



Island Songwriters Showcase

www.islandsongwriters.org

March 2001

Newsletter

Snowed Out But Not Snowed Under

By Shari Diamond

Well, the snow finally caught up with us for our monthly meeting and alas, we had to cancel. Sonny and I tried to reach as many as we could and we apologize to anyone who went to the college in that weather. Please see / call / email either Sonny or myself to make sure we have a way to get a hold of you. So, even without our workshop meeting, many other ISS related activities happened during the month where one could hear fabulous original Long Island music. Read on to find out. And now, let us all chant my current mantra, "NO MORE SNOW!"

VINCENT CRICI WINS SONG COMPETITION

Congratulations to ISS member **Vincent Crici** for his successful 'night at the Grammy's'...well, at least a Long Island version of the Grammy's... sort of. Vincent had **3 major wins** that night at the **BACCA (Babylon Arts Council) Song Competition on Feb. 16, 2001: 1st place** in the popular category with "*Kite and Anchor*", **1st place** in the country category with "*Every Trick In The Book*", which also won "**Best Song in the Show**". Vincent had been entering for the past several years achieving only one 1st place and often coming in 2nd and 3rd...ISS lesson of the month: 'Persistence shall be rewarded...NEVER give up!'

SONNY MEADOWS LATEST CD REVIEWED

Sonny Meadows latest CD "**Bible, Guns & Flags**" received a **triple A** rating from **Newsday's Nightbeat** local CD reviewer **Kevin Amorim**. Here's the review and many congratulations to Sonny.

Performance: A

Songwriting: A

Sound Quality: A-

Hometown: Huntington

Buying It: Sound Traks, Huntington; and online at www.cyber-songs.com

If **Jimmy Breslin's** singing voice were a little like **Tom Waits'** timbre, you'd have **Sonny Meadows**. The word pictures may not be pretty, but they unfortunately paint the truth. The intro to Meadows' latest-produced in part by **Wheatatus' Phil Jimenez**-is a simple mock hawking of some people's American way of life: "Get your bibles, come get your bibles, guns and flags..." And off we go. "My American Dream" recounts the journey of Hispanic day laborers, culminating in the attack on two immigrants in Farmingville: "Lured to work in an abandoned warehouse/A shovel cracks the back of my head." The singer-songwriter's response to the Columbine massacre, "Ten Commandments & the NRA" would be funny if it weren't so scary.

God bless America.

NEW SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND

Borders Books, Farmingdale

February 23, 2001

By **Vincent Crici**

Following in the footsteps of ISS superpowers **Sonny Meadows** (Commack) and **Rich Stein** (Westbury), I had the pleasure of hosting my first 'songwriter's in the round' last night. This night was very important to me, since I have been struggling to achieve this goal for almost a year now! Standing room only! It was truly a success...you can't go wrong with performers **Sonny Speed, Jane Ross and Sonny Meadows** and an audience of about 60 people! The audience participated in our discussion of the songwriting process and asked many questions. It is because of the ISS that was I able to achieve this dream of hosting my own evening...Sonny Speed went above and beyond to help me. This is my way of giving back to the ISS. Hopefully there will be future gigs at **Farmingdale Borders** as a result of last night's success. Thanks to all members who came down to support this event, it is truly appreciated. Special thanks to the performers who sang their hearts out and made my first hosting job easy and fun!

UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

WORKSHOP MEETING: **March 5 April 2**
OPEN MIKE @ BORDERS SYOSSET: **March 1 April 5**

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND:
@ BARNES & NOBLE, COMMACK: **March 8 April 12**
@ BORDERS, WESTBURY: **March 16 April 20**

LOTS OF FYI

LT1 CABLE SHOW LOOKING FOR ARTISTS

Bruce Figarsky at LT1 TV is still looking for original Long Island artists for his show. If you want to be considered for a performance on LT1 send a press kit, bio, recordings – audio and/or video, and other pertinent information to:

Bruce Figarsky c/o
Community Media Network, Inc. Dept. -A
P. O. B. 2801
Lake Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

Sonny Meadows, Jeff Curtis and **DeStefano & McLeod** have been on this show recently. The show's theme song was written and performed by **Jeff Curtis**, and was produced and engineered by **Sonny Speed** at his **Son Spot Studios!**

WGBB LOOKING FOR LOCAL ARTISTS

This email came to Sonny Speed.

