

SongWritersNotes

20 Years Supporting San Diego Songwriters

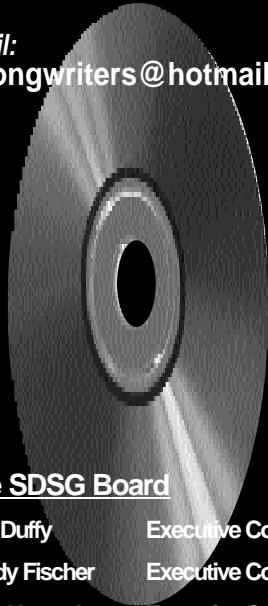
Volume XX • September 2002

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Songwriters Guild

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Breaking News Just In! **Eddie Gomez Bug Music**

Eddie Gomez, Vice President of Creative Services of Bug Music, Hollywood will be visiting with SDSG for our next pitch session, **Monday, September 9, 2002**, at the Doubletree Hotel in Mission Valley. Please see page seven of this issue of Songwriters Notes for details.

Thanks to Janet Snare for lining up this opportunity for SDSG members.

Jim Casey POWER DIAMOND

Jim Casey, Owner and Head of Nashville Operations of Power Diamond Music will be listening in San Diego with the Guild. See page three for more about this Pitch, coming to the Doubletree on **Monday, September 23, 2002**.

Thanks to Bob Duffy for setting up this great country/pop session.

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From the Songwriter's Desk . . .



Our next "Country" pitch guest, Jim Casey of Power Diamond Music, has recent cuts with Matchbox 20 and Cheryl Crow. And, demonstrating the rule that proves the exception, Power Diamond also has a cut with Dolly Parton, emphasizing the fact that, as much as people in the music business live and die by categorization, barriers between genres are permeable. Think again about your best songs, you know, the ones that are "Rock" or "Pop" or whatever. Are they suitable for crossover into a style that you never imagined?

In July, we hosted an outstanding pitch opportunity with Todd Kern of Network Music. Todd picked up several of our writers' songs for further consideration, and helped us all better understand the world of Production Music. If you didn't attend this session you missed hearing some excellent submissions by our members. I know Todd was impressed with the level of writing and production he heard. I was impressed with Todd's solid feedback and willingness to listen to *a lot* of music. It takes endurance to make it in this business!

Please don't ever miss a session just because you don't have anything to pitch. As an SDSG member, you can attend any session as an observer for free. Come for the education, the camaraderie and the inspiration.

See you for Bug September 9 and Power Diamond September 23.

- Mark Charles Hattersley

What's Going On?

Another SDSG Live Showcase at the HOT MONKEY LOVE CAFE, 5960 El Cajon Blvd. on **Saturday, August 31**, from 8 to 11 pm.

SDSG Pitches at the Doubletree September 9 and 23. See this issue of the News for details.

Saturday, August 31, 10am-5:30pm All-day NSAI songwriting seminar with JASON BLUME

www.jasonblume.com at the Stratford Inn, 710 Camino Del Mar, Del Mar, CA. Jason is one of the country's most successful songwriters and most respected songwriting teachers. His songs have been on Grammy nominated albums by The Backstreet Boys and Britney Spears, and recorded by LMNT, 3 of Hearts, Boyz 'n Girlz United, Steve Azar, Collin Raye, John Berry (#5 "Change My Mind"), The Oak Ridge Boys, and many others. He is the author of the critically acclaimed and best-selling "6-Steps to Songwriting Success" (Billboard Books) and his new book "Inside Songwriting: Getting to the Heart of Creativity" is due out in 2003. He has also produced the "Writing Hit Melodies" instructional CD and "The Way I Heard It," his own vision of his songs recorded by major artists. Make the most of your holiday weekend by spending it in a great environment near the ocean and honing your songwriting skills! Free lunch and parking. Song critiques included. Early-bird registration fee is \$40 for NSAI members and \$50 for non-members before August 1, 2002. After August 1, the fee is \$50 for NSAI members and \$60 for non-members. Space is limited so register early. Checks should be made payable to Liz Axford and sent to: Liz Axford PO Box 85 Del Mar, CA 92014-0085 **Contact EAXford@aol.com or (858)481-5650 for more information and to register.**



Check SDSongwriters.org for a great list of Nashville venues and open mic events, courtesy of NSAI!

