out) of any relationship. A statuesque performer, it's easy to watch Jason all night as he duels with the rest of his band and serenades the audience. Keep and eye out for more Santa Maria performances around town and check out Jason's MySpace page, especially his positive & bouncy song "Unwavered." Santa Maria is Jason Santa Maria on guitar & vocals, Jason Janofsky on bass, Michael Rodrigues on percussion, and Cyrus Sidhwa on guitar. <http://myspace.com/jason-santamaria>.

Next came **Brian Darnell's** band with his lively drummer **Greg Thune**, keyboardist **Mark Charles Hattersley**, and bassist **Randy Proxmire** (Jory Lyle is the regular guitar player, tonight **Chris Wilson** was a guest player). If you see Brian on a bill, don't miss the show: his songs are inspiringly infectious and you'll wake up with his hooks on your mind. His uplifting song "**Finest Hour**," co-written with



keyboardist Hattersley, is full of progressive riffs that crescendo toward the finale, making it the perfect homage song about someone special. Brian's band created a solid rock sound that went from mellow to loud while keeping you at the heart of the tune the whole time. Brian's performance was nothing less than enchanting in the best ways and his poignant songs are unforgettable, especially when sung live. He's recording a new CD at his own **Kitty Hawk Studios**, check out his music at <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendID=113288334>

After Brian one of my favorite singers took the stage: **Diane Waters**. Diane has been recording in Nashville recently with a well-known producer and she has always had a bright lively style. Her tune "**Manville**" is a glance into a professional woman's life when she's stung by passion – every shred of reason just falls to the wayside. On stage Diane captivates crowds with her rhythmic moves (sometimes accented by her really cool shiny red leather pants) and varied guitar work. She has a few CDs recorded



(under the expert management of **Will Ruiz** – "**Thirsty Children**" produced with **Josquin des Pres**, Live, Compilation) and her style blends country with rock with her signature lyrical moments that paint sensitive and sometimes biting portraits of life situations...Diane puts the fun back into serious. Check out <http://www.dianewaters.com> to hear more from the

continues on page five

From the Songwriter's Desk . . .



What's a Quarter Century of Experience Worth?

I have been attending SDSG Pitch Sessions, not missing more than a couple, since my first Guild experience over 12 years ago. I still remember the palpitations I felt as I awaited the moment my song would be played for the Guild's industry guest, Brian Rawlings of Disney Music on that October evening. The session was so interesting, educational and downright exciting that I kept coming back for more, winning that year's SDSG Song Contest (the Third Annual Event) and eventually becoming involved in the operational aspects of SDSG. One thing led to another, and I found myself at the helm of the organization, serving as president.

Your SDSG now has the best board of directors we've had in years. The Guild is happening. And I'm proud to still be a part of it. Join us as we celebrate the milestone of SDSG's 25th Anniversary, and be sure to enter this year's contest!

Mark Charles Hattersley HCMarkus@cox.net

San Diego Songwriter's Concert October 20

On **Saturday, October 20** please join us for the **San Diego Songwriter's Concert presented by SDSG**. This live music event is going to be held in beautiful downtown Del Mar and will feature San Diego's most talented songwriters. This will be an all day event from **noon to 7 PM**. There are a total of seven artists scheduled to perform: **Bridget Brigitte, Brian Darnell, Alyssa Jacey, Candice Graham, Chris Wilson, Lindsey Yung & Steven Ybarra**. The venue is located at the outdoor amphitheater at **L'Auberge in Del Mar** (located just across the street from the Del Mar Plaza right next to the post office on 15th Street). Tell your friends and family to come and support these talented songwriters as they share their stories and songs in a great setting a stone's throw from the Pacific Ocean. We hope to see you there!

- Kellee Ybarra

More Live Shows...

On **Thursday November 29**, we will be at **Vinbladh's in University Heights** (vinbladhcafe.com - they have yummy Swedish deserts by the way) This opportunity was brought to our attention by fellow SD Songwriter **Will Edwards** of **Tangled Records** who is as intent as we are that musicians should make money from our hard work.

