SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

# SVSA MUSIC NEWS

NOVEMBER DECEMBER 2023

WWW.SVSASONGS.COM

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER FEATURE ARTICLE

## Performance tips I learned from Dylan

**by Steve Clark**

Dylan! Okay, not Bob, but Jakob — as in The Wallflowers featuring Jakob Dylan. You may have heard of The Wallflowers. They had a very successful record released in, hmmm, May 1996 it seems. Its title is *'Bringing Down The Horse'* and it birthed four hits for the band.

The Wallflowers played at the Academy Theatre in Lynchburg VA on Tues Oct 3, and I was there with my date. This is not a review of the concert, exactly. Rather, I'll share some performance ideas that came to mind during the show.

Check out this link: https://youtu.be/3ELyFYA5tRs for a review of the concert.

But first, let's talk about opening acts. In this case, the opener was Lisa Bouchelle (lisabouchelle.com).

**Tip 1:** If you have an opening act who will sing songs no one has heard before, then four songs are an optimum number. Six songs max – ideally including a cover tune. I say this because as I sat in the venue, I would've been perfectly happy to get right to The Wallflowers and to skip the opener.

**Tip 2:** If you are the opening performer, perform as if the audience is going to vote for you or the headliner afterward, and you want to be there holding the grand prize.

Implied in this tip is to avoid

*See Feature Article, page 2*

The FINAL in-person meeting of the SVSA this year will be held **WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 15** in the LL Rice Room at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke VA.

Doors 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 feedback (on CD, phone, computer, or you can perform it live) and should provide at least 25 copies of the lyrics.

Feedback is limited to members only but non-members and guests are encouraged to sit in on the discussions and exercises.

*The Wallflowers rocking Lynchburg VA, Oct 3, 2023.*

## FEATURE ARTICLE

*FROM PAGE 1*

gimmicks. The world is filled with performance gadgets and enhancers, but choose your use of these things carefully. Lisa was fine in a country music sort of way. But during her singing, her foot was punching, in and out, a vocal harmonizer (e.g., TC-Helicon Harmony Singer 2). She did this competently, but for me it was a distraction. Probably because I'm already annoyed that we're having to sit through an opener. I'm not saying never use these things. Ultimately your delivery of a song is your art; strive to make great art.

**Tip 3:** If you're performing solo and the song is the important thing — melody and lyric that might compel first-time listeners to buy your music — practice as if you plan to deliver that song "unplugged." If you're tempted to gadget-ize your performance perhaps the song, or your "naked" delivery of it, needs more work?

I'll point to a favorite record of mine: Greg Brown, *'The Live One;'* this record of just him and his guitar, is about as naked as they come — yet I have found it very entertaining and one that has held up well over time.

In Lisa's case, she performed as if she had a band on stage with her — that is, a band that she could "lean on." She'd have a musical break in her song where she'd bravely strum her way through the void as it begged for an electric guitar solo. Indeed, I would've enjoyed her performance more if she'd had another musician with her (and *not* a gadget). She did sing a cover, Gordon Lightfoot's *If You Could Read My Mind,* so props to her for singing something familiar. She sang it well enough — a little slow for my taste but then I was a bit impatient for The Wallflowers.

These are nit-picks, mind you — Lisa doesn't have that much to apologize for, and, The Wallflowers invited her to open for them. To provide context, they have not yet invited me to open.

So, Lisa exits. Now its time for the venue-obligatory intermission so they can sell beer. Such venue breaks tend to be untenably long and is a main reason I dislike opening acts especially on a Tuesday night.

So, we waited. Waiting. Waiting. 25 minutes went by. I got to know the stranger next to me better. I bored her with my recent pictures of yellowjackets and detailed explanations of how I vacuumed 525 of the buggers out of the siding on my house including, not one, but two queens. The sharing was terrific, I don't know why I'm so sour on long intermissions.

Then I decided to, okay, go to the men's room — surely that would bring the band out and I'd miss their first notes.

