

# THE KSA SONGWRITER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF  
THE KNOXVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

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Knoxville Songwriters Association

P.O. Box 603

Knoxville, TN 37901

View the KSA Songwriter online at [www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org](http://www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org)

**KSA**

SINCE 1983

Founded by Sarah Williams

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings to all!

Gosh, is it June already? And the August heat has arrived early to East Tennessee and I guess to the rest of the country too. Not much we can do about it though, so might as well try to stay as cool as possible.

May was a good month for getting the garden in the ground so songwriting took a back seat for many of us as we attended to that chore. And now the weeds will control the rest of spring and early summer.

The First Annual Pig Roast at the Big Valley Barn was a success with many people attending. There were at least a couple of hundred, maybe more. We all had plenty of good food to eat and the dancing on the grass was a new experience that took a little getting used to. Once we figured out that you can't slide your feet on grass it got a little easier but sure made the calves of the legs sore. Bluegrass music was featured in the afternoon and **Kubil Hopper** and the **Knock-A-Bouts** did the evening show on an outdoor stage. **Link and Traci Byrge**, and all of their friends that helped with cooking and setting up the tents did a real fine job.

Another pig roast (#17) was held on Memorial Day weekend at my son's house in Ohio. That one always brings in a bunch of the local bluegrass pickers. Plenty of good bluegrass and country music featuring the Bluegrass group **Boston Boy** and a couple of other groups as well as some individuals that joined right in to help entertain. The weather turned out to be really hot on the day of the pig roast but the Ohio nights were cool enough to make the trip enjoyable.

We have the honor of having Singer/Songwriter **R. C. Bannon** in town for a workshop on June 18 from 1 until 4 p.m. at the regular meeting room at the Fountain City Library. After the workshop we have a Showcase set up outside at **Salsarita's**, across from Litton's restaurant. The lineup will include members of the KSA who perform and as an added attraction Mr. Bannon will participate in the showcase with a few of his songs. We are asking those

that attend to bring a non-perishable food item for the Second Harvest Food Bank. This should be a good workshop featuring a man who has been around the music business for many years. Additional information about this workshop can be found on the Official KSA Website at [www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org](http://www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org)

Song of the Quarter and Lyric of the Quarter are coming up with judging to be held on June 28. Get your titles to **Joyce Brown** by June 21 so she can prepare the ballots.

It's approaching time for election of officers for the coming year. Several of the present officers have indicated they will not seek their old offices this year due to other commitments. Now is the time to think about which office you are going to seek. We need people running for office that are willing to put in the time and effort that is necessary to make our organization top-notch. All offices are open for election, including the position of Editor of the KSA Songwriter. If you feel you can make a difference with new ideas or make improvements on old ones please step forward and be a part of shaping the future of the KSA.

Till next time . . . **Gene Blair**

## FROM THE EDITOR

Did you know you can read the current and past issues of the KSA Songwriter online on the KSA Website? [www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org](http://www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org). **Gale Horst** has done wonders with our Website to make it look professional. Adding the KSA Songwriter to the site gives everyone a chance to print off a copy or to refer back to an article in case the email copy gets accidentally deleted.

The summer and early fall months are filled with various festivals and events that feature music of all kinds. If any of you have information on something special that you think the readers might enjoy you can let me know and I will include the information in the KSA Songwriter. Thanks to **C. D. Johnson** for his article this month.

And now, on with the show . . .



## HARD TO ACCEPT

By C. D. Johnson

Dedicated songwriters of the newbie variety, whether young or even past their youthful bloom phase, all seem to have two things in common. The first being a firm resolve that every word they write is sacred and needs to be experienced by the listener. The second most common mistake is a total disdain for structure and format in their songs. When a creative person puts his heart and soul into bringing his or her thoughts and feelings to light by putting pen to paper the last thing they want to hear is, "You've got enough material in that song for three songs and to be blunt it is also rather incoherent." Let me take a second to add that in the beginning I was also guilty of these errors and to some extent if I'm not careful I still find myself falling into this closed minded creative pool of excess. It is understandable that we as songwriters are proud and protective of our efforts. However, if the songwriter is the only one that understands what he or she is writing about then they might as well be keeping a diary because outside of family and a few tolerant friends no one else will ever hear that song.

