

October 2009

www.islandsongwriters.org



Island  
Songwriters  
Showcase

**Next Workshop**  
November 2 at Five  
Towns College.

### **Borders Open Mic**

The next show is  
Friday, November 6.  
Hosted by Vincent  
Crici.

### **Writer's Choice**

Find out what song  
won on Page 2.

# Homegrown Music

## First Concert in Monthly Series a Big Success

BY PEDRO PEREIRA

The first concert in a monthly series during which a number of ISS members have been invited to play took place last month, and it was a big success. Playing to a packed house at the St. Gerard Majella Church in Port Jefferson Station were a handful of the most compelling singer/songwriters and performers in the area.

Hank Stone's trio, Rough Folk, headlined the event, which drew more than 100 people. The trio also includes Todd Evans on guitar and vocals and Mike Christian on bass and drums. Also playing was yours truly, Jose de Jesus and ISS member Lois Morton. All performers played at the top of their game, and reviews from the audience were nothing short of stellar.

The Homegrown Music Café is taking place one Saturday a month through November, will take December off, and will resume in January. Coming up on Oct. 24 is featured artist Sheri Miller, a Long Island-born songstress and guitarist with a distinctive style. Also performing will be singer/songwriters Rick Bonilla and Jordan Hope, as well as Ryan K. Parise, who fronts the band Silent Generosity but will be performing solo.

Homegrown organizer and co-producer Ralph Antignano, who had the idea for the concert series said, "It's great to touch people's lives through music in two ways: first, by the audience getting to appreciate the performances and, secondly, because the funds raised that night help stock our food pantry and soup kitchen." Proceeds from the Homegrown Music Café shows help fund the St. Gerard Majella outreach program. Learn more about it at the Homegrown web site, <http://homegrownmusiccafe.com>.

"If you are looking for something to do on Saturday nights, this is a great option for music lovers," said Ralph. "So come down and enjoy the eclectic mix of performers that we have lined up for this season."

The focus is on original music. Gigs start at 8 p.m. sharp, and there is a \$5 cover. Three 20-minute sets are followed by an intermission, after which the featured artist takes the stage.

## New Open Mic in Selden

Kenn Machin, who ran the Wednesday night open mic at Cool Beanz before it closed in August, is now hosting another one on Thursday nights at Kelli's State and Wings, 280-P Middle Country Road (Route 25) in Selden. Kenn alternates hosting duties with Bob Krummenacker. Kelli's has an extensive menu of affordable meals and appetizers, as well as a well-stocked bar. Sign up for the open mic or simply come down to support live music on Long Island.

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## **Writer's Choice: 'Morning Meditation' by Ken Krumenacher**

BY WALTER SARGENT and PEDRO PEREIRA

"Morning Meditation" by Ken Krumenacher won the hearts of the ISS membership at the September workshop. Ken's floating melody and simple, yet spiritual, lyrics created a perfect, harmonious sonic blend. The song was without a doubt a crowd pleaser, though a couple of workshop attendees suggested toning down the vocal to better fit the mood of the lyrics and melody.

Here is what ISS members had to say about Ken's tune:

"Beautiful climbing-to-the-heavens melody."

"Beautiful blend of lyrical intent and music, a true meditation."

"Great lofty wide-ranging melody."

"Very peaceful"

Other songs that won the praise of the membership were as follows:

"Don't Lose the Night," by Joe McEnerney. Members called it "very fresh sounding" and hailed its "current, moving sound with great technical aspects."

"One Summer Day," by Susan Cohen. Members liked its "sweet imagery, flowing, subtle, and sophisticated," adding that its "lowkey delivery helps establish the mood."

"Chewed Up, Spat Out and Stomped On," by Estelle Hendricks. Comments from ISS members included, "great ability to rhyme and wonderful sock-it-to-'em style."

### **Who Played What**

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

David Anthony: The Demon

Ken Krumenacker: Morning Meditation

Joe McEnerney: Don't Lose the Nights

Susan Cohen: One Summer Day

Estelle Henrich: Chewed Up, Spat Out and Stomped On

Howard Pavane: Never Thought You'd Walk Away

Marguerite Cassell: The Spectacle

Susan Davis Strempe: Share a Glass of Wine

Pedro Pereira: It Must Be Friday Night

### **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 Walter Sargent at [waltersargent@optonline.net](mailto:waltersargent@optonline.net). 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).