Later, I'm back in my seat. Still no band. I moved on to sharing

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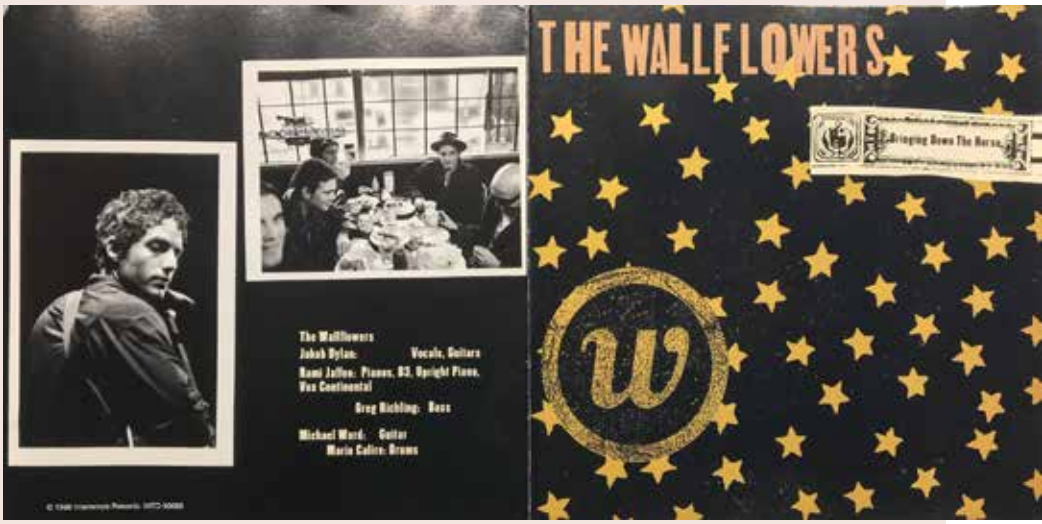


***The well-known record. Track 2,* 6th Avenue Heartache *was Grammy nominated for Best Rock Song and Best Rock Performance by a Duo or Group with Vocal.***

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

pics of me changing out the rear bearing on my SUV.

You've probably figured out by now that I'm a grumpy old man with poor social skills. I suppose that explains some of my spin here.

So, 40, maybe 45 minutes after Lisa, *ta da!* The Wallflowers appeared. They launched into their set with tunes mainly drawn from their latest record *'Exit Wounds'* (2021). I've heard the record is good and I'm sure they're great tunes but if the words are important, they were lost on me. Jakob's vocals were not on top of the mix — I mostly blame the sound man but Jakob shares the blame with his microphone technique.

These things are compounded by my old man ears — they just don't do well in a highly amplified environment. Sometimes I'm able to compensate for this by putting in "Hearos" or other ear plugs designed to lower the sound level to your ears without completely muffling the mix. This night, my use of them was ineffective.

I tried my best to enjoy the show. It was okay. As you can guess, the musicianship was top notch though I'd say, excepting Dylan himself, the band seemed disinterested (this changed later, as I'll get to in a bit). I wanted to love The Wallflowers — this is Dylan's progeny, after all, and their music is Jakob's legacy. I've played my *'Bringing Down The Horse'* CD several times since the concert and, surprise, I can clearly understand the lyrics. Why couldn't I have that pleasure at the live show?

*Jakob Dylan singing "we can drive it home ... with one headlight."*

**Tip 3:** If your music is about your songwriting, i.e. the lyrics mean something, then perform it so the lyrics can be heard.

**Tip 4:** Put familiar tunes to good use. Several songs into the set, the band got familiar, and played one of the 1996 hits *6th Avenue Heartache*. The audience got excited at this point, with several people getting up on their feet, then more and more, then most of us. We had to get up if we were interested in seeing what Dylan *et al* were doing, versus looking at somebody's butt. (I'm not a fan of fans getting on their feet in these auditorium venues, but what can the venue and the act do about it? Grump, grump...).

A few songs later the band performed Van Morrison's *Into The Mystic* which was quite nice. Then back to their new tunes, then they closed out the show with the familiar *One Headlight*.

So, I enjoyed the familiar tunes the most. Consider using familiar tunes in your performance even if you must rely on someone else's cover tune.

With the show "over" we waited for the "programmed" encore. I paid my money, damn it, so I chose to tough it out and see the encore. But some folks had left — they probably came from Roanoke, had babysitters, had to work the next day — it's Tuesday, after all. And I was thinking "I don't even care if they come back" which says a lot about how I really felt about the show.