When I was first attempting to write songs I spent much time surfing the web looking for pointers from current and successful songwriters of different types of music. Thank goodness I stumbled upon a video showing an interview with the VP of A & R of ASCAP international division. In his presentation he was trying to address the very same issues this article is about. To condense what he said I will paraphrase. He said that when the songwriter does the first draft of a song the writer is writing from the heart. It is personal. It is for the writer. It is because the writer knows in his heart what he has to say needs to be heard. He went on to say, rewrites are the only way to make a song coherent enough to involve the listener to the point they identify with the song. In other words, the first draft is for the writer and the rewrite is for the listening public.

To my mind, a songwriter must involve the listener with both the melody and the lyrics. They both must make sense to the listener. It needs to draw them in, make them want to hear this song over and over again. Make it personal to the listener. Tell their story. To do this there are accepted rules of structure and format a song writer must follow. These rules have passed the test of time and are the surest road to a listener's heart and maybe their financial support.

To all you readers that care please read this next sentence a few times before you proceed. Structure has nothing to do with content. Let me repeat this. Structure has nothing to do with content. It is up to you as songwriters to communicate with the listener by saying what you have to say in a way that makes it easy to involve the listener. They must understand where it is you're coming from and where you are taking them. They expect to see a familiar face with something totally new to say. Hence, your heartfelt lyrics and perfect melodies molded to a format and

structure they recognize. Far better songwriters than us have taken this road to success for many years. It should not be so difficult a task to grasp this fact but for some reason beginning songwriters love to buck the system. I've heard my entire life, "experience keeps a dear school but a fool learns in no other." Don't be that fool.

I will leave you with a few pointers I've picked up over the years. Write often. Use short musical phrases to match short lyrical phrases. Try to communicate on both the musical and lyrical level. Repetition is your friend.

Try writing to this format for practice: Verse 1= tell the story, Chorus=reinforce the story in 4 lines, Verse 2=develop the story further, Chorus=same, Bridge (if you need it) different perspective of the story (maybe other sides version, Chorus=same, Tag it out (musically or lyrically what ever fits the song.

Just remember this, even if you don't remember anything else from this article. Structure has nothing to do with content, the first draft is for you, the rewrite is for the listener.

One more thing, go back and count how many times the word "listener" is used in this article. It could just open your eyes as to how important they really are!



## THINGS OF INTEREST

### **EAST COAST SONGWRITERS CONFERENCE JUNE 2011**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 17, 18, 19 2011 East Coast Songwriters Conference Set for Winston- Salem WINSTON-SALEM, NC (March 1, 2011) The Community Arts Café, in partnership with the local chapter of the Nashville Songwriters Association International will present the first annual East Coast Songwriters Conference (ECSC), scheduled for June 18, 19 and 20, 2011 at the Community Arts Café's facility, located at 411 West Fourth Street in downtown Winston-Salem. The conference will provide attendees with a weekend full of valuable resources for honing the craft of songwriting including workshops, seminars, showcases and opportunities for recording demos and pitching songs to publishers. Current confirmed guest artists and speakers include **Byron Hill, Marc-Alan Barnette, Rich Fagan, Pennt Dionne, Donna Hughes, Pat & Pete Luboff, Sherrill Blackman, Doak Turner, Kristy Jackson and Mitch Snow.** Additional instructors and artists TBA. Early registration for the conference is \$175 and ends on April 31st. Registration after April 31st and before May 31st is \$199. Registration after May 31st is \$225. Conference passes may be purchased at The Community Arts Café's Gallery of the Arts or by calling 336-793-8000. More information to follow

and at website: [www.ecsongwriters.com](http://www.ecsongwriters.com). Contact **Jim Tedder** with The Community Arts Café at 336-793-8000 or email [editor@communityartscafe.com](mailto:editor@communityartscafe.com) Contact **Linne Black** with NSAI at 336-414-0722 or email [linneblack@aol.com](mailto:linneblack@aol.com)

