SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

SVSA MUSIC NEWS

MARCH 2022

WWW.SVSASONGS.COM

MARCH FEATURE ARTICLE

Working as a musician during the pandemic

by Aspen Black

I write these opening words on a plane bound for Omaha NE. With 21 gigs ahead in the next week and a half and 18 behind me already this month, I thought I'd share a little bit about what it's like to be working as a touring musician during the pandemic.

Like everyone else, my gigging world ground to a stop in March of 2020. My daughter Alice's and my first post-lockdown tour was in June 2021. Hiding behind N95s – and with sanitizer constantly in hand – we loaded up the camper for three weeks of gigs in KS, MO, and TX.

The road felt like a flower reopening its petals as I drove back over the route to Kansas where I had watched businesses close their lobbies and dining rooms, one by one, in March 2020.

Before I go any further, one distinction I want to make is that gigging is not a "fair-weather-only" choice for me. I count on the money to pay my bills. Because of that, I agree to assume some of the same risks as others who work outside the home during the pandemic.

One odd aspect of our job is traveling from venue to venue and community to community in relatively short periods of time.

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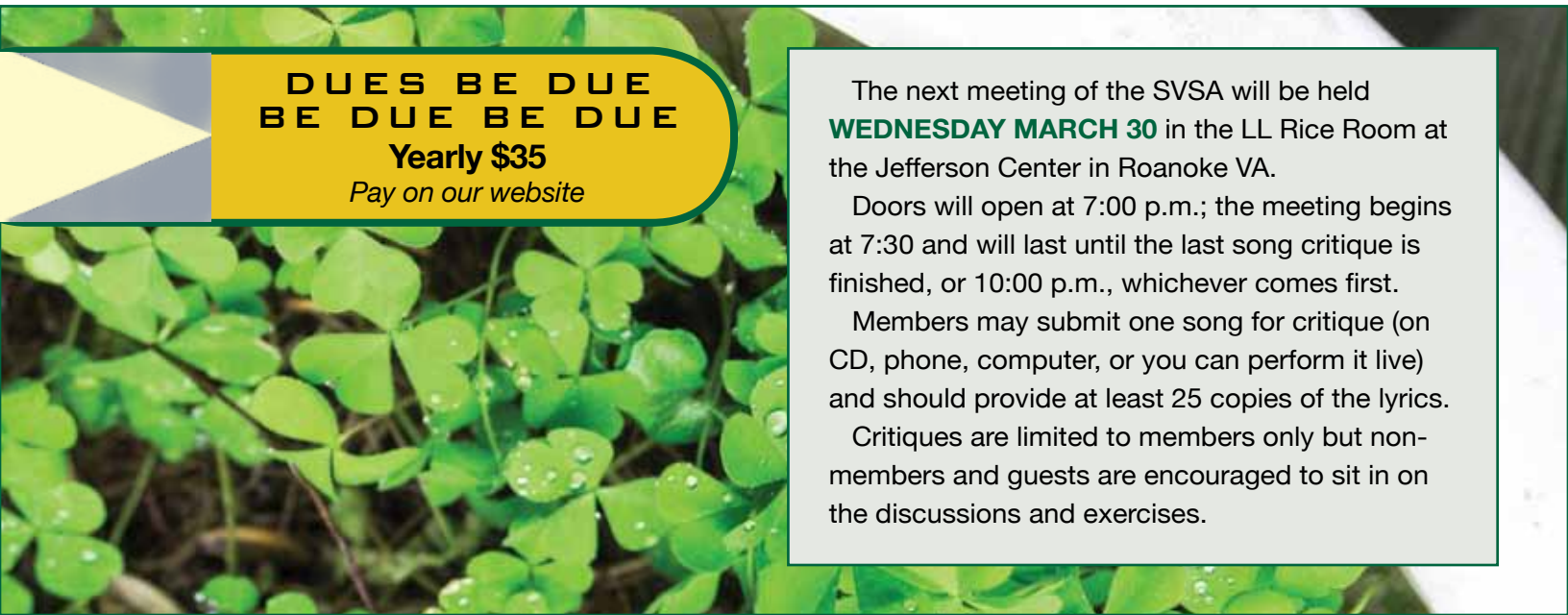
ASPEN BLACK



DUES BE DUE BE DUE BE DUE

Yearly $35

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The next meeting of the SVSA will be held **WEDNESDAY MARCH 30** in the LL Rice Room at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke VA.

Doors will open at 7:00 p.m.; the meeting begins at 7:30 and will last until the last song critique is finished, or 10:00 p.m., whichever comes first.

Members may submit one song for critique (on CD, phone, computer, or you can perform it live) and should provide at least 25 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.

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As my mentor and duo partner Kerry Grombacher says to bookers and audiences, "We adhere strictly to [Covid] safety measures because we don't want to bring anything to your community or take anything with us when we go."

Since June of 2021, I (or Alice and I) have performed in VA (local and overnight), KS, MO, TX, SD, WY, NM, AZ, and by the time you are reading this, NE. We have been out during spikes and troughs, and played in communities with either more or less virus spread than Roanoke.

Sending proof of vaccination along with our promo materials is now standard. It is also standard to enter some buildings and immediately submit our foreheads for a temperature check, answer the obligatory health questions, and then set up.

Some venues require us to sing masked. Others complain if we don't take our masks off to sing. Once, Kerry and I were required to sing through plastic face shields in addition to our masks. Try getting a clear vocal into a mic with that!

Sometimes, we unload equipment into a vestibule then wait for the results of rapid tests before being allowed in. Other venues are business as usual, no entry protocols, and we are the only ones masked.

