

NOVEMBER 2014

*The next meeting of the SVSA will be held **Wednesday, November 19** at Third Street Coffeehouse in Roanoke, Virginia. Doors will open at 7 p.m.; the meeting begins promptly at 7:30 and will last until the last song critique is finished, or 10:30 p.m., whichever comes first. Members may submit one song for critique (on cassette or CD, or you can perform it live) and should provide at least 12 copies of the lyrics. Critiques are limited to members only but non-members and guests are encouraged to sit in on the discussions and exercises.*

**Important Note about the November meeting:** Elections for new board members will be held at the November meeting. The current board has been in place for a number of years now and some new blood would be a good thing for the organization. So consider nominating someone or throwing your own hat into the ring.

Also, remember to reserve **Saturday, December 13, 2014** for the SVSA Holiday Dinner and Song Circle. It will be at Mickey Nelson's place, Antique Blue, 12 Campbell Ave. in downtown Roanoke. Dinner will be catered by RT Smiths. Cost TBD. More information will follow shortly. Reservations will be required.

And don't forget about the upcoming "Song Form Challenge." We'll be doing the critiques for these songs at our meeting in Feb 2015.

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## SVSA Meeting Notes

At last month's regular SVSA meeting, a total of 16 SVSA members were in attendance and we welcomed one guest.

SVSA secretary David Simpkins continued the "mini-workshop" series with a talk on "The Elements Of Running Sound" and included an informative handout that went into further detail for later study. Our "mini-workshops" always generate an enthusiastic discussion. David used the actual PA head at Third Street Coffeehouse as an example of what a sound person may encounter when expected to run sound for an Open Mic and then a Headlining Act. David explained that he is not – and never

has been – a “real” sound person, just someone who has an “ear” for it, who understands the basics, and is motivated (and often volunteers) to make the music that he hears sound as good as he can. Knowing the rudimentary elements of running a sound board is a crucial part of any performing songwriter’s bag of tricks. Having a basic understanding of how sound works – and how problems can be dealt with – can make performing much more enjoyable and stress free.

The October meeting also saw seven original songs brought in and given the SVSA “treatment” in our regular critique session — an open discussion of each song with comments, opinions, suggestions, and observations. From simple guitar/vocal demos to professionally produced studio recordings, original songs submitted for critique get a thorough and non-biased listen from our membership. Critiques cover lyrics and music; perhaps the most important observations deal with whether or not the song melds the two elements into a successful whole. It’s a proven fact: A song comes out stronger when it has gone through the “wringer” at an SVSA meeting. Members may perform their submissions live and in person on the Third Street Coffeehouse stage or they may bring in their songs on CD, cassette, or mp3. Making twenty copies of the lyrics for handing out to members is also suggested.

And, as always, the pre- and post-critique discussions were lively, and a lot of interesting and helpful information passed around the room. The exchange of information, opinions, and ideas is at the heart of what makes the monthly SVSA meetings so worthwhile and interesting. If you haven’t been to a meeting lately, plan to make time and bring in a song for critique ... we’re always ready and willing to let you know what we think! Or just stop by and join in the discussions. Your two cents is always welcome!

Non-members are encouraged to attend as well. You can sit through a meeting or two and see for yourself whether or not you think the SVSA would be beneficial to your songwriting efforts. The pay-off might not be immediate -- but the long-run benefits are many and valuable. You’ll find SVSA members with nearly every level of experience who are willing to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with you on your songwriting journey. So plan to attend next month’s meeting and check us out!

**- David Simpkins**

# The Song Form Challenge

(for critiques at the SVSA meeting on Feb 25, 2015)

Here's the challenge: Write a song with 5 or 6 sections where no section repeats, either musically or lyrically. Bring it to our February 2015 meeting where we'll critique them. Can you make the transitions seamless so that it doesn't sound like 4 songs smashed together?

