

June 2010

www.islandsongwriters.org



**Next Workshop**  
Monday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at  
Five Towns College.  
No July workshop.

**Borders  
Open Mic**  
Check the website for  
updates on next shows.

**Writer's Choice**  
Find out what song won  
on Page 2.

**Huntington  
Folk Festival**  
*Details on page 2.*

**ISS Bellmore  
Library Showcase**  
*Details on page 2.*

**Songwriting  
in the Movies**  
**~ Bound For Glory ~**  
This film joyously  
celebrates the life of  
Woody Guthrie,  
America's great folk  
balladeer and poet. As  
he traveled across  
America his buoyant  
spirit and soul-rousing  
music enabled him to do  
battle with the social  
injustice all around him.  
Available on DVD.

**June is  
Bustin' Out  
All Over!**

*Dream as if you'll live  
forever. Live as if you'll  
die today.*

- James Dean

# Who's telling this story?

## Your personal point of view

BY SID CHERRY

When songwriters are performing their own songs, by default, they become identified as the narrator of the songs. This is also usually the case with songs that have a strong connection to one particular artist. Whether you are performing your own songs or sending them out to other artists, it is important that you establish a clear point of view in each of your songs so that the impact is equal no matter who performs them.

**1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

This may seem like English 101 to some, but clearly stating whether your song is told from a first, second or third person perspective is vital to the clarity and emotion of the song:

**First Person:** "I", as in "*I'm Sittin' On The Dock Of The Bay*". This point of view can make a song seem more personal, often giving the performer more ways to get emotionally involved. Everything, good or bad, seems to be happening to the person singing the song.

**Second Person:** "You", as in "*You're So Vain*". Songs written like this can be a little more "in your face" because they are putting the audience in the position of being the main character of the song.

**Third Person:** "They", as in "*They Dance Alone*". This point of view allows the author or performer to become an all-knowing narrator. This type of narrator can express what everyone in the song is feeling and is not confined to the emotions of one character.

There are many ways to vary and blend these perspectives, some of which will be discussed in later columns. For now, just pick one and stick with it.

## Writer's block-busting exercise

### ~ New Words To An Old, Familiar Tune ~

Having a hard time figuring out what to write about? Looking to do something different than what you usually do? Try writing a new set of lyrics to an already existing tune.

Many famous lyricists have revealed that, when creating a lyric from scratch, they often used a familiar tune as a guide for rhythm and feel. Then, when the lyric was finished and passed off to a composer, the composer, not knowing this was done, would look at the lyric and have a completely different musical take on it. Doing this may inspire you to come up with new music once you have finished your lyric.

Another spin on this exercise is to write parody lyrics to a famous tune. Sometimes, when you don't have to worry about the music, your mind is free to be more creative with the lyrics.

## ISS

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We're on the Web!

See us at

[www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org)

## Resources

### S. B. McDonald

Custom Instruments

A local guy and ISS member, Scott MacDonald is an internationally recognized expert on guitar repair and custom design.

Check out his website to see an amazing gallery of custom instruments.

[customguitars.com](http://customguitars.com)  
(631) 421-9056

## Writer's Choice: "Heavenly Hill" by Arthur Miller

### Who Played What

Here is a list of the performers and songs from the March workshop:

1. Marguerite Cassell – "Hopeless Am I"
2. Gerry Dantone – "I'm No Good for You"
3. Dave Anthony – "I Can't Wait"
4. Mike Wells – "Someone to Love"
5. Susan Cohen – "The Puzzle That is Us"
6. Chris Toland – "Slippin' Away"
7. Arthur Miller – "Heavenly Hill"
8. Mark Hussey – "Lifestyles of the Dead"
9. Mike Svezia – "Willoughby Park"
10. Sevi Regis – "The Penny Waltz"
11. Suzanne Ernst – "About Kindness"

### Huntington Folk Festival

Saturday, Aug 7th

Time TBA

Heckshire Park, Huntington

Presenting *ISS Members*:

Dave Anthony, Susan Cohen, Tim Dillon, Sonny Meadows, Walt Sargent and Hank Stone.

### ISS Bellmore Memorial Library Showcase

**June 28** - Ken Krumanacker Band / Pedro Pereira / Tim Dillon

**July 26** - Sid Cherry / Tornado Alley / TBA

**Aug 30** - Walt Sargent / Suzanne Ernst / Vin Crici

**Sept 27** - Lois Morton / Vin Gangi / TBA

**Oct 25** - Dave Anthony / Frank Gambino / Mike Svezia

**Nov 29** - Mark Hussey / Estelle Henrich / TBA

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[www.bellmorelibrary.org](http://www.bellmorelibrary.org)

### "I Wish I'd Written That Song."

Send in your submissions to [sidcherry@optonline.net](mailto:sidcherry@optonline.net)

### Monthly Workshop

Test your songs in front of a crowd by playing them for fellow musicians who will provide constructive feedback with the goal of helping you improve as a songwriter. The ISS workshop takes place the first Monday of every month, except holidays, at Five Towns College, off Burrs Lane in Dix Hills. The workshop starts at 8:00 p.m., with performer sign-up beginning at 7:30 p.m. Bring a guitar if you wish to perform your song live, or you may bring a recording on CD or tape. A piano is available for those who write their songs at the keys. Be sure to bring 20-25 copies of your lyric sheets so the other workshop attendees can follow along while listening to your song. It is much easier to provide constructive criticism when people can read the lyrics. The ISS workshop is at the center of the organization's mission to help songwriters perfect their craft. Many performers on Long Island got their start at ISS.

### General Information

For general information about ISS or how to join the organization, visit our web site, [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org). To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Sid Cherry at [sidcherry@optonline.net](mailto:sidcherry@optonline.net).