Early on, camping was the best way to isolate. But by October 2021, I had to take the plunge back into flying and motels. The airports and flight crews strictly enforce masking.

I stay in rooms or houses with individual ventilation units. I don't eat inside restaurants. Masking and sanitizing have been consistent for us from the start.

We're hoping that Aspen is taking this masking thing to an extreme!

Another big difference about working in the pandemic is the need to book more aggressively and to be flexible about whatever is needed.

We now average two-three shows each day, and some days we play four or five. Pre-pandemic, I would have never believed that I could sing several shows a day through a mask or that 54 shows could all cancel over June and July, even though confirmed for almost a year.

Confirmed bookings now could cancel right up to the hour of the show if someone there tests positive. Others might change the program, for instance from singer-songwriter to instrumental-only a day or two before the show, due to Covid response policies.

Many venues are still afraid to book anything, citing the potential of Covid closures. Others have had their budgets cut by the pandemic. Some take tentative plunges and pencil in dates; others act as if nothing has changed and book as usual, and a few are really hungry for performers.

But turning over all these stones to find out who is or isn't booking means almost triple the hours of behind-the-scenes work and lots of additional follow-up.

I have also had to reinvent the variety of musical programs I offer. Since the mid-'90s I have been an original artist performing, almost exclusively, my own music. The pandemic has made me add covers and instrumental-only sets to fill in the gaps between original music gigs. This means more practice and more organization. I also created video and Zoom programs to take the place of live performances.

Isn't it scary to perform during these times? Yes. Absolutely, yes! I am one who was paranoid of the virus during all of 2020. What's the worst noise a musician can hear while on stage? Ear-splitting feedback? No. A cough in the audience!

In offstage life, I keep myself

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

out of a lot of fun and social opportunities in an attempt to stay healthy. Onstage, I try to ensure significant distance between us and the audiences and, if the venue will abide, masking for all.

I sing through a thin mask and spacer but set up and pack out in an N95 and change back into my N95 for the meet & greet.

Of course, sometimes, especially in group situations like Alice's music camp or festival round-robins, we mask except when actually singing, or if that is not the expected protocol by the venue, simply assume the risks.

The scariest places I have played? Senior homes where other floors in the same facility are on quarantine with positive cases. But I look around at all of the nurses and support staff who also come to work in that same building every day and take heart.

ASPEN BLACK

Elementary school audiences scare me too, but a little less now that vaccines have been made available to children. Still, many school districts refuse to enforce masking for students.

Even in trying to be safe, I have definitely done gigs that challenged my comfort-zone and I was shaking in my boots until I tested negative. On the other hand, there have been bookings that I've turned down, or postponed.

ALICE BLACK

As I landed in Omaha, I was told that one of our gigs already cancelled due to Covid and another switched from the original show (vocal singer-songwriter concert) to the instrumental-only show, and another will isolate us in a room without a live audience and broadcast our live vocal singer-songwriter show throughout the building.

On the other hand, we just completed two nearly-pre-pandemically-normal concerts of original material to live audiences with great response!

We still adhere to the same drive-play-repeat schedule as before. Starbucks are still prevalent, but we have to add in extra travel time because the drive-thru lines are longer. We still find the best Indian food on the road.

I don't eat or drink on planes, but I still get giddy with excitement every time I take off and land. We still get to perform lots of original songs for lots of different people, live for a few days at a time in a variety of communities, and make money from our passion of music.

Pandemic or not, music still touches people's souls. The forecast says a high of 14º and a low of -6º for the next three days. Oh, the glorious life of being a touring musician!

Upcoming events and a bit about song construction

by Mike Pearrell

It's time for our March meeting coming up this Wednesday, March 30 at 7:30 p.m. at the Jefferson Center. Please come out, socialize, practice writing a little, and share your songs.

We're having several performance opportunities over the rest of the year. First up is our showcase at the Bower Center in Bedford on Saturday, April 23, featuring **Barbara Martin**, **Bob Schmucker**, **Steve Clark**, and **Dan Hildebrand** and Adonna Lemon. Please come out and support your fellow SVSA members.

I've been thinking about how I construct songs and what chords I use to create progressions. There is always the basic (but so effective) three chords and the truth. Thousands of folk, country, pop, and rock songs are built using the I, IV, V (1 4 5) chords of any key. (For example, C, F, G.) Plenty of other chords are available, too.

Say we're trying to do something in the key of C major.

The "official" chords of this key are I- C Major or C Maj 7, ii -D minor (7), iii -E min (7), IV -F Maj (7), V -G Maj (dom7), vi - A min (7), vii -B diminished (min7b5) and

back to C. That's seven good chords to mix up any way you see fit – 14 if you consider the seventh chords as well. (As an aside, we will stop at seventh chords for this article, but **Mike DiGeorgi** often counts to ninth chords or higher.)

The next place I look is at the secondary dominants. These are the fifths of whatever chord you're trying to get to. The most famous is the "five of five." In the key we're working with the five chord is the G or G dom7. If we temporarily pretend we're in the key of G, the fifth of that is D major or D dom7. So, play along for a moment. Play C Maj, F Maj , D7, then G Maj. That move has occurred in hundreds of songs. What makes it sound interesting is the chromatic sound of F to F# (in the D7) to the G. This also works for A7 to D min, B7 to E min, C7 to F maj and E7 to A min. There's another five chords for you.

Finally, (but not really finally) we can borrow chords from the related natural minor key, in our case C minor. Borrowing means we'll have to give them back, though. The chords of C minor are C min, D diminished, Eb maj, F min, G min, Ab maj, Bb maj and back to C minor. You also have the seventh chords for these also. That's bunch more chords for your Key of C song. Try This: C major, Eb Maj, Bb Maj, C Maj. That is a rock riff cliché. Sometimes I'll try to write the verses and choruses in the major key and the bridge in the minor key.