**Tip 5:** Take your audience on a journey. I suppose The Wallflowers concert was a good, maybe great, trip for those who could hang on every word. I doubt the journey I was what The Wallflowers intended. An old curmudgeon with partial hearing loss is a tough

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# Final 2023 SVSA meeting is this coming Wed Nov 15

The final meeting of 2023 will be held this **Wednesday, November 15**. Doors open at 7:00 p.m. and then the meeting begins at 7:30 in the L.L. Rice Room at the Jefferson Center in Roanoke VA.

Please note that election time is upon us again. The Nov 15 meeting will see us vote on a slate of officers and positions for 2024. We will take one vote for the group as a whole.

The purposed group is: President: **Charlie Divers**; Vice-President: **Dan Hildebrand**; Secretary: those duties will be folded into the President's office; Treasurer: TBA; At-large board members: **Larry Helms, Greg Trafidlo**; Webmaster: **Celie Holmes**; Newsletter wizard: **David Simpkins**.

We hope everyone can make it to this, the last meeting of the year. *We look forward to seeing you!*

# Holiday Party is set for Dec 9

The 2023 SVSA Holiday party will be held Sat, Dec 9 at the home of Judy and **Larry Helms**. Start time is 5:00 p.m.

Please bring your chosen beverage, a dish, and an instrument if you choose, because we'll have our normal Christmas sing-along.

We always have a great time, so we hope everyone can make it.

For those who are a little more mobile than others, we'd appreciate you parking up on the main road and leave the parking spaces in the driveway for those who may need them.

If anyone has issues finding the home, please call me at 540-420-7591.

Larry Helms
899 Windridge Parkway
Hardy, VA 24101

## FEATURE ARTICLE

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3*

audience.

In any case, I'm brought back to the idea that a performing songwriter show should be a journey that takes the listener from A to B, no matter the path in between. It's best if the listener is enjoying the journey so much that their mind has not moved on to what they'll be doing after the show. You want them to "be here now" on the path with you.

The Wallflowers returned and delivered a most excellent encore of four songs. So glad we stayed. They played Cat Stevens' *Wild World,* Tom Petty's *Refugee* (see it here https://youtu.be/qIfNAdM53zc — you might discern some "Bob" in Jakob's vocals) and *American Girl,* and ended with another hit of theirs from 1996, *The Difference.*

It was great, was worth the wait, and made the whole affair worth the price of admission. The players finally looked like they were having fun.

Final takeaway tip from the night? When in doubt, play some Tom Petty.

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

Two rules: 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 does best when accompanied by a clear photo and a 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 **amosflame@aol.com**.

# SVSA member Aspen Black is 2023 IWMA songwriter of year

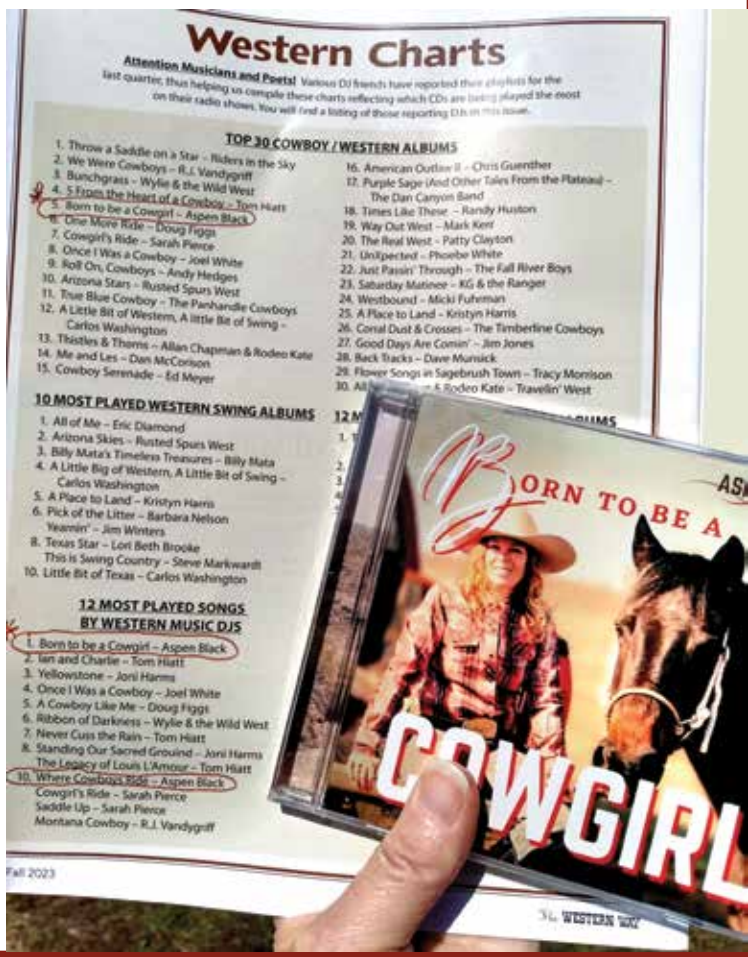
***Long-time SVSA member Aspen Black won the 2023 Songwriter Of The Year award last night at the International Western Music Association's awards ceremony in Albuquerque NM. Black was chosen from a group of five finalists.***