Also, SDSG President Bridget Brigitte been arranging a monthly "acoustic" showcase for SDSG (like the last one, held at **E Street Cafe** September 26 featuring guitarist **Stacey Johnson** and flutist **Kirk Johnson**), while SDSG VP Tim Turner has been arranging paid band performances at clubs like the **Belly Up** (see the article on page 5) and the **Chicken Pie Diner** in **San Marcos**. Please let us know if you're interested in playing at a future showcase by emailing us at SDSongwriters@hotmail.com

Membership Update... ...is Yours?

Is it time to renew your SDSG membership? Please keep in mind that your membership might be up for renewal or recently expired. Please contact SDSG at sdsongwriters@hotmail.com if you would like to know the status of your membership. If you find that you are close to expiration we encourage you to renew for another great year of pitch sessions and songwriting opportunities! Memberships can be renewed online or you can bring your membership fees with you to the next pitch session. Forms may be downloaded from our website. We hope you will continue to support our efforts on behalf of all songwriters in San Diego.

Another Great San Diego Resource for Writers...

NSAI Nashville Songwriters Association www.nashvillesongwriters.com

San Diego NSAI conducts regular Fourth Monday Workshops as well as Quarterly Showcases and Special Events with Pro Songwriters. For more information, contact:

Liz Axford
lizaxford@pianopress.com
619.884.1401
or

Bob Duffy
BobDuffyMusic@cox.net



SDSG Presents the

2007 San Diego Songwriters Guild Song Contest

**Have you written a great song?
Register by mail by November 1,
then, join us on Wednesday,
November 14, for LIVE FINALS
where top entries will be judged
BEFORE YOUR VERY EARS!**

SDSG's 16th Annual Song Contest will be held **Wednesday, November 14, 2007 at the Chicken Pie Diner in San Marcos Restaurant Row.** The contest is a very popular tradition for San Diego writers, and offers a unique opportunity to hear a tremendous cross section of local work on one jam-packed night. Prize winners are selected by a panel of industry professionals in our LIVE final even. Winners will be determined and prizes awarded in real time, an exciting prospect indeed. If you are a songwriter, or a producer or artist looking for some new material, the Diner is the place to be on November 14, no doubt!

The Chicken Pie Diner will be serving **Classic Comfort Food** including great burgers, shakes and a lot more... **including a full bar.**

The contest is open to the public. You may join the Guild or renew your membership simultaneously with your entry and take advantage of member discounts... Check the Guild website at **SDSongwriters.org** for membership details and application forms.

Submit your entries by mail. To guarantee entry into the contest, and to qualify for the early entry discount, songs must be received by SDSG no later than November 1, 2007. Mail In Entries are being accepted now. Up to 70 songs will be judged in the live Finals the night of Wednesday, November 14. If more than 70 entries are received by November 1, a panel of judges will pre-screen and select the 70 top songs for the Finals. If space permits,



Hear the songs others are writing and learn what is going on in San Diego's music scene

Hang out and meet fellow writers as songs are played for all in attendance

Find out how your compositions measure up to those of your fellow songwriters, and

Win great prizes!

SDSG will accept additional entries before and on the night of the Final. However, pre-registration by mail is encouraged to guarantee your entries will be accepted. **Please see the 2007 Contest Rules and Entry Form on the reverse side of this flyer for complete details.**

The San Diego Songwriters Guild has established a tradition of excellence in the World's Finest City. Founded in 1982, the Guild serves local writers, artists and producers by offering access to established recording industry professionals in a variety of personal forums. Our meetings range from pitch sessions with publishers and labels, to live shows and performing events, to educational seminars and discussion groups, to our annual Song Contest.

**FINALS: Wednesday, November 14, 2007
7:00 PM at Chicken Pie Diner San Marcos
1020 West San Marcos Blvd, Number 130
San Marcos, CA 92078
760.591.9393**



If space permits, Late Entries will be accepted starting at 6:15 PM on November 14