So, there are plenty of chords to use in any song, in any key.

Then modulate up a half or whole step for the final verse or chorus.

SVSA member Greg Trafidlo opened for Joe Jencks at 3rd Street Coffeehouse in Roanoke VA this past Friday night. SVSAers Britt Mistele and Kathy Acosta provided backing vocals.

First concert will be May 21

New house concert series planned

SVSA member **Dan Hildebrand** is starting a new House Concert Series called *The Traveling Troubadour / House Concert Society.*

The first concert is to be held on Saturday May 21 at 6:00 p.m. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. in order for attendees to have time to mingle before the show. The event will be held at the home of Dan Hildebrand and Adonna Lemon at 270 Kristen Forest Road in Hardy VA.

The first concert will feature SVSA members **Larry Sakayama** and **Mike Franke** as well as Johnny Lex and the Allies, who recently performed at 3rd Street Coffeehouse in Roanoke VA.

There will be an open mic to follow.

The Traveling Troubadour / House Concert Society will gather bi-monthly and rotate to different locations. The main concept is to give local musicians a chance to collaborate and to share music and fellowship with like-minded musicians and music lovers in a house concert setting.

You do not have to be an SVSA member to attend. SVSA members are encouraged to come and consider hosting a future concert.

Anyone performing or attending concerts are not obligated to host a concert. Also, even though this is a "House Concert" venue, other concert locations may be acceptable (for example, a church or community center, etc.) when hosting a concert.

These concerts will be free of charge. Snacks and refreshments will be provided — but BYOB, please. A tip jar will be provided for the performers.

Future concert locations for July and September are already in the works and will be announced when they are finalized. Invites will appear in the monthly SVSA Music News newsletter.

Please RSVP at **dhildy15@yahoo.com** or text 540-765-9104.

The Smith Mountain Arts Council is sponsoring a coffeehouse concert on Fri Mar 25 featuring three Nashville Songwriters: Bill DiLuigi, Kirsti Manna, and Bill Warner. $17 SMAC members, $22 non-members. Details here: https://smithmountainartscouncil.com/nashville-songwriters-coffeehouse-concert

Help SVSA sustain Jefferson Center Music Lab

by Mollye Otis

SVSA is a sponsor of The Music Lab, a progressive music and production program at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke VA. We are making an annual contribution of $300 to the tuition fund that is distributed to worthy students from the greater Roanoke area who show talent and promise.

The Music Lab presents an extraordinary opportunity to about 30 students each year, offering state-of-the-art production studios, music lessons, and learning alongside professional guest artists.

Mickey Nelson, a longtime SVSA member, astute songwriter, and frequent performer saw the value in supporting the next generation of writers and co-founded The Music Lab. The SVSA created The Mickey Nelson Songwriter of the Year Award in his honor as an incentive to the Music Lab students, a way of "earning" our investment.

Jordan Harman, the Education and Outreach Coordinator for the program will guide and advise the students who will create and submit their work to an SVSA committee for adjudication at the end of the Spring Semester.

A plaque featuring Mickey Nelson is now prominently displayed in the Music Lab Production Room. Another plaque that will displayed will show the names of the winner of The Mickey Nelson Songwriter of the Year Award each year. Then, also yearly, a public presentation will recognize the winner and SVSA's part in this program.

Please consider donating $5 on behalf of the Mickey Nelson Award to help support our commitment.

There are two ways to pay, either by clicking the tab on the pull-down menu within the dues-paying page of the SVSA website or by sending a PayPal payment to **SVSAFunds@gmail.com**. You may also mail a check to PO Box 2901, Roanoke VA 24011.

We value songwriting as we value our organization and its members — and we hope you might make a small donation to help sustain this important outreach.

TRIBAL SOUNDS

SVSAer Baldwin opens production company to public

Recently, SVSAer **Forrest Baldwin** formally opened Tribal Sounds to the general public.

Baldwin explains, "Tribal Sounds is a multimedia production company focusing on individual and business development through means of audio recording, photography, and cinematography. Our mission is to provide a creative and accurate representation of our clients' brand and vision, tailored to fit their independent needs and to grab their audiences' attention.

"My company is inspired by you, created for you, and ready to bring your vision to life."

Learn more at: **www.tribalsoundsproduction.com**

Monthly meeting
is LIVE and IN-PERSON
Wed Mar 30
in the LL Rice Room
at the Jefferson Center, Roanoke VA

BOWER CENTER
for the arts

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

PRESENT

SVSA SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND

STEVE CLARK | DAN HILDEBRAND & ADONNA LEMON | BOB SCHMUCKER | BARBARA MARTIN

SATURDAY APRIL 23

305 N BRIDGE ST BEDFORD VA

6:00-8:30 P.M. • DOORS OPEN AT 6:00 P.M.

WWW.BOWERCENTER.ORG

(540) 586-4235 • INFO@BOWERCENTER.ORG

SVSA to present upcoming songwriters' showcase at Bedford VA's Bower Center

by Mollye Otis

The Bower Center for the Arts in Bedford will host an evening of "Songwriters in the Round" presented by the Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association (SVSA) on Saturday April 23. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the show will be from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Featured singer/songwriters will be **Barbara Martin**, **Bob Schmucker**, **Steve Clark**, and **Dan Hildebrand** with Adonna Lemon.

