

SongWritersNotes

The Newsletter for San Diego Songwriters

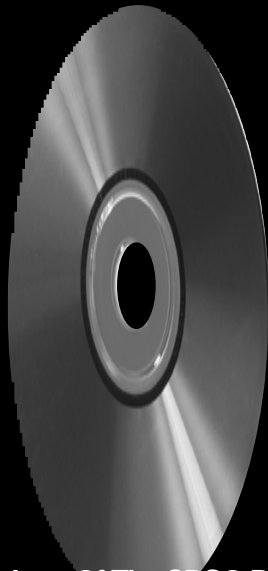
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**The San Diego
Songwriters Guild**

3368 Governor Drive
Suite F-326
San Diego, CA 92122
619-225-2131

www.sdsongwriters.org

e-mail:
sdsongwriters@hotmail.com



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SDSG Welcomes Wednesday, March 28, 7 PM

Hollywood Records A&R

SDSG presents a compelling evening for Songwriters and Artists with special guests **Jon Lind**, V.P. A&R, *Hollywood Records*, *Hit Songwriter and Producer* and **Peter Galloway**, *Internationally known Artist, Writer and Producer*. These two career songwriting pros representing different creative directions join us in San Diego the last Wednesday in March.

For over 25 years, Jon Lind has been writing pop mega-hits like "Boogie Wonderland" (Earth, Wind & Fire), "Crazy For You" (Madonna), Vanessa Williams' career songs "Save The Best For Last" and "The Sweetest Days", plus many others. Now Hollywood Records Vice president of A&R, Jon co-wrote and co-produced English group BBMak's soon to be platinum project, with his song "The Ghost Of You And Me", their new single being released this month.

Peter Galloway, a native of New York, formed the Fifth Avenue Band with friend Jon Lind in the 1970's. An acclaimed folk/alternative and acoustic-pop singer, writer and guitarist, Peter has done eleven albums of his material and is responsible for producing almost fifty albums and special projects, including the Grammy nominated "Bleeker Street: Greenwich Village in The 60's" and "Time and Love: The Music of Laura Nyro", a special tribute album. He is currently developing projects for film and record.

Jon and Peter will inform, educate, share with, inspire and even entertain us on March 28th, as part of their desire to give back to the music community. They don't wish to extensively critique or criticize our tapes and CDs, but will listen to one submission by SDSG member artists and writers. The song pitch will be the second part of this great evening. **There is a strict limit of one song only per each current member artist, writer or team. Please keep submissions appropriate to our guests' needs, as noted below.**

Jon is listening for ballads and up tempo hit material for three acts at Hollywood Records: 19 year old **Nydia** - strong intelligent, lyric-driven songs for the Latin artist in the direction of Selena and Christina Aguilera; **Jennifer Paige** - R&B flavored pop artist who scored with the hit "Crush;" and **Nobody's Angels** - youthful girl-group with young lyrics and a pop/urban edge. Less mature and involving lyrics than Nydia. **Of course, our A&R guest also has an interest in finding super, "ready to sign" artists, groups, or bands.** Peter will be listening for material suitable for his own projects. Styles like country, jazz, hip-hop and metal are probably not appropriate for these guests.

Registration opens at 6:15 p.m. Tape submission fees are \$10. Non-member admission is \$20. Remember, the pitch will be open to members only, but you can join SDSG at the door, \$45 annual dues, \$25 for students with valid I.D.

See you at the Doubletree Hotel, Mission Valley on Wednesday, March 28. - Randy Fischer

SDSG PRESENTS

INTERSCOPE

Tony Ferguson, VP of A&R for Interscope Records

RESCHEDULED for Saturday, April 21, 2001

SEE PAGE 3 FOR MORE

From the Editor's Desk . . .

The 2000 SDSG Song Contest was an unqualified success! With entries coming from around the country, our judges had a tremendous challenge in picking this year's winners. Overall, the level of craftsmanship exhibited by our entrants was extremely high. Of course, the prize winning songs were of exceptional caliber. Our judges selected winners in 8 categories, with runners-up awards being given to 16 commendable tunes.



Our prize winners were announced at SDSG's Gala Celebration on January 29. Most of our top writers were present, traveling from as far as Davis, California to accept their awards. It was a rare pleasure for me to have the honor of presenting our winners with some great prizes, thanks to the generosity of SDSG's sponsors. Please patronize these retailers and service providers, for without them, we could not begin to accomplish the work we do here in San Diego.

So who won? Here's a list of SDSG's Tenth Annual, 2000 Song Contest Winners! Look for features on our winners in future newsletters throughout the year. And a special **thank you** to all our entrants and judges.

