

SongWritersNotes

The Newsletter for San Diego Songwriters

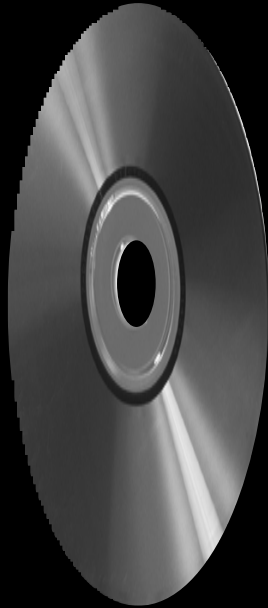
Volume 14 • August 2000

Published by
**The San Diego
Songwriters Guild**

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

www.sdsongwriters.org

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sdsongwriters@hotmail.com



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7 pm Monday, August 14, 2000

Maranatha Music

PRAISE & WORSHIP MUSIC Pitch Session

Eli Thompson, Director of A&R at Maranatha Music, has been gracious enough to agree to come down for a pitch session at **7:00 pm, Monday, August 14**, at the DoubleTree Hotel. Maranatha Music is a large and prestigious Christian music label that does not accept unsolicited material. Their standards are very high, so all demo tapes and CDs should be of excellent quality.

Eli will be looking specifically for Praise or Worship songs, which are songs that can be sung by a congregation during a church service—preferably material that is already being used successfully under such conditions. Eli will not be looking for artists, or material for individual artists. He is looking for songs that are easy to remember, hard to forget. **Let's show Maranatha what San Diego has to offer!**

The Doubletree Hotel is located at 7450 Hazard Center Drive near I-163 and Friars Road (619) 297-5466. Entry is free to members, \$20 to non-members. **Tape registration begins at 6:30 pm** at \$10 per tape, max registration of 2 tapes per writer and/or team of writers. Please see **The Pitch Session** on page 7 for general pitch session rules and guidelines.

*If you have been to Calvary Chapel any time in your life you may be familiar with Praise or Worship songs. They are typically sung in a church services by a band or Worship leader. The congregation is expected to sing along. Praise generally refers to uptempo songs; Worship, a slower tempo. Since the songs are expected to be singable by the average person, the melody should be catchy and interesting, but not difficult. Lyrics should be simple enough for people to remember. Many Praise and worship songs have only one verse and one chorus which are repeated. The catch is, the song needs to be good enough that people will **want** to repeat it over and over again!*

Do you have an original song that goes over well at church services or Bible studies? Do people sing along with it? Does it move people? If so, record a demo tape and pitch it on August 14. It might be just what Maranatha Music is looking for. San Diego Songwriters Guild memberships are, as always, available at registration.

-Tony Taravella

SDSG PRESENTS

REX BENSON

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 7 PM AT THE DOUBLETREE

Join SDSG as we welcome the publisher of Kenny Rogers' recent #1 Country hit "Buy Me A Rose" for a superb pitch opportunity in San Diego.

SEE PAGE 3 FOR DETAILS

From the President's Desk . . .

This year, for the first time ever, The San Diego Songwriters Guild will be conducting its annual songwriting contest on a mail-in basis. We have decided to do this for a variety of reasons, the major one being that none of us wants to go through what we traditionally endure every November. In the past, we have had to wait while judges listened to as many as 70 songs in the first round and then go on to the final round. It would usually be 11 pm or sometimes later before we announced the winners, many of whom would already be home and in bed. If it was a long night for the contestants, it was an even longer night for our board members. Last year I didn't get out of the Doubletree until 1 am.



If we are to realize our goals of expanding our contest and more fairly judging entries, we know we have to conduct our event without subjecting our contestants and judges to such torture. So, this year **SDSG's Song Contest entries will be accepted via mail exclusively.** We hope to receive entries from around the United States and the world, not to mention all of our great San Diego writers.

We understand a mail in contest may lack some of the excitement of a live event. Entrants will not have the opportunity to hear the competition, but the satisfaction of earning a prize with your song will still be great. In the long run, the mail in contest should be less strenuous and more satisfying for all involved. And SDSG can focus on conducting this year's contest as fairly as possible. Now's the time to start recording that killer song. Look for the entry form in this edition of SongWriters Notes.

I would like to thank **Melanie Ray Brown, The Bishop Jones Band, Bob Duffy,** & all those who participated in our showcase at the Del Mar Fair on June 25th. I would also like to express my extreme gratitude to The Del Mar Fair's Special Events coordinators for allowing us to play and to the sound crew that made everything very easy for us. (I have to admit, I wish that we hadn't had to take the stage after the Egyptian Belly Dancers, as they were a tough act to follow... I know I'm not as good looking as they.)

Many thanks to **Monica Benson** for being a gracious guest at our June pitch and **Josquin des Pres** for opening **Track Star Studios** to us. Good job to **John Dawes** and **Tim Sweeney** for their seminar on the internet. Thanks to those of you who came out for those events. Last, but not least, I want to thank everyone who has purchased a copy of "**Love Notes,**" **SDSG's compilation CD.** If you haven't got one, pick up a copy. It's great music that's good for Children's Hospital.