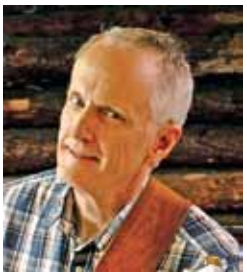
Admission is free. Donations to benefit the Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association will be deeply appreciated.

The Bower Center is located 305 N Bridge St, Bedford VA. It is a non-profit art center in the heart of historic Bedford. Contact info is **www.bowercenter.org**, **(540) 586-4235**, and **info@bowercenter.org**

PERFORMER'S BIOS:

Based in the Shenandoah Valley, vocalist and songwriter **Barbara Martin**'s work solidly reflects the greats of traditional jazz, never forgets the blues, but relates to the world today. Her skillful song crafting and solid guitar chops set her apart. Over a 20-year career, Barbara has produced nine recordings, impressing critics with her originality and the vocal stylings to put her songs across: "...slice of life songs that ring with truth, wit and experience." – *The Washington Post*. "A songwriter with an unexpected gift for sultry melody and a singer with a penchant for smoldering seduction." – Geoffrey Himes, *Howard County Sun*, Baltimore. Barbara's songs have been placed in national TV programs and documentaries.

Chicago area native **Bob Schmucker** plays his own unique blend of Chicago and Texas-flavored Folk and Americana music. Inspired by artists like John Prine, Steve Goodman, and Guy Clark, Bob's songs range from wacky and whimsical tales to gentle ballads of family and relationships, thrown in with a few serious songs of hardship and challenge. In his other day job, Bob manages 3rd Street Coffeehouse, a venue for regional musicians. As a producer of special musical performances at 3rd St. Coffeehouse, Bob has been recognized in several regional publications for his outstanding fundraising efforts in support of critical charities including Feeding America Southwest Virginia and the Susan B. Komen Foundation.



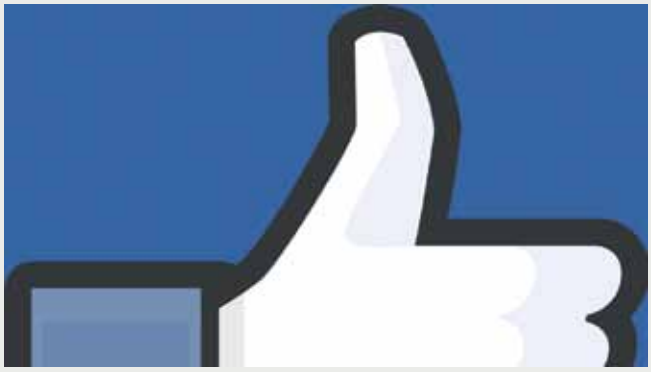
The artist still known as **Steve Clark** has been writing and performing his eclectic songs for nearly seven dog years. His CD release, "Dog Joggin,'" features 11 of his own songs along with a few favorites by other celebrated songwriters. His song *Up Up Up* was a finalist in the Children's category of the 1995 songwriting competition of the Louisville Area Songwriters' Cooperative. An "alumnus" of the Swannanoa Gathering, he performs at venues in the Roanoke Valley and elsewhere in Central Virginia. He is a past president of the **Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association** (SVSA) and lives in Forest VA.

Singer/Songwriters **Dan Hildebrand** and Adonna Lemon from Callaway VA entertain in a relaxed Folk-Americana style. Weaving a humorous yarn or a soulful ballad equally well, they blend beautifully with exquisite harmonies and tasteful percussion. Dan & Adonna recently received finalist awards for two songs at the (SAW) Songwriters Association of Washington 38th Mid-Eastern Song Contest. This duo's style is laid back, positive and interactive, with an easy acoustic groove that is sure to leave the audience smiling.

One of the SVSA's newest members, Josh Kinn (of Kinnfolk) rocks that Celtic thing on St. Patrick's Day 2022. We assume the other beer is for Julie.

Photo by Denise Schmucker

SVSA member Bob Schmucker hosts a new season of 3rd St Coffeehouse's "Guitars Under The Star."



WOULD YOU "LIKE" TO HELP THE SVSA GET MORE FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK?

That's all we need you to do. Just go to our Facebook page and "like" us. That's it. Your "like" will cause Facebook's algorithms to start considering the SVSA's page for shares, postings, and a greater all-around presence.

Of course, we'd also appreciate your input. You can share things to our page, comment on posts, memes, and images, and generally help make our page become more active and seen by more Facebook users.

As we said, it doesn't take much. Just pop the following URL into your Google (or whatever) search box, go to the Facebook SVSA page, and "like" us. We'd really "like" it if you'd help us out! Thanks!

https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=southwest%20virginia%20songwriters%20association

On March 19, 3rd Street Coffeehouse held its second Musicians' Swap Meet. One new wrinkle was to show previously recorded videos on the coffeehouse's new large-screen TV. SVSA newsletter editor David Simpkins entertains the swap meet attendees here via Facebook livestream archival imagery. Photo by Bob Schmucker.

Recently, SVSAer Greg Trafidlo (bottom center) found himself in a Floyd County VA song circle with long-time friend and legendary harp guitarist Muriel Anderson (bottom left center with Greg's mandolin). Photo by Judy Larson.

SVSA BOOK REVIEW

JAMES McBRIDE: 'KILL 'EM AND LEAVE'

by Mollye Otis

I am reading my third book by James McBride. The first one I read — "The Color of Water" — was about his complex relationship with his mother and her difficult life growing up in 1930s VA as the daughter of an abusive ne'er do well Rabbi in heavily segregated Suffolk.

