

THE KSA SONGWRITER

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
THE KNOXVILLE SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

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Knoxville Songwriters Association

P.O. Box 603

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KSA
SINCE 1983

Founded by Sarah Williams

FROM THE PRESIDENT

How excited I am to be your new President. I still remember the first time I was brave enough to go an official Knoxville Songwriters Association meeting. Before you start to count, I will tell you it was in the mid 1980's.

Do you remember your first KSA meeting? It's so intimidating to walk into a group of strangers. Even though they probably don't even notice you, you feel like they're looking you up and down. Then, the meeting begins, and you hear a really good song. "WOW!" you think. "Don't know if I should be here or not." After a few more songs; some good, some not so good, you begin to realize the folks at the meeting aren't going to bite you, tell you not to come back, or ask you something you might not know. They're there with a dream – to write a GREAT song.

Being a member of the Knoxville Songwriters Association challenges each of us differently. We join together to develop our unique craft of songwriting with dreams of writing that perfect song. Then we realize that one of the best ways to improve our own skills is by working to help others improve their skills. During this process of working together, we also learn as individuals to accept and appreciate the freedom of exploring whatever path or interpretation is appropriate for us.

What a privilege that we can say we are members of the Knoxville Songwriters

Association. I have requested that the membership provide me with their written ideas,

Comments, and concerns so that I have a better understanding of what YOU want for our Association. I plan to take your data and compile a questionnaire for each of you to complete. This will begin our dialogue. As your President I welcome your ideas and appreciate your support.

Sincerely, **Edna M. Riddick**, President

FROM THE EDITOR

The comments made herein and the content of the articles are the opinions and/or beliefs of the authors and may not be in accordance with the mission statement of the KSA. We welcome comments on any of the articles that appear in this publication and encourage all members to consider submitting articles, comments, classified ads, or other material that might be beneficial to the readers of the publication.

Congratulations to the new President, **Edna Riddick**, and the new members of the Board of Directors. Also congratulations to the former members who chose to run again. The list of new officers can be found near the end of this publication. There is a lot of work to be done and hopefully cooperation will be the key to accomplishing some things that will keep moving the KSA forward.

Thanks to **Gale Horst** you can read the current and past issues of the KSA Songwriter online on the Association's official Website?

www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org .

Gale 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 KSA Facebook page will probably be revised and restructured to provide a more usable platform. The social networking site was intended to keep KSA members up to date on happenings in the industry and let members of the group communicate with each other. It was never intended as a blog for posting personal opinions about other posters or members of the group who are not KSA members. Sadly to say, some members and former members of the KSA considered it as just such a site and posted content that probably shouldn't have been posted. Hopefully, apologies have been made to those that might have been offended by some of the remarks.

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** and **David Lauver** for the articles included in this issue.

And now, on with the show . . .



The Right Way "vs" The Wrong Way

By **C. D. Johnson**

When I was a young adult and I found myself faced with a difficult decision I always took comfort from these words of wisdom given to me at an early age by my Dad. "Son," he would say, "There is a right way, a wrong way and there is my way of doing everything. With a

slight sadness in his eyes he would continue with, "As hard as it is to admit, sometimes the "my way" isn't the best way." The first time Dad attempted to explain what he meant by this statement was a total failure. At that point, this head strong six year old was too involved with the after effects of the spanking I'd just received to be very receptive to anything constructive Dad had to say. However, needless to say, after spending my formative years with Dad's backwoods philosophy and his rare application of corporal punishment, I gradually came to appreciate not only the meaning of his words but also the love with which he delivered these sermons. As time has passed I have discovered that often the "my way" of doing things is sometimes in direct conflict with the "right way." It's not so much that on occasional "my way" is so closely affiliated with the "wrong way" as it is just not close enough to the "right way" to pass a close inspection. Whenever this realization hits me I always think back to Dad and his first attempts to "learn me" the values of fairness, honesty and self awareness. Even though painful at the time, the lessons stuck. And today, hopefully I'm a better person for it.

I could continue to write on and on concerning the wisdom of the man that raised me but I won't. Suffice to say, I'm proud to have had a man like him as a father and mentor. When he passed away I realized I'd not only lost my Dad but my best friend and the person that had taught me most of the things that I have found useful in my life. For all the knowledge he passed on to me I am eternally grateful.