***Black certainly earned this year's award as at one point recently, she had the number one song on the Western Music radio charts. The charts come out quarterly; the song* Born To Be A Cowgirl *rose to number one and the album it's on (with the same title) charted at number five. The song* Where Cowboys Ride *(the second single from the new CD) debuted on the charts at number 10.***

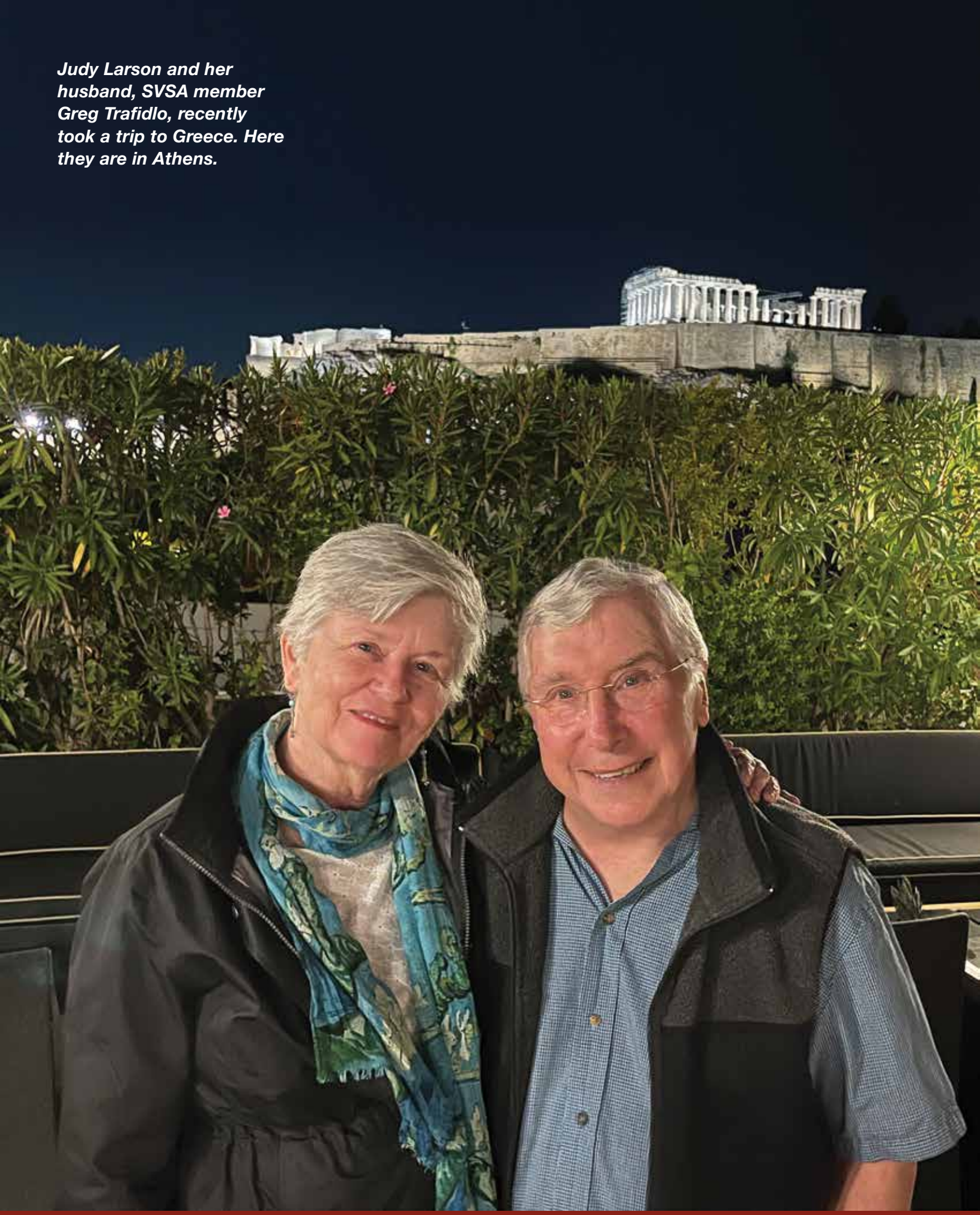
***Black's newest CD has been played on numerous radio and internet shows national and internationally since its release.***