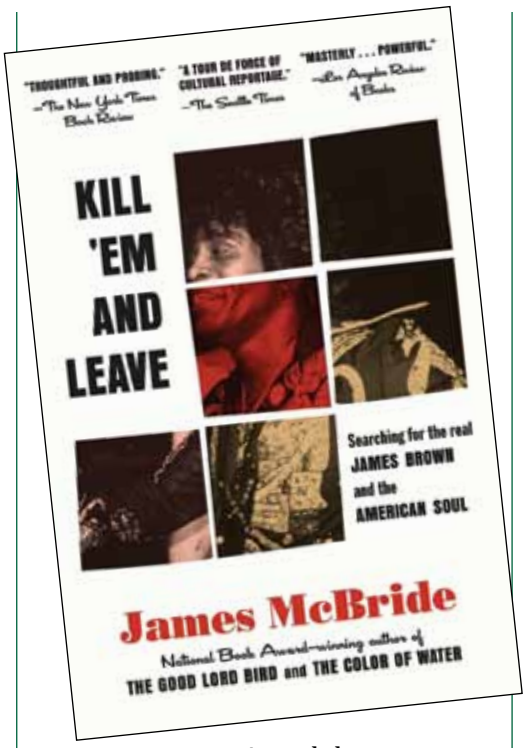
McBride's mother moved to New York to escape, and in 1942 married an African American man from NC and converted to Christianity.

McBride grew up in the Red Hook housing projects in Brooklyn where he still lives and teaches music to young people.

This book, "Kill 'Em And Leave," is subtitled "Searching For James Brown And The American Soul." It could not be more timely, to elucidate in a much wider context the current state of race relations in our country, as well as to trace the threads of black music that directly grew out of James Brown's originality.

Brown was worth over $100 million at the time of his death in 2006. He left his estate to the education of poor children in GA and SC — but the legal system has pilfered away much of that with lawyer's fees, politicians' takes, and family members and ex-wives vying for a piece of the fortune. It is a tragic epilogue to Brown's incredible story.

I wanted to review this book for SVSA because it illuminates the importance of James Brown's



music and the musicians who made it.

As a journalist, McBride went to great lengths to talk to those friends, musicians, family, and business associates who really knew Brown to get to the truth of the man. McBride has created a richly-detailed and engagingly-written chronicle of Brown's early life, his rise to success, his motivations, leadership style, his historical importance in the history of the Civil Rights movement as well as his flaws and downfalls. In the full and unflinching picture, James Brown the man was complicated, difficult, and ultimately, self-destructive.

But I also wanted to share how much I admire McBride's writing. It is lucid and compelling, rich with well-researched detail and very human. He gets to the heart of people, places, controversies, stories, the South and the North, and how the differences between persist.

He knows music inside and out and can reference every composer, player, symphony, song — you name it. His writing is as informative as it is a pleasure to read.

As a musician, a fairly new resident of Virginia, and a Southerner who worked in New York for many years, I learned much from both "The Color of Water" and "Kill 'Em and Leave." I am grateful. McBride's many gifts are considerable and his honest writing is well worth exploring.

James McBride, a native New Yorker and a graduate of New York

City public schools, studied composition at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in OH and received his master's degree at the Graduate School of Journalism at Columbia University. In 2015, he was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Obama "for humanizing the complexities of discussing race in America." He holds several honorary doctorates and is currently a Distinguished Writer in Residence at New York University.

Spring has surely sprung. SVSAers Alice and Aspen Black have their guitars outside!