## ENJOY 'JAM' WITH YOUR MORNING COFFEE AT MARYVILLE'S EVERETT SENIOR CENTER

If you're an early riser—or more importantly, an early picker and singer—here's an opportunity to play your songs before an appreciative audience. The Everett Senior Center, 702 Burchfield Street in Maryville, hosts live music performances on the second Wednesday morning of each month. Sign up at 8:30 a.m. for your time to perform between 9 and 11 a.m. You're also welcome to drop by to hear some good music. Word has it there are awesome musicians among the center's regular crowd.

## Free Recording Classes Continue at Guitar Center

Guitar Center is continuing their free [Recording Made Easy](#) classes at every store every Saturday at 10:00 a.m. Knoxville's Guitar Center is located at 8917 Towne & Country Circle, next door to the Best Buy and Staples stores. The shopping center is between Kingston Pike and I-40, near the Cedar Bluff exit.

Guitar Center's announcement says that the "permanent imprinting of sound, inspiration, and musical thoughts" has never been easier than with the use of Apple Mac computers and the Garage Band program. The in-store classes are not technical support sessions, but workshops designed to help participants "take your ideas from basic tracks to finished songs in four user-friendly classes."

Each week's class on the basics of computer recording will feature a brief in-depth look at a specific area of recording and a question and answer session. The classes will be repeated in sequence each month.

For more information:

<http://seminars.apple.com/go/guitarcenter/eventslp.html>

## TENNESSEE COUNTY GOSPEL ASSOCIATION SHOWCASE

[Tennessee-Country Gospel-Association](#) The TCGMA is proud to announce a showcase at "Lake Winnepesaukah" in Chattanooga, TN. - July 24th – one of the most fun theme parks in the south.

If you wish to perform, sign up now. Read our profile pic on the Website shown above for all of the details.

## JOHN CONDRONE JULY PICNIC IN THE PARK

I am planning a 4th of July picnic @ Louisville Point Park Pavilion (3272 Cox Road, Louisville, TN) from 12 pm - ?

We are inviting all songwriter friends to join us. We'll have songwriters in the round setup.....fun & games....etc.

The park has volleyball, softball, swimming area, boat launch, restroom facilities, children's area, grill available, etc. No alcohol permitted! Asking everyone to bring covered dish & drinks!

Hope to see you there!

## INTERESTING WEBSITES

[www.nashvillestudiolive.com/frequently-asked-questions/](http://www.nashvillestudiolive.com/frequently-asked-questions/)

<http://www.billboard.biz/bbbiz/genre/country/nashville-publishers-say-a-hit-is-still-1005220782.story>

## HAPPENINGS WITH MEMBERS

**Edna Riddick** performed live on **WBCR, AM 1470** from **Music Row** in Maryville on June 4. This was the inaugural of what we hope will be a monthly spotlight for KSA members. She said that the thirty minute live broadcast lasted a little longer than that but she enjoyed it and managed to get in a few plugs for the KSA. If you are a member of the KSA and wish to perform please contact **David Lauver** at [lauver100@aol.com](mailto:lauver100@aol.com) We would like to thank **Harry Grothjahn** at WBCR and **Brenda and Lowell Hamby** at Music Row for this opportunity. The Website for the radio station is [www.truthradio.tv](http://www.truthradio.tv) and the Website for Music Row is [www.muscirowofmaryville.com](http://www.muscirowofmaryville.com) if you would like to check them out.