***Watch for more info in the upcoming January issue of the* SVSA Music News.

*Aspen Black, right, performs at the 2023 International Western Music Association meeting in Albuquerque NM with her daughter Alice. Both award-winning songwriters are members of the SVSA.*



*SVSA member Greg Trafidlo may travel to many far-off lands but he'll always land somewhere near where the musicians are, even if it's on the streets or in a museum in Greece. Looks like the fellow in the painting is making out best; swapping a tune for a glass of wine is never a bad deal. Those other two guys, though, look like they're in need of a little bit of folding money. (Photos by Judy Larson.)*



*Judy Larson and her husband, SVSA member Greg Trafidlo, recently took a trip to Greece. Here they are in Athens.*

*The Traveling Troubadour*

# Music is music weather or not

**by Dan Hildebrand, The Traveling Troubadour**

The Traveling Troubadour and Spring Lake Farm presented an outdoor house concert in Moneta VA on Sat Oct 14. The event — which had been rescheduled several times due to conflicting dates — went forward with a chance of rain in the forecast.

SVSA members **Mike Franke**, **Aspen Black**, and **Dan Hildebrand** (with Adonna Lemon) headlined the event along with former SVSA member Catherine the Great.

The concert was lightly attended (about 15-20). The weather mostly cooperated throughout the afternoon with great music and excellent complimentary chicken wings prepared by a private chef.

Dan & Adonna started off the afternoon with a set followed by **Mike Franke** and then **Aspen Black**.

Aspen was on the final song of her set and gamely continued playing as the skies opened up and sent concertgoers scrambling for cover and volunteers scrambling to cover equipment and stash guitars in cases as the rain continued.

Catherine the Great and her partner Amy Andrews played a short unplugged set under a covered porch to finish up the concert.

A short jam session was held inside after the concert and everyone had a good time.

The next Traveling Troubadour Concert is planned for early January (indoors of course) with a very special headliner TBA.

*Aspen Black*

*Mike Franke*

*Adonna & Dan*

# SMN *open mic listings*

**Latest info — but please double check before you go.**

Many local and regional open mics shut down due to COVID concerns. The good news is that many of those same venues (and new ones as well) are finally re-opening.

Submit any Open Mics you come across that are not listed here, as we'd like to make this listing as comprehensive as possible. *Please provide the information in the format shown.*

Also, if you should see a listing that has shut down, or if you know of an update to the current entries, drop a line to amosflame@aol.com. Let's keep this a vital and up-to-date source.

**BAINES BOOKS & COFFEE**
**https://bainesbooks.com/**
205 Main St Appomattox VA 24522
(434) 229-8157
Thursdays. 6-8:30 p.m.
Dean Jarvis. *Has a "listening room" feel.*

**BIG LICK TROPICAL GRILL**
**https://biglicktropicalgrill.com/**
4001 Murray Pl Lynchburg VA 24501
(434) 528-3604
Wednesdays. 6-9 p.m.
Jodie Davis. *A busy open mic.*

**BRADY'S DISTILLERY**
**https://www.bradysdistillery.com/**
711 Pocahontas Ave NE Roanoke VA 24012
(540) 685-1003
2nd and 4th Tuesdays. 6-10 p.m.
Jodie Davis. *Has a "listening room" feel.*

**CLAMDIGGERS**
**https://www.idigtheclam.com/**
109 S Bridge St Bedford VA 24523
(540) 587-6727
2nd Thursdays. 6-9 p.m.
Jodie Davis. *Has nice stage setup; house pro-sound equipment*.