Although most commercial songs follow a common song format, occasionally a song ignores the norms and becomes a hit. Roy Orbison's "In Dreams" is an example. There are six sections, all musically and lyrically different.

You can hear it here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqZs7Vl\\_xg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TPqZs7Vl_xg)



*Trifolkal (SVSA member Greg Trafidlo, Laura Pole, and Neal Phillips) backing up Francis Collins at a house concert in Bethesda, MD*



*SVSA members Alice and Aspen Black performing at the Western Music Association National Convention in Albuquerque. Mother and daughter performed all original music in a number of showcases at the convention.*

## SVSA Performing Members' Upcoming Gigs

### *Greg Trafidlo*

November 28: Two-Way Street  
Coffeehouse. Downers Grove, IL

December 5: Writers in the Round, Smith  
Mountain Lake Arts Council, Moneta, VA

December 6: Americana Afternoons, with  
Mike, Pearrell, David Simpkins, Britt Mistele,  
Kathy Acosta, Ron Ireland.

Jan. 23-24: Roanoke Regional Writers  
Conference, teaching ways to avoid writers  
block. Hollins University, Roanoke, VA

Feb. 21: House Concert, Bridgewater,  
VA. With Britt Mistele, Kathy Acosta, and  
others.



*SVSA member Greg Trafidlo (right) backing up folk  
legend Tom Paxton at the Birchmere in Alexandria, VA.*

### *Barbara Martin*

Thursday, December 4: 12-1  
p.m., Barbara solo, A Little  
Lunch Music, Staunton Public  
Library, 1 Churchville Avenue,  
Staunton, VA. Free admission.

Tuesday, December 9: 7:30-  
8:30 p.m., Barbara Martin  
Trio, Colonnades Retirement  
Community, 2600 Barracks  
Rd, Charlottesville, VA. Free  
admission; open to the  
public.

Friday, December 12: 7:30-  
11:30 p.m., Barbara Martin  
and The Entertainers,

featuring Vince Lewis, WV  
Jazz Society's Winter Jazz  
Stroll, Kelly's Pub, 221 S.  
Third St, Clarksburg, WV. \$5  
buys a button to the whole  
jazz stroll!

Wednesday, December  
31: 7-7:45, 9-9:45, 11-11:45  
p.m., Barbara Martin &  
Vince Lewis Trio with Victor  
Dvoskin on bass, First  
Night Winchester, Market  
St. United Methodist  
Church, 131 South  
Cameron St., Winchester,  
VA

## SVSA Performing Members' Upcoming Gigs

### *Aspen Black*

Dec. 5: Come Home to a Franklin County Christmas, 6-9 p.m. Harvester Performance Center, Rocky Mount, VA

Dec. 16: Ronald McDonald House, 8 p.m.

Dec. 21: Trinity Methodist Church, 11 a.m.

### *Marc Baskind*

Fri Nov 28: Palisades Restaurant, Eggleston VA, Solo, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Sat Nov 29: Annie Moore's Irish Pub, Roanoke VA, w/Caravan, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Wed, Dec 3: Tanglewood Mall, Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration, w/Laura Pole, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Mon Dec 8: Green Ridge Rec Center, Christmas Tree Lighting Celebration, Solo, 6-8 PM

Dec 5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 31, Jan 1: Greenbrier Main Dining room, w/Walter Scott Trio, 7-10 p.m.

Sat Dec 27: Annie Moore's Irish Pub, Roanoke VA, w/Caravan, 7:30-10:30 p.m.