**Hogman, aka Jerry Isham** played WDVX Blue Plate Special on June 8. I haven't talked to him yet about it but I'm sure he did a good job and enjoyed himself.

## OUT AND ABOUT NORTH

By Gene Blair

**Bobby G. Rice** appeared at the Nashville Connection on June 11 after appearing at the Benham, KY Miners Memorial Theatre on Friday June 10. I missed letting everyone know about those two events because I was not aware of them when I put out the May issue of the KSA Songwriter. I'm disappointed that I missed both events. If any of the readers attended either or both of Bobby's shows I would like to hear how they went.

I don't believe the heat is keeping people home from the local dance venues. The crowds seem to be adequate to fill the dance floors. The Town and Country was busy on June 4 and the Senior Center in LaFollette was filled on June 9. The crowd was about normal for the Big Valley

Barn on June 3 and 10. We took a break from dancing this last Saturday and spent the evening sitting out on the deck enjoying the cool night breeze and watching the hundreds of lightning bugs rising up out of the meadow.

The Senior Citizens Center in Lafollette is the place to be for a good Thursday night country show (7-9:30) with **Kubil Hopper, Link Byrge, Keith Lambert, Junior Dyson, and Ed Bell** making up the house band along with a guest Sax player and an occasional guest harmonica player. **Herschel Turner, Ken Irwin, Ira Braden, Glen Parker, Herman Lambert, The R Girls** quartet, and several other singers take the stage on various Thursday nights at open mic to provide a good mix of country entertainment for the audience. The center is located in downtown Lafollette. They have a large dance floor for line dancing and two-stepping and also offer line dancing instruction on Tuesday mornings. No booze, no drugs, no smoking. The food consists of snacks and homemade cake and cookies. Coffee is donation only. Open to the public. Cover charge is \$5. 423-562-6672

*The following information concerns local and close-in venues that you might want to visit if you are in the mood for some good music and an evening of entertainment or if you want to just strut your own stuff in front of an open mic.*

**Andy Maiden and The Silver Clouds** perform every Saturday night at the **Nashville Connection** on Highway 63 west of Harrogate from 7:00 p.m. until 10:30 p.m. They are now live on **WNTT radio at 1250 AM** for the 8-10 p.m. portion of the show. Open mic is available and there is always someone who wants to take the stage and sing. No alcohol, no drugs, no smoking (outside smoking is allowed.) Theatre style seats near the stage are comfortable. Décor is all music and country related. Dance floor for line dancing and two-stepping. Cover is \$6. Hot dogs, popcorn, soft drinks, and a bottomless coffee are available. Check out their Website <http://www.myspace.com/andymaidenthesilverclouds> Several links to other performer's websites are also available through this website.

**Town and Country Music** is located on Highway 63 about 6 miles east of Lafollette. **Jim Poindexter**, from Harlan, KY on guitar and vocals, Jim's wife **Linda** on keyboard, and their friends, including **Herschel Turner** and **Ken Irwin**, play and sing Friday and Saturday nights, 7:00 p.m. till 11:00 p.m. **Joyce Arrington** handles the backup and harmony and does a right good job of it. The band plays a mix of music. Plenty of Line dancing and two-stepping for those that chose to do so. If you are into traditional country music this is the place to be. Open mic is available if you want to participate. No booze, no drugs, no smoking (outside smoking is allowed). Cover is \$5. Sandwiches, soft drinks, and a bottomless coffee are available.

**Big Valley Barn**, Norris, Exit 122 off I-75, east to Bethel Road turn right, then right on Mountain Road. The Barn offers dancing and country music every Friday and Saturday night. No alcohol, drugs, or smoking allowed. **Link Byrge** and **The Scrapyrd Band** perform on Friday nights. **Pudgy Grayson** occasionally fills in for **Junior Dyson** on drums and always puts on a good show. Pudge

also does a good job of singing, even when he isn't playing drums. **Kubil Hopper** performs with his band, **The Knock-a-bouts** on Saturday nights. Open mic for all their singing friends to have a chance to sing and or play with the band. Go to [www.bigvalleybarn.com](http://www.bigvalleybarn.com) for a photo and video tour of the facility. 8 p.m. till 11 p.m. \$5 cover charge, snacks, soft drinks, great hotdogs with Link's special chili, and coffee are available.