**THE CLUBHOUSE**
**https://theclubhouselynchburg.com/**
708 Crowell Ln Lynchburg VA 24502
(434) 239-7665
Mondays. 7-11 p.m.
David "Fred" Carwile. *Caters to bands; "house" musicians often available to support solo performers.*

**DOGTOWN ROADHOUSE**
**https://dogtownroadhouse.com**
302 S Locust St Floyd VA, 24091
(540) 745-6836
Sundays. 5-9 p.m.
*Sign ups at 4:30 p.m.*

**EL MARIACHI (Amherst)**
**https://www.elmariachimexfood.com/**
184 Ambriar Plaza Amherst VA 24521
(434) 946-9004
1st Wednesdays. 6-9 p.m.

**EL MARIACHI (Lynchburg)**
**https://www.elmariachimexfood.com/**
1001 Jefferson St Lynchburg VA 24502
(434) 582-9045
2nd Saturdays. 7-10 p.m.
*New restaurant and venue.*

**EVERGREEN LAVENDER FARM**
**https://evergreenlavender.com/**
7169 Old Evergreen Rd Appomattox VA 24522
(434) 664-9561
1st and 3rd Fridays. 7-9:30 p.m. (May thru Oct)
Ken Swanson. *Beautiful outdoor stage; BYO food and beverage.*

**FLOYD COUNTRY STORE OLD-TIME & BLUEGRASS JAM**
**https://www.floydcountrystore.com**
206 S Locust St Floyd VA 24091
(540) 745-4563
Every Sunday. Old-Time Jam at 1:30 p.m., Bluegrass Jam at 4 p.m..
*Free and open to all. PA provided.*

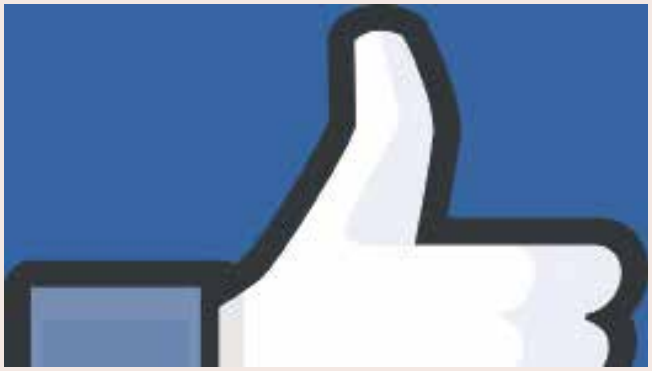
**LEESVILLE LAKE MARINA**
**https://leesvillemarina.com/**
2736 Marina Dr Gretna VA 24557
(434) 324-8500
ad hoc in summer. 6-9 p.m.
Jodie Davis. *Pleasant summer evening.*

**LIVING PROOF BEER COMPANY**
**https://livingproofbeerco.com**
50 W Court St Rocky Mount VA 24151
(540) 238-2220
Every Thursday. 7-10 p.m.
*Signups are first come, first serve. Supportive community encourages musicians of all ages and skill levels.*

**LOOSE SHOE**
**https://www.looseshoebrewing.com/amherst.html**
198 Ambriar Plaza Amherst VA 24521
(434) 946-BEER
3rd Saturdays. 6:30-9:30 p.m.
*Nice set up.*

**MUSIC LAB AT JEFFERSON CENTER — STUDIO A**
**https://www.facebook.com/events/1336782386961860/1336782436961855/**
541 Luck Ave Suite 325 (Studio A) Roanoke VA 24016
(540) 685-2309
Every Tuesday. 8-10 p.m.
Whether you're a seasoned performer or just starting out, come take the stage. Our open mic nights celebrate local talent and create a supportive community of music lovers. Bring friends, family, and fans.
NOTE: Tickets (pay what you like) are required. For more info and FAQ: **https://www.eventbrite.com/e/music-lab-presents-open-mic-tuesdays-tickets-734744920837?aff=oddtdtcreator&fbclid=IwAR0X_n6fvCTrX9_xx6Pvc__vIDRLjfPEyPoT_GOZKsfFsxjlmt6tOmIfid8**

*See SMN Open Mic Listings, page 10*



# 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**

# SMN *open mic listings*

*Continued from page 9*

**PHARAOH'S TOMB**
**https://livingproofbeerco.com**
601 11th St NW Roanoke VA 24017
For tickets: Michelle Renee (540) 892-7187; Mercedes (540) 793-1235; Lesha Cox FaceBook Messenger; Eugene Woodz IG: @eugenewoodz540; Tommy (540) 293-3143, Facebook Messenger, and/or IG : @thetommymhe.
Every third Friday. 7-10 p.m.

