

June 2007

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ISS Events

Next Workshop:

August 6. There is no workshop in July.

Asta Open Mic:

June 6
June 20

Borders Open Mic:

July 6

On The Web: So You Want Some Airplay...

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

By now everybody knows about Myspace, but have you heard of MOG? Accessible at mog.com, the site gives you another medium to present your music to the public. Since radio for most of us is pie in the sky, Web services like Myspace and MOG are a good alternative.

MOG also gives you the ability to organize songs on your computer and is compatible with other media players, including Apple's proprietary iTunes. That means you can play MOG files on your iPod with little hassle.

I went through the registration process at MOG with the intent of uploading the title track to my upcoming CD, "Last Man on the Planet," to get some exposure. I succeeded in doing the basics, but when I started adding other MOG members, or "moggers" as they are called, the site went down for maintenance. Call it bad timing.

The process was relatively easy, though it requires some feeling around to figure out a few of the instructions. As anyone who has worked with Myspace or any other Web type of service, the language used is at times dumbfounding to the layperson. It's a high-tech problem.

In any case, I am still working on my site, mog.com/pedro, and will update and maintain it as time permits. I will be using it and my Myspace site, myspace.com/pedromusic, to share music files and news about my CD and gigs.

Of course, these sites are most effective when you put in the work to find people you can add as "friends," in Myspace terms, so simply creating your homepage and proceeding to forget about it won't get you far.

Writer's Choice: DiFalco's 'Because You Believed'

BY WALTER SARGENT

Maria Elaina DiFalco wrote this song for an American Idol songwriting competition. It didn't win the competition, but she absolutely nailed the assignment. Vocally, conceptually and musically, she smacked the living daylights out of it. She really did. Members wrote: "touching, catchy," "powerful emotions," "very professionally done."

Suzanne Ernst and Mike Svezia were about tied in a close second. Members raved about Suzanne's song: "Excellent melody... great blend of blues and soft rock. Beautifully played and sung." We didn't get many comments on Mike's song, but it did turn out the vote. My guess is that members were struck by the immediacy of "Hey You," which was written in first person, present tense.

Mark Hussey's "Lifestyles of the Dead" made a strong showing with what had to be

Continued on page 2

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Writer's Choice: DiFalco's 'Because You Believed' Wins

Continued from page 1

the concept of the month. Where the hell do you get your ideas from, Mark? Part Milton. Part George Crumb. "Amazing, ambitious and inventive" "another great concept

Ambassador Category Awards

Railroaded (Fred Blumenauer) "great lyrics...loved the melody and guitar work"

Drive-by Pie (Bill Goldsmith) "wry, intelligent sense of humor" "great hook, as usual"

Hide in the Shadows (Dennis Westbay) "...captures the essence of CSNY-era troubadors"

College on the Hill (Lois Morton) "Great song"

Mrs. Van Engen's Pig (Estelle Hendrich) "Loved it!"

Movers and Shakers (Andrew Kirschner) "topical...witty"

Please remember to write a short comment with your vote and tell us what you liked most about the song. Your comments are printed free of charge (and we need the words).

ISS Open Mics

Don't forget: The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is July 6. This gig is monthly, on the first Friday of the month. Signup is at 7:30 p.m and the music starts at 8 p.m.

The **Asta Wine Cafe and Art Gallery**, 334 Main Street, Huntington, open mic is scheduled for June 6 and June 20. Sign up is at 7 p.m. and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. No dates are scheduled for July yet, but you may check the web site for updates, myspace.com/astawinesopenmic, and look in this space in future issues of the ISS Newsletter for news about the Asta open mic.

Be sure to support both of these ISS events.

Monthly Workshop

Test out 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 if it falls on a holiday, at Five Towns College, off Burrs Lane in Dix Hills. Run by ISS Director Sonny Speed, the workshop starts 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 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, contact ISS Director Sonny Speed at mcspeed@optonline.net or 631- 462-3300.

To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at pedropereira@verizon.net.

Visit our web site at www.islandsongwriters.org.