Sun Dec 28: Inn at VA Tech, Preston's Restaurant Brunch, Solo, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

### *David Simpkins*

Friday, December 5: 7-9 p.m., Trinity Ecumenical Parish, 40 Lakemount Drive, Moneta, Virginia. Songwriters Showcase sponsored by the Smith Mountain Arts Council (SMAC). With Greg Trafidlo, Mike Pearrell, Mike DeGiorgi, Larry Sakayama, and Mike Franke. Britt Mistele and Kathy Acosta will be on backing vocals. For directions, see <http://www.smithmountainartscouncil.com>

Saturday, December 6: Noon-3 p.m., Floyd Country Store, downtown Floyd, Virginia. Americana Afternoons Songwriters In The Round with Greg Trafidlo, Mike Pearell, Ron Ireland, and featuring Britt Mistele and Kathy Acosta on backing vocals. For more info, see <http://www.floydcountrystore.com>

## SVSA Classifieds

### FOR SALE

**1991 Martin HD-28p guitar.** Solid Sitka Spruce top, solid East Indian back and sides. 1 11/16 nut width and 25.4 inch scale. The HD-28 comes with a Herringbone binding on top, and scalloped bracing under the top. The P stands for a low profile neck design. It has an Ebony bridge and fret board, with pearl dot fret markers. Comes with a \$200 L.R. Baggs Lyric pick-up system and a Martin HSC. 9.2 out of 10 condition. \$1800. Call **Britt** at 540-745-6771.

### FOR SALE

**KORG CR4 4-track Recorder.** Used once. Easy to use, great for songwriting! \$175. Contact **Dan Hildebrand**, (540) 765-9104 or danhildebrand@hughes.net.

### DEMO RECORDING AND PRODUCTION

**The Shop in Fincastle, Virginia.** Clean, high-quality multitrack recording and mixdown with an all-digital recording system. I can make MP3s and CDs from the mix. I'm a capable session player and can add guitars, keyboards, bass and percussion, as well as arranging and sweetening. \$25/ hour for SVSA members. Contact **Josh Jones**, thejonesgroup@rbnet.com, (540) 473-3598.

### AUDIO RECORDING, GUITAR LESSONS, MUSIC VIDEOS

**Randolph Walker Music.** randolphwalker@cox.net  
www.randolphwalker.com  
(540) 588-5826

SVSA Music News free classifieds may be submitted by paid members only. All classifieds must be music-related.

## Upcoming at Third Street Coffeehouse

November 21

**Jane Gabrielle**

November 28

**Closed for Thanksgiving**

December 5

**Steve and LaWanda Langston**

December 12

**Lee Robertson and Katy Davidson**

December 19

**Dogwood Tales**

December 26

**Closed for Christmas**

January 2

**Closed for New Year's**

Jan 9

**Chris Shepard (Roanoke, VA)**

Jan 16

**SVSA Writers in the Round**

Jan 23

**TBA**

Jan 30

**TBA**

Feb 6

**TBA**

*Third Street Coffeehouse is open every Friday. Sign up for open mic 7-7:30; open mic performances 7:30-8:15; featured performer from 8:30-10. Third Street is a smoke-free, alcohol-free, no-cover-charge venue.*

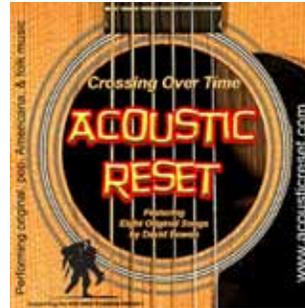
# SVSA Members' Recordings



eyes on the horizon



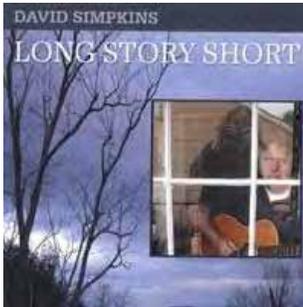
kaleidoscope



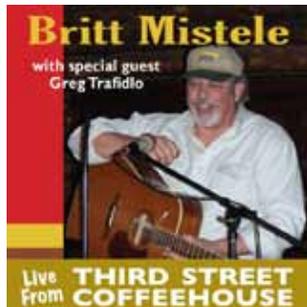
crossing over time



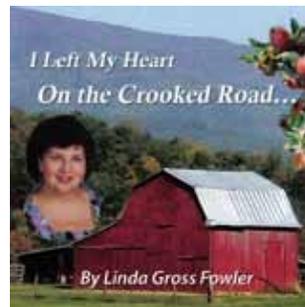
marc with a "c"