Ladies/Gentlemen:

I am a radio show host on 21st Century Music Radio, **WGBB-1240 AM**. We air live every Monday night from 8-9 pm and webcast the show simultaneously with the broadcast. I just saw your website (islandsongwriters.org). Please have your artists send me their CD's and press kits/bio. My show is mainly devoted to giving airtime and exposure to the local artists in our communities and giving them the airtime and exposure that is so sorely needed.

My address is P.O. Box 0301, Baldwin, NY 11510 or you can go to <http://21stcenturymusicradio.com>

Thanks
Diane Corrado

SONNY MEADOWS ON THE AIRWAVES

Sonny Meadows appeared live on **WBAI - 99.5 FM** on Thursday, **February 1**, Midnight to 3AM on **Radio Unnamable** with **Bob Fass**. Sonny performed live plus tracks were played from his new CD "**Bibles, Guns & Flags**". Check out www.wbai.org. The broadcast ended with a number of tracks played from the **ISS** CD "**Breakout**". Also, Sonny was on **WUSB (90.1 FM) - Thursday 2/15 - 1:30 - 2:30**.

R&B MUSIC WANTED

This email came to Sonny Speed.

Music Publisher is seeking Top 10 Quality R&B hits for new female artist. Major labels are interested in her. She has major management in place. Songs must be fully produced, and available for immediate contract consideration! If interested we will need an instrumental track as well. Unpublished songs only. Make us say "WOW!" and feel the groove! Please submit songs in this style only! We need songs ASAP! Send Songs to:

J. Cooch Music (BMI)
22 Williams Way South
Baiting Hollow, NY 11933 USA
Attn.: Ron White A&R dir.

Visit our website for more info at www.coochmusic.com

Joseph Cuccia

ISS NIGHT – SUNDAY @ 7 SERIES

Northport Historical Museum. 215 Main Street. Northport. NY. 631.757.9859

www.northporthistorical.org

SUNDAY EVENINGS 7- 9 PM \$2 Donation*

APRIL 22nd is ISLAND SONGWRITERS SHOWCASE NIGHT!

Performing ISS members **Sonny Meadows, Geraldine Brockwell, Tim Huss, Sarah Haddock, and Frank Gambino** will each present "round robin style" their own unique voices and styles. **Sonny Speed** will host and do a tune to kick off the evening. Don't miss this. See back page for more info.

L.I. ORIGINAL MUSIC ON THE JUKEBOX

This was an email sent to me from Sonny Meadows which was forwarded from Auralmail@Aol.com

The NEW **Wrong Way Inn** is proceeding with its jukebox policy of getting LI original bands into the mix. CD compilations of LI bands have been playing regularly on weekends over the house system. The responses have run from amused bewilderment to downright open exuberance. A band named **Imaginary Bill** walked into the club with gear the other night, met by the strains of their own song "*Clark Kent*". The astonishment on their faces was followed by a cry of "we're home". Now we'd like to get your CDs into the jukebox, to give people the opportunity to try something different all the time. We will be marking them as "**LI ORIGINALS**", and would also eventually like to mark them as "**FOR SALE HERE**", and work out a sales policy with interested bands. As for the first jukebox installation, the first 15 inductees are (more space will become available gradually).

- 1+2) **THIS ISLAND EARTH**: "This Island Earth", and "Home Sweet Home"
- 3+4) **BOSSA NOVA BEATNIKS**: "Danger.Bongo Crossing", and "Heart To Beat"
- 5) **TONY HIGHTOWER**: "A Single Angry Word"
- 6) **THE IMPERIAL PINTS**: "There's One In Every Family"
- 7) **FEAR OF FRED**: "Fear Of Fred"
- 8) **SQUIRRELS FROM HELL**: "The Sound And The Furry"
- 9) **ST HUCKLEBERRY**: "Long Way Home"
- 10) **JACKALOPE JUNCTION**: "Sense Of Direction"
- 11) **UNIVERSAL DICE.com**: "My Name Is Thomas"
- 12) **IMAGINARY BILL**: "Imaginary Bill"
- 13) **JEFF CURTIS**: "Dreams"
- 14) **SMELT**: "Yes, Have Some"
- 15) **SONNY MEADOWS**: "Devil Dancin' Down On Main Street"

So please submit a CD to the team of the NEW Wrong Way Inn for the purposes of 1) to be added to house system comps 2) for consideration for the jukebox 3) for scrutiny and opinion in the AURAL FIX PUBLICATION.

MARTHA TRACHTENBERG'S SCHEDULE

Here's a list of her upcoming gigs.