I am almost positive that if any one of us were to take a moment to reflect on our past we would find decisions and circumstances that we've handled with the "my way" and not the "right way" attitude. Even having Dad's "words of wisdom" ringing in my head, I would at times be tempted to make "my way" the only way. In retrospect, when "my way" triumphed over the "right way" the house of cards I'd built attempting to get things going my way was often blown away by reality. Hopefully, the reality of the future we bring about by choosing the "my way" over the "right way" will not be too unpleasant.

I think it would be correct to assume that most of you will wonder what my latest column has to do with song writing. The only answer I can give is that we should take a moment to think about what has been going on within our organization in the last couple of months. If you're honest with yourself you'll have the answer. And maybe you'll agree. Sometimes the "my way" is not the "right way."



EDITORIAL OPINIONS

WHICH GROUP WOULD YOU SUPPORT?

There exists in Knoxville a songwriting group that calls itself the "Knoxville Songwriting Community" or KSC for short. Their promos for "Song Contests" and promos for the winners of the song contests have been published in the Your News section of the Knoxville News Sentinel, obviously without the Knoxville News Sentinel taking a look at who or what they may be promoting. Otherwise I don't think the KNS would have printed the promos, even with the standard disclaimer.

This group, which chooses to remain "anonymous", is obviously trying to capitalize on the name of the Knoxville Songwriting Association, is more the voice of a few angry former members of the KSA than legitimate songwriters. Their Website is loaded with anger and animosity toward the well-respected group of people who comprise the Knoxville Songwriters Association, an organization that has been in operation since 1983 within the Knoxville geographical area. The purpose of this group, according to their mission statement on the Webpage, is to provide "an organization free of censorship and discrimination." They propose to offer a place where "the religious views of the members will not discriminate against other songwriters who send in their songs about subjects that may not be to their liking or that go against their beliefs." They

imply that the KSA is a group of "book burners and censors" and even go so far as to show pictures of uniformed Nazi soldiers burning books. Unfortunately, some of the members of the KSA have fallen victim to the lure of "song contests" and anonymous song critiques and have actually joined this group, or submitted songs to them for critique and to enter their "song contests." This is an undeniable fact since the names of those members appear on the Webpage.

In an effort to set the record straight, the KSA does not discriminate or censor songs that are brought before the group. If we did then some meeting nights would be just plain boring and the meetings would end prematurely. To set the record straight, we have in the past had some former members who were allowed to play songs during a song contest that turned out to contain lyrics that were very explicit and objectionable to those in attendance. The content of the two songs concerned the sexual habits of dinosaurs with short arms and of a gay man being picked up in a bar and then, after a long encounter with another man, being flung out a penthouse window. There were KSA members and guests in the meeting that objected to the content of the songs, including one lady who was accompanied by her fourteen year old daughter. The KSA members that were present in that meeting made it very clear afterwards that this kind of content should not be permitted. A letter was then sent to the members by the President that made that policy perfectly clear. So it was only after the songs were actually heard that a policy was adopted that would prevent socially unacceptable content to be presented in the future. Asking that common sense and respect be utilized when addressing a mixed group of people is not discrimination nor is it censorship. It is good that these former members are just that, former members, since they choose not to play by the established rules of decency that govern a respectable, community minded organization.

A current member of the KSA was recently heard saying that the Website offered by this group has actually benefitted the reputation of the Knoxville Songwriters Association because it

lets folks who go to their Website know we are serious and not into foolishness. The very things they imply, some of which borders on slander, hurts them more than us because they are actually promoting the respectability and credibility of our Association while making themselves look like a bunch of angry and ignorant fools who offer no socially redeeming values or respectability in their activities.

To see what we are all about visit the only official Knoxville Songwriting Association Website and view our mission statement at www.knoxvillesongwritersassociation.org .

To see what “they” are all about you can visit the site of the Knoxville Songwriting Community at www.knoxnews.com/news/2011/feb/01/yournews-knoxville-songwriter-community-offers-on/

Then you can make a choice of which organization you would like to be a part.

THINGS OF INTEREST

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>

OUT AND ABOUT NORTH

Live music and dancing on Friday and Saturday night at the **Big Valley Barn** in **Norris** with **Link Byrge** and the **Scrapyard Band** on Friday night and **Kubil Hopper** and the **Knock-A-Bouts** on Saturday night. 8 until 11 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday nights. Guest singers are always welcome. Burgers, hot dogs, popcorn, snacks, and drinks are available. Check out their Webpage at www.bigvalleybarn.com for directions and info. Open mic available both nights. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door.