NSAI LOS ANGELES WORKSHOP PRESENTS A **CONCERT ON THE LAWN** BENEFITING THE NASHVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL FEATURING: TERESA JAMES & THE RHYTHM TRAMPS, JERRY FULLER, JEFF SILBAR and WENDY WALDMAN. **Saturday, September 7th, festivities begin at 5:30 PM** with a picnic and wine tasting. At 6:45 PM Entertainment begins. Advance Reservations required: **Call Craig Lackey at 310-319-9454 or email: craiglack@aol.com**

See "Opportunities and Newsmakers" on page five for contests and other news



Power Diamond Music's

JIM CASEY

SDSG Pitch Session September 23, 7PM

Power Diamond Music Publishing is located at 1900 Wedgewood, on Nashville's Music Row. Founded in 1998, Power Diamond Music (BMI) and Diamond 88 Music (ASCAP), also represent catalogs of Sun Records founder, Sam Phillips, including Hi-Lo Music, Knox Music and Charles Rich Music.

The Power Diamond staff includes: Jim Casey, owner and Head of Nashville Operations, Jerry Phillips, owner and head of Memphis and Muscle Shoals operations, Know Phillips, owner and Director of International Relations, Dottie Rager, Nashville Creative Director, and Matt Casey, Nashville Studio Engineer. Recent major label cuts have come from artists MatchBox 20, Dolly Parton, and Cheryl Crow.

In addition to music publishing, a live weekly radio show "THE POWER DIAMOND REPORT" is aired digitally from the Power Diamond Music Building to WXFL-FM "KIX 96", a 50,000 WATT R&R Reporter in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. "KIX 96" is currently the Arbitron rated number one country music station in the Shoals market.

This year, Power Diamond re-established the "Midnight Sun Records" label, a sister label to the legendary Sun Records label. Midnight Sun was acquired as a delivery vehicle for establishing new artists. The first artist release for the label is Sonny George, Nashville Country Rock-a-Billy artist who is currently touring Europe.

Jim Casey, head of Nashville Operations, came to Nashville as an artist and writer for Allen Reynolds, Dickey Lee, and Jack Clement. His writing includes Country cuts for Bobby Bare, Sammi Smith, The Oak Ridge Boys, Waylon Jennings, and Charlie Pride, along with pop records on Ritchie Havens, The Smoke Ring, and bluesman, Albert Collins. He is active in producing, writing, as well as publishing.

Registration opens at 6:30 PM. The meeting begins at 7:00. A maximum of two submissions per writer or team of writers will be allowed at each session. Pitch fees are \$10 per submission. Non-members may attend sessions as observers for \$20.00. For general information and rules on pitch sessions, see page six of this issue of Songwriters Notes. Pitches are open to SDSG members only but, as always, SDSG memberships are available at the sessions. Annual dues are \$45.00.

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SDSG Opportunities and Newsmakers

Hi y'all! Please check this out! <http://www.judycalem.com> SDSG's Judy Calem has a great new site. Do you have one? Let me know so I can alert the members and the media! HCMarkus@cox.net

Answer Hymn just returned from its tour of the east coast. The band played in Souderton, PA, recorded a radio program in Lehigh Valley, PA and sang in churches and concerts in Falls Village, Canaan, Essex, Hartford, and Woodbury CT. SDSG's **Lisa Chaddock** and the band did a radio interview on WYNS Radio in Lehigh Valley, PA, that will reach not only the New England area, but will be broadcast on the internet to over 20,000 listeners throughout the world. Lisa reports that trip was an amazing experience and expresses her thanks for everyone's continued encouragement and support of Answer Hymn. Lisa can be reached at lisa@answerhymn.com

SDSG's "Love Notes" CD is 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.