On **March 11**, **Martha Trachtenberg** and **Tom Griffith** has called in quite a batch of songwriters and poets and given them all an assignment: to write something with the title "Sundays at Seven." Hmmm. Martha and Tom will be joined by **Steve Berger, Bill Graeser, Kate Kelly, Sonny Meadows, Michele Monte, Jean Stainback, Rich Stein, Bob Westcott, and James Yarsky**.

April 27 -- Friday -- **East Northport Library**, on Larkfield Road south of the train tracks. It may be a Martha solo; all depends on baby-sitter availability . . . Whoever's there will start at **7:30**, and it's free!

May 13 -- Sunday -- Return to the scene of the crime . . . Yet another **Sundays at Seven**, this one set up by **Cathy Kreger**. A group of songwriters and poets will perform one another's works. Hoooboy.

Also, Martha is waiting to hear whether or not she'll be taking part in the Nassau Community College Folk Festival in April; keep your fingers crossed. It would be fun.

SCOTT MACDONALD'S SCHEDULE

Saturday March 17th 2001 8:00 pm

Scott will perform on a ridiculous number of vintage open-back banjos, slide and lap steel guitars ranging in age from the 1850s to the 1950s. The instruments will be on display during the break. Also featured this evening is singer/songwriter/guitarist **James Gideon**. Bring an instrument and pour your heart out at the open mic!

Show is at the **Congregational Church of Huntington**
Washington Drive

Centerport, Long Island NY
For info/directions call (631) 661-1278 or (631) 421-9056

BLIND INSIGHT UPDATE

ISS member **Matt Morse** and his band have been invited to do a **showcase performance** at **Sam Goody's** in the **Roosevelt Field Mall**. The date is **March 3rd** at **2 pm**. Hey, it's a good excuse to go shopping! And it's free! Check them out if you wanna rock.

BORDERS RECAP

*Borders, Syosset
February 1, 2001*

The open mike scene at Borders hosted by **Bill Ryan** is still going strong with performances from various ISS members. This night is dedicated to showcasing ISS members so come on down, bring a song and support your fellow ISSer's.

Next events are March 1 and April 5 so mark your calendars.

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - COMMACK

*Barnes & Noble - Commack
February 8, 2001*

This month featured the outstanding songwriting and performing talents of host **Sonny Meadows, Geraldine Brockwell and Michael Clark**. See Sonny Meadows for more info or call him at 673-3605. Support L.I. music.

Next roundtable is March 8, 2001.

SONGWRITERS IN THE ROUND - WESTBURY

*Borders - Westbury
February 23, 2001*

Rich Stein had changed the date of his gig to February 23rd. He apologized for not sending a note out sooner. Joining Rich was **Geraldine Brockwell, Carl Ferrara, and Paulette Boucher**.

See Rich Stein at meetings or gigs for more info or call him at 516-742-2817 or e-mail him at clearsteer@aol.com.

Next Borders roundtable event is March 16, 2001.



Scoop's Link O' the Month

The ISS Web Site News
www.islandsongwriters.org

Check it out - ISS artists are being broadcasted on the Web as we speak (or read) - MP3LL

Go to the Island Songwriter site - www.islandsongwriters.org, click on the MP3LI link, this will take you to Live365.com. You'll need an MP3 player, such as RealAudio's Realplayer or Winamp. If you already have one the broadcast begins automatically. If not you can go to the Live365 help page - <http://www.live365.com/help/index.html>. There you'll hear ISS members - **James Yarsky, UniversalDice.com (Gerry Dantone), dunderhead (Walt Sargent), and OverSoul 7 (yours truly)**. Help us out - click on the "Rate this Broadcast" to move the station up in the charts. Click on the "Tell A Friend" link to spread the word. Oh and, If you'd like to get your songs up on internet radio or converted to MP3 for other sites, email me at scoop@optonline.net or call me 516 628-1163.

That's the scoop for this month. - *Bill Ryan*

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS at FIVE TOWNS COLLEGE

(Dix Hills) ~ The Island Songwriters Showcase (ISS) is a no fee organization. Group efforts include monthly meetings at Five Towns College, located on Burr's Lane in Dix Hills, Huntington, NY, generally on the first Monday of the month. **IT'S FREE.** Songs are often premiered at the meetings, and so much material is presented that there is limit of one song per writer. Writers may bring an acoustic guitar, CD, or cassette tape (no Dolby n/r reduction is best), and a piano is available for keyboardists. Lyric sheets are encouraged and ensuing discussions regarding presented songs can range from passionate to hilarious to instructive. To become a member, simply come to a meeting. That's it! Really!