-Tony Taravella

What's Going On?

The **Northern California Songwriters Association's 2000 Song Contest** is coming up. Prize winners will be announced at **CREATION:CRAFT:CONNECTION 2000, NCSA's 20th Annual Songwriters Conference,** on September 9, 2000. **August 15** is the cut off date for entries. For info email info@ncsasong.org or phone **(650) 654-3966.**

Producer, Kristopher Stone's Open Mic Showcase is Sponsored by Seaside Church for the general public and benefits the Seaside Players Theatre Group. Come join us! **August 25 - General, September 29 - Ladies Night 2, October 27 - Halloween Dance, November 24 - General last one of the year.** Location: Seaside Hall, 1010 Second Street, South of Encinitas Blvd., one block West of 101, corner of "I" and Second Street, West of St. Germaine's Cafe, Encinitas, CA. Thanks for playing out loud.
kwstone@aol.com

Monday, August 28, 2000 and Monday, September 25, 2000: NSAI Workshop Meeting 7:30pm-10:00pm at the home of **Liz Axford.** We will be doing Group Song Critiques and Songwriting Exercises by Danny Arena and Sara Light ("Home to You" by John Michael Montgomery.) Please come prepared with cued tapes, 15-20 copies of typed lyric sheets, and your NSAI or SDSG membership card if you plan to have a song critiqued. Please RSVP if you plan to attend to **Liz (858-481-5650)** or EAXford@aol.com, and to get directions. \$5 Donation requested of non-members. www.nashvillesongwriters.com



Country Music Pitch WITH Rex Benson

SDSG welcomes back and congratulates Rex Benson, CEO of **Rex to Riches Music**. Based in Orange County, with extensive Nashville contacts, Rex is also a successful songwriter with a song on the soon to be released **Kenny Rogers** album. Rex is an important staff member of TAXI, through which he discovered the touching ballad with which Rogers recently enjoyed a #1 hit, "**Buy Me A Rose**." The song was first pitched through TAXI by its two young Utah-based writers in 1997. Rex heard the submission, worked the song for a few years, and the "Rex" is history! "Buy Me A Rose" is the first #1 hit to be released on an independent label in 15 years, not to mention Kenny's first #1 since 1985.

Rex gives expert critiques and is always listening for that special song for male or female artists. **He remains on the lookout for great "story songs" and "first-person love songs"**, like Kenny Rogers' best. Be they ballad or uptempo, Rex needs songs that say what men want to say and women want to hear.

Do not miss this great opportunity to pitch to a bona fide master of the country genre. We'll be waiting for you at the Doubletree on **Monday, September 18**. Register starting at **6:30 pm**. Don't be late, 'cause we're sure to have many submissions, and Rex's time is limited. Please no more than 2 submissions per writer and/or team of writers. Submission may be on CD or cassette. Pitch fees are \$10 per song. SDSG members are admitted free, non-members admission is \$20. Non-members must pay admission fees to pitch. See "**The Pitch Session**" on page 7 for general pitch session rules and guidelines.

- Randy Fischer

SDSG SONG CONTEST 2000

Yes, you can enter now!

It's once again time for the annual SDSG Song Contest. Due to the increasing number of entries, we have decided this year to make the contest mail-in only. The live contests were exciting, but kept running later and later. We think you'll agree that the new rules make it easier on everyone.

Please see the insert in this newsletter for the entry form and our updated rules. Good Luck!

- Evan Wirt and SDSG

SDSG News Makers

SDSG Welcomes **Matthew Camp** as our newest board member. He will be handling member records and database management. Thank you for sharing your time and expertise Matthew!

Mark "HC Markus Hattersley was happy to place his productions in the Seattle Seahawks Post-Game Show, Home Improvement (Promo), and even National Enquirer Television in the 4th quarter of 1999. Mark is now mastering the new **Markus Van Such CD "Sweet Bites."** Listen for it soon.

Check out **Steve White's** web page at SDSG Sponsor **Taylor Guitars** site: <http://www.taylorguitars.com/artist/awp/indies/white.html> Steve reports having a great time at **Nashville NAMM** performing at 12th & Porter in Nashville with Crystal Plohman, Jerry Douglas & friends, The Monte Montgomery Band, Steve Bailey and Los Straitjackets.

On Friday, June 9, the **Laura Preble Band** performed at Coors Amphitheatre opening for **Steely Dan!** In addition to Laura's singing, piano-playing, and songwriting, the band also features Chris Klich on sax, clarinet, and flute; Barry Brown on guitar and keyboards; Harry Hache on bass; and Pete Woods on drums. For more information, please call **(619) 462-8048**, or hit LauraPreble.com

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.

HMarkus@aol.com or call the SDSG Hotline and leave a message to share your success story.

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SONGWRITER, COMPOSER from Switzerland (french and english speaker) is looking for a lyricist collaborator to write english lyrics in the Pop, Top 40 style.
Yves Durr (858) 273-2151 Ouarg@hotmail.com

ORDER the SDSG "Love Notes" CD now... see the article on page 3. Why not give a copy to a friend?

