

SongWritersNotes

27 Years Supporting San Diego Songwriters

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The San Diego Songwriters Guild

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Contest Finalists to Perform at Belly Up

On February 23, 2009, a talented group of musicians submitted recordings for the review of a panel of judges, with the six top entrants being selected to move on to the 2009 SDSG Performing Songwriters Contest finals. At the end of the listening session, the judges commented on the overall quality of the submissions, noting that everyone who came out presented strong material with professional recording quality predominating. As one who can recall the days of cassette submissions being the norm, it was gratifying to hear the solid, well-crafted material that was presented. Kudos to all our contestants for a job well done!

Our judges still had to select top entries to move on to the Belly Up and the contest finals; they picked seven top songs from the 32 entrants. Scoring was very tight, with only a few points separating songs in the scoring.

Slated to perform at the Belly Up on Tuesday March 3, 2009 are **Allegra and the Allegra Collective, Blues Lyne, Candice Graham, Kerri Dopart, Lindsay White, Reverend Stickman, and Steven Ybarra.**

The winner of the Contest finals will receive a Six-Hour **Studio West**

Recording Session, a 500 CD Package from **CDRollout.com**, and \$250 in cash from SDSG.

Our panel of judges for the Qualification Session at Country Inn and Suites included SDSG President **Sandi Shaner**, SDSG Vice President **Tim Turner**, former SDSG President **Bridget Brigitte**, and Contest Sponsor Studio West's **Kyle Z. Helmstetter**.

Board Members **John Pape** and **Richard Widney**, assisted by SDSG associate **Barby Hattersley**, diligently ran the sign-ins, organized the entries and handled the housekeeping chores as the judges reviewed our contestants' songs. I served as the Contest MC and handled sound for the session.

We couldn't do an event like this without the support of our members and our generous sponsors. Thank you **KPRi 102.1 FM, CDRollout.com** and **Studio West** for your support for this event. And thanks to **Country Inn and Suits** for your proving us with a fine venue for the listening session.

Finally, thanks to **everyone** who entered and attended our 2009 Performing Songwriters Contest. Keep your eyes peeled for upcoming events... we'll see you there!



San Diego Songwriters Guild

The San Diego Songwriters Guild was formed in 1982 by Palomar Community College songwriting instructor Dottie Beck and seventeen of her students. Dottie's goal was to provide education and support for those interested in pursuing the craft of songwriting.

Over the course of its 27 years, the Guild has developed into an important asset for San Diego writers & artists. SDSG serves our community by sponsoring performances at local venues, seminars at professional recording studios, and our annual Song Contests. It is the number one resource for San Diegans interested in achieving commercial success as songwriters. SDSG also sponsors charity concerts and offers services at reduced rates to interested students.

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.

The Guild offers members a unique opportunity to personally meet and share ideas with their fellow writers and performers.

The San Diego Songwriters Guild is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation. 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, promote Guild events, and publish and distribute the SDSG newsletter.

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

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2009 Listening Session Judges

Kyle Z. Helmstetter

Kyle Helmstetter is a recording engineer at Studio West. In addition to his work in the Studio, Kyle does live sound all 'round San Diego. He's also a songwriter and guitarist. With a degree in Recording Arts from Madison Media Institute in Wisconsin, Kyle specializes in digital music, sound design and post production.

Sandi Shaner

SDSG's President Sandi Shaner is an amazing, energetic woman whose expertise in marketing combined with her love for music and experience as a singer, songwriter, guitarist and rock band front-woman make her the ideal leader for SDSG.

Bridget Brigitte

Bridget is an award-winning songwriter, singer, and writer who heads her own record label, Bionic Sisters Productions. With a symphony-composer-grandmother and a radio-technology-pioneer-grandfather, she was clearly destined for a career in music. Bridget performs her original compositions on guitar, harp and piano. With a beautiful CD *Where Birds Meet in the Rain* and a full 10-song music video companion DVD under her belt, she has performed in many venues internationally and is to receive the Ireland Heritage Award with other honorees at the

Ireland Gala 2009. Bridget is now preparing for a tour of Europe, with performances in France, Belgium, Holland and Scandinavia starting in June. Ms. Brigitte recalls the many Guild showcases that helped shape her career as writer and performer here in the world's finest city.



Tim Turner

Tim has been deeply involved in the music biz for over 40 years, starting with the Hungry Eye Booking Agency, where he booked 60 full-time rock bands in 18 states and 3 provinces. He was employed as National Promotion Director for the world's largest independent distributor, Pickwick International, where he was responsible for Chrysalis, Arista, Motown, Concord Jazz, and many other labels. Tim was awarded gold records for his work with Blondie, Pat Benatar, the Moody Blues, Bobby Caldwell, the Commodores, Diana Ross, and more. Currently handling music business managing and production work, he also owns and runs TSM Advertising and Promotions.

Sara Petite Swings by Rancho Bohemia

Prize-winning songwriter and performer Sara Petite shared her personal approach to music in a recent session at Rancho Bohemia Studios. Raised where wild huckleberries grow, Sara hails from Sumner, Washington – a tulip-farming town southeast of Seattle. She grew up riding in her Dad's seaplane and on the back of his motorcycle. Her mother raised a trio of women and a son, and gave each of them a strong backbone and sense of self. Sara's unique musical performances are fronting a new genre of Alternative Country. Inspired songs that revive fond memories of home and travels are enhanced with a rock and roll state of mind.

Her songwriting has earned her honorable mentions in the American Songwriter Magazine, the 2006 West Coast Songwriter's Competition, and the Great American Songwriter's Competition. In her first songwriting competition ever, Sara was a semi-finalist with two of her songs "Coming Home" and "Shine Some Heaven" in the 2005 International Songwriting Competition. Soon after, she was named one of five finalists in the Great Waters Folk Festival Song Contest. Sara won the Gold Award at SDSG's 2008 Song Contest, and took advantage of one of her prizes to lay down "Patchwork Quilt," a tune honoring a beloved aunt, at Rancho Bohemia with Mark Charles Hattersley engineering and on piano and accordion. The results: a song that allows the listener to touch the fabric of Sara Petite's unique insights into life, love and America. Hear Sara at SaraPetite.com, and catch her live. She'll be back in San Diego from Nashville in mid-March, appearing a few times before taking off for the Pacific Northwest followed by a visit to the Midwest. Interested in recording at Rancho Bohemia? Email Mark@RagingBohemia.com



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Mark Charles Hattersley
Raging Bohemian Records Mark@RagingBohemian.com

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