There is live music and dancing every Monday from 7 until 9:30 p.m. at the **Cove Lake Pavilion** in **Caryville**. Music provided by **Link Byrge** and the **Cove Lake Band** with numerous local guest singers. **Buddy Hale** is the sponsor of this event. No drinks and no snacks but **there is no charge for admission** either. The pavilion does have drink machines and there is a great Bar-B-Q restaurant next door. Open mic available.

The live music and dancing goes on pretty wildly every Thursday night from 7 until 9:30 p.m. at the **Senior Center in LaFollette**. **Junior Dyson**, **Kubil Hopper**, **Link Byrge**, **Keith**

Lambert and **Ed Bell** make up the house band and what a band they are. Several regular local guest singers provide variety to the show. Open mic if you want to give singing a shot. No smoking, drugs or alcohol. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door.

On down the valley to the east you will find the **Town & Country** near **Well Springs**. **Jim and Linda Poindexter** perform live music on Friday and Saturday nights from 7 until 11 p.m. Regular local guest singers make frequent appearances during the show. Nice dance floor. Hot dogs, barbeque, drinks and snacks are available. There is a \$5 cover charge at the door. Open mic available both nights. No smoking, drugs or alcohol.

Andy Maiden and the **Silver Clouds** provide Saturday night music at the **Nashville Connection** near **Harrogate**. NC is located on Highway 63, 5 miles west of Highway 25E. Guest singers are welcome. This venue provides a stage for a lot of young, local talent long with the local regular guest singers. **Stoney Stonecipher** is on pedal steel. **Jerry Evans** is on lead guitar and **Ronnie Dell** will crack you up with his comedy. And he can sing and play the keyboard too. **Norm** is on drums and **John** on bass with **Andy** on acoustic guitar. **Nancy Maiden** keeps it all going. There is a \$6 cover charge at the door. Hot dogs, popcorn and other snacks and drinks are available. No smoking, drugs or alcohol.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jim Childs
Pamela Maynard

HAPPENINGS WITH MEMBERS

Several KSA Members to Perform at East Tennessee Fall Festivals
(info provided by **David Lauver**)

It may still feel like summer, but members of the Knoxville Songwriters Association are already practicing for performances at some of East Tennessee's best-known fall festivals. KSA members have been invited to perform at 2 and

4 p.m. on **Saturday, September 24**, at the annual **John Sevier Days Arts and Crafts Show at Marble Springs** in south Knox County.

The festival at the home of Tennessee's first governor will showcase local artisans and their crafts, along with re-enactors of the life and times of John Sevier, period games, contests and period food. Marble Springs is located at 1220 W. Governor John Sevier Highway (at the intersection of that highway and Neubert Springs Road.) KSA participants will each play two or three original songs, and we'll likely do some group renditions of "The Tennessee Waltz," "Rocky Top," and other crowd favorites.

On **Sunday, October 9**, KSA members will join songwriters from Blount County in an "East Tennessee Songwriters" performance from 1:30 to 3 p.m. at the **Foothills Fall Festival's Downtown Stage in Maryville**. While it might be stretching the truth to describe us as the opening act for classic rock legends "Chicago" (the headliners for that date on the Main Stage in the park), the stage on Broadway near the Tomato Head restaurant should attract a large audience of visitors to the Artway juried arts and crafts show and Adventure Land family fun activities.

We have room for more performers on both programs, so if you'd like to play but didn't sign up at the August 29 meeting, email KSA education director **David Lauver** at lauver100@aol.com. Even if you're not performing on stage, please come out and enjoy the festival activities and support your fellow KSA members.

RESOURCES

Wayne Burnett teaches guitar at his music store, **B & B Music**, 101 Main Street, New Tazewell, TN. Wayne can be contacted at 423-489-2799.

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

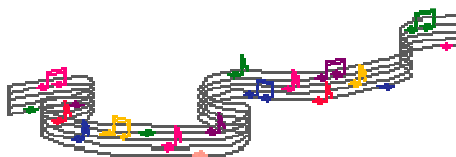
your songs into a professional format for you to enjoy or send out as demos. Michael produces quality work out of his studio located in the basement of his home northeast of Andersonville at 459 Mill Creek Road. Cell Phone number is 865-755-5665.

Jerry Isham*
865-354-1060
Brenda Perry*
865-300-1497
Richard Ratledge*
8655731025

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

*Denotes new member for 2011-2012

Note: Closing date to submit material for the October issue of the KSA Songwriter is September 27, 2011.



OFFICERS

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Knoxville Songwriters Association