**RISING SILO BREWERY**
**https://www.risingsilobrewery.com**
2351 Glade Rd Blacksburg VA 24060
(540) 750-0796
Every Wednesday. 6-9 p.m.
*Host band starts with a short set then opens the stage to guest performers. PA provided.*

**THREE ROADS BREWING**
**https://www.3roadsbrewing.com/farmville**
312 W Third St Farmville VA 23901
(434) 315-0471
Tuesdays. 5:30-8:30 p.m.
John Spangler. *Especially pleasant when outdoors.*

**3RD STREET COFFEEHOUSE**
**https://www.facebook.com/3rdStreetCoffeehouse**
305 Mountain Ave SW Roanoke VA
(540) 524-2454
Third Thursdays of the month. 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Aspen Black. *Acoustic-style open mic for solos, duos, and small group acts. No drums. PA provided. All ages and levels of playing are welcome. Each performer(s) gets two 3-5 minute songs in the main round. Early sign-ups will be taken from 4-6:30 p.m. day of show. E-mail* aspenblackproductions@gmail.com

# SVSA Performing Members' Upcoming Gigs

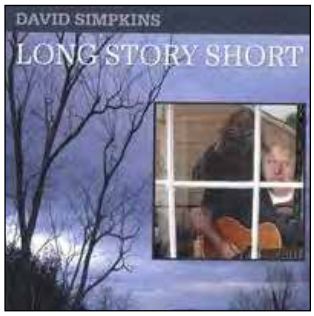
## ASPEN BLACK

**Nov 14**, Kearney NE
**Nov 15**, York NE
**Nov 16-17**, Unionville MO

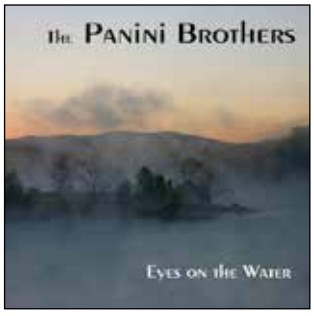
# SVSA Members' Recordings

what's done is done

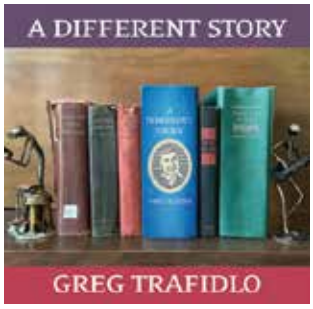
marc with a "c"



long story short

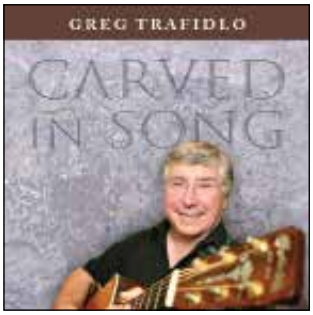


eyes on the water



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.

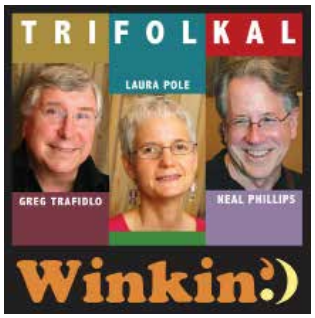
**THE CRAWLSPACE TAPES** — Greg's most joyful CD is a compilation of all his funny and goofy stuff. Tom Paxton says, "Loosen up, sourpusses. Greg is on the loose again!"

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

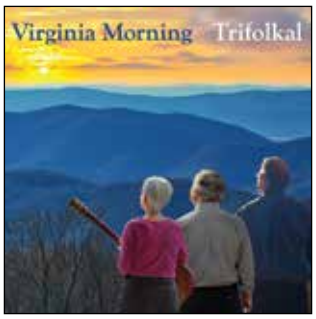
**FOLK SINGULAR**— Greg's third solo CD reflects the diversity of his songwriting and production skills. With SVSA-ers on background vocals, and Marc Baskind on guitar and vocals.