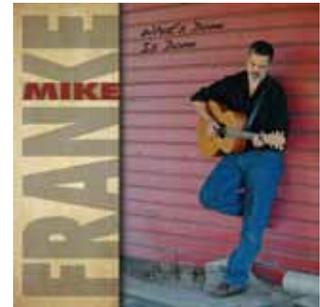
long story short



live from third street  
coffeehouse



i left my heart on the  
crooked road



what's done is done

## Barbara Martin

**EYES ON THE HORIZON** — Jazz and all originals with Robert Redd on piano, Chuck Redd on drums and vibes, Steve Wolf on bass, Mac Walter on guitar, Bruce Swaim on saxophone, John Jensen on trombone, and Matt Finley on flugelhorn.

**KALEIDOSCOPE** — Barbara's jazziest CD. All original songs, with co-writes with Joel Evans, Mac Walter, and Greg Trafidlo.

## David Bowen (Acoustic Reset)

**CROSSING OVER TIME** — Featuring folk-pop tunes. Eight originals and eight covers accented by solid guitar licks and accompanying instruments. Available at [acousticreset.com](http://acousticreset.com).

## Marc Baskind

**MARC WITH A "C"** — Sampler CD of covers and original songs offers a taste of the varied styles of this accomplished guitarist/singer.

## David Simpkins

**LONG STORY SHORT** — Offers 12 original Americana tunes blending rock, folk, blues, and country.

## Britt Mistele

**LIVE FROM THIRD STREET COFFEEHOUSE** — Four original songs and 11 covers, recorded live at Roanoke's Third Street Coffeehouse. With special guest Greg Trafidlo..

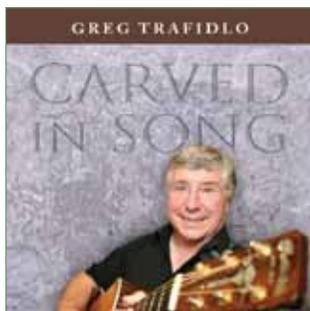
## Linda Fowler

**I LEFT MY HEART ON THE CROOKED ROAD** — Features 12 original compositions.

## Mike Franke

**WHAT'S DONE IS DONE** — A debut release of 14 original folk and blues tunes about everyday life and interesting people featuring Mike's fingerstyle and slide guitar.

## SVSA Members' Recordings



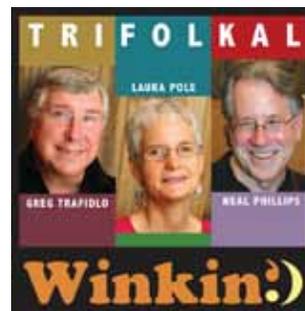
carved in song



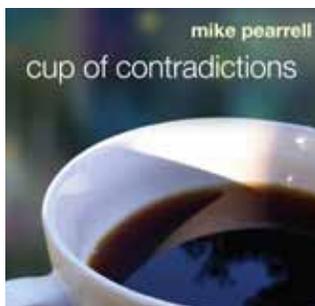
pacing the moon



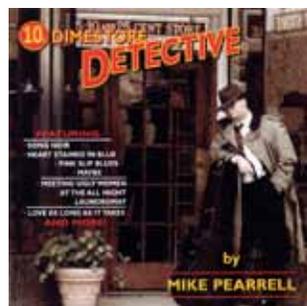
dog joggin'



winkin'



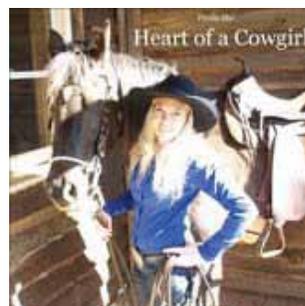
cup of contradictions



dimestore detective



eastern western  
cowgirl



from the heart of a  
cowgirl

### Greg Trafidlo

**CARVED IN SONG** — Most songs co-written with some of Greg's favorite songwriters. Listen to audio clips at [gregtrafidlo.com](http://gregtrafidlo.com).