**San Diego Songwriters Guild
SDSongwriters@hotmail.com
www.SDSongwriters.org**

SAN DIEGO SONGWRITERS GUILD • 2007 SONG CONTEST RULES

- All styles of music are eligible.
- Each song must be the contestant's original work. Contestants and their collaborators retain full rights to all work submitted.
- Maximum number of song submissions is two per writer. Co-Writes count proportionately toward this total. (For example: An entry with two writers counts as 1/2 of one entry for each writer.) SDSG reserves the right to limit entries further.
- Songs will be judged by industry professionals and songwriters.
- Judges will use five criteria: melody, form, originality, lyrics (when applicable), and presentation.
- Contest is open to all amateur songwriters (one who has not been employed as a staff writer for a publishing company or being paid for such services, and/or receiving more than \$2,500 from royalties income within the past year).
- No song previously recorded and released through major national distribution in any country will be eligible.
- Prizewinning songs from prior SDSG Song Contests are not eligible. This does not include Performing Songwriter Contests.
- Prizes for this year's contest have yet to be determined. Check out prizes from prior years at our website, SDSongwriters.org. Note: some of the prizes are "San Diego" based and can only be redeemed in San Diego stores, offices, and studios.
- Winners are responsible for division of prizes.
- To qualify for the Early Mail-in Registration Discount Fee, entries must be received by November 1, 2007. If entries exceed 70, a pre-screening session will be conducted by industry professionals and songwriters. The top 70 songs entered will be Finalists. A limited number of entries may be accepted after November 1, 2007 subject to availability.
- Winners will be determined at the live Final Event, November 14, 2007 at Chicken Pie Diner, San Marcos, California.
- SDSG is not responsible for late, lost, damaged, misdirected, postage due, stolen, or misappropriated entries.
- Tapes/CD's/Lyric Sheets will not be returned.
- Entries that violate these rules may be disqualified, and submitted fees will not be returned. All SDSG decisions are final.

EACH ENTRY MUST CONSIST OF THE FOLLOWING:

- **Entry Form:** Completed and signed Entry Form, see below, photocopy is OK. **One Form per song entered.**
- **CD or Audio Cassette:** Each song must be submitted on its own individual CD or Cassette Tape. You must indicate the track number of each song submitted on CD. Tapes must be cued to within 5 seconds.
- **Lyric Sheets:** 5 copies of lyric sheets (please include English translation if applicable). Sheets are not required for instrumental compositions. Performer's/songwriter's names must **not** appear on lyric sheets. Entries will be number coded to assure impartiality in judging.
- **Fees:** Check or money order (U.S. currency only) payable to SDSG:

Early Mail-in Registration Discount Fees (To qualify, entries must be received no later than November 1, 2007)
\$10 (Current SDSG Member) or \$15 (Non-SDSG Member) per song.

Fees the night of November 14 or Mail in after November 1 (Limited numbers of entrants may be accepted)
\$15 (Current SDSG Member) or \$20 (Non-SDSG Member) per song.

One check or money order for multiple entries is acceptable. Join SDSG or renew your expired membership when you enter and you may enter at member rates. Membership Applications are available at SDSongwriters.org.

**Mail Entries To: San Diego Songwriters Guild Contest
3368 Governor Drive, Suite F-326 • San Diego, CA 92122**

Questions or comments? Contact us at sdsongwriters@hotmail.com Website: www.sdsongwriters.org

2007 SDSG Song Contest Entry Form - Submit ONE with EACH song entered

Per-Song Payment Enclosed (circle one): Current SDSG Member: \$10 / \$15 Non-Member: \$15 / \$20

Song Title: _____ CD Track Number: _____

Songwriter Name(s): _____

Contact Name/Relationship to Writer(s): _____

Contact Address: _____

Day Phone: _____ Eve Phone: _____ Email: _____

I have read the contest rules and accept the terms and conditions. Signed: _____

Songwriter's Signature and Date

SDSG at the Belly Up (continued from page one)

strong and invitingly naughty Diane.

Our show was then graced by an appearance by national recording artist, the mesmerizing **Steven Ybarra**. Steven is a natural on stage after years of fronting touring bands **Liquid Groove** and **34Below** and SDSG is proud to help bring Steven's new independent project to San Diego and the world in the wake of his having written more than 200 songs. His smooth voice covers every inflection from committed and transported to resigned and angry while his guitar strumming runs from soft underlining melodies to bold resonating lines that carry an entire song. Steven's special personal history of choosing a new path in music with his life partner **Kellee**



comes out in his recordings which blend piano, guitar, drums, and lyrics in a mix of spirituality, unparalleled talent, and compassion. If anyone deserves to be a snobby in-your-face egotistical rock star, it's Steven Ybarra, but instead, and this is what makes Steven's songs so irresistible, what he communicates is the fact that he's vulnerable: to music, to the tides of living, and to love. The lineup included: **James Hood** on guitar, **Nathan Brown** on bass, **Tres Hodgens** on drums, **Debbie Galan** on backing vocals, **Chris Wilson** on guitar, and **Joe Cardillo** on sax. For more see <http://www.myspace.com/stevenybarramusic>