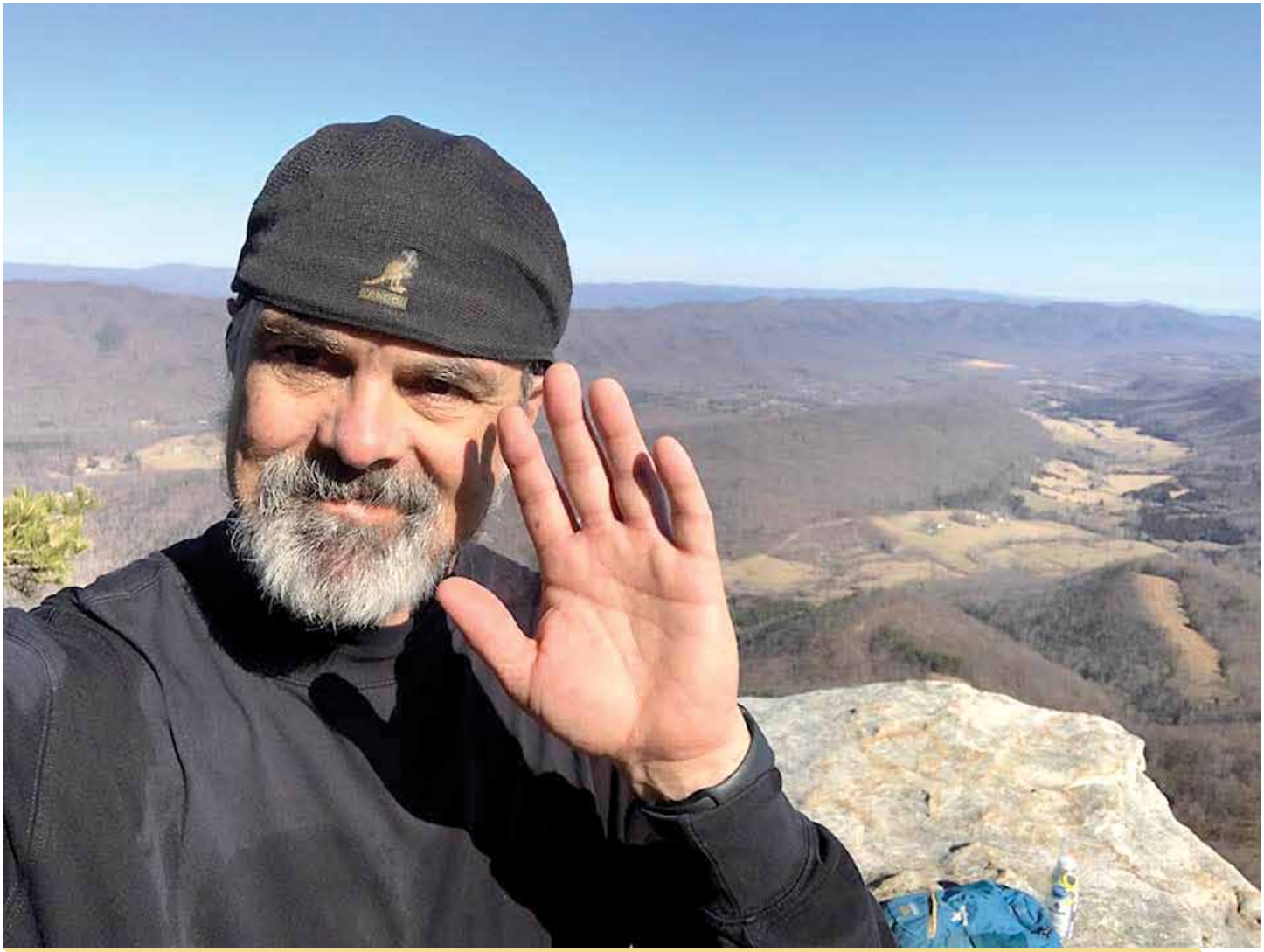
DUES NOT FAIL TO READ THIS

As our very own **David Simpkins** used to croon to us: "Dues be due be due ..." Annual dues are still **$35** and payable in two options:

1. Via Paypal through the website: https://svsasongs.com/pay-dues/
2. Via check payable to Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association and mailed to:
   P.O. Box 2901, Roanoke VA 24011

Any questions, please let me know! Thanks folks.

~ **Celie Holmes**, *Treasurer*



SVSA Vice President Mike Franke says howdy from McAfee's Knob.

New CD is on schedule

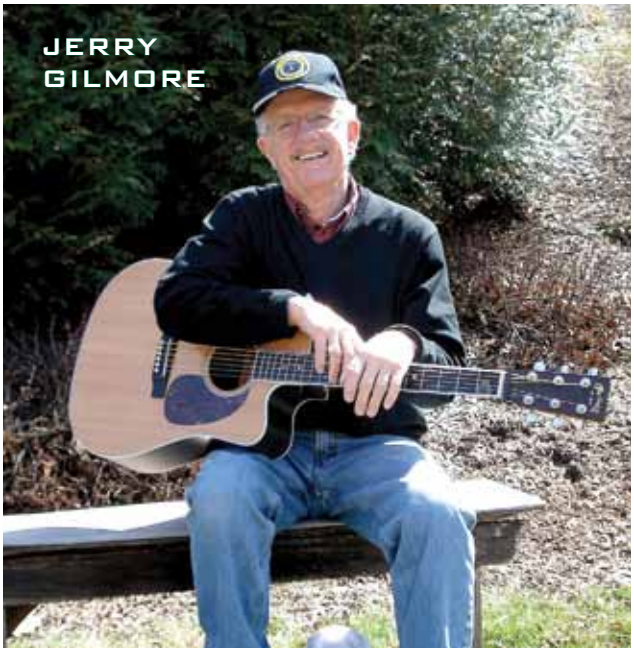
by Jerry Gilmore

My latest CD — 'Dogs, Trains, Places & Things That Matter' — is on schedule! My fellow SVSAers will recognize several of these tunes, some of which spring from SVSA feedback sessions: *He's Just An Old Dog, Come On Home 611, Our Private War,* and *The Blue Ridge Gets In Ya* are just a few of the 13 original songs soon to be finished at the Red Cloud Studios in Conover NC.

We're ready to add the piano & harmony voices then, sometime in April, we will start the "mixing & blending" phase. Wayne Taylor (producer) and I are shooting for a June/July completion date.

It's anticipated this CD will be available through the normal platforms & outlets. For more information, please go to:

www.jerrysongs.com



SVSA CLASSIFIED ADS

The SVSA Music News functions for members in many ways. One of the most overlooked is the **FREE** classifieds section.

There are two restrictions: One is that all classifieds must be music-related; the other is that classified ads may be submitted by paid members only. And that's it!

Remember: An ad is much more successful when accompanied by a clear photo and a complete and detailed description. The ad must contain a working e-mail or cell number. *The SVSA Music News* will not forward ad enquiries.

Take advantage of this free service now. Classifieds will run monthly until pulled by the person who submits the ad.

Members, e-mail your classifieds to svsa.songwriters@gmail.com or amosflame@aol.com.

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

On Mar 25 at 3rd Street Coffeehouse, Greg Trafidlo opened – live and in-person – for noted performing songwriter Joe Jencks. who broadcast his set from Chicago. It was the first attempt at a "mixed" concert (live / broadcast) and by all indications, it was quite a success. Photos by Bob Schmucker.

3rd STREET COFFEEHOUSE UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Tuesday Tunes benefit for Feeding Southwest Virginia

Mar 29 ..... Becki Morrison, Willie Greenstreet
Apr 19 ..... Marie Anderson

Friday Night Stage

Date	Feature Act	Opening Act
04/01	Claudia Nygaard..	**Dan Hildebrand**, Adonna Lemon

SVSA Performing Members' Upcoming Gigs

Since the Coronavirus pandemic pretty much shut down live-in-person performances, there has been a dearth of listings in this section for over a year. However, now that opportunities are once again arising for SVSA members to perform, this newsletter will once again be happy to list upcoming gigs for SVSA members. Listing is free and encouraged!