**FOLKSINGULAR** — Greg's third solo CD reflects the diversity of his songwriting and production skills. With SVSA-ers on background vocals, and Marc Baskind on guitar and vocals.

### Josh Jones

**PACING THE MOON** — Thirteen of the strongest songs Josh has written. For lyrics, short audio clips and additional information, please visit [www.jonesgroupmusic.com](http://www.jonesgroupmusic.com).

### Steve Clark

**DOG JOGGIN'** — Eleven sweet and true amusing tunes comprise this quirky singer/songwriter CD. Available at [cdbaby.com](http://cdbaby.com).

### Trifolkal

**WINKIN'** — Newest release from that "trio fiercely dedicated to fun" tempers the fun with poignancy and heart.

### Mike Pearrell

**CUP OF CONTRADICTIONS** — 13 original songs. Lots of SVSA musicians singing and playing.

**DIMESTORE DETECTIVE** — Mike's first solo CD features 14 original songs. Produced by Greg Trafidlo; with a number of guest SVSA musicians. Available at Mike's shows.

### Aspen Black

**EASTERN WESTERN COWGIRL** — Eight original Contemporary Western songs. Available at [CDBaby.com/aspenblack7](http://CDBaby.com/aspenblack7).

**FROM THE HEART OF A COWGIRL** — Original spoken word poems adhering to the Western Music Association guidelines for the cowboy poetry genre.

**HORSEGIRL POET** — Songs and poems about horses, cowboys, and rural life.

**A HUNDRED YEARS TOO LATE** — All original music for horse lovers and those who yearn to preserve the spirit and lands of the last American frontier.

### **About Classifieds:**

SVSA Music News free classifieds may be submitted by paid members only. All classifieds must be music-related. Members, e-mail your classifieds to svsa.songwriters@gmail.com.

### **About articles and other written contributions:**

SVSA members write feature articles for the SVSA Music News throughout the year. Members can submit other articles and features at any time. Non-members may also submit articles and other written contributions but their inclusion will be subject to time and space constraints. All articles may be edited for space considerations and will be edited, as time allows, for spelling and grammar. E-mail submissions to svsa.songwriters@gmail.com.

### **About Announcements:**

SVSA members may list music-related announcements in the SVSA Music News. E-mail them to svsa.songwriters@gmail.com by the second Tuesday of the month. Announcements from members will be e-mailed to members as soon as they are received and, if still timely, published in an upcoming issue of the SVSA Music News. Announcements from non-members will be held for publication in an upcoming issue of the SVSA Music News.

### **About Members' Gig Listings:**

SVSA members may submit their upcoming performance schedules for publication in the SVSA Music News. The submissions will be printed as submitted; the more information you provide, the more likely the response.

### **SVSA DISCLAIMER**

*The ideas and opinions contained in this newsletter are intended to be helpful to songwriters. The companies and organizations mentioned are believed to be legitimate; however, SVSA does not endorse any products or services and offers no guaranteed success based on the content.*

*We are always looking for articles about SVSA members and articles of interest to the songwriting community. Send articles and information to the Editor, Kathy Acosta, or svsa.songwriters@gmail.com. SVSA is a non-profit organization.*

### **SVSA Board Members:**

Larry Sakayama – President  
Mike DeGiorgi - Vice President  
David Simpkins – Secretary  
Greg Trafidlo – Treasurer  
Mike Franke - Board Member  
Britt Mistele - Board Member  
Kathy Acosta - Newsletter Editor



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