Category	Title	Writer(s)
Rock	"Hero"	Fisher/King
Country	"Are You There Yet?"	Aylor/Oates/Rasmussen
Pop	"A Lifetime Isn't Long Enough"	Sharella
Social Consciousness/Inspirational	"Free"	Peggy Lebo and Ron Florentine
R&B	"Eventually"	Aylor/Oates/Rasmussen
Holiday/Novelty	"The Twelve Months of Christmas"	Charles and Marci Carr
Instrumental-Traditional	"Sunny Days"	Fred Ferino
Instrumental-Jazz	"I Got Game"	Jamie Reno

Honorable Mentions (*in no specific order*) "My Baby's All the Party" by Barker/Martin/Jacobs, "If You Only Knew" by Denise Ganulin, "Cocoon Me" by Tracy Gayle, "Sing Me Your Lullaby, Starry Night" by Natasha Ragland, "Love So Fine" by Mary Dolan, "Crimson Tears" by Tracy Page, "Yesterday's Gone" by Thom Vollenweider, "I Can't Stay Away From You" by Denise Ganulin, "Agenda" by Sarah Harmel, "Ballad of Crazy Horse" by Janet Snare, "These Days" by Laura Preble, "Run To Me" by Sara Harmel, "AcLivivity" by Elizabeth Heiner, "Back to Eden" by Peggy Lebo, "The Jersey" by Bob Duffy, and "It's Not Like We Never Drove Through Texas" by Elizabeth C. Axford

- Mark "HC Markus" Hattersley

What's Going On?

SDSG Live Shows Coming up:

MIKEY'S COFFEE, 12222 Poway Road in Poway, **Wednesday, April 4th**, from 8 to 11 PM

JUST JAVA, 285 Third Avenue, Chula Vista, **Wednesday, April 18th**, from 7 to 10 PM

JAVA JOE'S, 1956 Bacon Street, Ocean Beach, **Sunday, April 22nd**, from 9 to 11 PM

SDSG members will be at the **RANCHO CORRIDO SONGFEST**, 14715 Highway 76, Pauma Valley, **April 28th**, 3 to 9 PM.



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. **If you can't make the March 17 Jason Blume seminar, shoot for Saturday, March 24, 10am-4:30pm** jason will be at **THE MUSICIAN'S INSTITUTE** in Hollywood. Contact CraigLack@aol.com for more information.

OTHER NSAI NEWS: Monday-Saturday, **APRIL 2-7:** NSAI NASHVILLE TIN PAN SOUTH. Friday-Saturday **APRIL 6-7:** NSAI NASHVILLE SPRING SYMPOSIUM. **APRIL 23, 2001:** NSAI WORKSHOP MEETING, 7:30pm-10:00pm at the home of Liz Axford. RSVP to Liz at EAxford@aol.com or (858)481-5650. \$5 Donation requested.

THE USA SONGWRITING COMPETITION has announced the launch of the **Year 2001** songwriting event. Songs may be entered in 15 different categories including Pop, Rock and Country. Entries are accepted from now through **May 31, 2001**. For more information visit: <http://www.songwriting.net> Contact: (Toll free) 1-877-USA-SONG Outside US call: (954) 776-1577

THE TENTH BILLBOARD SONG CONTEST is now accepting entries. **June 15, 2001** is the cutoff date for this event. Eight categories are featured in this competition. Check it out at www.billboard.com/songcontest

SUMMER SONGS SONGWRITER'S CAMP 2001 runs from **August 5 through 11** and will be held at Ashokan in the Catskill Mountains of New York. Sounds like just the place to recharge one's creative batteries. Call (914) 246-0223 or visit summersongs.com to learn more.

Interscope Records Pitch Session

**Rescheduled Date:
Saturday, April 21, 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 on the rescheduled date of Saturday, April 21, 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. **Member s submissions will be given priority.**

Registration for this event starts at 6:15 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 about April 10.

Randy Fischer and Mark HC Markus Hattersley

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SDSG at Java Joe's

The name "Java Joe's" usually brings to mind **Jewell, Gregory Page, Steve Poltz**, and a host of local and nationally known performers. So I was very happy to organize and participate in the first ever San Diego Songwriter Guild showcase at Java Joe's. Located at 1956 Bacon Street in Ocean Beach, the club has a great PA, lots of room, and movie posters on the walls. Joe's regular soundman, Wendy, famous for hosting "Wendy's Open Mike" on Monday nights, was on duty with the Air force Reserve, so our sound technician was none other than **Jeff Berkley** of "**Berkley Hart**." Jeff did a great job.

I started off the showcase with my favorite cover song (is this a crime at a songwriter's showcase?) but had the chance to perform several of my originals as the night rolled along. **Sharelle**, new to the Guild and San Diego, performed on both acoustic guitar and keyboard, accompanied by her husband Adam on acoustic guitar. You may recognize Sharelle as the winner in the Pop category of our 2000 SDSG Song Contest. With her rich voice, interesting melodies, and intelligent lyrics, Sharelle went over very well with the crowd, just like she did with the contest judges.

Mark Jackson took the stage next. Accompanied by **Ken Wilcox** on acoustic guitar and **Pat Ambre** on harmonica, Mark played the type of music many people call "Americana." It's a mix of Country and Folk that I personally love. They performed "Desert Wind," a song that goes back to Mark's days with Jackson/Bolland and my favorite of his compositions. Mark has just rejoined the Guild and we are lucky to have him back.