The Guild Needs You! Please consider volunteering to help San Diego's premier industry organization run by and for songwriters. We're looking for dependable, motivated people ready to learn and grow through service to our songwriting community. Call the Hotline anytime! (619) 225-2131

Mail your ad of 40 words or less to San Diego Songwriter's Guild, 3368 Governor Drive, Suite F-326, San Diego, CA. Or, you can email your ad directly to HcMarkus@aol.com Be sure to indicate your phone number so that we can contact you if there are problems. **SDSG members only.**



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John DAWES and Tim SWEENEY MUSIC PROMOTION and the WEB

I am really glad I had a chance to hear Tim Sweeney and John Dawes speak on Indie promotion, and to get to know them better. They are both full of information for independent artists, and seem very willing to give of their time. Their advice for marketing both off and online is extremely helpful. I was encouraged to put together my own marketing plan, with realistic goals and expectations. Their book "The Complete Guide to Internet Promotion for Musicians, Artists and Songwriters" is packed full of useful, up-to-date information. Their expertise shines through, and they are truly the ones to consult for advice on this topic. I will be heeding many of their suggestions over the next few months as I build my own "virtual domain." Thanks Tim and John for a great workshop!

- Liz Axford, San Diego NSAI Workshop Coordinator

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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 you 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 admission 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 tapes in advance.
- If you want more than one song in any event, it is \$10 for each additional tape.
- 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 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 because they may get separated.
- The Pitch Session is limited to 70 tapes. 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 tape, sign in all names of writers, song title and phone number, so that others who hear your song can contact you.
- Tapes 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.

Join the San Diego Songwriters Guild. Membership dues are \$45.00 annually.
Timely renewals are \$40.00 per year.
Be a part of your San Diego music community!

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 Pitch Session

Monday,
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 at the Doubletree

Sign in @ 6:30



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**Song
 Contest**



mail in NOW until
 November 15

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Critics can't even make music
 by rubbing their back legs
 together. — *Mel Brooks*

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SongWritersNotes

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Please check your membership expiration date below

First Class Mail

San Diego Songwriters Guild (SDSG) SONG CONTEST 2000 ENTRY FORM

Rules and information:

- All styles of music are eligible.
- Each song must be the contestant's original work. Entrants and their collaborators will retain full rights to all work submitted for the competition.
- Songs will be judged by a committee consisting of industry professionals and songwriters.
- Judges will use five criteria: melody, form, originality, lyrics (when applicable), and presentation.
- Winners are responsible for the division of the prizes.
- 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.
- Winners will be notified by phone, and winner's names will also be posted on our web-site.
- Prizewinning songs from prior SDSG song contests are not eligible.
- Tapes/CD's/Lyric sheets will not be returned.
- As of the making of this entry form, the prizes for this year's contest have yet to be determined. In 1999, over \$5,000 in prizes were awarded, so check out last year's prize list as an example (available at our web-site). Note: some of the prizes are "San Diego" based and can only be redeemed in San Diego stores, offices, and studios.
- Entries that violate these rules may be disqualified, and submitted fees will not be returned. All judge's decisions are final.
- SDSG is not responsible for late, lost, damaged, misdirected, postage due, stolen, or misappropriated entries.
- Entries must be postmarked by November 15, 2000. Winners will be determined and notified by December 15, 2000.
- Enter as often as you like!

Each entry must consist of:

- **Entry Form:** Completed and signed entry form (or photocopy). One form per song entered.
- **CD(s) or audio cassette(s):** Tapes must be cued to within 5 seconds of when the music starts. If you submit a tape and enter more than one song, each song must be submitted on its own individual tape.
- **Lyric Sheets:** 4 copies of lyric sheets (please include English translation if applicable). Sheets are not required for instrumental compositions. Please blacken out any performer's/songwriter's names on the lyric sheets.
- **Fees:** Check or money order for \$10 (SDSG member) or \$15 (non-SDSG member) per song (U.S. currency only) payable to SDSG. One check or money order for multiple entries is acceptable.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact us at:

e-mail sdsongwriters@hotmail.com

phone (619) 225-2131

web www.sdsongwriters.org

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

Enter today!

Note: SDSG is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation with no paid employees. It is operated on a break-even budget by a volunteer board of directors. Revenues are used to conduct seminars, rent meeting facilities, cover travel expenses for industry guests, maintain the web site, and publish and distribute the SDSG newsletter. The information gathered in this entry form (including names, addresses, e-mail, etc.) will not be sold to anyone and you will not be spammed.

Mail your entry to:

SDSG Song Contest 2000
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San Diego, CA 92122

Entries must be postmarked by November 15, 2000.



Entry Fees per Song (check one):

- SDSG Member. . . \$ 10
- Non-Member. . . . \$ 15

CD Track Number (if applicable) _____

Song Type (check one):

- With Lyrics
- Instrumental

Song Title _____

Songwriter's Names _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____-

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail address _____

I have read the rules and accept the terms and conditions.

Signature _____

Date _____ / _____ / _____