For most people, it's pretty much impossible to follow Steven Ybarra and have any confidence, but luckily for **Candice Graham**, this wasn't a problem. Switching styles entirely, the evening went from singer/songwriter to blistering rocker and no one missed a beat. Recently Candice released a great 2nd CD called "**Rockin' the Country**" and she's witnessing a transition from Country Sweet to Country Cool by partnering up with the up-and-coming San Diego sensation band **EndOxi** (fronted by **Chris Wilson**). Candice is a sexy smokey-voiced singer who accompanies herself on guitar and co-writes with her husband and a bevy of famous songwriters including Holly Steel and Todd Urbanas. Her CD is out on the **Allureis** label, and for the Belly Up show, she held nothing back. She hopped on stage barefooted and sent kicks left and right, her long hair swaying during her high-energy set that won her the evening's grand prize with sponsor Studio West. Surf over to <http://www.candicegraham.com> and listen to "**Knockin on Hollywood's Door**" among other keepers. Candice is a powerful singer, but listen closely and you'll hear a quiet side of her that's no stranger to listening and then responding.



To close the show, the amps actually had to be turned down to accommodate the big sound of **EndOxi**. After seeing a few of his shows it's clear that **Chris Wilson** is the next big thing... he actually guest performed on several sets at the Belly Up (with Brian Darnell, Steve Ybarra, Candice Graham) and concluded the night with his own remarkably individual sound. When Chris spoke with me about his music he said, "Remember, we're a band," which reflects his generous musician's concern that all the lights might end up on just him. It seemed fair to the judges that the

evening's grand prize be shared with **EndOxi** since Chris was on many of the night's sets. A little like the Led Zep rockers or Axl, Chris is a tall, thin, long-haired versatile guitarist who strides around the stage comfortably while his hands race up and down the frets. **EndOxi** is: **Chris Wilson, Mike Monsivaiz, Joe Cardillo, Mike Chartrand** and they are endorsed by Washburn Guitars and others. They are recording their CD "**New Blood, Old Soul**" at Kitty Hawk studios, produced by Brian Darnell. As a band, they have an organic, strolling, punchy style and they just click. Check out their relaxed to raucous tunes on MySpace <http://profile.myspace.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=user.viewprofile&friendid=118929599>

Needless to say, I had a blast getting to know the bands better and negotiating with Brad on sound at the Belly Up. Check out the pictures I took with my iPhone. We hung up our new SDSG banner (designed at



Darnell, Scrivner and Associates and drawn by... yes, again.. Chris Wilson) with SDSG's new slogan "**Pen Mightier than Sword**," to usher in a new musical year. And hey, special thanks to the people behind the scenes like our VP **Tim Turner**, who was the driving force behind the Performing Songwriters Competition both this year and last, and SDSG's talented guitarist/Secretary, **Steve Landry** who is new to our board - performing and helping out with Public Relations. **Kellee Ybarra** is on board as Development Director, and **Rick Muñoz** continues to serve as our Treasurer. **John Pape** is another long-time SDSG board member; he manages our Website.

If you want to hear more from me or see some of my (hopefully) unpretentious music videos (do some exist in the music world??), I'm at www.bridgetmusic.com and am really happy to be working with SDSG which has brought so much to so many over the years!

- Bridget



sponsored by:



**UPCOMING
SD EVENTS**

San Diego Songwriters Guild

Live in Del Mar 10/20

2007 Song Contest 11/14

Live at Vinbladhs 11/29



Read all about the coming
2007 SDSG Song Contest,
Live Shows and SDSG at
the Belly Up Tavern, inside.



SongWritersNotes

The San Diego Songwriters Guild

3368 Governor Drive, Suite F-326

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Address Corrected Requested

Song Contest Alert!
See Inside for Details