

September 2011

www.islandsongwriters.org



Next Workshops

Monday, Sept. 12th and
Monday, October 3rd
at Five Towns College.

Bellmore Library Showcase

The next showcase
is September 26.
2288 Bedford Ave,
Bellmore

Details on page 2.

Writer's Choice

Find out what song won
on Page 2.

Songwriting in the Movies

*~ As It Is In
Heaven ~ (2005)*

Beautiful Swedish film
about a famous
orchestra conductor
who returns to his
hometown to recover
from an illness. He is
talked into working with
the local church choir
and discovers new
meaning in his music.
Oscar nominee for best
Foreign Film.

Available on DVD.

September Song

Oh, it's a long, long
while from May to
December. But the
days grow short when
you reach September.

- Maxwell Anderson

Opening Lines

Grabbing your listener from the start

BY SID CHERRY

Take a look at any classic, well-known song and you'll usually find that most people who know the song know the opening line. The opening line of a song goes a long way in drawing the listener into the world being created in the song. This article is simply a food-for-thought, random listing of classic opening lines sorted in a few categories of the types of information they convey or the tone they set.

Sets time and place

- It's nine o'clock on a Saturday, the regular crowd shuffles in.
- It's quarter to three, there's no one in the place except you and me.

Introduces a main character

- Eleanor Rigby picks up the rice in a church where a wedding has been
- She's a good girl, loves her mama, loves Jesus and America too.

Introduces a thought provoking idea

- Imagine there's no heaven, it's easy if you try
- And now the end is near and so I face the final curtain

Sets in motion the action of a story

- I took my troubles down to Madame Rue. You know that gypsy with the gold-cap tooth.
- Got A wife And kids In Baltimore, Jack I went out for a ride and I never went back.
- An old cowboy went ridin' out one dark and windy day.

Conveys autobiographical information

- I was born in the wagon of a travellin' show.
- Lord, I was born a ramblin' man, tryin' to make a livin' and doin' the best I can.

Confronts another person or the listener

- Buddy you're a boy make a big noise playin' in the street gonna be a big man someday.
- You walked into the party like you were walking onto a yacht.
- You're a real tough cookie with a long history of breakin' little hearts like the one in me.

Establishes a relationship

- I bruise you, you bruise me. we both bruise too easily.
- You got a fast car, I want a ticket to anywhere.

Creates a sense of mystery

- Hello darkness my old friend, I've come to talk to you again
- There's a lady who's sure all that glitter's is gold and she's buying a stairway to Heaven

Creates excitement

- Welcome back, my friends to the show that never ends!

(Note: In order to play a little game of "name-that-tune", the titles have been omitted to the songs that include the lyrics listed here. If you have your own favorite opening lines, pass them on and we'll share them in the next newsletter.)

ISS

Director and Webmaster

Walter Sargent

Assistant Director

Sonny Meadows

Writing Coach

Mel Glazer

Advisor

Sonny Speed

Newsletter

Editor

Sid Cherry

Contributors

Suzanne Ernst
Sonny Meadows
Walter Sargent

We're on the Web!

See us at

www.islandsongwriters.org

Resources

BMI

BMI.com

Broadcast Music, Inc., a global leader in rights management, collects license fees from businesses that use music, which it distributes as royalties to songwriters, composers & music publishers.

Their website contains A wealth of information about songwriters and songwriting and about the music business.

Writer's Choice: "When I Talk To God" by Mark Hussey

Who Played What

Here is a list of the performers and songs from the August 2011 workshop:

1. Phil Schulman - "Brad"
2. Steffi Pacson - "Just Fly"
3. Dave Cook - "Folk Festival"
4. Vin Crici - "Arms are Meant to Hold"
5. Dave Anthony,- "Say Hello to Jesus for Me"
6. Mark Hussey - "When I Talk to God"
7. Norma Dagnelli - "Trusting"
8. Frank Gambino - "The Check's in the Mail"
9. Harris Hausen MD - "Alphabet city"
10. Estelle Henrich - "Jesse Come Home"
11. Suzanne Ernst - "What is Heaven?"
12. Mike Svezia - "Commercials"
13. Bill Goldsmith - "Leslie from Chelsea"
14. Margurite cassell - "That Mother Soccer"
15. Robert Littera - "Person That I Am"

Nice going, Mark!

ISS Bellmore Library Showcase

September 26 at 7:00

Josh Joffen, Sevi Regis and Tom Ryan will each perform sets of their original material. There is usually an open mic before or after the featured performers.

ISS Songbook

Discussions are under way for the creation of an ISS Songbook. This would be a printed collection of sheet music (probably lead sheets) from ISS songwriters. This type of collection could be accompanied by recordings or podcasts of the songs linked to the ISS website. The ISS Songbook could be sold online, at local or other bookstores and at shows featuring ISS performers.

More details as they develop.

"I Wish I'd Written That Song."

Write about a song that has inspired you. Tell us what you love about it. Send in your submissions to: 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. To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Sid Cherry at sidcherry@optonline.net.