

May 2009

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June 1 at Five Towns  
College

**Borders  
Open Mic**  
The next show is  
Friday, June 5

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**The Defibrillators**  
The blues band that  
made aging cool is  
playing two free  
shows in May. See  
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# Ticket Disaster?

## Live Nation/Tickemaster Union Bad for Fans

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

Wall Street traditionally has loved big corporate mergers. Without them, we wouldn't have unwieldy behemoths like Citi and Bank of America, and we might have been spared some of the calamitous economic events of the past year. But lest anyone think the era of big mergers is over, concert promotion giant Live Nation and ticket seller TicketMaster are ready to disavow us of that notion.

A proposed merger of the two entertainment giants, which would require regulatory approval for consummation, would create the world's largest entertainment company. The ramifications of such a corporate marriage would be nothing short of profound. The combined company would have the ability to throw its weight around at will, hurting smaller competitors, consumers and artists.

While in the past a merger of this magnitude would have a lot of people salivating, this one is eliciting very skeptical reactions. And rightly so. Attorneys general in at least eight states, including New York, California, Connecticut and Massachusetts, are investigating the proposed merger, and the U.S. Department of Justice is still deliberating on whether to approve the deal.

Whether you're a music fan or a musician, or both, this deal if approved will spell bad news. TicketMaster for years has had a reputation for monopolistic practices and its run-ins with bands that have tried to do something about it, including Pearl Jam and Grateful Dead, are well known. The added resources and reach that Live Nation would bring to the ticket giant would likely only make the company more unbearable.

One likely result of the merger would be higher ticket prices for concertgoers. Somehow the economies of scale supposed to come out of huge mergers never seem to benefit the consumer. As it is, concert tickets already cost too much.

Or, surprise of surprises, could the unlikely actually happen – that this combined giant would cut operating costs and pass on the savings to ticket buyers? I wouldn't bet on it.

Ticket buyers aren't the only ones likely to be hurt by this proposed merger should it go through. Smaller competitors, whichever ones are left, would have an even tougher time competing with the resources and influence of the entertainment behemoth. And as for artists, the combined ticket-selling/concert promotion company would further narrow their options to get bookings.

We can only hope the Justice Department will do the right thing and block this potentially disastrous merger

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## Writer's Choice: 'Brand New Day' by David Anthony

By WALTER SARGENT

The April Writer's Choice winner did not have deep lyrics or sophisticated music developments. "Brand New Day" by David Anthony expressed simple, uncomplicated exuberance, a great hook and not a trace of pretense or affectation. After a long hiatus (and after attending the ISS Night hosted by the Folk Music Society of Huntington), Dave decided it was time to go to an ISS Workshop and strut his stuff. Welcome back, Dave. :-)

At the end of any given workshop, I honestly never know what song is going to prevail. The songs are very different, with different strengths in different genres and our voters are not predictable.

This month's runner-up was a toss-up:

"Back Here In The Shadows" by Frank Gambino: With a smooth, jazzy, comfortable delivery, Frank walked a line between humor and a serious commentary on a man who lives somewhat vicariously.

"Phases of the Moon" by Hank Stone: An artfully told story that expressed tenderness and austerity of a man's life in review.

### Defibrillators to Play Two Free Shows This Month

The band featuring the dynamic duo of ISS stalwart Sonny Meadows and Director Sonny Speed has two shows coming up, free to the public:

**Friday, May 8** at the East Northport Library, 151 Laurel and Scudder, Northport. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Check out the library web site here at [www.nenpl.org](http://www.nenpl.org).

**Friday, May 22** at the Sachem Public Library, 150 Holbrook Road, Holbrook. The show starts at 7:30 p.m. Web site: [www.sachem.suffolk.lib.ny.us](http://www.sachem.suffolk.lib.ny.us)

More on the Defibrillators at [www.thedefibrillators.com](http://www.thedefibrillators.com).

### ISS Open Mic

The next open mic at **Borders Cafe**, Route 25, Syosset, is June 5. This gig is monthly, on the first Friday of the month, hosted by Vincent Crici. Signup is at 7:30 p.m and the music starts at 8 p.m.

### Who Played What

Here is a list of the performers and songs from last month's workshop:

Denise Romas: I'm Your Cat; Ken Krummenacker: I Want You Everyday; Sal Weeks: Endlessly July; Andrew Kirschner: It's Time; Sid Cherry: I Ain't Going to Lose This House; David Anthony: Brand New Day; Pedro Pereira: Silent Tango; Estelle Henrich: One Day Knock-Down; Jules Jacobs I'll Be There for You; Hank Stone: Phases of the Moon; Frank Gambino: Back in the Shadows; Walter Sargent: Mister Blue; Mark Hussey: Viennese Strudel

### 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](mailto:mcspeed@optonline.net) or 631- 462-3300. To submit items for publication in the newsletter, contact Pedro Pereira at [pedropereira@verizon.net](mailto:pedropereira@verizon.net). Visit our web site at [www.islandsongwriters.org](http://www.islandsongwriters.org).