

August 2007

www.islandsongwriters.org



ISS Events

Next Workshop:

September 10. Labor Day is September 3.

Asta Open Mic:

August 8
August 22

Borders Open Mic:

September 7

Back to Bellmore

The ISS will be back at the Bellmore Memorial Library on Sept. 27. This time the featured performers will be relative newcomers Dave Bailey and Tim Dillon, who will each play a few of their original tunes and participate in a songwriting discussion afterward. The event is scheduled for 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Following Tim's and Dave's performance, ISS Director Sonny Speed will open the mic up to the audience. Anyone attending who has a song he or she would like to perform will get a chance to do so. A piano is available.

Much like what ISS does at its monthly workshops in Five Towns College, critiques will follow those performances. The goal is to help budding songwriters with their craft. Those who would rather not perform have the option of bringing a CD or tape.

Tornado Alley at Bluegrass Festival

Tornado Alley, the Americana band founded by ISS Director Sonny Speed, is scheduled to perform at the Long Island Bluegrass Festival August 18 in Tanner Park, Copiague. This is a full-day, family-friendly event that will also include performances by national acts Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, as well as Long Island artists Buddy Merriam and Back Roads and Free Grass Union.

The festival, scheduled for 12 p.m. to 8 p.m., is inspired by Long Island's bluegrass community. In addition to the music, there will be food and drink, as well as children's activities. Attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket or lawn chair.

Tornado Alley's other members are ISS members Tim Huss and Vinny Crici, and Lora Kendall and Robert Langley. Read more about the band at www.tornadoalleyband.com.

Writer's Choice: Walter Sargent's 'Mother'

BY WALTER SARGENT

I hate to sound like a broken record, but June was another great meeting with many first-rate songs. Lyrically, "Mother" (by yours truly) used the image of a raging drunk and violent mother as a political metaphor. My favorite line is, "Now, my mother's a machine. She's hooked on gasoline and her blood is black. I want my mother back." I think telling it in the first person really helped bring the message home. Musically, the song was written in an unusual key (Mixolydian with an alternating major-minor 6th) that created a mood that was tense, disturbing.

Members wrote: "Knock out - on the money" "Powerful" and, "Hey, what chord was that?."

Coming in a very close second was "the Note" (Tim Huss). The lyrics told the story of a coal miner's tragic death and his widow's grief. But in Tim's more than capable hands, "the note" literally became a vehicle for expressing a complex mixture of love's triumph

Continued on page 2

ISS

Director

Sonny Speed

Webmaster

Walter Sargent

Writing Coach

Mel Glazer

Newsletter

Editor

Pedro Pereira

Contributors

Walter Sargent

Tony Tedeschi

Suzanne Ernst

Dave Cook

Gerry Dantone

Sonny Meadows

Mike Svezia

Steve Robinson

Frank Gambino

We're on the Web!

See us at

www.islandsongwriters.org

Writer's Choice: Walter Sargent's 'Mother'

Continued from page 1

and surrender to grief. Members wrote, "superbly crafted," "powerful message," "great lyrics and story."

Runner up: "Kissing In The Dark" (David Bailey) captured a moment of sensual intimacy like a jar of love notes. "Picture perfect" "great imagery" wrote members. Runner up: "Dreams" (Tim Dillon) - it is probably fair to say that this song transported us to another world. "a beautiful lullaby...liquid poetry" and "gorgeous" wrote members.

And the Ceremonial Awards for June are as follows: Instant Pop Classic Award: "Goosebumps" (Pagliarulo); Best Vocals Award: "Glass Against the Door" (DiFalco); "Turn It Up" Award: "When I Get to Boston" (Gangi); Best Jazz Experience: "Special Knack" (Kennelty/Kennelty); Best Folk Experience: "Wartime Bride" (Stone); Best Retro Experience (any genre): "Strangers on the Bus" (Cadraro/Westbay); Best 'Most' Annoying Hook with Egyptian Operatic Festoons Award - "Get It" (Svezia); Instant Romantic Classic Award: "Together Forever" (Pavane); Best Lyrical Hook: "Professional Peon" (Kirshner); Best Narrative: "Rat-tat-tat-tat of the gun" (Hendrich)

Who Played What

Hank Stone: Wartime Bride; Tim Dillon: Dream; Mike Cadraro/Dennis Westbay: Strangers on the Bus; Andrew Kirshner: Professional Peon; John Pagliarulo: Goosebumps; Tim Huss: the Note; Walt Sargent: Mother; Vince Gangi: When We Get To Boston; Estelle Henrich: The Rat-tat-tat-tat-tat of the Gun; Mike Svezia: Get It (Happy All Day); Maria Elaina DiFalco: Glass Against the Door; David Bailey: Kissing In the Rain; Howard Pavane: Together Forever; Phil Kennelty: Special Knack

ISS Open Mics

Don't forget: The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is Sept. 7. 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 August 8 and August 22. Sign up is at 7 p.m. and the music starts at 7:30 p.m. 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.