Come join us on the first Monday of the month at 7:30 P.M. on the following date: **April 2** **May 7** **June 4**

Becoming an ISS member also entitles you to participate in our open mike night at any of our showcases (see highlighted below). Sign ups are at 7:30 P.M. All artists are able to play 2 original songs. Also, you can become eligible to be invited to perform at one of our Songwriters in the Round. No critiquing – just fun! Original bands are also welcome – please call Sonny in advance. Make friends. Make contacts. Get heard!

For more information call our director Sonny Speed at (631) 462-3300 or email him at mcspeed@aol.com.

Schedule of Local Open Mikes:

Mondays

- The Stephen Talkhouse - 8:30 P.M. Amagansett. 267-3117, hosted by Gene Hamilton

Wednesdays

- The Broadway Beanery - 9:00 P.M. 2 Broadway, Lynbrook. 596-0028, hosted by Stuart Markus
- The Cup Café - 9:00pm. Railroad Street, 3268 Railroad Ave., Wantagh. 826-9533
- MVP Café - 8:30 P.M. 1485 Hicksville Rd., N. Massapequa, (516) 529-5845, hosted by Jackalope Junction, original or cover

Thursdays

- **BORDERS Syosset - 425 Jericho Tpk, Syosset, 7:00 p.m. sign-up, 7:30 p.m. start on the 1st Thursday of the month, ISS exclusive showcase hosted by Bill Ryan.**
- Bunnery Pub - 9pm. 3120 Hempstead Tpk, Levittown, 735-0105, hosted by Frank Walker

Weekly Venue:

- **Sundays at Seven Series - The Northport Historical Society Museum, Main St., Northport on the north side of the street opposite the police station. 7 PM. Contact hosted by Kate Kelly at 757-1111 for listing of scheduled performers. The Sunday At Seven Arts in Concert Series is supported by funds from the NYC Council of the Arts, distributed in Suffolk County through the Huntington Arts Council. They request a \$2 donation for the evening.**

Songwriters In The Round:

- 2nd Thursday of the month @ Barnes & Noble, Commack, hosted by Sonny Meadows
- 3rd Friday of the month @ Borders, Westbury, hosted by Rich Stein.

ISS Postcard Mailer

If you didn't receive the postcard mailer that was sent out recently, or want to receive future updates on ISS events via mail or email, please provide Sonny Speed with a completed membership form available at meetings or gigs.

Director's Blurb

ISS workshops have become increasingly popular and we want to ensure that all members get enough time for comments. If you want your song heard but you're not looking for critique, please save the debut for the showcase. If you want feedback, **please remember to bring 25 copies of the lyric sheet** (or be prepared to pay a hefty fine – just kidding!)

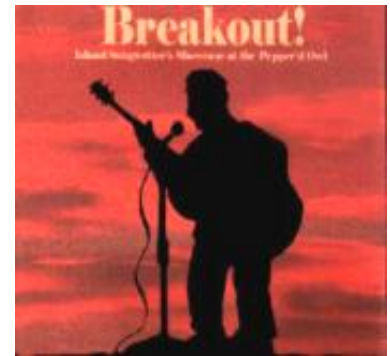
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ISS Staff

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- Ø **Newsletter Writing Staff:** Gerry Dantone, Bill "Scoop" Ryan, Walter Sargent, Michael Clark, Sonny Meadows, Mike Mattel, Frank Gambino, Vince Crici, Andrew Kirschner, Martha Trachtenberg, Rich Stein, and James Yarsky
- Ø **Website Coordinator:** Bill "Scoop" Ryan
- Ø **Newsletter Editor/Publisher:** Shari Diamond (Spring is on the way!)

Please make sure you check out our website www.islandsongwriters.org for info about the ISS, past newsletters, and member performances. If you would like to have a newsletter emailed to you, please send your request to Shari Diamond at shari@kidtestedtunes.com.



Don't forget to get your copy of the first ISS compilation CD featuring 14 ISS members recorded Live at the ISS Showcase at the Pepper'd Owl in 1996. This is a lot of talent crammed into this one CD and this is only volume 1! George Trapani made this release possible and he continues to record performances at ISS events. The Cost is \$12 per CD and you can get yours from George when you see him at ISS events, via the web at www.cyber-songs.com.

[com](#) or email him at gtrapani@optonline.net.