3rd Street Coffeehouse will continue its Friday night shows on Facebook via live streaming

Friday night live performances have resumed at 7:30 p.m. and the 3rd Street Facebook livestream continues concurrently. There's still no cover charge for the live shows and FB viewers may watch for free as well. Please check the 3rd Street Coffeehouse Facebook page for the latest info, updates, schedule changes, and performer announcements.

LOCAL, REGIONAL OPEN MICS

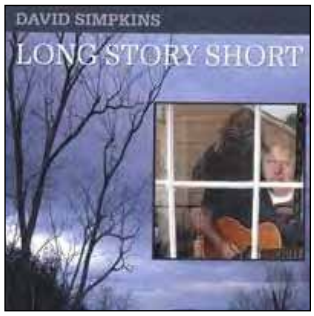
We'll be right back after a vaccine from our doctors ...

Most – if not all – local and regional open mics have been shut down due to coronavirus concerns. However, it seems that good news abounds and our recreations, venues, and events are shaking themselves like dogs just out of the water and readying to re-open. Keep an eye out for the return of our comprehensive Local & Regional Open Mic listings. It'll be sooner than later!

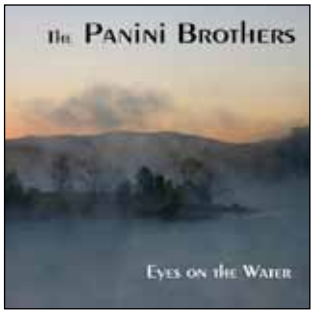
SVSA Members' Recordings

what's done is done

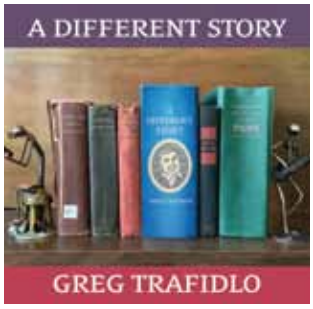
marc with a "c"



long story short



eyes on the water



a different story

the crawlspace tapes

carved in song

folk singular

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.

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.

The Panini Brothers

EYES ON THE WATER — Debut CD from a group comprised of SVSA members Larry Sakayama and Mike DeGiorgi as well as Chip Conway, Mark Earnhardt, and Scott Thomas. Jazzy, bluesey, eclectic, original tunes.

Greg Trafidlo

A DIFFERENT STORY — An eclectic combination of originals and covers featuring old friends and new, competently and professionally recorded and performed. And, as always, straight from the heart.

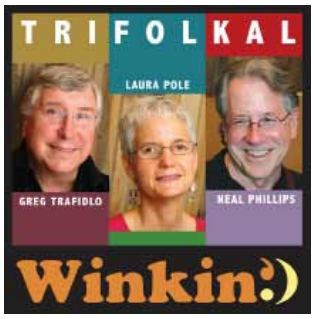
THE CRAWLSPACE TAPES — Greg's most joyful CD is a compilation of all his funny and goofy stuff. Tom Paxton says, "Loosen up, sourpusses. Greg is on the loose again!"

CARVED IN SONG— Most songs co-written with some of Greg's favorite songwriters. Listen to audio clips at gregtrafidlo.com.

FOLK SINGULAR— 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.

SVSA Members' Recordings

silver



winkin'

pacing the moon

cup of contradictions

dimestore detective

dog joggin'

songwriter sessions

tales from the fire pit

Trifolkal

SILVER — The trio celebrates 25 years together with a "fan favorite" collection of covers from the Beach Boys to Tom Paxton.

WINKIN' — This top-notch release from that "trio fiercely dedicated to fun" tempers the fun with poignancy and heart.

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.

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.

Steve Clark

DOG JOGGIN' — Eleven sweet and true amusing tunes comprise this quirky singer/songwriter CD. Available at cdbaby.com.

The Entwined

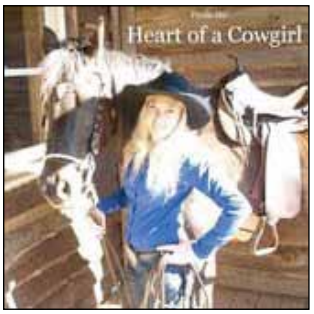
SONGWRITER SESSIONS — The CD was released at Francis Ford Coppola's Turtle Inn Resort in Belize in 2018. It's a mix of 13 songs written by Dan Hildebrand ranging from real-life ballads to feel-good ditties. Recorded at Blackwater Studios. Percussion and harmony by Adonna Lemon.

TALES FROM THE FIRE PIT — The most popular CD in Placenia, Belize for one week in 2018, the latest from the Entwined was recorded at Bad Monkey's music studio, located at the couple's home in VA, and features 10 original works.

SVSA Members' Recordings

tales from the road

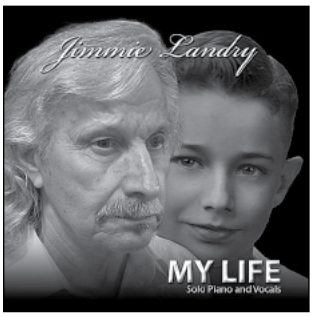
eastern western cowgirl



from the heart of a cowgirl

horsegirl poet

lovin' the west



my life

gumbo

style

Aspen Black

TALES FROM THE ROAD — 15 original poems with musical backup. Every poem has a tie to a road, although the road is never the subject. Either the road runs through it, shows up in a fleeting moment, or the whole story was inspired by, or witnessed "on the road."