# SVSA Members' Recordings

silver



winkin'



virginia morning

pacing the moon

cup of contradictions

dimestore detective

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.

**VIRGINIA MORNING** — Trifolkal celebrates their friendship as they begin their fourth decade of making music together. The album offers a mix of songs old and new.

## 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.

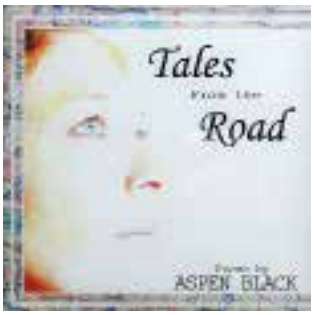
**DIMESTORE DETECTIVE** — Mike's first solo CD features 14 original songs. Produced by Greg Trafidlo; with a number of guest SVSA musicians. Available at Mike's shows.

## 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.

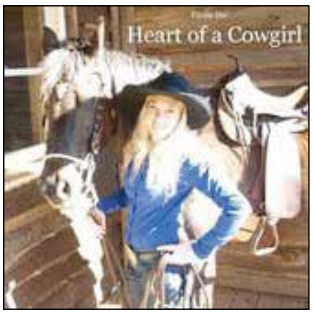
**TALES FROM THE FIRE PIT** — The most popular CD in Placenia, Belize for one week in 2018, the latest from the Entwined was recorded at Bad Monkey's music studio, located at the couple's home in VA, and features 10 original works.

# SVSA Members' Recordings



tales from the road

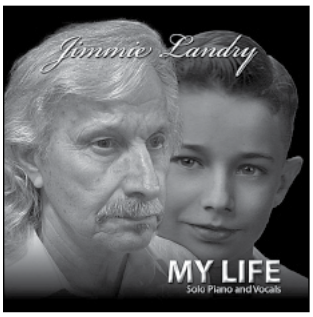
eastern western cowgirl



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.

***"For every song you hear, I've written many other ones that are crap. ... At some point you just realize a certain song is a dead end. It's never going to get any better, so you end up kinda turning the page."***

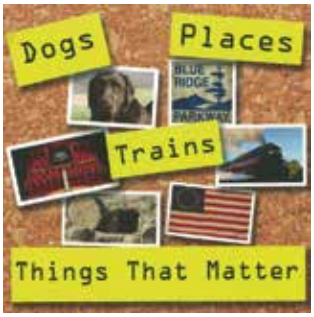
~ John Fogerty

# SVSA Members' Recordings

electric bill

acoustic bill

songs for veterans & patriots




dogs, trains, places and things that matter

eyes on the horizon

kaleidoscope

touch the sky

shining

## 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 US flag, military holidays, and the Medal Of Honor. The original compositions are performed in country, bluegrass, and southern rock styles. Available from CDBaby.

**DOGS, TRAINS, PLACES & THINGS THAT MATTER** — A "Baker's Dozen" of original tunes on a wide range of subjects in the traditional country format. Available at CD Baby and all the major platforms for download.

## 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.

**SHINING** — All originals, with SVSA members Greg Trafidlo, Britt Mistele, and Marc Baskind helping out. CD design by Kathy Acosta. Barb's 10th release. barbaramartin.bandcamp.com/album/shining

## 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 **amosflame@aol.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 **amosflame@aol.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.*

### *2023 SVSA Board Members:*

**Charlie Divers** – President

**Mike Franke** – Vice President and Webmaster

**Celie Holmes** – Treasurer

**Mollye Otis** – Secretary

**David Simpkins** – At-Large Board Member and Newsletter Editor

**Larry Helms** – At-Large Board Member

**Dan Hildebrand** – At-Large Board Member

**Greg Trafidlo** – At-Large Board Member

**Bob Schmucker** – 3rd Street Coffeehouse Liason

**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.

In consideration of the current public health policy on Covid response, the SVSA Board will no longer require that members be vaccinated. Should the situation change in the future, we will revisit the issue. Masking is still a choice for anyone concerned for their own protection and it is assumed that anyone who is sick will not attend meetings.

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.