Other venues for weekend country, gospel, and bluegrass music include Judy's Barn at Maynardville, and Ciderville at Powell.

## RESOURCES

**Wolf Valley Productions** is a one-man operation but this one man can do wonders for your songs. The studio belongs to **Michael de Bills**, an experienced artist, songwriter, author, producer, musician, arranger, vocalist, ASCAP member, and all around nice guy who can put your songs into a professional format for you to enjoy or send out as demos. Michael produces quality work out of his studio located in the basement of his home northeast of Andersonville at 459 Mill Creek Road. Cell Phone number is 865-755-5665.

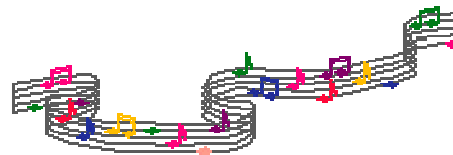
**Leigh Ann Cox:** Guitar, Bass, Banjo, and Dobro. Graduate of Belmont University in Nashville with a degree in Commercial Music/Music Business. Graduate of the School for the Performing Arts in Chillicothe, Ohio, and former staff writer and picker in Nashville. Leigh Ann works out of Broadway Sound in Fountain City. 865-599-8277

## DUES REMINDER

*Questions about membership and due date of annual dues should be directed to any of the Officers shown below.*

Please keep your annual dues up to date in order to continue receiving member benefits, including *The KSA Songwriter* and the "free" workshops during the year. The annual dues of \$40 is a real bargain if you consider that it will cost you \$10 as a non-member to attend each of the workshops.

**Note:** Closing date to submit material for the July issue of the KSA Songwriter is June 27, 2011.



**OFFICERS**

President: **D. E. "Gene" Blair**  
423-562-9866

Vice President: **C. D. Johnson**  
865-609-9844

Treasurer: **John Morris**  
865-687-0273

Secretary: **Anna Morris**  
Membership Dir.: **Joyce Brown**  
No number

Education Dir.: **David Haley Lauver**  
865-671-0432

Publicity Dir.: **Linda Perry**  
865-405-2617

Newsletter: **Gene Blair**  
cell 770-377-6817

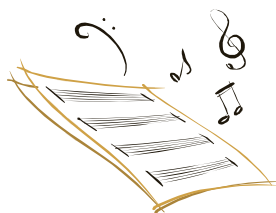
Directors at Large: **Gale Horst**  
865-474-1537  
**George Boley**  
No number  
**Ira Braden**  
865-278-2024  
**Art Daniells**  
704-578-3911

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

The Board of Directors will meet at 4:00 P.M. at the regular meeting room on June 14 to discuss and vote on several items that concern the future of the KSA.

Items to be discussed are a mission statement for the KSA, accepting satellite groups who want to fall under the blanket of the KSA, minor changes in the Song and Lyric of the Quarter/Year rules, frequency of meetings, establishing a set of by-laws, RowFax subscription, and changing the name of the KSA to accommodate a broader geographical base of membership, i.e. satellite groups.

If anyone has any comments or wishes to add anything to the agenda please contact one of the Board Members.



The following words of wisdom from a professional might be of benefit to an amateur songwriter when he or she dismisses or fails to recognize the importance of the lyric component of a song.

Troy Gentry of Montgomery Gentry, at a BMI awards ceremony, pointed out that "Integrity of the lyrics," has always been the keystone in selecting songs to record.

**NOTICE OF**

**Knoxville Songwriters Association  
P. O. Box 603  
Knoxville, TN 37901**