EASTERN WESTERN COWGIRL — Eight original Contemporary Western songs. Available at 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. Available at CDBaby.

HORSEGIRL POET — Songs and poems about horses, cowboys, and rural life. Available at CDBaby.

LOVIN' THE WEST — This is the latest CD released by Western Music Association singer/songwriter – and SVSA member – Aspen Black. It features 10 original selections, seven of which are road-tested favorites.

Jimmie Landry

MY LIFE — Jimmie sings stories about his friends, family, and life on the road. A jazzy-blues New Orleans-style piano and vocals paint a picture of 60 years in music.

GUMBO — Hot and spicy down-home jazz, funk, and soul that goes down easy. Ten originals and three covers.

STYLE — A blend of standards and one original in a variety of grooves like straight-ahead swing, samba, jazz, waltz, and funky second-line blues.

"I just like a good, sad song. The sadder, the better. It moves me."

~ John Prine

SVSA Members' Recordings

electric bill

acoustic bill

songs for veterans & patriots

eyes on the horizon

kaleidoscope

touch the sky

Bill Stanton

ELECTRIC BILL — Ten original songs of Bill's lyrics and melodies accompanied by former bandmates on electric instruments and vocal harmonies originally recorded in the 1980s.

ACOUSTIC BILL — Ten original songs with lyrics and melodies by Bill accompanied by former bandmates on acoustic instruments and vocal harmonies recorded from the early 1970s through 2000.

Jerry Gilmore

SONGS FOR VETERANS & PATRIOTS — covers topics concerning Vietnam veterans, POW/MIA warriors, the United States flag, military holidays, and the Medal Of Honor. The original compositions are performed in country, bluegrass, and southern rock styles. Available from CDBaby.

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.

TOUCH THE SKY — Swinging acoustic blues and jazz from Barb Martin and Mac Walter.

SVSA DUES ARE DUE
Pay $35 on-line on our web site
or mail a check / money order to
PO Box 2901, Roanoke VA 24011

www.svsasongs.com

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 **amosflame@aol.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. Email articles and information to the Editor, David Simpkins, at amosflame@aol.com.

SVSA is a non-profit organization.

2022 SVSA Board Members:

Mike Pearrell – President
Mike Franke – Vice President
Celie Holmes – Treasurer
Mollye Otis – Secretary
David Simpkins – At-Large Board Member and Newsletter Editor
Larry Helms – At-Large Board Member

SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association
101 Church Ave SW
PO Box 2901
Roanoke VA 24011

www.svsasongs.com

THE SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

WHO WE ARE

The Southwest Virginia Songwriters Association (SVSA), founded in 1981, comprises approximately 40 songwriters from diverse musical backgrounds who share the love of songwriting and interest in developing our craft. Our core mission is to meet monthly, listen to fellow writers' songs, and share feedback with one another in a supportive, encouraging, and engaging process.

The SVSA also offers workshops, social events, and performance opportunities for its members, along with a newsletter, web site, and a Facebook page that focus on members' creative engagement and outreach to Roanoke and the region.

If you are interested in becoming a part of this vibrant songwriting community, we invite you to audit two of our monthly meetings and then decide if you'd like to join the association. Once you've paid yearly dues, you can submit songs and contribute to the feedback sessions, plus participate in all our activities.

The greatest joy we have as a group is seeing writers growing and reaching their potential because of the work we do together. If you would like be a part of this songwriting community, please contact us at **info@svsasongs.com**

A BIT ABOUT OUR ASSOCIATION

We have among us people who range from seasoned professional and semi-professional performers to those have never been in front of an audience. Some of our members have many albums to their credit, while some have never set foot in a studio or on a stage.

Several members have sold songs to famous artists or have film and TV placements. Some play multiple instruments, and most play guitar or piano/keyboard but there are also non-instrumentalist lyricists in the mix. Some are singers, some non-singers, some with extensive music education, many with credits in the school of life experience who play by ear. There are writers who focus more on melody and harmony, and others who focus more on lyrics. Some writers are skilled producers/arrangers with a depth of technical know-how.

Our membership includes people of all ages representing a broad range of musical influences including folk, Americana, blues, gospel, rock, jazz, zydeco, pop, contemporary, country, bluegrass, Celtic, and theatre/cabaret. With this mix of diverse styles, interests, and skills, we share a rich knowledge base and learn through the exchange of expertise from multiple perspectives.

OUR METHOD

Unless otherwise indicated, The SVSA meets in the L.L. Rice Room at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke VA every fourth Wednesday of the month (with holiday exceptions). The doors open at 7:00 p.m. for meet, greet, and catch-up time. At 7:30, we may have business to discuss, then perhaps a brief period of activities such as writing exercises, mini-workshop presentations, videos, or other creative activities. Songs are then presented for listening and feedback sessions. On any given night, we discuss the songs in a robust, healthy exchange of comments and ideas. The meeting ends when all the songs have been presented or we close at 10:00 p.m.

Members and guests are required to submit their Covid vaccine record at check in, or, alternatively, email a photo of your card to: **mollyeotis@gmail.com**

Members may receive written feedback from other members in addition to the verbal feedback at live or virtual sessions.

Members are coached to be honest, thoughtful, and supportive of one another and respectful of the work. Our experience has been that our songs invariably improve after going through the feedback process.

If you would like to hang out with this welcoming group of songwriters, we would love to meet you! You are invited to audit two monthly meetings and then, should you decide to join, pay yearly dues of $35. Once a member, you may submit songs for consideration in our feedback sessions and will be eligible to participate in events and benefits of membership.