NSAI and the Songwriters' is showcasing your performances in "**Night of Original Songs Showcases**" at Smokey's II on Campo in Spring Valley. **Please call Dee at (619) 465-6532 if you want to become part of these showcases.** Or email her at dsongs@mindspring.com

SDSG's **Mark Charles Hattersley** was channel surfing when he chanced upon "**Wild On**" on TV in his hotel room in Bakersfield (another story) Mark had the pleasure of hearing one of his cuts as background to a rough ride on an inner tube off a beach somewhere in Europe. Oh, the joys of production music!

Rex Benson advises his consults are going great and seem to be well received. He figures that a small investment in a consultation can take serious time off the process of learning the tricks of the trade...and for the serious songwriter, it can be well worth it. Reach Rex at checks2rex@aol.com or at (714) 731-1737 to schedule a telephone consult.

International Songwriting Competition Now Accepting Songs. ISC is a new annual songwriting competition whose mission is to provide the opportunity for both aspiring and established songwriters to have their songs heard in a professional, international arena. Categories include: Pop, Rock, Country, Folk/Singer-Songwriter, R&B/Blues, Hip-Hop/Rap, World Music, and Lyrics Only.
www.songwritingcompetition.com

Now in its second year, **SongwriterUniverse** continues to grow in popularity. Find it at songwriteruniverse.com

SDSG's **Myron Frame** has been hard at work, scouring the globe for future guests for the Guild. He has a very promising lead for October, and a second that's looking good for November or early next year. **Way to go Myron!**

If you would like to help SDSG be all that it can be, email HCMarkus@cox.net. We can always use motivated volunteers... The sky's the limit.

Email HCMarkus@cox.net to share your news



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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

- We reserve the right to limit the number of tapes submitted by an individual in any event. This right 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. Only SDSG members may 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.

Join the San Diego Songwriters Guild. Membership dues are \$45.00 annually.

Timely renewals are \$40.00 per year.

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TAXI A Member's Perspective *by Joan Kurland*

So you've been plugging away as a songwriter for a long time and you've come up with a couple of real gems. You've got a ballad that would be perfect for Celine Dion or a kick-ass country tune that you just know Garth Brooks would love. There's only one problem: how do you get your material NEAR these superstars? You know darned well that unsolicited tapes usually end up in some secretary's garbage can.

Enter TAXI, the "Independent A & R Vehicle." This LA-based organization aims to hook up prominent music industry people with songwriters who wouldn't normally be able to get their material heard.

TAXI works like this: members pay an annual fee to receive a newsletter twice a month with dozens of listings like, "Director of A&R at major label looking for mid and uptempo Pop/R&B songs a la Mariah Carey/Toni Braxton for a new female artist" or "Major Nashville label looking for dog and cat songs to accompany a book of photos of Nashville stars with their pets." TAXI hires industry pros to screen the submissions so that only the best stuff gets forwarded. If your material is right-on for the listing, you get a chance to get it to the people in power. If it's not, you get a professional critique sent back to you.

TAXI charges \$300 to join, \$200/year thereafter, but offers \$50 discounts to SDSG members when they join TAXI. Tell TAXI that SDSG sent you- it pays! **TAXI.com 800-458-2111**

Bug Music visits with SDSG Sept 9

Since 1975, Bug Music has blazed a distinguished trail as one of the world's leading publishing administrators. From country and blues to electronica and pop, chart toppers and indie rockers, Bug has it all. What appeals to Bug's offbeat assortment of clients is not only Bug's profile - "real small, real street, real alternative" but the bottom line that Bug is not a publisher, strictly speaking, but a publishing administrator. The distinction is crucial. Publishers acquire copyrights, invest in them, and exploit them. Administrators handle the paperwork, licensing, royalty collections, etc. for independent copyright owners, usually very small publishers or the songwriter his or herself. Publishing administrators, of which Bug Music may be the only true example, combine the two.