Our last act was "**Myron and the Koniptions**." Guild member **Myron Frame** fronts this four-piece band, performing lead vocals and harmonica. Most of the songs they do are his compositions. With electric guitar, bass, and drums, this band can really bring the house down. They have done so at many of our showcase before and they were hot this night. They received enthusiastic applause from the audience after every song, and Joe, Java Joe's owner, clearly enjoyed this hot blues band.

In all, it was a great night at Java Joe's. We are very grateful to Joe for having us, and to Jeff Berkley for making us sound, well, great! Thanks to those of you who came out to support us. Our next showcase at Java Joe's is On Sunday, April 22nd. Hope you can join us.

- *Tony Taravella*

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SDSG Opportunities

Miles Grayson, long-time supporter and occasional guest of SDSG has recently advised us he has a great connection with an impending **CD project in Nashville**. The talent, a 17-year-old guitarist/vocalist, could use a super song right now! The CD is crossover country, but Miles does not want anything resembling a traditional country song. Dr. Grayson suggests tunes in the styles of **Creed or Phil Collins** would be right up his alley on this one. He invites interested writers to submit appropriate work immediately, as this project is moving forward rapidly. Submit to Miles Ahead Music, PO Box 35449, Los Angeles, CA 90035.

J. Cooch Music is seeking Top 10 Quality **R&B hits** for new female artist. "Major label interest, she has management in place." Songs must be fully produced, and available for immediate contract consideration. If interested Cooch will need an instrumental track as well. Unpublished songs only. Please submit songs in this style only. Send Songs to: J. Cooch Music (BMI) 22 Williams Way South, Baiting Hollow, NY 11933 USA Attn.: Ron White A&R dir. Web site for more info at www.coochmusic.com

Songwriter-composer looking for a lyricist that writes love songs a la Diane Warren. Ability to write to pre-recorded music important. I am an excellent composer with my own MIDI studio. Call **Harold (909) 242-8562 jadmeg@yahoo.com**

There are several new SongwriterUniverse Magazine articles now online: "Great Publishing Story: John Alexander & Alanis Morissette." This is an exclusive interview with ASCAP Senior Vice President John Alexander, about how he first discovered Alanis Morissette. "Great Success Story: Brent Maher & The Judds." Top Nashville producer Brent Maher recalls how he discovered the Judds, produced all of their albums, and co-wrote many of their classic hits. "Jeff Silbar: Writing The Classic, "Wind Beneath My Wings." Hit pop & country writer Jeff Silbar tells how he co-wrote "Wind Beneath My Wings," and how the song gradually became a standard. Check recent SDSG guest **Dale Kawashima's songwriteruniverse.com** for all this and much, much more.

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.

"Music Business Horror Stories" is coming soon. Published by **Janet Fisher** and Goodnight Kiss Music, it will have major distribution. SDSG's **Nairobi Sailcat** is one of many contributing authors. His story is called "Just Say Yo!" Anyway, this book is a must read for newbies and O.G.'s alike. The former will freak the latter will laugh. This book is like the Music Industry's version of "Scared Straight." Check it out at <http://www.goodnightkiss.com/product.html>

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While the above may represent valid opportunities, please use your good judgment and/or consult a lawyer whenever submitting songs and evaluating offers or contracts. SDSG is not responsible for the listed organizations' performance or lack thereof.

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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. Some pitch events are open only to SDSG members

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 Follow Up

One of SDSG member Mark Jackson's songs wound up being used in a local play. Mark tells how it came to pass...

It just so happened I met director Annette Spadafore one afternoon in November outside the playhouse here in Chula Vista. She told me she would be directing a play called "Somewhere in Between." I told her I had written a song by that same name several years before and she said she would be interested in checking it out. I sent her the lyrics in which she liked, so I then recorded a rough guitar/vocal track of the song and sent it to her.

I didn't hear from her after that and had pretty much let this one go, but she responded to a mailing list e-mail I sent out a couple of weeks ago. She said that the song was already in the pre-show music and would be listed in the program. My wife and I went to the opening on Friday, March 9, and the play was wonderful! Now there's a good chance I will perform the song live on closing night. Some things happen when and where you least expect!

"Somewhere in Between" is playing through April 7th at the ON STAGE Playhouse at the Downtown Chula Vista Arts Center on Third Avenue in Chula Vista.

SDSG is looking for an intern to assist us in getting our message out to San Diego writers and artists. We have a lot to offer the energetic, self-motivated individual willing to

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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. Participate in members only pitch opportunities.



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**Hollywood
Records**

Pitch

Wednesday, March 28
7:00 at the Doubletree

Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us.

Interscope

Saturday, April 21, 7:00
at the Doubletree

Call (619) 225-2131 or
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SongWritersNotes

The San Diego Songwriters Guild

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