Here's a list of a few of the projects that Bug's Eddie Gomez currently seeking songs for:

- Jessica Andrews: Looking for undeniable Hit singles only. This is Country/Pop with depth. Her vocals are very strong and convincing and the material should be as well.
- Whitney Houston: Looking for one or two more big ballads reminiscent of her earlier material.
- Bro,Sis: This is the group that won the German TV version of "Popstars." The line-up is 2 girls & 4 boys. They've already had a national #1 single. Seeking R&B/Hip-Hop songs w/ English lyrics.
- Martina McBride: They are seeking songs similar to her Evolution album. Songs that really showcase the purity & power of her voice. A nice blending of Country meets Pop.
- Toni Braxton: Soul R&B/Dance that,s done w/ Toni,s signature vocal style that exudes both maturity & sensuality. She usually covers a lot of ballads & midtempo dance songs.
- Vanessa Amorosi: Australian born singer-songwriter who has already enjoyed huge success with her debut album which yielded 4 hit singles! Still looking for smash hits. Classy, uptempo Pop with anthemic choruses.
- Shawn Kane: A new artist who sounds like a 2002 Sam Cooke meets Otis Redding. This is a high priority for the label. They are looking for soulful songs in the style of Jodeci.
- Jessi Alexander: She's been co-writing with the likes of Benmont Tench & Gary Nicholson, who is also producing her record along with Mark Wright. Needs material that has a Blues or a soulful type of Country edge to it.
- The Jenkins: A new trio that features a mother and her two daughters. They are looking for traditional Country meets Americana type songs.
- TLC: The surviving members intend to complete the album that they had started before the untimely death of Lisa "Lefteye" Lopes. This group has always pushed the boundaries with their brand of R&B that incorporates Pop elements. Catchy hooks, bouncy funk with a sassy, sexy attitude.

Eddie advises that he is always looking for top-notch Pop, R&B & Country. He would consider doing a "one-off" deal if he came across what he felt was a "hit" song, but mostly Eddie looks for writers or "potential" writers that legitimately have a need for an administrator.

Join Eddie and SDSG Monday, September 9, 2002 at the Doubletree Hotel, Mission Valley. Registration opens at 6:30 PM. The meeting begins at 7:00. A maximum of two submissions per writer or team of writers will be allowed at each session. Pitch fees are \$10 per submission. Non-members may attend sessions as observers for \$20.00. SDSG Members are admitted free. For general information and rules on pitch sessions, see page six of this issue of Songwriters Notes. Only SDSG members may pitch songs but, as always, SDSG memberships are available at the door. Annual dues are \$45.00.



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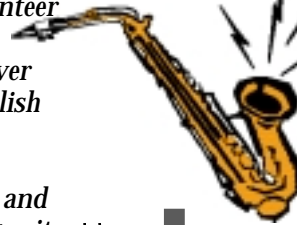
THE SAN DIEGO SONGWRITERS GUILD

The San Diego Songwriters Guild 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, and publish and distribute the SDSG newsletter.

The Guild's mission is to assist its members and interested public in the advancement of songwriting skills through educational programs, and to expose original songs to the recording, television and motion picture industries via pitch sessions with entertainment professionals. It is the Guild's aim to stimulate both the craft and the business of songwriting by serving published and unpublished writers working in all popular musical styles.

We sincerely appreciate your support for your premier industry resource, the San Diego Songwriters Guild.

**TAKE YOUR SONGWRITING SERIOUSLY.
JOIN SDSG TODAY. SDSONGWRITERS.ORG**



Eddie Gomez of

BUG Music **Pitch**

MONDAY, SEPT. 9
7PM Doubletree

JIM CASEY Power Diamond **Pitch**

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

"Everything should be made
as simple as possible...
...but no simpler."

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